

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
SENATE MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION
MINUTES**



March 10, 2004

3:30 – 5:30 PM

Room 7/172 Bentley Centre - Prince George Campus

Present: S. Beeler, T. Binnema, L. Coates, D. Ditto, A. Espiritu, J. DeGrace, A. Fredeen, S. Gill, C. Hawkins, D. Hemingway, A. Hussein, C. Jago (Chair), E. Jensen, J. Kennedy-Pannett, E. Kinghorn (teleconference), B. Malcolm, M. Mandy, W. McGill, B. Milakovic, P. Montgomery, W. Morrison, B. Muir, K. Naziripour, K. Otter, K. Penner, D. Poff (Vice-Chair), F. Rahemtulla, J. Randall, B. Simard (teleconference), J. Sims, H. Smith, J. Swainger, R. Tait, T. Whitcombe, S. Wilson, A. Truant (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: B. Anderson, R. Berthiaume, M. Blouw, C. Brown, S. Cochran, D. Macknak, A. Nussbaumer, D. Nyce, R. Matheson, D. Procter, D. Snadden

Guests: P. Shawana, L. Roa

1.0 S-200403.01

Approval of the Agenda

Hawkins/Whitcombe

That the Agenda for the March 10, 2004 Public Session of Senate be approved as proposed.

CARRIED

2.0 S-200403.02

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 11, 2004 Public Session

Whitcombe/Otter

That the Minutes of the February 11, 2004 Public Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3.0 Business Arising from Previous Meetings of Senate - None

4.0 President's Report

4.1 UNBC's Annual Three Year Institutional Service Plan

The draft of the Annual Three Year Institutional Service Plan was included for discussion. This was a new requirement of the government and the format being used was the format required by government. The content of the "Planning Context" came from the "Action" document. The wording used under the heading "Vision" was new. It was taken from discussions at President's Council, but had not been endorsed by Senate, and did not have the standing of the statements on the "Mission" and "Institutional Values", which had mostly been approved by Senate. The balance of the wording was re-stated from the "Action" document.

The Chair thanked Dean Tait for reorganizing the "Institutional Values" under headings to provide more coherence.

The information under the heading “Priority Research Areas” had been drawn from the current University research plan, a document that had been reviewed by Senate at an earlier date. Under “Goals”, a number of goals had been identified, which reflected accountability measures from government, and some were our own. The reference in sub-section #7 under heading #4 (b) should have been to a program in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. Section #5 was incomplete pending information to be received. The Accountability Framework was from government and identified what we were to be held accountable for, and section #7 would be completed once the University budget was completed for this year.

This document was discussed at meetings of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy & Planning and the Senate Committee on Research & Graduate Studies, and many of the recommendations from these Committees and from President’s Council were incorporated into it.

In response to Senator Otter’s question about the term “Comprehensive”, which was used to describe the University, the Chair stated that UNBC was viewed as a “Comprehensive” university as we have had a broad array of graduates from professional programs.

Senator Smith questioned why there were no specific goals related to teaching. The list shown under “Performance Measure” was crucially tied to excellence in teaching instruction. She recommended that the Action Committee on Teaching & Learning looked at simple goals that could be achieved, an example being the maintenance of the delivery of workshops (that was currently ongoing) that supported the goals in terms of excellence in teaching.

Action: The Chair recommended that Senator Smith work with the Deans and the Vice-President (Academic) & Provost to provide him with suggestions to be included in this document.

This document would be presented to the Board at their March meeting and brought back to Senate upon completion for information.

5.0 Report of the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost

- The Vice-President (Academic) & Provost shared information regarding the number of degrees that the new legislation and the new degree approval process operated.
- As a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) working group that was working on setting criteria for the “Quality Assurance Mechanism in Canadian Higher Education”, D. Poff shared a document which was in response to the changing context of universities in Canada. The fact that there were an increasing number of degree granting institutions, international and “for-profit” universities entering the Canadian market, AUCC had been working on (as was being done in other parts of the world) developing a quality assurance mechanism that indicated to people both internationally and in Canada where the Canadian public universities stood in terms of their credibility and quality.

This draft was distributed to universities and to a number of institutions, and they were asked to complete the attached survey as a pilot. The responses would be reviewed by AUCC to determine if it would be a workable survey to utilize in developing what would become a self regulated checklist of quality indicators to illustrate that Canada and its public university system was doing a good quality job in terms of teaching and research.

- The VP had just returned from the annual general meeting/annual conference of the National Council on Ethics and Human Research, and on a Sub-Committee on Accreditation Guidelines for the granting agencies for ethics review. As drafts were developed, copies would be brought to Senate for information.
- Many Senators were aware of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) consultations taking place with regard to their transformation from a granting agency to a knowledge agency. Input was requested and the VP urged Senators to respond. Dean Randall added that a number of consultation sessions were being arranged and would continue until the end of March for faculty, graduate students and other administrative bodies. Meetings were being arranged with the College of New Caledonia and the community at large for researchers, as well as meetings to be held in the regions. An on-line survey was being developed to receive input from individuals who were not available for in-person consultations.

6.0 Question Period

Senator Binnema questioned whether students would be allowed to graduate at the Special Convocation on August 17, 2004. The Chair advised that this was still to be decided, but in any event the Special Convocation would be restricted to graduate students.

Action: The Registrar to check with the Dean of Graduate Studies to determine an approximate number of graduate students who would not be able to meet the graduation requirements for the May, 2004 Convocation. A decision would be made as soon as possible.

Senator Mandy asked about the possibility of having more than one graduation per year. The Chair agreed that the time had come to start thinking of this.

Action: This issue will be forwarded to the Senate Committee on Policy and Planning and to the Senate Committee on Research & Graduate Studies for their advice.

7.0 Committee Reports:

7.1 Senate Committee on Academic Policy & Planning

S-200403.03

New Program – Certificate in Aboriginal Health Sciences

Poff/Whitcombe

That the new Certificate in Aboriginal Health Sciences be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: January 2004

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

P. Shawana attended the meeting to address any questions which arose.

Senator Otter requested clarification of the wording at the bottom of page #18 of the senate package. He noted it would be difficult to teach lab-based courses in a regional model when faculty were tied to teaching other courses at the University, and asked if this would be on a voluntary basis. P. Shawana confirmed that it would have to be on a voluntary basis as faculty members could not be required under the Faculty Agreement to teach courses they were not willing to. First Nations Studies work very

closely with the Director of Regional Operations when seeking faculty to teach courses in regional programs as there were several factors to be considered i.e. the delivery model.

Senator Montgomery questioned whether Math 115 would be waived in lieu of Grade 12 Math, and suggested that Math 242 be given consideration as a substitute. P. Shawana advised that substitutions were available at the discretion of the Chair in all certificates. In the event that a course was waived, D. Poff asked if students were being advised that they would have to take another 3 credit course to accumulate the correct number of credits required for the certificate. P. Shawana concurred.

In response to Senator Binnema's question regarding the cost of library materials, P. Shawana stated that the memo on page #23 was intended to clarify that the \$1000.00 which was referred to, would be for the delivery of the whole certificate, each year that the certificate was delivered. Dean Randall confirmed that this \$1000.00 cost would be taken from either the Program or College budget.

S-200403.04

New Program - Diploma in Aboriginal Health Sciences

Poff/Whitcombe

That the new Diploma in Aboriginal Health Sciences be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: January 2004

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Action: P. Shawana clarified that an error was made under "Program Description" and needed to be amended. The second line of the second paragraph to be reworded to read: "The Diploma in Aboriginal Health Sciences allow individuals to receive a credential after 62 (not 61) credit hours of study". It was noted that 31 credit hours of study was required for the Certificate and an additional 31 for the Diploma.

The following motions were dealt with as an Omnibus Motion: S-200403.05 to S-200403.10. P. Shawana confirmed that these courses were to be delivered in person in the communities.

S-200403.05

New Course Approval – FNST 280-3

Poff/Whitcombe

That the new course, FNST 280-3, Aboriginal Medicines I – Harvesting & Preservation, be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Spring/Summer 2004

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

S-200403.06

New Course Approval – FNST 281-3

Poff/Whitcombe

That the new course, FNST 281-3, Aboriginal Medicines II – Administering and Ethics, be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Spring/Summer 2005

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

S-200403.07

New Course Approval – FNST 282-3

Poff/Whitcombe

That the new course, FNST 282-3, Aboriginal Health Philosophy, be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Spring/Summer 2004
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

S-200403.08

New Course Approval – FNST 315-3

Poff/Whitcombe

That the new course, FNST 315-3, Aboriginal Health Management, be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Spring/Summer 2005

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

S-200403.09

New Course Approval – FNST 316-3

Poff/Whitcombe

That the new course, FNST 316-3, Aboriginal Health and Chronic Illness, be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Summer 2005

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

S-200403.10

New Course Approval – FNST 317-3

Poff/Whitcombe

That the new course, FNST 317-3, Aboriginal Healing Practices, be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Fall 2005

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

7.2 Senate Committee on Research & Graduate Studies - None

7.3 Senate Committee on First Nations & Aboriginal Peoples

S-200403.11

Continuation and Extension of the First Nations Language Pilot Program

Poff/Tait

That the continuation and extension of the First Nations Language Pilot Program be approved.

Effective Date: September 2004

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

7.4 Senate Committee on Scholarships & Bursaries

S-200403.12

Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Scholarships & Bursaries

Tait/Morrison

That the annual report of the Senate Committee on Scholarships & Bursaries be received with the revisions as recommended under “Brief Summary of Committee Debate”.

Effective Date: February 2004

CARRIED

7.5 Senate Committee on Organization and Rules - None

8.0 Other Business

8.1 Report of the Registrar - None

9.0 Information – None

10.0 S-200403.13

Move to In-Camera

Hawkins/Otter

That the meeting move In-Camera

CARRIED

11.00 S-200403.18

Adjournment

Morrison/Whitcombe

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting ended at 4:25pm.