

**SENATE MEETING  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MINUTES**

May 23, 2018

3:30 – 5:30 PM

Senate Chambers (Room 1079 Charles J McCaffray Hall)

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**Present:** S. Barton, C. Bonnar, R. Budde, D. Casperson, R. Chowdhury, A. Constantin, M. Dale, D. Desai, H. Empey, I. Hartley, L. Haslett, K. Hirsh-Pearson, H. Holler-Busch, P. Jackson, G. Jacob, E. Jensen, F. Khan, T. Klassen-Ross, E. Korkmaz, M. Mandy, H. Massingham, M. Murphy, A. Palmer, A. Parent (Recording Secretary), G. Payne, M. Peterson, C. Ramsay, T. Ritchie, L. Roodenburg, D. Ryan, H. Sanford (acting officer for the Secretary of Senate) B. Schorcht, T. Summerville (Vice Chair), T. Tannert, D. Weeks (Chair), D. Wessell Lightfoot, C. Whalen, J. Wimmers-Klick,

**Regrets:** A. Adebayo, B. Deo, J. Moore, A. Okechukwu, R. Wheate

**Absent:** E. Caputo, D. Nyce,

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The meeting commenced at 3:34 p.m. The Chair and welcomed Senators.

**1.0 Acknowledgement of Territory**

Senator Wessell Lightfoot acknowledged the Senate meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation.

**2.0 S-201805.01**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Schorcht

That the agenda for the May 23, 2018 Public Session of Senate be approved as presented.

**Amendment**

Sanford

That agenda items 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5 be postponed to the June Senate meeting when the Registrar will be available.

CARRIED as amended.

**2.0 S-201805.02**

**Move to In Camera Session**

Hartley

That the meeting move In Camera.

The Public Session of Senate reconvened at 3:55 p.m.

**3.0 S-201805.09**

Schorcht

**Approval of Senate Minutes**

That the minutes of the April 25, 2018 Public Session of Senate be approved as presented.

## **Amendment**

Casperson

That it be noted that Senator Casperson recused himself from the discussion on item 19, Recommendation of Faculty Members to Serve on the President's Review for Re-appointment.

CARRIED as amended.

## **5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes of Senate**

### **5.1 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs**

**Dr. Ryan**

#### **"For Approval" Item:**

##### **S-201804.12**

##### **Change in Recommended Course Listing - ENSC 454-3**

Murphy

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the recommended courses for ENSC 454-3 on page 243 of the 2017/18 undergraduate calendar, be deleted as proposed.

Effective date: September 2018

CARRIED

### **5.4 Who advocates for graduate students who have successfully defended their thesis to receive the Governor General Gold Medal status if their faculty supervisor is not able to, due to a suspension, an illness, or other reasons when a faculty supervisor is suddenly not available? **Dr. Payne****

The Vice President, Research and Graduate Programs responded to this question by indicating that he would advocate for the student, in addition to the student's committee, the department that the student is associated with and the University community.

The process going forward, regardless how the supervisor is unavailable will be that the VP RGP, knowing that the supervisor is unavailable, will attend the defense and be able to give context to the quality of the defense for all eligible clear passes. He would then work with the student's committee as well as the department to move forward the nomination process for the Governor General Gold Medal status. This process will be included in the Graduate Programs Policies and Procedures.

A Senator inquired about whether it is preferable or recommended for a student to keep their defense date in the absence of their supervisor. Senator Payne indicated that if everything is complete and signed off on by the committee, he would recommend they keep their defense date. If it is earlier in the process, then his suggestion would be to wait and perhaps make changes. Ultimately this should be evaluated on a case by case basis with every effort being made to minimize the impact on students.

Senator Murphy proposed the question that if the supervisor is suspended and is in no way a danger would it not be permissible for them to write letters for the students? The President responded that there is no one answer to this question as it is dependent on circumstances, however dependent on context this could be included.

Senator Murphy requested that this be documented for future instances if this should arise. The VP RGP agreed to work on embedding this provision into the Policy and Procedures and bring it back to Senate.

<p><b>Action item:</b> The Vice President, Research and Graduate Programs will bring the policies and procedures related to graduate students who have successfully defended their thesis to receive the Governor General Gold Medal status if their faculty supervisor is suddenly not available, back to Senate for review.</p>
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Senator Casperson asked the question of when the committee would be informed that a supervisor is no longer available and not participating in the graduation process. President Weeks responded that again this is also context dependent but that it could be included that every effort would be made to inform people as appropriate and as soon as is possible. Such decisions would be context driven.

Senator Mandy indicated the importance to have a policy in place that clearly articulates the principles that protect the interest of the students and make sure what needs to happen happens. The President concurred and will work with the VP RGP to embed such principles into the Procedures and Policies.

## **6.0 President's Report**

**Dr. Weeks**

The President reported on his and the Vice-President's trip to Norway. It was an amazing experience and opportunity. The opportunities for our institution in partnership with Norway are extraordinary. Some factors he highlighted were that language is not a barrier, university is free, and for the most part the institutions share our values, research interests and teaching interests. One the stops on this trip was to the most northern university in the world, UIT. UIT is located in the small city of Tromsø (population ~ 75,000). It is located above the Arctic Circle with limited access and has ~ 15,000 students. He hopes to continue to mind this opportunity.

As part of the President's Speaker series, Deborah MacLatchy, President and Vice-Chancellor of Wilfred Laurier University was here. He noted that there was not very good turn-out and he will try to tie the next President's Speaker in with the Inspiring Women event.

He attended a Universities Canada meeting. It was an opportunity for Universities Canada to make further commitments to diversity and related issues. He was asked to join one their committees.

We have opened a new building downtown, the Wood Innovation Research Laboratory (WIRL).

There was great turn out for the receptions for both Dean Schorcht and the Director of the CTLT, Dr. Smith. He thanked them both again for their service.

He thanked everyone for their hard-work this past year.

## **7.0 Report of the Provost**

**Dr. Ryan**

The Provost reported that the audited numbers for 2017-2018 will be out shortly and he will report on them at the next Senate meeting. Summer enrollment numbers are up (domestic FTE up 5.5%, head count up 10%). Fall applications are up 3.7%. Currently, fall admissions and registration numbers are down but we are still in the early stages. Some of the key points here are our transfers are up but admissions on some key programs are currently down and the graduating class size has gone down at some key high schools in the north. He remains optimistic and continues to project an increase for fall 2018.

The Provost advisory committee has met 3 -4 times since the last Senate meeting. They are currently looking at a mechanism for easing reporting, changes to the vision and value based on the academic priorities. The enrolment task force has met to discuss the student success road map. Some priorities that are coming forward are ensuring we concentrate on the first year experience, the library of the future and orientation.

We are currently awaiting an announcement on funding for indigenization. We currently have two funding requests out under the ASP and the PSPP.

There are ongoing discussions with the faculty association on the compensation structure.

We are preparing for the next budget cycle and the audited financial statements for 2017-2018 should be available soon.

The International Director search is ongoing and the committee is currently reviewing some more candidates.

We are very close to putting out a proposal to the Ministry with Northern Lights College and Northern Health for Nursing in the north-east.

UNBC Safe is an application to access safety elements and alerts via your phone. We have recently had a soft-launch and would appreciate feedback in anticipation of a full release in September.

## **8.0 Report of the Registrar - none**

**Mr. Annear**

**9.0 Question Period (10 minutes)**

**9.1 Written Question Submitted in Advance**

**9.1.1.** Aside from,

1. requests from a graduate student,
2. requests from the student's supervisor,
3. concerns for the immediate physical safety of either student or supervisor, and
4. disciplinary reasons

what reasons do BC research universities use to justify indefinite suspensions of graduate student / supervisor supervisory relations?

President Weeks indicated that the four examples given above are in fact conclusions and that actions are not taken like that. We investigate allegations in accordance with labour law. Allegations lead to reports and those reports lead to what next steps might occur. He is not aware of any justification and any consequence on graduate-supervisor relations is most likely a consequence of other actions that are being taken, such as labour relations. There is no reason that would justify him not looking into allegations and taking them seriously.

**9.2 Questions from the floor of Senate**

**9.2.1** If students, undergraduate or graduate are impacted by a faculty member's suspension and there is in no way a danger can we more generally make a provision to allow a supervisory relationship to continue pending the outcome of an investigation?

President Weeks replied that this question may have legal implications and he would need to confer with legal opinion.

**Action item:** The President will report back on whether a supervisory relationship could continue pending the outcome of an investigation, if students, undergraduate or graduate are impacted by a faculty member's suspension and there is in no way a danger.

**9.2.2** Question with regards to confidentiality vs. transparency, is it possible to get an explanation of the breadth of the situation without compromising confidentiality?

President Weeks replied that each instance would be unique. Confidentiality to for the protection of all concerned. He would need to confer with legal opinion of how much more information we can provide.

**Action item:** The President will report back on how much more information we can provide without breaching confidentiality.

**9.2.3** What is the policy is listing credentials in the calendar?

This a question was asked previously to the Registrar. The Register was going to look at what some of the conventions are at other institutions and report back.

**Action item:** The Registrar will look at what are some of the conventions used at other institution with regards to listing credential in the calendar.

**10.0 S-201805.10**

**Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda**

That the motions on the consent agenda, except for those removed for placement on the regular agenda, be approved as presented.

**Dr. Weeks**

**11.0 Committee Reports**

**11.1 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs (10 minutes)**

**Dr. Ryan**

**“For Approval” Items:**

**S-201805.11**

**Change to the Statistics Equivalents – NCBNP**

Palmer

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the change to the Statistics equivalents under the 200 Level requirements for the NCBNP, on page 178 of the 2017/2018 undergraduate calendar, be approved as proposed.

Effective date: September 2018

CARRIED

**S-201805.12**

**Change to the Proposed Semester of First Offering - BIOL 409-3**

Hartley

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the proposed semester of first offering for BIOL 409-3 Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems be approved as proposed as well as the removal of BIOL 411-3 as a prerequisite for BIOL 409-3.

Effective Date: September 2018

CARRIED

**S-201805.13**

**Changes to Correct the Program Requirements - Geography BSc**

Holler-Busch

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the changes to correct the program requirements for the Geography BSc on page 143 of the 2017/18 undergraduate calendar (pdf version), be approved as proposed.

Effective date: September 2018

CARRIED

**S-201805.14**

**Approval of the UNBC Academic Dates - 2019- 2024**

Massingham

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the UNBC Academic Dates from 2019- 2024 be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Upon the approval of Senate

Concerns were addressed with regards to the January 2021 Semester, where there are only 61 instructional days and Mon/Fri only have 11 instructional day. As well, some semesters have no gap between the last day of classes and the first day of exams. Senators expressed a need for there to be a non-instructional day to accommodate events such as Exam Jam.

**Motion to Postpone**

Mandy

That motion S-201805.14 be postponed and sent back to SCAAF for discussion.

CARRIED

11.2	<b>Senate Committee on Admissions and Degrees</b> <i>(no material)</i>	<b>Mr. Annear</b>
11.3	<b>Senate Committee on First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples</b> <i>(no material)</i>	<b>Dr. Ryan</b>
11.4	<b>Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries</b> <i>(no material)</i>	<b>Mr. Annear</b>
11.5	<b>Senate Committee on Nominations</b> <i>(no material)</i>	<b>Mr. Ritchie</b>
11.6	<b>Steering Committee of Senate</b> <i>(no material)</i>	<b>Dr. Weeks</b>
12.0	<b>Information</b> <i>(no material)</i>	

**13.0 Other Business** (10 minutes)

**13.1** Report of Harassment and Discrimination at UNBC dated May 1, 2018

This a standard, public report that comes to Senate annually

Senator Mandy commented that the Harassment and Discrimination Advisor now sits in HR, which is also the body responsible for following through on the consequences for faculty and staff, what do we have in place to ensure the principles for natural justice.

The University Secretary indicated that there is a vast improvement in this process in the last few years. President Weeks suggested that beyond natural justice we also have stringent legal requirements that we are required to meet. He will invite the AVP to give a more broad report on this issue.

<b>Action item:</b> The Associate Vice-President to report on the Harassment and Discrimination Report.
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**14.0 S-201805.15**

**Adjournment**

Hartley

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting ended at 4:24 p.m.