

**SENATE MEETING  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MINUTES**

November 25, 2015

3:30 – 5:30 PM

Senate Chambers (Room 1079 Administration Building)

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**Present:** A. Aravind, J. Bankole, S. Beeler, M. Bouchard, D. Burke, D. Casperson, D. Clarkson, M. Dale B. Deo, D. Desai, D. Erasmus, W. Fellers, K. Guest, T. Hanschen (Secretary of Senate), K. Howitt (Recording Secretary), E. Jensen, K. Keen, A. Kehler, C. Koehn, A. LeBlanc, D. Wessell Lightfoot, B. Menounos, M. Murphy, D. Nyce, I. Olasanmi, M. Ouellet, A. Palmer, G. Payne, K. Reimer, R. Robinson, D. Ryan, B. Schorcht, W. Schwab, D. Shirodaria, P. Siakaluk (Vice Chair), K. Smith, J. Sui, P. Tobin, D. Weeks (Chair), C. Whalen, T. Whitcombe, A. Wilson

**Regrets:**

G. Deo, A. Kitchenham, B. Krane, J. S. MacDonald, A. Stroet

**Absent:**

M. Green, K. Kuo

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The meeting commenced at 3:30 p.m. Dr. Weeks welcomed the new Senators to Senate.

**1.0 S-201511.01**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Smith

That the agenda for the November 25, 2015 Public Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

**2.0 S-201511.02**

**Approval of Senate Minutes**

Schwab

That the minutes of the October 28, 2015 Public Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

**3.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes of Senate**

No business arising was identified.

**4.0 President's Report**

**Dr. Weeks**

Dr. Weeks said with the indulgence of Senate, he would like forgo his report for this meeting and report to Senate at the next meeting in two weeks as there was a fulsome agenda before Senate. There were no objections from Senate.

Dr. Weeks said that his intention for this meeting was to participate as little as possible in the discussion regarding the Phase I Academic Planning Report. He said it was an important discussion for Senate to have, and he would help in any way he could in answering questions that may arise.

## **5.0 Report of the Provost**

**Dr. Ryan**

The Provost asked Senate if he could forgo his report until the December meeting to allow more time for discussion on the Phase I Academic Planning Report. There were no objections or questions from Senate.

## **6.0 Report of the Registrar**

**Mr. Hanschen**

The Registrar asked Senate if he could forgo his report until the December meeting to allow more time for discussion on the Phase I Academic Planning Report. There were no objections or questions from Senate.

## **7.0 Question Period**

**Dr. Weeks**

A Senator asked why a Special Meeting of Senate had been called for November 12, 2015 and then cancelled. Dr. Weeks said he apologized to the SCS regarding this as he needed to secure a time for a Senate meeting first before discussing agenda items with the SCS. The SCS determined there was no need for a meeting. The Senator wanted to know what the original reason was to call the meeting. Dr. Weeks said he could answer this question more fully under Agenda Item 13.3 in the In camera session.

A Senator asked for an update on the senior administration positions. Dr. Weeks said as soon as they come to closure with the Provost's situation, he will be giving a full explanation about those positions that are not filled, or are acting or interim, and how they will proceed forward. The Senator asked about the other senior administration positions. Dr. Weeks said that both search committees had met with the search company again that day and things are proceeding well. There are some very good and fulsome possibilities. Face-to face interviews will begin soon. A Senator asked what the connection is between the Provost position and the Vice President of Research position. Dr. Weeks said the issue is the University is currently trying to fill two senior administrator positions right now, and the advice of the search company and Dr. Weeks feeling is that you should not have four searches going on at the same time for these positions; you cannot expect people to apply for positions when they do not know who their colleagues are going to be. Dr. Weeks wants to get these first two positions filled and get some stability, and then begin the search for the other two positions.

A Senator asked if the administration had a plan to deal with low faculty moral, which she said came across to her in the data from Phase One of the Academic Plan. Dr. Weeks said there are typically four plans in a University integrated plan; an academic plan, a research plan, a budget/financial plan, and a people plan. The people plan is largely missing and needs to be integrated in with the other plans. He has charged Ms. Daigle to work on the people plan as it falls under her portfolio. He expects that plan to dovetail with parts of the Academic Plan.

A Senator said shortly after the work stoppage, he and Dr. Weeks proposed a motion together stating that Senate would be provided with the past ten years of budgets. The Senator said Senate had not been provided with this yet, and he was wondering where things stood with this. Dr. Weeks said he committed he would provide Senate with as many years of budget information as Senate felt was useful. Dr. Weeks said is slowly being worked on, but the limited staff that work on this have been consumed with other finance issues. Dr. Weeks said it would be brought forward to Senate as soon as it is possible. Dr. Weeks said, depending on the outcome of the meeting today, some of the committees involved may well need some of that information in order to do their work.

A Senator asked about the Research Plan timeline. Dr. Weeks said the current Research Plan runs until 2017 and the Interim Vice President Research, Dr. Payne, gave Dr. Weeks an update the day before (which he needs to read still) about the plan, merging opportunities and issues, and his thoughts around timeframes.

A Senator asked Dr. Weeks him what his leadership philosophy of president, faculty, and senior administrators relations. The Senator said he has been at the University for eleven and a half years, and he believes that the senior administration and faculty relations are at or close to an all-time low. The Senator wanted to know what the President's leadership philosophy is in strengthening those relationships. Dr. Weeks said he could not speak for the past eleven years, but the overwhelming message he gets from faculty is they are pleased with the direction they are going and moral is moving in a positive direction. Dr. Weeks said the letter he wrote when he applied for the position captures his leadership philosophy clearly; he explicitly serves at the pleasure of the board, but he implicitly serves at the pleasure of the faculty, students, staff, and alumni. This is who he believes he serves, and he

believes in servant leadership. .

A Senator asked what concrete steps Dr. Weeks will take to rebuild trust with senior administrators and faculty. Dr. Weeks said there has not been a period of much stability at the University since he came where he has been given the opportunity to build trust, but he was unaware of what he did to lose or gain trust. He remains committed to making the University a vibrant, prosperous, and a happy place for faculty, staff, and students to come to. Another Senator said that there is a difference between what is said and what gets done. Another Senator asked what concrete things Dr. Weeks has done since his arrival at UNBC to ameliorate relationships between senior administration and faculty. Dr. Weeks he started this tenure with a listening tour that took him through the north and all of the UNBC campuses. He has invited many of the departments to his home and most recently asked the President of the Faculty Association to provide him with a list of individuals that he thought Dr. Weeks should talk to, and he has spoken to all of those individuals. The events at Dr. Weeks' home continue. said he has had different groups of people to his home, including a group from the Faculty Association. UNBC's relationship with RUCBC has improved. He has built considerable traction in Ottawa and with First Nations communities in the north, particularly in Prince George. UNBC's relationship with the City of Prince George has improved greatly. Dr. Weeks said he knows there is a lot of work to be done and he is committed to doing the work.

**8.0 Removal of Motions from the Consent Agenda Dr. Weeks**

There were no requests to remove motions from the Consent Agenda.

**9.0 Committee Reports**

**9.1 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs Dr. Ryan**

**"For Approval" Items:**

**S-201511.03**

**Changes to Program Calendar Description - Aboriginal Community Resource Planning Certificate**

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the change(s) to certificate description for Aboriginal Community Resource Planning on page 129 of the 2015/2016 undergraduate calendar, be approved as proposed.

Effective date: January 2016

Postponed, until the Senate meeting on December 9, 2015

**S-201511.04**

**Changes to Course Prerequisite - FNST 302-3 First Nations Health and Healing**

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, the change(s) to course prerequisite for FNST 302-3 First Nations Health and Healing on page 342 of the 2015/2016 undergraduate calendar, be approved as proposed.

Effective date: January 2016

Postponed, until the Senate meeting on December 9, 2015

**9.1.1 Presentation of the Phase I Academic Planning Report Dr. Ryan**

The Phase I Academic Planning Report was included in the meeting package for review.

Dr. Ryan and members from the Academic Planning Committee reviewed the Phase I Academic Planning Report and recommendations with Senate.

**S-201511.04.01**

**Committee of the Whole – Motion to Convene**

Casperson

That Senate move into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of having a broad discussion about The Phase I Academic Planning Report.

CARRIED.

Dr. Siakaluk, the Vice Chair of Senate, was asked to assume the Chair the Committee of the Whole and he accepted. The Phase I Academic Planning Report and recommendations were

discussed. The discussion points included faculty, staff, and student participation in the process; ways the University Community was able to participate in the process; does the document direct the University towards an Academic Plan; the Mission, Vision, and Values; the Strategic Research Plan; Alumni outcomes; challenges with Recommendation #2; the composition and membership of the Phase 2 working groups and who should do this (Senate, SCAAF, or an *ad hoc* group of Senate); the document is a plan to plan; Phase 2 committees will have access to the data collected during Phase 1; and the need for both expertise and diversity on the committees.

**S-201511.04.02**

**Committee of the Whole — Motion to Rise and Report**

Casperson

That the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED.

The President, Dr. Weeks, assumed the Chair of Senate.

**Motion to extend Senate meeting**

Whitcombe

That the Senate meeting be extended beyond 5:30 p.m. in accordance with the requirement in the Senate Handbook.

DEFEATED.

**S-201511.05**

**Approval of the Recommendations made within the document “Developing a New Academic Plan – Phase I”**

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, Senate approve the Recommendations made within the document “Developing a New Academic Plan – Phase I”

Effective Date: Upon Approval by Senate

Postponed, until the Senate meeting on December 9, 2015

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| <b>9.2</b> | <b>Senate Committee on First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples</b> | <b>Dr. Ryan</b> |
| <b>9.3</b> | <b>Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries</b>           | <b>Dr. Owen</b> |

**“For Information” Items:**

**SCSB20151028.03**

**Revision to Helen Thurwell Scholarship**

That the revised Award Guide Description for the Helen Thurwell Scholarship be approved.

Effective Date: 2016-2017 Academic Year

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| <b>9.4</b> | <b>Senate Committee on Nominations (SCN)</b> | <b>Dr. Koehn</b> |
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**“For Information” Items:**

**Faculty Senator Elected to Senate for position beginning immediately:**

Faculty Senator – CSAM (until March 31, 2017)

Dr. David Casperson

**Faculty Senator Elected to Senate by acclamation for position beginning immediately:**

Faculty Senator – CASHS (until March 31, 2018)

Dr. Stan Beeler

**Faculty Senator Elected to Senate by acclamation for position beginning January 1, 2016:**

Faculty Senator – CASHS (until March 31, 2016)

Ms. Rheanna Robinson

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| <b>9.5</b> | <b>Senate Committee on the University Budget</b> | <b>Dr. Whitcombe</b> |
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**10.0 S-201511.06**

**Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda**

**Dr. Weeks**

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

Postponed, until the Senate meeting on December 9, 2015

**11.0 Other Business**

No other business was identified.

**12.0 Information**

There were no items for information.

**13.0 S-201511.07**

**Move to In Camera Session**

That the meeting move In Camera.

Postponed, until the Senate meeting on December 9, 2015

**14.0 S-201511.11  
Adjournment**

Lightfoot

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.