

SENATE MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES

October 25, 2023
3:30 – 5:30 PM
Senate Chambers/Zoom

Present: J. Bankole, C. Brown, R. Budde, J. Chavez Suazo, L. Chen, B. Deo, D. Desai, B. Durau, R. Fonda, K. Fredj, P. Gangani, M. Gehloff, N. Hanlon, C. Ho Younghusband, C. Hofsink, H. Kazemian, N. Koper, A. Kranz, S. Linton, D. Nyce, B. Owen (non-voting), A. Parent (Recording Secretary), A. Palmer, G. Payne (Chair), K. Read (Secretary of Senate), K. Rennie, D. Roberts, W. Rodgers, P. Siakaluk (non-voting), F. Somani, K. Stathers, E. Ukut, T. Whitcombe, E. Wilson, J. Zhou

Regrets: J. Allen, R. Camp II, L. Daukas, A. Constantin, P. Lakchani Denagamage, T. Fuson (non-voting), T. Fyfe, A. Litt (non-voting), T. Klassen-Ross, J. King, D. McIntosh, D. Pandya, R. Robinson, R. Schiff, R. Somani (non-voting), F. Tong, P. Winwood (non-voting), P. Wood-Adams

The Senate Meeting began at 3:38 pm.

The Chair reminded Senators of the informal gathering at the Thirsty Moose following Senate for light refreshments with the Board immediately following today's Senate meeting.

The Chair asked all Senators online to change their name to 'Senator Last Name'.

The Chair reported the following vacancies for:

- Faculty Member at Large
- Faculty Senator – Faculty of Environment
- Student Representative for the Faculty of Science and Engineering

1.0 Acknowledgement of Territory

The Chair acknowledged that he is joining the meeting from the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. He acknowledged that the UNBC Senate Chambers at the Prince George campus is on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh and that UNBC is situated in many first nations and Indigenous communities throughout the North.

2.0 S-202310.01 Approval of the Agenda

Hanlon

That the agenda for the October 25 2023, Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3.0 Presentation: Strategic Plan: READY

Payne

The Chair reported on the successful launch of the UNBC renewed Strategic Plan following a yearlong consultation process. This was extremely well received, and work is now under way in terms of the action plan, metrics, and outcomes.

Senator Hanlon if there were more details on the plan to come or if units are going to be asked to see where/how they align with this plan. The President indicated that the plan will be implemented through a cascade of lower-level plans in working with units but taking direction from the broader plan and each providing more detail on what will be done to make progress on achieving the strategic goals. Priorities will be resourced as needed through the annual planning cycle.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

S-202310.02

Approval of the Minutes

Gehloff

That the Minutes for the September 27, 2023, Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 ChatGPT and other AI Applications

Rodgers/Read

5.1.1 AI Task Force

Rodgers

Provost Rodgers indicated that a Task force has been struck to address how we handle AI use consistently and fairly with respect to our students and their use of AI. The task force will look to develop some guidance for instructors on messaging they can use in their course outlines to be clear about their requirements of students, and the students' responsibilities.

The Provost reported that we are aware that there will be differing levels of comfort and acceptance of AI as a teaching and learning tool but what is critical is that we are clear with our students about their responsibilities with respect to using AI in their coursework, and each instructor's stance on its acceptability.

The Provost reported that over 29 nominations have been received to date and she will look at ensuring a good representation on the task force with opportunities for engagement from additional interested parties.

Senator Whitcombe asked if we currently had any policies on this and if there are current problems arising from this.

The Provost noted that there are no policies, and she is not aware of any current problems.

Senator Owen indicated that the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology does have example syllabi statements that instructors can use and what they are seeing are issues with students where it is not clearly communicated what the acceptable use is for a given class.

6.0 President's Report

Payne

The President asked Senate to take a moment to pause in honor of Dr. Lisa Poirier memory as well as her long-time commitment to student and studies at UNBC.

Dr. Lisa Poirier passed away unexpectedly on October 14, 2023. She was a faculty member within Ecosystem Science & Management for 22 years and was a much-admired contributor to UNBC. our degree programs.

The President welcomed Senator Durau to her role as Vice-Chair of Senate.

The President reported on his activities since the last Senate including:

- Truth and Reconciliation Ravens Event
- Truth and Reconciliation Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park
- Meeting with Chief Logan and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
- Ministry meeting on international and high school partnerships
- Pizza Lunch with Board Chair and students
- Universities Canada Presidents' Meeting

The President reported the search for the inaugural Associate Vice President Indigenous has been completed and an announcement will be made publicly shortly.

7.0 Report of the Provost

Rodgers

The Provost reported that they are moving ahead with Digital Infrastructure transformation Implementations are scheduled to begin for Finance on October 31 and HR in January. This is critical to ensuring robust, error-proof processes resilient of personnel changes.

The Provost reminded everyone that we are doing the best we can, and we must continue to operate in a collegial, informed, and respectful manner.

The Provost reported on the Community Engagement Sessions. We continue to review our community engagement activities and we learn something new with each effort. We are particularly focused on strengthening relationships with our college partners, reviewing our programs, and reviewing recruitment and enrolment at all our campuses.

Senator Whitcombe asked how we are engaging with communities where we do not currently have a campus or in more remote areas. The Provost indicated that members from many of the remote areas are invited to the engagement sessions, but they are looking at other ways to engage with these communities. Each of the Deans are looking for opportunities to engage and are actively figuring out where programming would fit in these communities.

Senator Deo asked if there any increase in the number of students passing out of school district 57 who are feeding UNBC? The Provost indicated that she did not know.

8.0 Report of the Registrar (5 minutes)

Read

The Registrar reported on the activities of the Registrar Office, including the digital document management, Banner document management and the digital online verification system. They are working closely with IT on changes to our registration modules. Other activities reported on included the Fall 2023 Exam schedule and a focus on the preparation for the 2024-205 academic scheduling databases.

The Registrar reported on the activities of the International Office and informed Senate visas from India are still being processed.

The Registrar reported that applications are now open.

The Registrar discussed exam scheduling with Senate and reported that all current policies were adhered to with the current exam schedule. She committed to bringing together a task force to better understand the constraints of the exam schedule, to look at how we can better service the needs of students and make recommendations for the future.

9.0 Question Period (10 minutes)

9.1 Written questions submitted in advance

There were additional questions submitted in advance. Senate asked for further clarification on the questions from the last Senate from Senator Kranz and Senator Deo on the Associate Dean role and selection processes.

Senator Kranz asked if as per *University Act 27 (2)(f)*, the Board approved the search procedures for the selection of an Associate Dean, Academic and if these would be coming to Senate.

Senator Siakaluk asked how the search committees for the Associate Deans were populated.

The Provost reported that these were not Senior Academic positions and therefore they did not require Board/Senate approval for the search procedures, exempt administrative procedures were followed.

The Provost reported that the role of the Associate Dean is not a decanal position but is an administrative role that supports academic programs and activities.

Senator Kranz and Senator Siakaluk indicated that the role of the Associate Dean is still unclear. Are these solely administrative roles or are they faculty positions with redistributed workloads? Senator Fredj asked where the need for Associate Deans was coming from.

Senator Kazemian expressed concern that the budget for these positions could prevent budget from being allocated to other areas. The Provost indicated that a budget analysis could be done.

The Provost committed to coming back to Senate with information on these positions.

9.2 Questions from the floor

Senator Gehloff asked about how the dates for statutory holidays were selected. The Registrar indicated that they are indicated on the academic dates as approved by Senate.

10.0 Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda

Payne

S-202310.03

Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda

Gehloff

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

CARRIED

11.0 Committee Reports

11.1 Senate Committee on Student Appeals

Klassen-Ross

No report.

11.2 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

Rodgers

For Approval:

S-202310.04

Change(s) to Course Description – MATH 402-3 Functional Analysis

Gehloff

That the changes to the description for MATH 402-3, on page 273 of the 2022/23 undergraduate calendar, be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: September 2024

CARRIED

MATH 402-3 Topological and Normed Linear Spaces Functional Analysis

~~This course focuses on the properties of topological spaces and normed linear spaces, especially Banach spaces. Topics include inner product spaces, topological spaces, compact and locally compact spaces, classical Banach spaces, linear functionals and dual spaces, topological vector spaces, and Hilbert space.~~

~~Prerequisites: MATH 302-3.~~

This course deals with analysis on structures varying from metric spaces to normed and Hilbert spaces. Topics include the contraction mapping principle, applications of fixed-point theorems to differential equations, bounded linear operators between normed vector spaces, Banach spaces, duality, Riesz representation theorem, and compact linear maps and their spectra. The course also covers the Fourier transform and shows some of its applications in thermodynamics and diffusion.

Prerequisites: MATH 302-3 or approval of the instructor

S-202310.05

Change(s) to Course Description – MATH 602-3 Functional Analysis

Gehloff

That the changes to the description for MATH 602-3, on page 129 of the 2022/23 graduate calendar, be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: September 2024

CARRIED

MATH 602-3 Topological and Normed Linear Spaces Functional Analysis

~~This course focuses on the properties of topological spaces and normed linear spaces, especially Banach spaces. Topics include inner product spaces, topological spaces, compact and locally compact spaces, classical Banach spaces, linear functionals and dual spaces, topological vector spaces, and Hilbert space.~~

~~Prerequisites: MATH 302-3.~~

This advanced course deals with analysis on structures varying from metric spaces to normed and Hilbert spaces. Topics include the contraction mapping principle, applications of fixed-point theorems to differential equations, bounded linear operators between normed vector spaces, Banach spaces, duality, Riesz representation theorem, and compact linear maps and their spectra. The course also covers the Fourier transform and shows some of its applications in thermodynamics and diffusion.

Prerequisites: Approval of the instructor

S-202310.06

New Course Approval – CPSC 127-3 Introduction to Technology

Whitcombe

That the new course CPSC 127-3 – Introduction to Technology be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: September 2024

CARRIED

This course introduces students to a current technological topic, defines technology, and explores the context of technology, prototyping, and testing. Students participate in a project involving remote or autonomous control and use project-based learning to analyze how competing social, ethical, and sustainability considerations influence the creation and development of technological solutions.

For Information:

11.2.1 Northern Studies Program Review Material 2022

Material was provided in the meeting package.

11.3 Steering Committee of Senate

Payne

The President provided a verbal report.

11.4 Senate Committee on Nominations

S-202310.07

Recommendation of Senate Committee Members to Senate

Gehloff

Durau

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Nominations, the following candidates, who have met all eligibility requirements to serve on Senate committees as indicated, be appointed as proposed.

Effective date: October 25, 2023

Senate Committee on university Budget

Student Senator, Dev Pandya (effective immediately – 08/31/2024)

CARRIED

[11.4.1 List of Senate Committee Vacancies was provided in the meeting package.](#)

- 11.5 Senate Committee on Curriculum and Calendar** **Stathers**
No report.
- 11.6 Senate Committee on Admissions and Degrees** **Read**
No report.
- 11.7 Senate Committee on Indigenous Initiatives** **Payne**
No report. The committee will be meeting in the coming weeks.
- 11.8 Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Special Forms of Recognition** **Payne**
Call for Nominations for the Honorary Degrees has gone out. Nominations for Honorary Degrees and Professor Emeriti can be accepted at any time, but nominations received in the Fall semester will be considered for the 2024 Convocation. Nomination received later will be considered for the 2025 Convocation cycle.
- 11.9 Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries** **Wood-Adams**
No report.
- 11.10 Senate Committee on University Budget** **Gehloff**
No report.
- 12.0 Information**
None.
- 13.0 Other Business**
None.
- 14.0 S-202310.08 (10 minutes)**
Move to the Closed Session
Kranz
That the meeting move to Closed Session.
CARRIED

The meeting moved into Closed Session at 5:18 pm.

- 15.0 S-202310.12**
Adjournment
Whitcombe
That the Senate meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.