
DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Deisman, Wade
Freeman, Tru
Haq, Aysha
Howes, Stephanie
Tyndall, Paul
Wood, Robert

Ex- Officio

Bigsby, Kathleen
Cserepes, Dana
Dhaliwal, Harj
McKendry, John

Regrets:

Davis, Bob
Gordon, Leslie

Hobson, Jane
Lee, S

Guests:

Adamoski, Rob
Chan, Josephine

Recorder:

Thompson, Kerry

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:17am

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda adopted by consensus.

2. Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

3. Chair's Report

The Senate/Board Joint Task Force met on Wednesday, May 25th. Initial issues for the Task Force will be program development and budgetary processes. W. Deisman will report back to APP in September. The chair also attended a meeting on Thursday, May 26th discuss criteria for the

Presidential Search. It is anticipated that the search will take 12 to 18 months before a new President to be hired and begin work.

4. Old Business

4.a. Proposal for Amalgamation : Humanities and Social Sciences

A document charting criteria sets and weighting was distributed. Criteria is divided into Institutional, Faculty Level and Educational Impact.

Discussion Points:

Institutional

Alignment with Strategic Plan –note the Strategic Plan has not been finalized

Impact on Institutional Governance Mechanisms and Decision Making:

- Loss of representation on Senate
- Balancing the intent and latitude of the University Act with what amalgamation could provide for and protect academically
- A negative legal opinion on amalgamation requires a higher responsibility to qualify if going against the Act, and could be viewed as a positive if challenging the Act

Change Quotient

- Current high level of institutional flux is viewed as a con, however, it could also been seen dynamism or leading edge
- Faculty of Arts would better fit a polytechnic mandate
- The two Faculties share interests historically and culturally and there is value in that
- Revolving door in the Dean of Humanities office has not been beneficial
- In the event of an amalgamation the Dean's position would change and a Dean search would need to be undertaken

Lawful Compliance :

- Senate would provide advice/recommendations to the Board of Governors who would then make the final determination on amalgamation
- Lack of policy should not prevent the institution from moving forward on matters of business and meeting its mandate

Balance and Proportionality:

- Faculties need to be able to staff Faculty councils appropriately

Consultation Process and Outcome:

- There is no clear understanding of the reason behind the votes for or against amalgamation
- The value of the faculty vote and how informed were those who voted
- Robert's Rules state that when dealing with an amendment to a constitution, a 2/3rd majority vote is required

Fidelity to Original Instruction Set:

- Original instruction set was not clear and left the door to interpretation open
- Not clear to all voters that Senate advice was required

Example of Other Institutions:

- Given the mixed results in a survey of other institutions, it falls to Kwantlen to guide itself

Addition Budgetary Criteria:

- There remains a need for redistribution of resources if amalgamation does not go forward, Social Sciences cannot afford to continue to "carry" Humanities

Addition Support Services:

- Uncertainty in the Humanities future creates lack of support and could impact the hiring of a Dean

Faculty Level

Based on forum discussions

Increased Internal Competitiveness:

- Amalgamation would result in the creation of the largest Faculty at Kwantlen, however the increase in size would not have proportional Senate representation

Change Quotient:

- Need to settle the unprecedented amount of change occurring at Kwantlen

External Competition for Resources:

- Within larger Faculties, traditionally the Dean becomes an ambassador in the community
- External funding can be positively affected in a Faculty with more depth and breadth

Educational Impact

Added – Student Progression, Coordination of Program Review, Program Efficiencies, Curriculum Development

General Discussion:

Need for clear definition of the mechanics and logistics involved in the transition if amalgamation was to go forward. A phase-in and reporting back process should be required. Policies should be in place and the amalgamation should fit into the Strategic Plan. Special support should be available to the Faculty of Humanities to assist with the evolution process. Implications for other departments should also be taken into consideration.

Some PROS Identified in Amalgamation:

- BA strength / continuity (less confusing to students)
- Institutional – Faculty of Arts recognition
- Current leadership issues
- Coordination (from student perspective)
- External recognition
- Supporting the Polytechnic framing
- Economies of scale
- Economies in terms of funding
- Funding and infrastructure for a faculty with critical mass
- Representation of KPU externally

Some CONS Identified in Amalgamation

- Senate seats – need viable alternatives to cutting Senate faculty seats from 4 to 2 and the elimination of 1 dean's seat
- Absence of policy for guidance

The committee voted in favour of recommending Amalgamation to Senate with the following counsel:

- A thorough plan be developed for the implementation of amalgamation
- Operationalize the amalgamation
- Progression reports be presented to Senate at specified intervals
- Leadership be in place to provide guidance and direction
- A steering committee be struck to identify a broad plan (timelines, governance, finance, senate representation) and that plan be brought back to Senate
- An interim period of adjustment for Senate representation – a member of each of the current Faculties be elected to Senate for a period of three years

ACTION: W. Deisman to stress committee concerns including the issue of representation at Senate

ACTION: Issue of policy regarding amalgamation and dissolution of Faculties to be placed on agenda for future meeting.

5. New Business

5.i. IARP Report

ACTION: W. Deisman to compile feedback from members regarding the Accountability Plan and submit to Kathleen Bigsby by Friday, June 3, 2011.

6. Announcements

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:07pm.