UBC met on October 29 and November 5, 2007. The main topic of the October 29th meeting was the financial figures presented in Craig Hood’s report from the October 2007 meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board. To summarize them, we ended the 2006-2007 academic year with roughly a $500,000 surplus and we are on track for a $500,000 deficit in the 2007-2008 academic year after two one-time federal grants of $2.8 million are applied to this year’s budget. The deficit is due to low enrollments. We also learned in the October 29th meeting that we reached an undisclosed settlement with the insurance company for the interruption of business from Katrina. Father Wildes said he was very pleased with the settlement, which was placed in the Plant Fund account. As discussed below, these funds may be used to help balance budgets for the next few years.

In the November 5, 2007 meeting we started discussion of proposed tuition increases for next year. We were presented with three possible scenarios for 6%, 7% and 9% tuition increases, all based on the assumption of 600 new Freshmen and 78 transfer students for 08-09. These three scenarios all result in budget deficits of $1.9, $1.4 and $.5 millions, respectively and they assume no salary increases and no new positions. The faculty reps expressed concern about the university’s ability to attract 600 new Freshmen and retain students given the 6-9% tuition increase scenarios. Admissions feels certain that the 600 number is attainable. The faculty reps’s concern is that these predictions are made based on one single point of reference (the 2006-2007 incoming class). They also pointed out that in real terms any percentage increase affects upperclassmen more than new freshmen. For example, last year’s 5% increase represented an average of over 9% increase for sophomores. We asked for budget scenarios for 0% tuition increase for undergraduates for next year and 0% tuition increase for upper-classmen for next year. (We just got these by email and they result in $3.9 and $3.3 million deficit, respectively). We also asked for an idea of how long we could count on interruption of business monies to help balance budgets. Ms. Cartwright estimated that these monies would last for about five years, not accounting for any raises or new positions.

We will meet again on Monday, November 12, when Father Wildes hopes we will vote on a recommendation for a budget and tuition increase for next year that he can take to the December Board meeting.

SCAP met on September 25, October 9 and on October 23, 2007. At those meetings we discussed the joint SCAP-Senate committee charged with working on the program review criteria, retention issues, and SCAP representation. We also heard reports from the new Career Development Center, from Admissions, and from the Office of Professional Development.

We are likely to vote at the next meeting on a proposed SCAP representation model to be submitted to the Faculty Handbook Review Committee for consideration. The proposal currently on the table, based on number of faculty, gives HUNS 3 reps, SS 2 reps, Music 1 rep, Business 1 rep, Law 1 rep and the Senate 1 rep. This proposal includes two non-voting student members. An alternate proposal has been suggested that gives the Senate 1 rep, each college 1 rep and an additional rep for each of the three largest colleges. This proposal includes 1 voting student member.