SUMMARY – BOARD OF GOVERNORS’ MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2020

Board Members present: C. Lewis, Board Chair; A. Petter, President; A. Giardini, Chancellor; M. Cordoba; A. Hall; A. Kessler; M.C. Kropinski; M. Lombardi; S. Lord Ferguson; P. Martin; J. Stewart; A. Versi; D. Williams; J. Young

Regrets: M. Mroz

OPEN SESSION

A. Finance and Administration

a. The Board received correspondence from student groups, including the Graduate Student Society and the Simon Fraser Student Society expressing concerns related to the proposed tuition increases for 2020/2021.

b. The Board approved the University’s 2019-2020 Budget and Financial Plan, including tuition fees for undergraduate and graduate programs, and Student Services and Recreation-Athletics fees.

B. University Relations

a. The Board approved the following actions recommended by Senate on March 2, 2020:
   - The 2020/2021 Enrollment Plan attached as Appendix A to the document titled For SENATE March 2, 2020, and 2020/2021 domestic and international undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty and Basis of Admission for all campuses (headcount), as indicated in Tables C1 and C2 respectively of Appendix C (Senate Paper S.20-28); and,
   - The Full Program Proposal for the Professional Kinesiology Certificate in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology within the Faculty of Science, effective Fall 2020.

b. Fundraising Progress Reports: The Board noted year-to-date progress reports as follows:

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<th>Fundraising Progress Report For Information 2019/2020 Year to Date</th>
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<td>To December 31, 2019</td>
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<td>To January 31, 2020</td>
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c. The Board approved the Terms of Reference for the:
   - Arron Fediuks Memorial Bursary in Finance;
   - Kris Magnusson Emerging Leaders Graduate Award in Education;
   - Maliha & Amina Bai Ropani Scholarship for Women in Computing Science;
   - Sousan Hakimy Kashany Memorial Bursary in Education;
   - Triple A. Award in the School of Sustainable Energy Engineering;
   - Dr. A. H. Somjee and Dr. Geeta Somjee Graduate Fellowship in Indian Political Development;
   - Raneeka Gill Memorial Award Endowment;
   - Roman Onufrijchuk Memorial Bursary in Communication; and,
   - Sameh Magid Memorial Scholarship for Burnaby Secondary School Graduates.
C. **Governance and Nominating**
   a. The Board approved the new Policy on University Policies and Procedures (B 10.00), effective immediately.
   b. The Board approved the revised Sexual Violence and Misconduct Prevention, Education and Support Policy (GP 44), effective immediately.

D. **Responsible Investment Committee**
   a. In response to a request from the student group SFU 350, the Board received a report on SFU’s existing investment managers with respect to the status of each as a signatory to the Climate Action 100+ Sign-on Statement.

E. **Human Resources**
   a. The Board approved the 2020-2021 Faculty Renewal Plan.

F. **Other**
   a. Board Chair C. Lewis welcomed everyone to the teleconference Board meeting, noting that conducting the Open Session by conference call, and by audio web link for members of the public, was an unusual circumstance necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This action was taken for the health and safety of all participants, consistent with the latest information and recommendations from regional and provincial medical health officers.
   b. C. Lewis acknowledged Li-Jeen Broshko, at the virtual Board table for the first time in her capacity as Acting University Secretary.
   c. The Board Chair informed Governors that the Chancellor’s Search Committee had met and confirmed the selection criteria. The “Call for Nominations” was issued on February 19 and the deadline for nomination submissions was March 18, 2020.
   d. C. Lewis reminded Board members that the Senate-Board Retreat on April 4 was cancelled as the timing was not ideal for many people. Further complicating the timing was the evolving COVID-19 crisis. Management will work to schedule a retreat for the next academic year.
   e. President Petter reported that:
      - A major focus since the Board last met has been on the growing health emergency resulting from the spread of COVID-19. Developments include:
         - J. Driver has been given responsibility for coordinating SFU’s response to COVID-19.
         - SFU activated its Emergency Operations Centre process in January and has since established a Policy Group of executive members which is chaired by President Petter and supported by an Advisory Group of senior staff.
         - Former Vice-President, Legal Affairs and University Secretary, Judith Osborne, has been enlisted to work beside J. Driver in managing SFU’s response.
      - One obvious result of COVID-19 has been the postponement of major events, including the APAIE Conference and Exhibition which was scheduled for the end of March. (What will now be known as APAIE 2021 is being planned for next spring in Vancouver with SFU still functioning as lead host.) Also postponed was the SFU Public Square Community Summit, originally scheduled for early April. (It is hoped that this will now be held in the fall 2020.)
      - The President’s Distinguished Community Leadership Award dinner, originally scheduled for mid-April, has also been postponed until 2021.
f. President Petter highlighted a number of events SFU was able to hold before the COVID-19 restrictions took place. These included:

- A visit by the Governor General, The Right Honourable Julie Payette, who is a SFU Distinguished Alumnus; the Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Janet Austin; and Chancellor Anne Giardini to the SFU Surrey Campus on February 21 to meet with students and innovators;
- The presentation on February 18 of the 2019/20 Jack P. Blaney Award for Dialogue to Inuit activist Siila Watt-Cloutier in recognition of her international leadership in the use of dialogue to advocate for Indigenous, environmental, and cultural rights;
- The President’s Annual Surrey Gala on February 28 that drew a large and enthusiastic group of attendees, including the Mayors of Surrey and Burnaby, as well as federal and provincial representatives;
- The Annual SFU Awards dinner on March 5 that honoured community partners, faculty, staff and students who have received major awards over the past year;
- A luncheon on March 10 that honoured the eight SFU faculty members recognized last year by the Royal Society of Canada and the three faculty members recognized by the Canadian Academy of Engineering; and,
- The Library’s Celebration of SFU Authors on March 10 that honoured 16 SFU faculty, staff, students, alumni and partners who have published books or book chapters this past year.

President Petter thanked all Board members who were able to attend one or more of these events.

g. President Petter reported on the privacy breach affecting the personal information of faculty, staff, students and alumni who joined SFU prior to June 20, 2019. The breach occurred when SFU’s system was subjected to a ransomware attack on February 27. The issue was discovered and corrected on February 28, and SFU community members were advised to change their passwords. The breach resulted from human error, not systems failure, and action has been taken to try to ensure that it does not recur.

h. President Petter returned to the topic of COVID-19 to note that, as disruptive and stressful as the health crisis has been for the University, he has been hugely impressed by the manner in which SFU staff, faculty and students have responded. He also expressed his appreciation to SFU’s Communications and Marketing team, led Kristin Linklater, who are ensuring that everything possible is being done to be consistent, clear and transparent with respect to communications internally and in the broader community. A. Petter drew the Board’s attention to his Petter’s Perspective blog post in which he discussed how the crisis has tested our mettle, but also shown how dedicated, supportive and resilient members of the SFU community are.

i. Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research and International, provided the Board with a written report on key activities in her office as well as recent research achievements. She focused her remarks on the various researchers and research activity that has evolved in the past week in relation to COVID-19, including:

- Providence Health Care is seeking assistance to look at peak demand for staffing emergency rooms;
- SFU is undertaking Artificial Intelligence modelling to understand the COVID-19 pneumonia process;
- Faculty of Science Professor Carolyn Colijn has been appointed a member of an advisory committee, led by Canada’s Chief Science Advisor Dr. Mona Nemer, that will provide advice on a national level;
- The Canadian Institutes of Health Research has launched a competition in which a rapid response to the COVID-19 virus proposals were submitted;
- Kelley Lee, Faculty of Health Sciences, and Peter Unrau, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, have each received one or more grants to undertake work on COVID-19;
- SFU is also undertaking an inventory of capacity in labs and equipment to determine the ways in which the University may be able to provide assistance to provincial health authorities during the pandemic.
The Board reviewed the report of the Vice-President, Finance and Administration on recent major activities and developments within his portfolio. With respect to emergency preparedness and related planning, M. Pochurko reported that 40 departments to-date have already signaled an intention to participate in business resumption planning.

The Board reviewed the written report of the Vice-President, Academic and Provost pro tem. J. Driver gave a verbal update on the COVID-19. He indicated that SFU is managing the complex situation using four principles:

- Providing a safe environment for students and employees;
- Continuing the core business of the University in the short and long term, and adapting practices to make this happen;
- Utilizing existing management and governance structures to make decisions and implement change;
- Communicating regularly to the University community, external partners, and listening carefully to advice and feedback.

The Board was informed that:

- SFU is taking its lead from the provincial and federal governments, as well as the Chief Medical Officer of BC, and is also collaborating with other research universities in BC, and more broadly with the post-secondary sector in Canada.
- A management and decision-making structure around COVID 19 has been established, with the VPA as the lead vice-president. Former VP, Legal Affairs Judith Osborne has been appointed to a dedicated position to assist in coordinating activities and to advise the VPA.
- Major decisions and communications are discussed and approved by a senior policy group. In addition, a senior advisory group and a number of working groups have also been established to focus on particular issues, such as remote study and exams, or managing HR implications. These working groups play a critical role, because they are composed of experts in a wide range of topics.
- International travel has been stopped and assistance provided to employees and students in returning to Canada.
- Teaching practices for the remainder of this term and for the summer 2020 term will no longer involve students being in close proximity to each other, nor gathering in groups. Large numbers of employees are working remotely.
- Attention is now being turned to business continuity and planning for the future in this rapidly changing situation. This includes making decisions regarding managing classes for the summer 2020 term.

CLOSED SESSION

A. **Finance and Administration**

a. The Board authorized Management to negotiate and enter into a Consolidation and Extension Agreement for lease space for the Surrey campus for a term of ten years.

b. The Board approved the award of contract for General Contracting Services for the Applied Science Building Project to Chandos Construction.

c. The Board received for information a report elaborating on the process used by the University to determine priorities and develop projects that address deferred maintenance requirements.

d. The Board approved the SFU Burnaby 2065 Campus Master Plan as the guiding document for future development on the Burnaby Campus.
B. **University Relations**
   a. The Board received a fundraising progress report for the months ending December 2019 and January 2020.
   b. The Board reviewed the report of Mike den Haan, Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Engagement on the recent activities, developments and achievements in each of the areas within his portfolio.
   c. The Board reviewed the report from Joanne Curry, Vice-President, External Relations on key issues in Government Relations and Communications & Marketing.
   d. Other matters were discussed.

C. **Responsible Investment**
   a. As part of SFU’s commitment to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (UN PRI), the Board approved the University’s annual submission for 2020 to the UN PRI.

D. **Human Resources**
   a. **Academic Appointments**
      The following academic appointments were approved and have been accepted:
      - Dr. Mauricio Pauly, Assistant Professor, Contemporary Arts, 1 May 20 – 31 Aug 24
      - Dr. Jake Levinson, Assistant Professor, Mathematics, 1 Jul 20 – 31 Aug 24
   b. **Administrative Appointments**
      The following administrative appointments were approved and have been accepted:
      - Dr. Melek Ortibasi, Chair, World Languages and Literatures, 1 Jan 20 – 31 Aug 21
      - Dr. Tom Archibald, Chair, Mathematics, 1 May 20 – 31 Dec 20

E. **Other**
   a. The Board received the President’s Activities Report for January and February 2020.
   b. The Board listened to a presentation from Sobhana Jaya Madhavan, Associate Vice-President, External Relations, and Ron Johnston, Interim Director, Office for Aboriginal Peoples, and engaged in discussion about “Reconciliation at SFU and the Aboriginal Strategic Initiative Update.”
   c. Other matters were discussed.

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**
   a. The Board reviewed the Government’s 2020/21 Mandate Letter for Public Post-Secondary Institutions, which was then signed by the Board Chair on behalf of the Board. The Letter was subsequently submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, and posted as a PDF on the Board’s web site at: [http://www.sfu.ca/bog.html](http://www.sfu.ca/bog.html)
b. The Board approved that in addition to her continuing role as Vice-President, External Relations, Joanne Curry be appointed as Acting Vice-President Advancement and Alumni Engagement, effective April 1, 2020 through to December 31, 2020.

The next Board of Governors meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2020 by Zoom Video/Audio Conference.