Mr. Chancellor, it is with pleasure that I present Dr. Donald Rix. A visionary corporate leader who has served this province long and well, Dr. Rix is also a philanthropist of generous spirit; a good and true friend of higher education, and of this university.

More than 35 years ago, Dr. Rix, then a young physician, pursued a long-held interest in pathology and eventually joined Metropolitan Labs in Vancouver, transforming the small firm into MDS Metro Laboratories. Today, this company is the largest independent medical laboratory in B.C. with interest in more than 100 medical laboratories in western Canada, and employing more than 900 British Columbians.

As his business grew so, too, did Dr. Rix's reputation. Respected for his business acumen and admired for his confidence in British Columbia's potential, he became a great champion of our burgeoning hi tech industry. He inspired the founding generation of bio-tech entrepreneurs in British Columbia, graciously sharing his knowledge and experience. A man who backs his words with action, he financially supported many of this industry's brightest startup firms including QLT Phototherapeutics and Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. In recognition of his profound guiding influence, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the BC Biotechnology Association.

Dr. Rix’s entrepreneurial spirit has greatly enhanced economic opportunities in this province. A man of boundless generosity, his goodwill extends to the entire community. He serves on the board of several organizations, including the Science Council of BC, and the BC Medical Research Foundation. His extraordinary commitment to higher education has been instrumental in the creation of wonderful new opportunities for research. He helped established the Dr. Don Rix Protein Identification Facility at the University of Western Ontario and a new research facility at the University of British Columbia, the Donald Rix Building. He has led the campaign to renovate the facilities of the Bamfield Marine Research Consortium in which SFU has always been a partner.

This university has indeed benefited greatly from his wisdom and leadership. As Chairman of our Segal Graduate School of Business Capital Campaign, he serves our institution with energy and distinction. Indeed, he has signaled his faith in Simon Fraser University to the broader community with significant gifts to the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and to the Segal Graduate School of Business.

Mr. Chancellor, Donald Rix has given much to the people of British Columbia. In fact, his success has been ours. Now I ask, on behalf of the Senate of this University, that you confer upon Dr. Donald Rix the degree Doctor of Science, honoris causa.