August 27, 2018

Dear New Faculty Members and Librarians,

Congratulations on securing an appointment at Simon Fraser University. Welcome on behalf of all of us in the Office of the Vice-President, Academic and Provost, the Administration at large, and the broader community. We are delighted that you have decided to join the SFU Team.

You have chosen a challenging and what we hope will be a rewarding career at a highly ranked comprehensive post-secondary institution that places great emphasis on being a leader amongst engaged universities, defined by dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research, and far-reaching community engagement. The overlapping triumvirate of engagements with students, research and community are core to who we are and what we do.

Those funding our mission, including government grants, tuition fees, research support and gifts, have high expectations of us. The “SFU Experience” is shaped by what we do and communicate as individuals and collectively, and by the examples we set. The quality of our scholarship, innovations and creativity are as important as our capacity to mobilize existing and new knowledge and insights to our students, professional peers, and society at large.

We are up for the challenge. We are guided by our own curiosities, passions and aspirations, as well as SFU’s collectively created vision and mission statements, operational plans, policies and procedures. These guide SFU’s strategic thinking and funding priorities, and allow us effectively to work together. I encourage you to become familiar with these documents. This past year, the academic community has been in the process of creating the next Academic Plan (2018 – 2023). I am excited to share the final Academic Plan in the fall term, but I encourage you to become familiar with the planning process documents and timeline, as well as the previous plans: http://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/academic_planning/academic_plans.html.

As you settle in you will find that there are many opportunities to get involved in planning and governance in academic departments, faculties, and university-wide projects. I encourage you to participate to the extent allowed by your teaching and research responsibilities. Serving on a committee gives you a chance to participate in the collegial management of the university while meeting new colleagues.
I hope that this orientation helps you get settled into your new position at SFU, and I wish you the best of success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

C. Peter Keller, PhD
Vice-President, Academic and Provost
Professor of Geography
Simon Fraser University