August 30, 2016

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. SFU 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 for the benefit of 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 to work together effectively. I encourage you to become familiar with these documents. To get you started, SFU’s current 2013–2018 Academic Plan and your Faculty’s own Academic Plan are accessible at: 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 fullest 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.

This is also my first year at SFU. So I am learning with you. I look forward to getting to know you better. Perhaps we will have a chance in the months ahead to compare notes not only on first impressions working at SFU, but also on the amazing opportunities this great city and its hinterland have to offer.

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I hope 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,

[Signature]

C. Peter Keller, PhD
Incoming Vice-President, Academic and Provost (September 1, 2016)
Professor of Geography
Simon Fraser University