



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, October 4, 2010 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Petter, Andrew, President and Chair

Acierno, Kyle  
Bezglasnyy, Anton  
Black, Sam  
Brandhorst, Bruce  
Corbett, Kitty  
Craig, John  
Cupples, Claire  
Cyr, Dianne  
Dhillon, Arinder  
Driver, Jon  
Easton, Stephen  
Eckman, Charles  
Fizzell, Maureen  
Francis, June  
Garneau-Scott, Christi  
Haunerland, Norbert (representing M. Pinto)  
Kong, Shuyu  
Krane, Bill  
Laitsch, Dan  
Law, Mona  
Lee, Benjamin  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Li, Fiona  
MacGrotty, Alysia  
Magnusson, Kris  
Myers, Gordon  
O'Neil, John  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Patidar, Risha  
Patidar, Trisha  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Peters, Joseph  
Pierce, John  
Rajapakse, Nimal  
Shapiro, Daniel  
Somers, Julian  
Warner, D'Arcy  
Woodbury, Rob (also representing C. Geisler)  
Wussow, Helen

**Absent:**  
Beale, Alison  
Brennand, Tracy  
Chapman, Glenn  
Dow, Greg  
Golnaraghi, Farid  
Gordon, Robert  
Janes, Craig  
Kopahi, Moe  
Kropinski, Mary Catherine  
Lewis, Cynthia  
Louie, Brandt  
Mann, Geoff  
McArthur, James  
Moghaddamjoo, Sarah  
Morrison, John  
Patel, Ravi  
Paterson, David  
Pavsek, Christopher  
Ruben, Peter  
Russell, Robert  
Sahinalp, Cenk  
Saif, Mehrdad  
van der Wey, Dolores

Ross, Kate, Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment  
Gair, Shelley, Recording Secretary

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of September 13, 2010**

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Revisions to Senate paper S.10-106 (SFU/ZU Dual Programs) were approved by the Board of Governors and received by Senate for information.

**S.10-116****4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed the following Senators to their first meeting of Senate: Charles Eckman, Dean of Library Services and Kitty Corbett, a Faculty member from the Faculty of Health Sciences. Senator Alison Beale has resigned as a Senator and was acknowledged for her time of service.

The Chair commented on the changes that will be implemented with the department of University Relations. The process to search for a new Vice-President, to replace Warren Gill, will begin immediately with some modifications to the new position. The Chair has proposed to rename the position, Vice-President of External Relations, and to include International Relations in the position along with Community and Government Relations to give it an external focus. Cathy Daminato, Vice-President of Advancement and Alumni Engagement, has agreed to broaden her portfolio immediately to include Alumni Relations (renamed Alumni Engagement).

The Chair reported that he has been spending time meeting with faculty, students and staff across the university to gain a greater understanding of the community. A process of strategic visioning will begin in the New Year but in the meantime, the President's Agenda and the associated document on the strategic visioning process is available on the president's website ([www.sfu.ca/pres](http://www.sfu.ca/pres)) for additional information.

**5. Question Period**

- A) The following question was submitted by Senator Black, "The WQB initiative was implemented three years ago. When will it be reviewed?"

The Vice-President, Academic, responded that the WQB initiative began implementation in 2004 but went into full effect in Fall of 2006. Senate was informed that there was no requirement made for a scheduled review and that there is no intention of undertaking a review of the WQB initiative specially at this time. It was noted, however, that the Academic Plan for 2010-2013 contains a goal to examine curriculum across the university and it would be appropriate to review the WQB requirements as part of this goal.

- B) The following question was submitted by Senator C. Percival, "In the three-year Academic Plan presented by the Vice-President Academic at the March 2010 Senate meeting, under goal 1.1 is stated, 'Increase current numbers of First Nations Students by 10% by 2013.' In light of the recently announced success of the university in increasing the Aboriginal student

population by 40% in the past year, I would like to know if the VP Academic has a new target and what it is.”

Senate was informed that the recently announced success of the university in increasing the Aboriginal student population by 40% came from a recent SFU news release that stated, “Currently there are 500 First Nations students at SFU up from 350 one year previously.” The Vice-President, Academic, provided some details regarding the complex process of identifying Aboriginal students. Acceptable methods for calculating numbers of Aboriginal students are defined by the province and are followed to ensure comparability across the institutions in the province. The official Aboriginal total for 2009 – 2010 is not available yet, but if a comparison is made between 2003 and 2008, the total headcount went from 474 to 514. Overall domestic student numbers also increased so this was a decline in the percentage of Aboriginal students over that period.

Senate was informed that the 350 students reported in the news release for the 2009 – 2010 academic year was not the official number because this data has not been confirmed yet. The 500 students reported for 2010 – 2011 was based on the knowledge of a Student Services recruiter who has knowledge of individual decisions. Therefore, the figures of 350 and 500 are not based on the same process of calculation and so there has not been a 40% increase.

The numbers from 2003 to 2008 show a very slow rate of growth in SFU’s Aboriginal student population and the projected results for 2009 – 2010 are consistent with this rate of growth. In British Columbia, the Aboriginal population is approximately 5%, with 54% of Aboriginal people in B.C. living in the Greater Vancouver and Lower Fraser Valley area. Five percent of the domestic student population at SFU would be a headcount of 1,380 for 2009 – 2010 instead of a projected 535.

The opinion was expressed that although increasing current numbers of Aboriginal students by 10% is a long way from reaching a goal of five percent overall, it would be a definite improvement over what has been achieved so far. Several Senate approved initiatives, such as the Aboriginal Strategic Plan, Aboriginal Admissions Policy, and the Aboriginal Bridge Program should help to improve these results.

## **6. Reports of Committees**

### **A) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**

#### **i) Deleted Course Repeat Policy**

**S.10-117**

Moved by Bill Krane, seconded by Arinder Dhillon

“that Senate approve that the Repeated Course Policy include the following sentence: When a course is deleted by the University, the department, in consultation with the affected student, will determine a suitable alternative that will be considered a repeat course for the purposes of this policy. (Effective May 2011)”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Curriculum Revision – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences S.10-118**  
**(For Information): Economics**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a minor revision to an existing course in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**B) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**

**i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences S.10-119**  
**(For Information): School of Engineering Science**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to program requirements in the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences S.10-120**  
**(For Information): Gerontology, History**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and minor course and program revisions in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that there was an error in the papers regarding HIST 872. This course should be 5 credits not 4 credits.

**iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration S.10-121**  
**(For Information): MBA Program**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a minor course and program revision in the Faculty of Business Administration.

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology S.10-122**  
**(For Information): School of Interactive Arts and Technology**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved deleted courses and changes to program requirements in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment S.10-123**  
**(For Information): School of Resource & Environmental Management**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor course revisions in the Faculty of Environment

**vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences** **S.10-124**  
**(For Information): Master of Public Health Program**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor course revisions and changes to program requirements in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**vii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science** **S.10-125**  
**(For Information): Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses, a course revision and a program requirement change in the Faculty of Science.

**C) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Elections** **S.10-126**

A revised Senate paper was distributed prior to the start of the meeting. The revised paper showed all positions that were elected by acclamation and outstanding vacancies that would be carried forward to the next meeting of Senate.

**7. Information**

The date of the next regular scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, November 1, 2010 in the West Mall Complex (Room 3210).

Open Session adjourned at 6:00 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Kate Ross  
Registrar and Secretary of Senate