



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, President and Chair

Acierno, Kyle
Armstrong, Arthur
Black, Sam
Brandhorst, Bruce
Budra, Paul (representing J. Craig)
Chapman, Glenn
Cupples, Claire
Cyr, Dianne
Dhillon, Arinder
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eckman, Charles
Fizzell, Maureen
Fontaine, Marc
Francis, June
Garneau-Scott, Christi
Geisler, Cheryl
Gordon, Robert
Kohn, Jordan
Kong, Shuyu
Krane, Bill
Kropinski, Mary Catherine
Leacock, Tracey
Lee, Benjamin
Leznoff, Daniel
Magnusson, Kris
McRae, Jennifer
Moghaddamjoo, Sarah
Myers, Gordon
Nilson Levisohn, Michelle
O'Neil, John
Parkhouse, Wade
Paterson, David
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Perry, Tom
Peters, Joseph

Pierce, John
Pilarinos, Andreas
Pinto, Mario
Rajapakse, Nimal
Reyerros, Diego
Ruben, Peter
Russell, Robert
Shapiro, Daniel
Warner, D'Arcy
Woodbury, Rob
Wussow, Helen

Absent:

Brennand, Tracy
Chen, Alexander
Golnaraghi, Farid
Hughes, David
Laitsch, Dan
Mann, Geoff
Sahinalp, Cenk
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Tashakor, Pasha
Taylor, Carole
Yeung, Lorenz

In Attendance:

Lindsay, William
Tiffany, Evan

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session on July 4, 2011

A minor correction was noted in the minutes. The minutes were approved as distributed with this correction.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The chair reported that he had met with incoming first year students, new graduate students and new faculty and that some exciting events were coming up at SFU.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted for question period.

6. Reports of Committees**A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)****i) Certificates (S.11-104)**

Senate received the review on certificates for information. The registrar and director of university curriculum were congratulated on the quality of the document. A question was raised regarding the recommendation that certificates with diminishing enrolment be reviewed. Senate was informed that the policy for discontinuing programs would be followed when determining whether or not to discontinue a certificate. A concern was raised regarding the recommendation that proposals for new certificates include evidence of demand and a targeted enrolment plan. Senate was informed that there is a wide range of evidence that could be used to support the proposal of a certificate.

It was clarified for Senate that before any recommendations were implemented, they would have to go through the regular approval process.

ii) Certificate in Ethics: Theory and Application (S.11-105)**Motion**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Fizzell

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Ethics: Theory and Application within the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2012.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Indigenous Research Institute (S.11-106)**Motion**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Francis

“That Senate approve the proposal for the establishment of the Indigenous Research Institute as an Institute for a five year term.”

Support for the institute was expressed along with a concern regarding the quality and breadth of the documentation provided in comparison to other research institute proposals and the steering committee membership. Senate was informed that past institute proposals were reviewed and some were found to be less detailed than this document. Senate was also informed that over time the institute will likely expand and additional members from other faculties will be added.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Library External Review Report (S.11-107)

Senate received the library external review report for information. The dean of library services was complimented for the professional and thorough review that was conducted.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**i) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.11-108)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to an existing course in the Beedie School of Business.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art & Technology (S.11-109)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Interactive Arts & Technology, Communication, Contemporary Arts).

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.11-110)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Environment (Resource and Environmental Management).

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.11-111)

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 Health Sciences.

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.11-112)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology).

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.11-113)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and minor revisions to existing courses in the Beedie School of Business.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.11-114)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and minor revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

D) Senate Nominating Committee**i) Elections by Senate (S.11-115)**

Senate received a summary of the outstanding vacancies and nominations received for the Senate committees. The vacancies were brought to Senate's attention with a request for senators to encourage colleagues to participate in the governance of the university.

7. Other Business**i) Senate Committee on University Honours – Membership (S.11-116)****Motion**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Percival

“That Senate approve a change in membership for the Senate Committee on University Honours; the VP Advancement and Alumni Engagement be named as a member ex-officio replacing the VP External Relations effective immediately.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Envision Discussion Paper (S.11-117)

Senate received the envision discussion paper for information. The vice-chair assumed the role of chair so that a presentation could be made by the president. A discussion followed the presentation with questions for clarification, suggestions for improvement and supportive comments.

Clarification was requested in regards to the purpose of the guiding principles and it was explained that the principles were intended to be viewed as adding to the vision not replacing the vision. Several senators expressed the opinion that some ambiguous language was unnecessarily used (i.e. engaged, community, social) and that superlatives were over used. Others expressed concern with the lack of specific words such as: academic, intellectual, scholar, or ethics. Several senators expressed a concern over the lack of support for basic research found within the document. An opinion was expressed that more specific examples and support would help humanize and strengthen the document. A suggestion was made to write the objectives in a sharper way to facilitate putting them into action. Several requests were made for clear action items. Some supportive remarks were that the document described SFU very well, that it would likely continue to generate ongoing discussions and that the envision process did a good job of engaging the community.

Senate was reminded that this discussion paper was not an operational planning document but a vision document that will be given meaning through planning processes and daily work efforts.

iii) Election Report to Senate (S.11-118)

Senate received the election report to Senate for information. A suggestion was made that the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR) should review the rules around filling vacant positions on Senate to avoid positions remaining vacant. Senate was informed that the Registrar's office was currently reviewing the Senate rules and would be considering this item in that review. Once the review is complete, the suggested changes will be submitted to SCAR.

8. Information**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, October 3, 2011.**

Open session adjourned at 9:15 pm and Senate moved directly into the closed session.

Kate Ross
Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment