



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, March 5, 2012 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, President and Chair

Acierno, Kyle
Black, Sam
Brandhorst, Bruce
Brennand, Tracy
Chapman, Glenn
Craig, John
Cupples, Claire
Cyr, Dianne
Dhillon, Arinder
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eckman, Charles
Fontaine, Marc
Francis, June
Garneau-Scott, Christi
Gordon, Robert
Kohn, Jordan
Krane, Bill
Kropinski, Mary Catherine
Kugler, DD (representing C. Geisler)
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Li, Paul
Magnusson, Kris
Moghaddamjoo, Sara
Myers, Gordon
Nilson Levisohn, Michelle
O'Neil, John
Palis, Heather
Parkhouse, Wade
Paterson, David
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pilarinos, Andreas
Pinto, Mario
Rajapakse, Nimal

Ruben, Peter
Russell, Robert
Somers, Julian
Tashakor, Pasha
Warner, D'Arcy
Wussow, Helen

Absent:

Armstrong, Arthur
Chen, Alexander
Fizzell, Maureen
Golnaraghi, Farid
Hughes, David
Kong, Shuyu
Lee, Benjamin
Leznoff, Daniel
Mann, Geoff
McRae, Jennifer
Perry, Tom
Pierce, John
Robinsmith, Stacey
Sahinalp, Cenk
Shapiro, Daniel
Shaw, Chris
Taylor, Carole
Woodbury, Rob
Yeung, Lorenz

In Attendance:

Busumtwi-Sam, James
Haunerland, Norbert
Lee, Jacy
Yam, Lorraine
Yellowhorn, Eldon

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session on February 6, 2011

The minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

The breadth requirements for the Joint Major and Honours program in Earth Sciences and Chemistry were confirmed as satisfying university regulations, as approved at the February Senate meeting.

4. Report of the Chair

The chair reported that the provincial budget included an allocation of \$260,000,000 across the system for deferred maintenance, which is good news for SFU's aging infrastructure, but also a cut of \$20,000,000 in year two and \$30,000,000 in year three of a three year plan for post-secondary education. Concern has been expressed by all university presidents and college presidents in B.C. over the reduction of funding.

SFU's strategic vision was launched successfully. Some highlights on the website include an animation of the strategic vision and an interactive map that records the international activities of faculty, students and staff. A number of administrative staff and students from SFU went to Victoria to meet with key ministers, deputies and other officials with the purpose of sharing information about SFU, the strategic vision and concerns around the budget.

The chair reported that he will be going to London to participate in a panel on the topic of university relationships with community at the British Council's Going Global conference. It was also reported that the Surrey Open House was both well organized and well attended.

5. Question Period

A question was raised regarding whether or not students from the United States will be eligible for student loans as a result of our accreditation process. Senate was informed that although American students can get student loans, it is more complex to administer. The administration of research grants and student loans should be easier with accreditation which will help SFU diversify the international student population.

A question was submitted previous to the meeting concerning the lack of nominations received within some faculties in response to the recent call for nominations for faculty positions on Senate. The question asks specifically whether or not the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR) has considered a suggestion made previously at Senate, to open up vacant faculty positions for nominations outside those faculties. Senate was informed that this has been discussed at SCAR and that further work was mandated to look at some options to address this issue.

An opinion was expressed at Senate that part of the reason there may be a lack of nominations is that faculty feel overworked and find it difficult to commit more time to meetings. It was also

expressed that some may feel attending Senate meetings are not an effective use of their time since motions are rarely defeated. Another opinion was expressed that if the Senate committees are doing their work well, most items should be approved at the Senate level.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)

i) Annual Report (S.12-41)

Senate received the annual report for SCIA for information. It was suggested that the various membership tables be consolidated into one membership table in the future and a question was raised regarding two membership positions in the report that are not listed on the website. Senate was informed that the issue of the membership tables will be taken under consideration and the membership discrepancy will be investigated.

Concern was expressed over the lack of international activity in certain parts of the world, such as Africa and South America. Senate was informed that efforts have been made at creating greater partnerships with African universities and that there is a growing interest. As well, there are plans for the president to travel to South America with a larger delegation to try and strengthen future connections.

A question was raised in regards to students being sent on exchange programs to areas that may be dangerous. Senate was informed that students are not sent to any country that has been determined to be dangerous.

A question was raised regarding whether there is a lower limit on the number of participants for a field school and whether or not the university pays for the expenses of the faculty involved. Senate was informed that there normally is a lower limit of participants, based on anticipated expenses and an appropriate cost for students, and that the travel and accommodation expenses of the faculty members involved are covered by the university.

B) Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning (SCEMP)

i) Enrollment Plan 2012/2013; Undergraduate Admission Targets for 2012/2013 (S.12-42)

Motion 1

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2012/2013 Enrollment Plan attached as Appendix A to *Summary for Senate*.”

Clarification was requested in regards to the graduate enrolment totals being projected to increase when funding appears to be decreasing. Senate was informed that departments have been encouraged to actively manage their enrolments within the funds available.

A question was raised as to why the targets for the Faculty of Science have gone down when it appears Science has grown every year for the past few years. Senate was informed that the

graduate numbers are determined in consultation with the individual faculties and that Science purposefully reduced the enrolment targets across their programs.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2012/2013 domestic undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty, by semester and basis of admission category as indicated in Table C1 in Appendix C.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Moghaddamjoo

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2012/2013 international undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty, by semester and basis of admission category as indicated in Table C2 in Appendix C.”

Senate was informed that starting in Fall 2012, the admission process will have separate GPA targets, or levels, for international and domestic students. This change will assist in controlling the two different enrolments as separate populations. As well, the IELTS scores have been raised for admission purposes starting in the Summer 2012 term. It was acknowledged that even though this is a start in dealing with the wide range of English language capabilities at SFU, more will need to be done in the area of ongoing support. A report that was previously submitted to Senate on this topic has been circulated to the faculties for comment and is now being processed for further action.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Change of First Nations Studies Program to Department (S.12-43)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Francis

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the proposal to change First Nations Studies from a Program to a Department within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.”

A comment was made that the success of the First Nations Studies program shouldn't diminish the need to support aboriginal students who are studying in other disciplines. A concern was raised regarding the small size of the department. It was clarified that members from other departments and faculties will be recruited when necessary to help meet the requirements of departmental committees, such as the tenure and promotion committee.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications (S.12-44)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on University Priorities, acting under delegated authority, reviewed and approved the renewal of the Centre for Scientific Computing for a five year term.

D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Criminal Records Checks for Students in Undergrad Courses (S.12-45)

Senate received information regarding the amendments to the Criminal Records Review Act (CRRA) and the new requirement for students to consent to a special CRRA Criminal record check before enrolling in undergraduate courses with a practicum component involving work with children or vulnerable adults.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.12-46)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (Engineering Science, Computing Science, Systems One).

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.12-47)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Linguistics, Political Science).

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art & Technology (S.12-48)

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

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.12-49)

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

vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.12-50)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Science (Mathematics, Physics).

E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Annual Report 2010-2011 (S.12-51)**

Senate received the 2010-2011 annual report for the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for information.

ii) General Graduate Regulation 1.5.1 (S.12-52)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved revisions to GRR 1.5.1 for the purpose of aligning the graduate and undergraduate grading practices.

iii) Criminal Records Checks for Students in Graduate Courses (S.12-53)

Senate received information regarding the amendments to the Criminal Records Review Act (CRRA) and the new requirement for students to consent to a special CRRA Criminal record check before enrolling in graduate courses with a practicum component involving work with children or vulnerable adults.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.12-54)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved revisions to an existing course and an existing program in the Faculty of Education.

7. Other Business**i) Election Report to Senate (S.12-55)**

Senate received the results of student elections to Senate, the Board of Governors, and the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for information.

8. Information**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, April 2, 2012.**

Open session adjourned at 6:30 pm and Senate moved directly into the closed session.

Jo Hinchliffe
Assistant Registrar