



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, September 10, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, President and Chair

Black, Sam
Brandhorst, Bruce
Brennand, Tracy
Burley, David
Corbett, Kitty
Craig, John
Cupples, Claire
Cyr, Dianne
Delgrande, Jim
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eckman, Charles
Elle, Elizabeth
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Francis, June
Hall, Angie
Hedley, Nick
Kessler, Anke
Kopahi, Moe
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Leivdal, Joseph
Magnusson, Kris
McRae, Jennifer
Myers, Gordon
O'Neil, John
Palis, Heather
Parekh, Nimisha
Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Perry, Tom
Pilarinos, Andreas
Pinto, Mario
Quarmby, Lynne
Rajapakse, Nimal

Robinsmith, Stacey
Ruben, Peter
Sakhrani, Rohan
Schellenberg, Betty
Shapiro, Daniel
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Szeto, Hendson
Tingling, Peter
Warner, D'Arcy
Wilson, Meaghan
Wussow, Helen
Zhang, Kevin

Absent:

Chapman, Glenn
Chen, Alexander
Geisler, Cheryl
Golnaraghi, Farid
Gordon, Robert
Hejazi, Michael
Kropinski, Mary Catherine
Leznoff, Daniel
Li, Paul
Lundgreen-Nielsen, Jens
Nilson Levisohn, Michelle
Pavsek, Christopher
Pierce, John
Ross, Kate
Taylor, Carole
Woodbury, Rob

In Attendance:

Daminato, Cathy
Lee, Jacy
Nicholls, Glynn

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session on June 11, 2012

The minutes of the open session on June 11, 2012 were approved as distributed.

3. Minutes of the Open Session on July 9, 2012

The minutes of the open session on July 9, 2012 were approved as distributed with a minor revision.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the Chair

The Chair welcomed Anke Kessler as a new Faculty Senator and Gord Myers in his new position as Associate Vice-President Academic.

It was reported that the Higher Education Strategy Associates ranked different research universities by performance in two categories (i.e. Social Science and Humanities, Science and Engineering) and SFU was rated in the top ten in both categories.

SFU was admitted this summer into full membership in the NCAA which means that SFU athletes can now compete right across the NCAA, rather than just regionally. This will provide greater opportunity for competition and should build more awareness and support for the Clan within the university. As well, home games are now available to watch on the SFU website.

The SFU vision continues to be utilized in various ways and will be reflected in a community engagement plan that will be going out for consultation in the next few months. The opening of the SFU Public Square will be happening at the Orpheum on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 and all were encouraged to attend. The first annual summit will be around the theme of isolation and disconnection in the urban environment. The Vancouver Sun will be running a series of ten articles associated with the SFU Public Square. The Public Square has also gained support from organizations like the City of Vancouver which has requested that SFU host and facilitates dialogues on their behalf.

6. Question Period

There were no questions submitted for question period.

7. Reports of Committees**A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)****i) Terms of Reference for the Ryan Beedie Chair in Finance (S.12-124)**

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by C. Shaw

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the Ryan Beedie Chair in Finance.”

A question was raised regarding whether income from the fund will be sufficient in covering the salary, benefits and related research expenses for the Chair. Senate was informed that when a finance position becomes available, this will become a part of that position. It was clarified for Senate that a new position will not be created.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Terms of Reference for the Keith Beedie Chair in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (S.12-125)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the Keith Beedie Chair in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Dissolution of the Certificate in Family Studies (S.12-126)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Craig

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Certificate in Family Studies in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Summer 2013.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) External Review Update for the Faculty of Education (S.12-127)

Senate received the External Review update report for the Faculty of Education. A request was made for the results of the FAL (Foundations of Academic Literacy) review to be made available once the review is complete. It was confirmed by the Dean of Education that this information will be accessible.

v) External Review Update for the Department of Psychology (S.12-128)

Senate received the External Review update report for the Department of Psychology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for information.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)
i) Missed Class Guidelines (S.12-129)

Motion

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Easton

“That Senate approve the Missed Class guideline, to be placed in the Enrolment Policies and Procedures section of the SFU Calendar.”

Concern was expressed that some of the key terms were not clearly defined, that student and faculty obligations were not clear, and that the guideline did not directly include accommodation for students missing classes due to religious observance. Senate was reminded that this was a general guideline rather than a policy, and that individual departments also have their own policies governing this area. A discussion followed and enough concern was expressed regarding inconsistencies in the guideline that a motion to refer this item back to the committee was moved.

Moved by C. Percival, seconded by S. Black

“That this item be referred back to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for consideration of the issues raised during the Senate discussion.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION TO REFER CARRIED

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences & Faculty of Environment (S.12-130)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new cross-listed courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Environment.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.12-131)

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 Arts and Social Sciences (French, Gerontology, Explorations, International Studies, Latin American Studies).

Clarification was requested with several of the curriculum items in S.12-131. Those items are as follows: the proposed new language for the French and Humanities Joint Major program; the prerequisites for GERO 450; similarity between two new courses (EXPL 135 and 235); the reason for the deletion of LAS courses. The chair confirmed that these items will be looked into.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art & Technology (S.12-132)

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

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.12-133)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and a revision to an existing course in the Faculty of Health Sciences. An opinion was expressed that the evaluation structure for HSCI 345 was ambiguous and a request was made to present this information in a more clear way.

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.12-134)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a revision to an existing course in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Labour Studies).

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.12-135)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.12-136)**

Senate received a summary from the Senate Nominating Committee regarding the election results from the July Senate meeting, nominations received since the last meeting, and outstanding vacancies.

7. Other Business**i) Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Reports (S.12-137)**

Senate received the 2011/12 Grades Report, and the 2011 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report for information. Concern was expressed regarding the finding in the Student Survey that 62% of graduating students expressed that they would have liked to have participated in co-op and 55 – 67% would have liked to have participated in field schools, international exchange/study abroad and work-study, and what the reasons are for this finding. Senate was informed that this was the first year that this question was asked and a commitment was made to ask the question again this year with some follow-up questions.

Another concern expressed was with the finding that improved course availability continues to be identified as a factor that would help improve the student experience. The Vice-President Academic informed Senate that this has been an ongoing problem which is complex to understand. Efforts to understand the problem and attempts to try various solutions (e.g. course scheduling policy, extra funding, pilot projects), have had some impact but the problem persists. There are issues such as the trimester system, the pattern in which students take courses, a flexible curriculum, and being significantly over-enrolled, that all contribute to the challenges in

resolving this problem. Senate was informed that this issue will be given a higher priority this year by having the former Associate Vice-President Academic move into a Special Advisor position that will focus on getting to the root of this problem.

Another concern raised was the tendency of students to enroll in courses and then drop them just before the deadline at the end of week one. Several explanations were provided for this pattern such as availability of courses, filling up the course schedule for student loans while on wait lists, amount of information provided on courses before registering.

The Chair of the Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries committee asked Senate for advice on what extent the aggregate measures from the Grades Report should be considered with scholarships of various kinds considering the disparity of grades within the university. It was noted that this is a complicated issue involving both internal and external factors.

ii) NWCCU Accreditation – Year One Self Evaluation Report (S.12-138)

Senate received the NWCCU Accreditation – Year One Self Evaluation Report for information. A question was asked regarding the graduation rate of 63.9% and how this compares to other universities. Senate was informed that this is a composite rate which includes graduate and undergraduate students and that it is similar to other universities. It was noted that the actual completion rate within the B.C. system as a whole is significantly greater because students often move from institution to institution before completing their degree.

A request was made to include extra columns in the “Indicators and Data” table showing the specific targets and comparisons with other universities. An additional request was made to break down the composite graduation rate into PhD, Master and undergraduate students. Senate was informed that these indicators are imperfect and only provide a very general impression of how the university is doing. They are not a comprehensive analysis of the performance of the university and therefore shouldn’t be used in that way. As well, one of the challenges in comparing SFU’s data with other institutions is that different universities tend to use different definitions in reporting their data.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, October 1, 2012.

Open Session adjourned at 8:08 pm

Jo Hinchliffe
Associate Registrar