



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, March 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Birmingham, Elina  
Brennand, Tracy  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Glenn  
Craig, John  
Cupples, Claire  
Driver, Jon  
Eikerling, Michael  
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia  
Francis, June  
Geisler, Cheryl  
Guttman, Julian  
Hauerland, N (for M. Pinto)  
Jawanda, Harvey  
Jozaghi, Ehsan  
Kessler, Anke  
Khan, Humza  
Kopahi, Moe  
Kwon, Caleb  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leacock, Tracey  
Lehal, Japreet  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Lu, Yoko  
Magnusson, Kris  
McTavish, Rob  
Myers, Gordon  
Owen, Brian  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Paterson, David  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Perry, Tom  
Quarmby, Lynne  
Rajapakse, Nimal  
Ruben, Peter  
Shaffer, Catherine  
Shapiro, Lisa  
Shaw, Chris

Tabin, Y (for H. Wussow)  
Thiara, Karanvir Singh  
Tingling, Peter  
Truong, Tesicca  
Volkoff, Olga (for D. Shapiro)  
Wakarchuk, Forrest  
Warner, D'Arcy

**Absent:**

Acierno, Kyle  
Antle, Alissa  
Bell, Lynne  
Corbett, Kitty  
Delgrande, Jim  
Easton, Stephen  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Golnaraghi, Farid  
Hedley, Nick  
Jermias, Johnny  
Norouzi, Yasmine  
O'Neil, John  
Pappas, Panayiotis  
Pavsek, Christopher  
Pierce, John  
Smith, Jon  
Somers, Julian  
Taylor, Carole

**In Attendance:**

Naqvi, Zareen  
Steenkamp, Philip  
Watkins, Simon

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on February 3, 2014**

The minutes of the open session on February 3, 2014 were approved as distributed, with a minor edit.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****i) Implications of In Progress Grades for Students Enrolled in PHYS 438 (re: S.14-31)**

Senate received a response to two questions that were raised in the Senate meeting on February 3, 2014 regarding PHYS 432, a new two-term course, and IP grades. The first question was regarding scholarship assessment for students with an IP grade. Senate was informed that a student enrolled in a full-time course load, including the IP course, would be considered for the scholarship as long as their CGPA is at least the minimum required for that particular scholarship. The second question was regarding the need for an IP grade and whether the grade could be left blank instead. Senate was informed that a blank grade would cause errors when running end of term evaluations. Also, if the student with an IP grade ordered a transcript, a blank grade would look unusual. An IP grade indicates a course is in progress and not that the student withdrew or the instructor forgot to enter a grade.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The chair reported on the recent federal budget, which includes significant investment in research and innovation in the coming years. The Canada First Research Excellence Fund was announced at the SFU Surrey campus on February 19. This \$1.5 billion fund, administered by SSHRC, will be allocated over ten years starting in 2015 and will be made available to all post-secondary institutions across Canada on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis. An additional \$46 million was allocated to Tri-Council budgets, including \$15 million for NSERC and CIHR, \$7 million for SSHRC and \$9 million for the Indirect Costs Program. The Automotive Innovation Fund will receive an additional \$500 million. Research training will receive \$40 million to support up to 3000 internships for graduate students. MITACS will receive \$8 million for its Elevate postdoctoral industrial R&D fellowships program. TRIUMF, Canada's particle physics laboratory at UBC of which SFU is a partner, will receive \$126 million, which combined with existing funds from NRC will total \$222 million over five years. Incubation and acceleration initiatives will receive an additional \$40 million, in addition to the \$60 million announced last year.

The chair reported on the provincial budget, which includes further cuts to post-secondary institutions. The chair was concerned by the announcement of cuts of \$20 million in 2014/2015 and a further \$25 million in 2015/2016. The chair noted that SFU recently negotiated salary increases; however, SFU has among the lowest overhead costs of any comprehensive university in Canada. The chair reported that the provincial government is looking at developing a skills training action plan. The chair noted that SFU provides critical thinking, research and global knowledge, as well as experiential learning and workplace skills that are essential in the global economy.

The chair reported on the QS rankings of world universities under 50 years of age. SFU moved up from 30<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> place in the world, and is now ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Canada and 3<sup>rd</sup> in North America. The chair acknowledged the SFU community for the work that has been done over

many years to build its reputation as an institution of excellence both in education and in research.

The chair reported on recent research successes. Michael Hayden of Physics is part of the ALPHA-Canada team that received the NSERC John C. Polanyi award for its work in creating, capturing, and characterizing the antihydrogen atom. Vice-President, Research, Mario Pinto has received the 2014 Montreal Medal from the Chemical Institute of Canada for his outstanding contribution to the profession of chemistry or chemical engineering in Canada. Jian Pei of Computing Science has been named an IEEE Fellow, recognized for his contributions to data mining and knowledge discovery.

## **5. Question Period**

### **i) Question 1**

A question was submitted to Senate by Senator Francis regarding a memo from Roland Lorimer, the director of the Publishing Program about the recent review of the Publishing Program. Senator Francis asked if the review would be brought to SCUP and Senate as per the Senate guidelines for external reviews of academic units. Senate was informed that the review of the Publishing Program was driven by the dean of the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, was not an official Senate external review, and would not be brought to SCUP or Senate. It was noted that to add all programs to the regular review cycle would not be practical and would add significant workload and expense to the external review process. Some faculty members with joint appointments would undergo multiple external reviews due to our practice of cross appointing faculty members into some programs, and in some reviews there may be more reviewers than professors involved.. Decisions about the continuation of a program would be made through the normal governance processes of the University, including debate at the committee level and at Senate.

A question was asked whether the review of the Publishing Program could follow the normal external review process since the costs had been incurred. Senate was informed that the review of the Publishing Program did not follow the normal process in a number of important ways, so to bring it forward to SCUP and Senate would be a mistake.

### **i) Question 2**

Senators P. Percival, Eikerling, Guttman, Leznoff and C. Percival submitted the following questions to Senate regarding the recent request from the Board of Governors for input on a proposal to build a recreation and athletic facility on Burnaby campus at no cost to SFU, in return for a 65-year lease of land adjacent to Discovery Park, on which the proponent would build a commercial building for B.C.'s first school of chiropractic.

- (1) Is there great urgency to conclude the consultation?
- (2) Is the Board of Governors aware that siting a school of chiropractic on SFU land is a controversial issue, even if the "school would not be affiliated in any way with SFU"?
- (3) Given the potential impact on SFU's academic reputation, is there any intention of seeking the opinion of Senate on this issue?"

In response to the first question, the chair informed Senate that the proposal is the result of a Request for Proposal (RFP) process and requires urgent attention. In response to the second question, the chair informed Senate that the Board was aware of the controversial nature of the proposal and therefore took the unusual step of holding a public consultation with the University

community, which would not normally be done for other developments. In response to the third question, the chair informed Senate that Senate would not be consulted because there is no academic relationship between the program that is going to be offered at this private facility and SFU. Senators had the same opportunity as others in the community to express their opinion during the public consultation. The chair noted that, while the deadline for feedback was February 28, if Senators wished to submit feedback they should do so before the end of the week (March 7).

A number of concerns were noted that the proposed tenant was controversial and could have an impact on SFU's academic reputation and the suggestion made that it should be debated at Senate. Senate was informed that any concerns regarding this proposal should be addressed to the Board. The chair cautioned Senate that involving Senate in a non-academic issue may create the impression of a relationship that is not intended.

A question was asked regarding the reason for making the sports facility a priority and whether the need for a sports facility is related to accreditation with the NWCCU. Senate was informed that the recreation facilities on the Burnaby campus are inadequate for the size of the student body and that funding this project with public funds was not possible, therefore, a public/private partnership was sought to provide funding. The sports facility project is not related to accreditation.

Clarification was requested regarding the proposed location of the private school. Senate was informed that the proposed location is the land adjacent to Discovery Park.

Senator Khan expressed support for the proposed athletic facility as a representative of the students of SFU, noting that the proposal was communicated through social media, the SFU website, and information booths around campus.

A question was asked regarding the potential benefit to the proponent of the project being built at SFU. Senate was informed that location and proximity to the University might have been factors, but there would be no academic affiliation with SFU.

A question was asked whether the organization that wants to build the proposed school of chiropractic would run provincially-approved programs. Senate was informed that chiropractic services in BC are regulated.

A question was asked whether the proposed school of chiropractic was the only response to the RFP. Senate was informed that this was the only viable proponent.

A question was asked whether the proposed school would compete for students that SFU would want in its own programs. Senate was informed that this is not believed to be the case.

## **6. Reports of Committees**

### **A) Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning (SCEMP)**

#### **i) Enrolment Plan 2014/2015; Undergraduate Admission Targets for 2014/2015 (S.14-37)**

Motion 1 moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Craig

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2014/2015 Enrollment Plan attached as Appendix A to document titled For SENATE March 3, 2014.”

A request was made to include the GPAs that were used in the current year that produced this year’s enrolment totals. Senate was informed that the current year GPAs would be included in next year’s report from SCEMP.

A question was asked regarding the difference in GPA cutoffs between the three terms. Senate was informed that SFU admits students in all three terms and the GPA targets are modelled based on admission totals from prior years.

A question was asked how “on target” is defined in the report. Senate was informed that the target range for total admissions was 5% below to 10% above target.

A comment was made that 50% of the admission target for the Beedie School of Business are international students and that many qualified applicants are not offered admission due to arrangements with Fraser International College (FIC). Senate was informed that the Vice-President, Academic has previously asked the Beedie School of Business to bring a proposal to deal with the issues that concern them, but they have failed to do so. Senate was informed that the percentage of full-time equivalent (FTE) international students that are enrolled in classes in Business is closer to 30%.

A question was asked to what extent is there concern regarding the reliance on FIC as a conduit for international students. Senate was informed that there is no concern because the arrangement with FIC provides a great deal of control over the preparation their students receive and that international students contribute to the interesting mix of students at SFU and also budget support from international student tuition fees.

A question was asked regarding the breakdown of targets by campus. Senate was informed that the enrolment plan provided to Senate provides a summary of the total enrolment; however, the full plan with the targets by campus is available on the Institutional Research and Planning website.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2 moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Craig

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2014/2015 DOMESTIC undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty, by semester and basis of admission category as indicated in Table C1 in Appendix C.”

A question was asked regarding how many international students are entering a BC college and become domestic students prior to being admitted to SFU. Senate was informed that SFU would not have access to that information for students admitted as domestic from a BC college; however, approximately 10% of international visa students become domestic students while at SFU.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3 moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2014/2015 INTERNATIONAL undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty, by semester and basis of admission category as indicated in Table C2 in Appendix C.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**B) Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)**

**i) Annual Report (S.14-38)**

Senate received for information the Senate Committee on International Activities Annual Report for 2013.

A question was asked regarding the definition of academic rigour used in the recommendation to suspend the South East Asia Field School. Senate was informed that the decision about the academic quality of a program would initially be evaluated by the relevant department chair, potentially by the relevant dean of the faculty, and ultimately by the Vice-President, Academic. SCIA identified issues with this particular field school with regard to issues of academic rigour and health and safety issues and, therefore, recommended to the Director of the School for International Studies and the dean of the faculty that the field school be suspended until a future date. Senate was further informed that the academic expertise of the faculty member and the longevity of the field school weren't pertinent to this suspension.

A request was made to include two reoccurring Faculty of Education international programs, one in Mexico and one in Dharamsala, in future SCIA annual reports. Senate was informed that these programs, and others like them, would be included in future reports.

**C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

**i) External Review of the Department of Physics (S.14-39)**

Moved by G. Myers; seconded by C. Shaw

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of Physics that resulted from its External Review.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) External Review Update for the School of Engineering Science (S.14-40)**

Senate received for information the External Review Update for the School of Engineering Science within the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

**iii) External Review Update for the School of Criminology (S.14-41)**

Senate received for information the External Review Update for the School of Criminology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**iv) External Review Update for the Department of History (S.14-42)**

Senate received for information the External Review Update for the Department of History within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**v) External Review Update for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (S.14-43)**

Senate received for information the External Review Update for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**vi) External Review Update for the School of Resource and Environmental Management (S.14-44)**

Senate received for information the External Review Update for the School of Resource and Environmental Management within the Faculty of Environment.

**D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**

**i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.14-45)**

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

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.14-46)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added new courses and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Beedie School of Business.

**iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-47)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program; School for the Contemporary Arts).

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.14-48)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing program in the Faculty of Education.

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.14-49)**

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

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

**i) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.14-50)**

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

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.14-51)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Environment.

**iii) Annual Report 2012-13 (S.14-52)**

Senate received for information the Senate Graduate Studies Committee Annual Report for 2012-13.

**F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.14-53)**

Senate received for information a summary from the Senate Nominating Committee regarding election results, nominations received and outstanding vacancies for positions on Senate committees that are elected by Senate.

**7. Other Business**

**i) Election Report (S.14-54)**

Senate received for information a summary of the results of the student election for positions on Senate, the Board of Governors, and the Senate Graduate Studies Committee.

**8. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, April 7, 2014.**

Open session adjourned at 8:17 pm and Senate moved into the closed session.

Jo Hinchliffe

Acting Executive Director, Student Enrolment, and Associate Registrar