



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Antle, Alissa
Brennand, Tracy
Budra, Paul
Bueckert, Chardaye
Burley, David
Chapman, Brandon
Chapman, Glenn
Chapman, Nicholas
Chong, Dion
Chu, Colin
Craig, John
Cupples, Claire
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eikerling, Michael
Elle, Elizabeth
Escarcha, Shirin
Fairey, Elaine
Fatoba, Kayode
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Gajdics, Sylvia
Giardini, Anne
Glässer, Uwe (for N. Rajapakse)
Guttman, Julian
Hedley, Nick
Huang, Amelia
Johnson, Joy
Jozaghi, Ehsan
Kessler, Anke
Leacock, Tracey
Leznoff, Daniel
Magnusson, Kris
McTavish, Rob
Myers, Gordon
O'Neil, John
Parkhouse, Wade
Paterson, David
Percival, Colin

Percival, Paul
Quarmby, Lynne
Reich, Blaize
Ruben, Peter
Schellenberg, Betty
Shapiro, Lisa
Simpkin, Madelaine
Somers, Julian
Spector, Stephen
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Szymczyk, Barbara
Tingling, Peter
Underhill, Owen
Yoon, Paul

Absent:

Abramson, Neil
Arzanpour, Siamak
Birmingham, Elina
Delgrande, Jim
Jermias, Johnny
Laitsch, Dan
Liu, Ting (Emma)
Ossinsky, Dimitri
Pappas, Panayiotis
Pilarinos, Athina
Shaw, Chris
Wussow, Helen

In Attendance:

Blair, Alison
Guthrie, Larry
Hinchliffe, Jo
Lorimer, Rowland
Markey, Sean
Naqvi, Zareen
Neilson, Lindsay
Rahilly, Tim

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on July 7, 2014

The minutes of the open session on July 7, 2014 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Senate is awaiting a response from the Department of Mathematics to a question regarding Mathematics program requirements and course prerequisites (S.14-97). Senate was informed that the response would be forthcoming.

In response to a question regarding resources allocated to International Studies field schools (S.14-92), Senate was informed that this issue will be addressed in the upcoming external review of the School for International Studies.

4. Report of the Chair

On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed new members of Senate: Dr. Mark Walker, Registrar, Executive Director of Student Enrolment and Secretary to Senate; Dr. Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research; Dr. Ingrid Stefanovic, Dean of the Faculty of Environment; Dr. Blaize Reich, Dean pro tem of the Beedie School of Business; Dr. Owen Underhill, Dean pro tem of the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology; and Chancellor Anne Giardini.

On behalf of Senate, the Chair thanked Associate Registrar Jo Hinchliffe for her superb work filling in as Secretary to Senate for the past year.

The Chair reported on the start of the fall semester. The Chair met with new undergraduate students during orientation sessions in Burnaby and Surrey, and with new faculty members at the Faculty Orientation, and he noted a sense of new energy, new ideas and creativity at the University.

The Chair reported on the official opening of the new Indigenous Student Centre, located in AQ 2002. The Centre will provide services to more than 600 Indigenous students and will house the Elder Program, the First Nations Student Association, Peer Cousins mentorship program, and peer education learning and writing programs.

The Chair reported on research news. SFU is now ranked among the top 50 universities in the world in computing science in the 2014 Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities. SFU also ranked in the top 150 universities in the world in Social Sciences and Economics/Business. Overall, SFU was ranked 14th in Canada, 110th in North America and 277th in the world. SFU researchers are co-applicants or collaborators in 7 of the 14 recently-announced SSHRC Partnership Grants worth \$2.5 million and SFU researchers are leading two SSHRC Partnership Development Grants. Three SFU researchers will receive \$2.38 million in the latest 2014 CIHR Operating Grant competition.

The Chair reported that the Ryerson-SFU-Bombay Stock Exchange Institute incubator in Mumbai, India, has made *Inc42 Magazine's* list of the top 15 startup accelerators in India. The Chair, along with Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research, and Nimal Rajapakse, Dean of Applied Sciences, will be visiting the incubator in October as part of an educational and trade mission that BC Premier Christy Clark is leading to India.

The Chair reported on recent research awards and successes. Douglas Allen from Economics was awarded the Douglas C. North Research Award by the International Society of New Institutional Economics for his book, *The Industrial Revolution*. David Vocadlo of Chemistry has been elected to the new Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, joining a select group of scholars from across Canada who are within 15 years of the conferral of their PhD. Dr. Vocadlo was also selected by the Royal Society to represent Canada at the Commonwealth Science Conference in India in November. Martin Bouchard and Eric Beauregard, both from Criminology, are the only Canadians on the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education's* list of the top 39 most-published scholars in the hundreds of Criminal Justice Periodical Index journals in 2010-2011. Ian McCarthy of the Beedie School of Business has, for the second year in a row, been ranked as one of the top 50 most influential professors on Twitter.

The Chair noted that the year ahead will have its challenges. SFU is facing cuts in operating grants from the province and soon will begin budget consultations with the University community to meet some of those challenges. At the same time, the Chair took heart in the positive developments throughout the University, including: the accomplishments of SFU faculty in terms of teaching excellence and research successes; the SFU 50th Anniversary fundraising campaign passing the \$150 million mark towards its goal of \$250 million; and the progress made by the Simon Fraser Student Society on its "Build SFU" student union building and stadium project.

i) Annual Financial Report (S.14-101)

Senate received for information the Annual Financial Report. Alison Blair, Associate Vice President, Finance, and Larry Guthrie, Director, Financial Services, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding the arrangement of years in reverse chronological order on the graphs on pages 20-21 of the report. Senate was informed that the dates would appear in chronological order next year.

A question was asked regarding the actuarial valuation of the CUPE/APSA pension plan that was expected mid-2014. Senate was informed that the actuarial valuation report is currently being prepared; however, it was noted that the valuation looks worse than the previous valuation.

5. Question Period

A question was submitted to Senate by Senator Bueckert regarding the BC Open Textbook Program. The original question is attached as an appendix to the Minutes. Senator Driver informed Senate that Bill Krane, former Associate Vice-President, Academic, is currently a member of the management council of BC Campus and is co-chairing the Open Textbook initiative. Additionally, Mikhail Dzuba, manager of the SFU Bookstore, is on the steering committee for this project. SFU has responded to requests from BC Campus to publicize the program by circulating information to faculty members and asking faculty to evaluate open textbooks and provide feedback to the Open Textbook steering committee. Senator Driver met with Senator Bueckert and her colleagues to review the program and was impressed with the data they presented, which showed the potential savings to SFU students if the program was adopted. He noted that the faculty members' and instructors' textbook choices would be respected, but suggested that the SFSS could present the financial information to faculty and lobby to adopt open textbooks as a way of managing the financial costs of SFU students' education.

A comment was made that some students have used online materials in the past and found them more useful than the required textbooks for certain courses. A suggestion was made to use these opportunities to inform instructors of the usefulness of these online materials versus the required textbooks.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Calendar Committee (CC)

i) Annual Academic Dates 2015-2017 (S.14-102)

Moved by J. Driver; seconded S. Spector

“That Senate approve the Schedule of Academic Dates 2015-2017”

Jo Hinchliffe, Secretary to the Calendar Committee, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked concerning the scheduling of final exams on the Saturday and Sunday of the Easter long weekend during the spring 2017 term. A discussion took place with suggestions for and against modifying the spring 2017 term length. It was noted that lengthening the term would impact the post-exam activities – grade input, student appeals, internal transfers, etc. – and may potentially delay the start of the summer 2017 term. A question was asked regarding the number of exams that could potentially be scheduled during the 2017 Easter long weekend. Senate was informed that although the exact number was not known at the time, Scheduling makes an effort to avoid scheduling during Easter weekend, particularly the Sunday. The potential number would be reported back to Senate at a future meeting.

The suggestion was made to approve the motion as presented, with the understanding that the issue would be examined by the Calendar Committee with recommendations to be reported back to Senate at a future meeting.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Renaming the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing (S.14-103)

Moved by J. Driver; seconded S. Easton

“That Senate approve the name of the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing (CCSP) be changed to the Canadian Institute for Studies in Publishing (CISP).”

Rowland Lorimer, Director, Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing, was in attendance to answer questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Full Program Proposal for Simon Fraser University-British Columbia Institute of Technology Master of Science in Ecological Restoration Joint Degree (S.14-104)

Moved by J. Driver; seconded N. Hedley

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Simon Fraser University-British Columbia Institute of Technology Master of Science in Ecological Restoration Joint Degree within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2015.”

Sean Markey, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Environment, was in attendance to answer questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) International Services for Students - SFU Exchange Program (S.14-105)

Senate received for information the eligibility criteria changes to the SFU Exchange Program for Outbound Undergraduate Students.

Lindsay Neilson, Director, International Services for Students, was in attendance to answer questions.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.14-106)

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 Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science; School of Engineering Science; School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering).

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.14-107)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (First Nations Studies).

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.14-108)

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

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-109)

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 (School of Communication; School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

A question was asked whether the changes to the external course requirements for the Communication major & honours programs were redundant since the WQB requirements already fulfil that purpose. Senate was informed that the question would be referred to the School of Communication for clarification.

vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.14-110)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added a new course and made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

vii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.14-111)

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 Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences; Mathematics; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Physics; Science).

A question was asked regarding the addition of MATH 126 as an alternative requirement to MATH 152 for Physics major and honours programs when MATH 251, a required course for these programs, has MATH 152 as a prerequisite. Senate was informed that the question would be referred to the Department of Physics for clarification.

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Temporarily Withdrawn / Permanently Withdrawn Courses (S.14-112)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the temporary or permanent withdrawal of courses identified as inactive by various faculties across the campus. For a list of these courses, please refer to Senate document S.14-112.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-113)

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

A question was asked regarding the grading policy identified in the course outline for FPA 827. Senate was informed that the question would be referred to the School for the Contemporary Arts for clarification.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.14-114)

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

E) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)

i) Revised Terms of Reference for Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB) (S.14-115)

Moved by D. Leznoff; seconded P. Percival

“That Senate approve the Revised Terms of Reference for Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries, effective January 2015.”

Tim Rahilly, Associate Vice-President, Students, and Steve Easton, Chair, SPCSAB, were in attendance to answer questions.

A comment was made that the changes to the SPCSAB Terms of Reference would require all donor-funded awards to be approved by Senate. An amendment was moved by Senator C. Percival that the words ‘University funded’ be changed to ‘University funded and donor funded’ in the SPCSAB Terms of Reference.

Question was called and a vote taken on the amendment.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Question was called and a vote taken on the motion as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.14-116)

Senate received a summary of the nominations, positions elected by acclamation, positions requiring an online vote, and outstanding vacancies for the Senate committees.

7. Other Business

i) Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Reports (S.14-117)

Senate received the 2013/14 Grades Report, and the 2013 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report for information.

Zareen Naqvi, Director, Institutional Research and Planning, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made that there are differences in undergraduate grading practices between faculties. A suggestion was made that SPCSAB consider whether they could or should develop a proposal to take into account the differences in grading practices when making recommendations for awarding scholarships based on grade point averages. Senate was informed that the Registrar is doing a preliminary analysis on this issue and the results of this analysis would be shared with SPCSAB.

ii) Senator Magnusson noted that the Faculty of Education currently has 369 students who cannot be placed in schools for practicums and community-based education [due to the ongoing labour situation in the BC school system]. He thanked the departments and staff of the University who have helped find space for these students.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, October 6, 2014.

Open session adjourned at 8:00 pm and Senate moved into the closed session.

Mark Walker
Registrar and Executive Director, Student Enrolment