



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 3, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Abramson, Neil
Antle, Alissa
Arzanpour, Siamak
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Budra, Paul
Bueckert, Chardaye
Burley, David
Chapman, Brandon
Chapman, Glenn
Chong, Dion
Craig, John
Cupples, Claire
Delgrande, Jim
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eikerling, Michael
Escarcha, Shirin
Filimowicz, Michael (for H. Wussow)
Gajdics, Sylvia
Glässer, Uwe (for N. Rajapakse)
Hedley, Nick
Johnson, Joy
Jozaghi, Ehsan
Kelm, Mary-Ellen (for W. Parkhouse)
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Leznoff, Daniel
Liu, Ting (Emma)
Magnusson, Kris
McTavish, Rob
Myers, Gordon
Ossinsky, Dimitri
Pappas, Panayiotis
Paterson, David
Percival, Colin

Quarmby, Lynne
Ruben, Peter
Schellenberg, Betty
Shapiro, Lisa
Shaw, Chris
Simpkin, Madelaine
Somers, Julian
Spector, Stephen
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Szymczyk, Barbara
Tingling, Peter
Underhill, Owen
Wallace, Brady
Wiese, Kay
Yoon, Paul

Absent:

Birmingham, Elina
Chapman, Nicholas
Chu, Colin
Elle, Elizabeth
Fatoba, Kayode
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Giardini, Anne
Guttman, Julian
Kessler, Anke
O'Neil, John
Percival, Paul
Pilarinos, Athina
Reich, Blaize

In Attendance:

Cardozo, Nancy
Goldsmith, Charles
Lubik, Sarah
Maine, Elicia
Morantz, Erin
Silverman, Michael
Toward, Jeffrey
Trummer, Manfred

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Vice-Chair asked if there was any objection to delay the Report of the Chair and Question Period until the arrival of the Chair. No objections were raised. The motion to approve the amended agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on October 6, 2014

The minutes of the open session on October 6, 2014 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Senator Schellenberg noted that Senator Quarmby and SFU professor Stephen Collis are currently facing legal action “from a very powerful adversary.” She asked Senate to consider supporting their efforts to draw public attention to and educate the public body on climate change as a matter of pressing scientific concern. The Vice-Chair deferred this discussion to Question Period.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair arrived and welcomed new Senators: Gwen Bird, Dean of Library Services; Kay Wiese, faculty Senator from the Faculty of Applied Sciences; and Brady Wallace, student Senator from the Faculty of Environment.

The Chair reported on his recent trip to Ottawa, Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, and New York. In Ottawa, he attended an Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) conference on innovation, in addition to membership and board meetings. The Chair hosted alumni events in Ottawa and New York. In Toronto, he met with Ryerson University administrators to discuss future collaborations. He also attended a conference on collaborative community-campus research in Waterloo.

The Chair reported that the recent SFU Public Square community summit on the theme of “Innovation: the Shock of the Possible” was very successful. The public forum at Queen Elizabeth Theatre, featuring Ray Kurzweil and Richard Florida, drew over 2500 people.

The Chair reported on his activities during the BC Premier’s trade mission to India, in which he participated with Vice-President, Research Joy Johnson. SFU signed an agreement with the Indian Council on Cultural Relations that will bring visiting scholars to SFU over the next five years. During this mission, SFU also furthered its collaboration with the Indian Oil Corporation in the area of hydrogen and fuel cell research with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to bring graduate students from India to study in SFU’s PhD programs.

The Chair reported on the results of a study on student outcomes conducted by the Research University Council of BC (RUCBC). The study demonstrated that university graduates from 2008 were doing much better in terms of employment and earning power than those without a university degree.

A comment was made that this report draws a correlation between a university degree and positive outcomes, but says nothing about causality or the influence a post-secondary education has on these outcomes.

The Chair reported that the Re\$earch Infosource rankings of Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities noted that SFU is the newest member of the \$100 Million Club of the 20 universities

in Canada that bring in more than \$100 million in sponsored research funding per year. ReSearch Infosource also recognized SFU's high level of international research collaboration, and ranked SFU 4th among all Canadian universities in publication impact.

The Chair reported that SFU has regained its top position in the Maclean's ranking of comprehensive universities in Canada. SFU is ranked 10th in the country overall, ahead of several U15 institutions on key indicators of research performance.

The Chair reported that SFU was awarded \$12.6 million by the BC Knowledge Development Fund to support 15 research infrastructure projects.

5. Question Period

i) A question was submitted by Senator Ruben asking what actions are being taken by IT Services to address the recent interruptions in the SFU computing network and to prevent them from occurring in the future. Senate was informed that the recent network interruptions were caused by a denial of service (DoS) attack from a compromised server that IT Services houses, but does not control. In order to mitigate the impact of these kinds of events in future, IT Services are taking the following actions:

- 1) Short term: Setting up additional monitoring on the SFU network so they can more quickly and effectively detect and identify the source of DoS attacks; working with the vendor to determine if the affected network switch can be fine-tuned to provide enhanced detection and prevention of DoS attacks.
- 2) Medium term: Migrating critical network routing services and systems (including, DNS servers and DHCP servers) onto a newer switch that has more capacity to withstand DoS attacks as well as advanced capabilities for proactively preventing and detecting them; attempt to isolate collocated server traffic within the data centre to mitigate the negative impacts to the wider network operations; and review policies on hosting machines or virtual machines that IT Services does not control.
- 3) Long term: Initiate a project to replace the existing data centre and backbone networks with a more secure network architecture and refreshed hardware.

ii) A question was raised by Senator Shapiro, asking what support SFU is giving to two faculty members who were served with legal papers by Kinder Morgan, which is seeking an injunction for a protest on public park lands on Burnaby Mountain and is suing these parties for millions of dollars in damages. She further asked what the implications are for SFU if Kinder Morgan is successful in obtaining an injunction, as SFU's facilities may at some point interfere with Kinder Morgan's business aims. The Chair informed Senate that he did not know the precise terms of the injunction and therefore he could not answer that question. The Chair knew of no specific support that is being provided to the faculty members that are named in the lawsuit. The Chair noted that while he and the University are strongly supportive of the right to peaceful protest - a right that is protected by the Constitution of Canada and ingrained in University policy - questions about the legality of such activities have to be addressed by the legal system.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Research Ethics Board (REB)

i) Annual Report 2013-2014 (S.14-129)

Senate received the Research Ethics Board annual report for 2013-2014 for information.

Charles Goldsmith, Chair of REB and Jeffrey Toward, Director of the Office of Research Ethics, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked if the length of time for the ethical review of research studies could be included in the annual report. Senate was informed that the online database application system does not track that information.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Science & Technology Commercialization (S.14-130)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Ruben.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Science & Technology Commercialization within the Beedie School of Business, effective Fall 2015.”

Sarah Lubik and Elicia Maine, faculty members from the Beedie School of Business, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked why it was necessary to limit admission to this program to recent graduates of specific programs from SFU and UBC. Senate was informed that the pilot program was limited to SFU and UBC graduates because the Beedie School of Business wished to create a cohesive cohort with similar types of issues, focusing on high-potential value impact and high-uncertainty types of innovations, and they wished to create a strong program with students already approved by SFU and UBC.

A question was asked whether there was an equivalent program considered for Business graduates to learn more about science and engineering. Senate was informed that there are a number of programs underway at the undergraduate level that work across Faculties to foster cross-disciplinary skill development.

A question was asked whether the program would consider opportunities for students from Interactive Arts and Technology. Senate was informed that the program would be open to considering SIAT students with appropriate qualifications as part of the cohort.

A question was asked whether it was useful to include two courses on producing a business plan given the nature of the uncertainty of start-up ventures. Senate was informed that the first course provides fundamentals and the second looks at the more complex side of business plans.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Establishment of the Centre for Cell Biology, Development and Disease (S.14-131)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by C. Cupples.

“That Senate approve the proposal for the establishment of the Centre for Cell Biology, Development, and Disease (C2D2) as a Centre for a five-year term.”

Michael Silverman, faculty member from Biological Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Revised Terms of Reference for the Ebco Eppich Chair in Data Intensive Systems (S.14-132)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by U. Glässer.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the revised Terms of Reference for the Ebco Eppich Chair in Data Intensive Systems.”

Uwe Glässer, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, and Erin Morantz, Director of Advancement, Faculty of Applied Sciences, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) External Review of the Department of Mathematics (S.14-133)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Spector.

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

Senator Claire Cupples, Dean of the Faculty of Science, and Manfred Trummer, Chair of the Department of Mathematics, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Senator Bueckert commended the recognition of the importance of social life on campus to academic outcomes, expressed support for the decision to renovate the departmental student union common room, encouraged other departments to provide space to their departmental student unions, and noted that the recommendation to connect cohorts of high-achieving students might also be taken up by the entire University.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Terms of Reference for the Callum Frost Professorship in Translational Research in Autism (S.14-134)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Ruben.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the Callum Frost Professorship in Translational Research in Autism.”

Senator Claire Cupples, Dean of the Faculty of Science, and Nancy Cardozo, Director of Advancement, Faculty of Science, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Changes to DE (Deferred Grade) Notations (S.14-135)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Spector.

“Effective Summer 2015, all unchanged DE notations will be converted automatically to N after the end of the first week in the following term. In exceptional cases, an extension may be granted by the instructor and must be approved by the department chair and submitted in writing to the Office of the Registrar with a final deferral date. Normally, the maximum extension allowed is the end of the term following the original deferral. DE is a temporary grade that will revert to a letter grade or notation.”

A comment was made that the grading changes anticipate a traditional course format and do not consider course formats that are being explored in the flexible education review currently underway. A recommendation was made to send the motion back to SCUS for further examination of the broader policy implications. Senate was informed that the grading system may need to be reviewed generally after the Task Force on Flexible Education has completed its work.

A comment was made that courses with bachelor theses or those involving research may extend over multiple terms, which would create extra work for programs with those types of courses. Senate was informed that there are alternatives to DE grades for theses and ongoing courses, including the in-progress (IP) grade. A comment was made that the Calendar states that an IP grade was a temporary grade assigned for incomplete practicum courses in the Faculty of Education. Senate was informed that the IP grade is used by other faculties and the Calendar language would be examined.

A comment was made that there is a large amount of paperwork required when students defer course work due to family, health, or other reasons. Senate was informed that currently many deferred grades extend to the end of the following term and requests for grade changes have been received a year after the course was finished. The intent of the change was to ensure that a student finishes their course as close as possible to the end of the class term.

A question was asked whether an N grade affects grade point average. Senate was informed that an N grade has the same 0 grade point as an F. Currently, the DE grade reverts to an F and this policy change would mean the DE grade would change to an N grade.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.14-136)

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

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.14-137)

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

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-138)

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 for the Contemporary Arts; School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

Clarification was requested regarding the purpose of the changes to the post-baccalaureate diploma in Contemporary Arts, to discourage students from applying for the diploma after graduation. Senate was informed that the question would be referred back to the School of Contemporary Arts.

A question was asked whether the changes to the Academic Continuance Policy were unnecessarily harsh on third year students who are given one term to improve their CGPA. Senate was informed that the question would be referred back to the School of Contemporary Arts.

A comment was made that the Rationale for the prerequisite change for FPA 344 contained an error: "...will prepare students for the content in FPA 244", which should read "FPA 344". The correction was noted.

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.14-139)

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 Science (Chemistry; Earth Sciences; Mathematics).

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Membership Revisions to SGSC (S.14-140)**

Moved by M. Kelm, seconded by P. Pappas

"That Senate approve the changes to the membership of SGSC as outlined in the accompanying document 'Proposed Composition of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee'."

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Graduate General Regulation 1.5.5 (S.14-141)

Moved by M. Kelm, seconded by E. Jozaghi

"That Senate approve the proposed revisions to GGR 1.5.5, Graduate Student Retaking a Course."

A question was asked regarding what happens when a student takes a course with the same course number, but completely different course material. Senate was informed that this scenario is no longer considered to be retaking the same course. SIMS modifications have allowed the course title to be displayed so courses with the same number can be differentiated.

A question was asked whether it was premature to set a policy for Graduate Studies when the policy for retaking courses at the undergraduate level was under review. Senate was informed that until now Graduate Studies had an absence of policy involving graduate students retaking courses; however, if there are subsequent changes to the policy at the undergraduate level then this policy could be reconsidered.

A comment was made that there may not have been adequate consultation between SGSC and graduate students with regard to this change. Senate was informed that graduate student members of SGSC were welcome to comment when this motion was discussed at SGSC.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-142)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, added a new course and made revisions to an existing program in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication; Publishing Program).

A question was asked what student loans issue required the Calendar language change. Senate was informed that a program is ineligible for student loans if the program is not conducted on SFU's campus and tuition is not paid directly to SFU. For the Global Communication Double MA Degree, tuition is paid directly to the Communication University of China and a year of the program is held in China, which makes this program ineligible for student loans. These changes were made to remove the language from the program, as it is the only program where tuition arrangements were part of the Calendar language.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.14-143)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences; Physics).

C) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.14-144)

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

There was no other business.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, December 1, 2014.

Senate was informed that the December 1 meeting would start at 7:00 p.m. with a dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Diamond Alumni Centre beforehand.

Open session adjourned at 6:34 p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Mark Walker

Registrar and Executive Director, Student Enrolment