



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, February 2, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Bird, Gwen
Birmingham, Elina
Bueckert, Chardaye
Burley, David
Chapman, Brandon
Chapman, Glenn
Chapman, Nicholas
Chong, Dion
Chu, Colin
Craig, John
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eikerling, Michael
Elle, Elizabeth
Escarcha, Shirin
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Guttman, Julian
Johnson, Joy
Kessler, Anke
Laitsch, Dan
Leznoff, Daniel
Liu, Ting (Emma)
McTavish, Rob
Myers, Gordon
O'Neil, John
Pappas, Panayiotis
Park, Ed (for N. Rajapakse)
Parkhouse, Wade
Paterson, David
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Pilarinos, Athina
Reich, Blaize
Simpkin, Madelaine
Spector, Stephen
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Szymczyk, Barbara

Underhill, Owen
Wallace, Brady
Wiese, Kay
Wussow, Helen
Yoon, Paul

Absent:

Abramson, Neil
Antle, Alissa
Arzanpour, Siamak
Brennand, Tracy
Budra, Paul
Cupples, Claire
Delgrande, Jim
Fatoba, Kayode
Gajdics, Sylvia
Giardini, Anne
Hedley, Nick
Jozaghi, Ehsan
Leacock, Tracey
Magnusson, Kris
Ossinsky, Dimitri
Quarmby, Lynne
Ruben, Peter
Schellenberg, Betty
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Tingling, Peter

In Attendance:

Allen, Douglas
Bhakthan, Manoj
Chu, Stephanie
Diamond, Dean
Hinchliffe, Jo
Rose, Gordon

Mark Walker, Registrar and Executive Director, Student Enrolment
Kris Nordgren, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on January 5, 2015

Senator Bueckert clarified a comment she made at the January 5 Senate meeting, where she had erroneously stated that the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) required a special resolution to be passed by an in-person vote. She clarified that the SFSS bylaws, in accordance with the BC Society Act, allows authorization of a special resolution at a general meeting, or through a referendum in the Fall semester or alongside the SFSS general elections in March.

The minutes of the open session on January 5, 2015 were approved, with the correction noted.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported on his recent trip to San Francisco and Silicon Valley. He noted the large turnout at an SFU alumni reception where he met graduates employed in the high-tech sector and other industries. The Chair connected with industry leaders in the region to discuss future employment opportunities for students, potential research relationships in the high-tech economy, and other issues beneficial to the University.

The Chair reported that SFU recently hosted the Honorable Andrew Wilkinson, newly-appointed Minister of Advanced Education, at the SFU Surrey campus. The Chair and Minister Wilkinson discussed issues facing SFU regarding deferred maintenance, expansion of the Surrey campus, and budgetary concerns in terms of maintaining the quality of programs. The Chair reported that the provincial budget will be announced soon and he anticipated that the cuts that were announced three years ago would continue into the third year. The Chair noted that he would continue to press the case for the need for investment in education and research.

The Chair reported that Regine and Gerhard Gries from Biological Sciences, Robert Britton from Chemistry, and a team of students have discovered a chemical lure to attract bedbugs. The researchers are now collaborating with Contech Enterprises Inc. to develop the first effective and inexpensive bedbug trap for market in 2015.

The Chair reported that Lungpacer Medical, an SFU spinout and VentureLabs client founded by SFU professor Andy Hoffer, has grown to employ 25 people, including 11 SFU graduates and interns. Lungpacer Medical raised several million dollars in private investment in 2014 and expanded its operation to a 6,500 square foot facility off-campus. Lungpacer aims to develop and commercialize a therapeutic solution that addresses the significant health and cost issues associated with critically-ill patients on mechanical ventilation. It recently completed a series of pre-clinical studies demonstrating the safety and efficacy of its therapeutic medical device and is preparing for pilot human clinical trials in collaboration with Fraser Health next year.

The Chair reported that Fusion Genomics, a VentureLabs client focused on molecular diagnostics whose founders include two SFU alumni, has entered into agreements with Baylor Medicine, the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, and the Royal Dutch Institute for Rare & Tropical Diseases for research and development of its genomics-based diagnostic test kits.

The Chair reported that the Honorable Alice Wong, Minister of State (Seniors) recently announced \$36.6 million in funding for the AGE-WELL network. SFU plays a co-leadership role in AGE-WELL, a national research network supported by the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program. AGE-WELL will advance the health and well-being of older adults and help drive aging research, innovation and technology transfer across the country.

The Chair reported on the special Aboriginal Peoples edition of the SFU News, which provides a summary of the initiatives undertaken over the past year to increase support in research, education, and community outreach that are relevant to Aboriginal peoples both on and off campus. Copies of the special issue were made available at Senate.

The Chair expressed appreciation on behalf of Senate to Senator Helen Wussow for her contribution to Senate and the University.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted for question period.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Student Discipline Matters

i) Annual Report (S.15-20)

Senate received for information the Student Discipline Matters Annual Report for 2013–2014.

Doug Allen (chair, SCODA), Dean Diamond (Academic Integrity and Good Conduct Officer), Jo Hinchliffe (Associate Registrar), and Gordon Rose (Coordinator, UBSD) were in attendance to respond to questions.

B) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)

i) Revised Terms of Reference for Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) (S.15-21)

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by P. Percival.

“That Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) effective immediately.”

Panayiotis Pappas, Chair of SCUTL and Stephanie Chu, Director of the Teaching & Learning Centre, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.15-22)

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

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.15-23)

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

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.15-24)

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

iv) Annual Report (S.15-25)

Senate received information the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies Annual Report for 2013-2014.

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Graduate General Regulation 1.7.3 Residence Requirement for the Doctoral Degree, and Graduate General Regulation 1.4.4 Enrolment Requirements (S.15-26)

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by S. Easton.

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.7.3, Residence Requirement for the Doctoral Degree, and GGR 1.4.4, Enrolment Requirements.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Graduate General Regulation 1.7.6 Courses in Master’s and Doctoral Programs (S.15-27)

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by S. Spector.

“That Senate approve the revision to GGR 1.7.6, Courses in Master's and Doctoral Programs.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.15-28)

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 Beedie School of Business.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.15-29)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, added new courses and made revisions to existing programs in the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Statistics and Actuarial Science).

E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.15-30)

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

F) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB)**i) Annual Report (S.15-31)**

Senate received for information the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries Annual Report for 2013-2014.

Stephen Easton, Chair of SPCSAB, Wade Parkhouse, Chair of SGAAC, and Manoj Bhakthan, Secretary to SUAAC, were in attendance to respond to questions.

It was noted that the appendices in this document were mislabeled. Appendix 1 should be “graduate” and Appendix 2 should be “undergraduate”.

A question was asked regarding the decrease in funding for undergraduate scholarships compared to bursaries and athletic awards, whether this was a specific policy from the administration to put more money into needs-based programs or a lower acceptance rate of entrance scholarships. Senate was informed that changes were made last year to the administration of entrance scholarships. The yield on the Summit scholarship was found to be low, so the funding was moved toward improving and increasing the dollar value of specific Dean’s entrance scholarships. Students now have to apply for these scholarships, which are no longer automatically awarded based on minimum GPA requirements, and the faculties are now involved in the process of evaluating the scholarship applications.

A question was asked regarding the reason for the drop in funding of undergraduate entrance scholarships from \$4.85 million to \$3.96 million, as noted in Appendix 2. Senate was informed that the drop was attributed to the cancellation of some automatic entrance scholarships, where eligibility was based solely on achieving a specific admission average and which were oversubscribed fiscally and demonstrated lower yield on scholarship continuance. The allocated budget funding is now being used to support and enhance faculty specific applied-for entrance scholarships, for example, the Deans’ Excellence Entrance Scholarships.

A question was asked why the percentage of international undergraduate students receiving bursaries, approximately 25%, is nearly double that of domestic undergraduate students. Senate was informed that the provincial government provides operating grants based on domestic undergraduate student enrolment. International undergraduate students pay significantly higher tuition because the University does not receive a subsidy for these students. Tuition fees for international students have increased by 10% per year for the past two years, so 25% of the increase is being returned in the form of bursaries for international students.

A question was asked regarding the percentage of applications to bursaries granted to students and the percentage of assessed need being met. Senate was informed that the information was not available for the percentage of bursaries granted. With respect to assessed need, international students received 39% and domestic students received 90%.

A comment was made that the increase of \$112,000 to international undergraduate student bursaries does not equate to 25% of the 10% increase to international tuition fees. It was suggested that the University administration consider putting a larger percentage towards needs-based funding to help students impacted by these tuition increases. Senate was informed that the support for international students was not solely allocated to bursaries. Support was improved for scholarships and services for international students to ensure that their educational experience meets their needs.

7. Other Business

A request was made to ask a question that was not submitted by the deadline. The Chair noted that questions should be asked during Question Period and not under Other Business.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, March 2, 2015.

Open session adjourned at 6:02 p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Mark Walker

Registrar and Executive Director, Student Enrolment