



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, July 6, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Baharmand, Iman
Bartram, Lyn
Bird, Gwen
Birmingham, Elina
Budra, Paul
Chapman, Glenn
Chen, Larissa
Chong, Dion
Craig, John
Cupples, Claire
Gajdics, Sylvia
Glässer, Uwe
Haunerland, Norbert (for J. Johnson)
Hedley, Nick
Kelm, Mary-Ellen (for W. Parkhouse)
Kirkpatrick, Ted
Lewthwaite, Jayme
MacAlister, David
Marks, Laura
McTavish, Rob
Mundy, Arjan
Murray, Catherine
Myers, Gordon
Najaf, Ali
Ng, Dorothy
Paterson, David
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Spector, Stephen
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Szymczyk, Barbara
Tingling, Peter
Underhill, Owen
Weng, Enoch
Yang, Kathleen
Yano, Brady

Absent:

Abramson, Neil
Arzanpour, Siamak
Brennand, Tracy
Burley, David
Curry, Joanne
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eikerling, Michael
Giardini, Anne
Guttman, Julian
Hans, Prabhpal
Kessler, Anke
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Magnusson, Kris
Nabbali, Essya Mabrouka
Nanjundappa, Abhishek
O'Neil, John
Pappas, Panayiotis
Reich, Blaize
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Wiese, Kay
Zaranyika, Rudo

In Attendance:

Brayne, Robin

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 May 19, 2015

The minutes of the open session on May 19, 2015 were approved, with minor edits to the Report of the Chair and Question Period.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on June 8, 2015

The minutes of the open session on June 8, 2015 were approved as distributed.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

i) Revising Degree Requirements for Honours Programs (S.15-87)

At the May 2015 Senate meeting, a point of order was raised regarding the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies' (SCUS) authority to approve the change of units required for a particular honours degree program from 132 to 120 units. Based on the terms of reference for SCUS, it was argued that this was a major and not a minor change and, therefore, would require the approval of Senate. Senate referred the issue to SCUS for discussion.

Senator Myers, the Chair of SCUS, reported that the opinion of SCUS was unanimous that changes to individual programs constitute "minor" changes in which SCUS has delegated authority, with the rationale that in January 2014 Senate had approved the motion that the minimum unit requirement for honours programs be changed from 132 to 120 units.

A comment was made that the opinion of SCUS in this matter is irrelevant, that the question should be tested further through the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR), and then it is for SCAR to bring a motion to Senate. The Chair noted that Senate asked SCUS to provide an explanation of its actions in this situation and other situations where recommendations have been made of this kind. Senate was informed that SCUS would have indicated they had overstepped their authority if they believed they had done so.

A comment was made that the request by the department to approve a reduction in total required units to 120 was consistent with Senate's above-noted decision in 2014 and should therefore be considered a minor change.

A comment was made that SCUS is making a circular argument when it states that a change is considered minor because it was not brought forward to Senate for approval, and because it is a minor change it does not need to be brought forward to Senate for approval.

Senate was informed that Senator Myers was prepared to move a motion regarding SCUS's delegated authority to approve individual changes to honours programs to reduce the required units to 120 should there be further debate on this issue. Being none, no motion was put forward.

5. Report of the Chair

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, expressed appreciation to the following senators whose terms of office expire on August 31, 2015: Owen Underhill and Kay Wiese.

The Chair reported on the June 2015 convocation ceremonies. The Chair noted that, along with the 4,000 graduating students and eight honorary degree recipients, the first cohort of the Aboriginal Executive MBA program received their degrees.

The Chair reported on a number of major national and international conferences he recently attended, including: the National Mathematics Conference on June 15th; the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Conference, co-hosted with UBC on June 17th; the BC Council for International Education Conference on June 22nd; and the Canadian Water Summit on June 25th.

The Chair reported that the search for the new Vice-President, Academic and Provost is currently underway. An open forum was held on June 15th to receive input on the position and on the qualifications that the committee should look for in a candidate.

The Chair reported that the search committee for the new Vice-President, Finance and Administration has been constituted, following the very sad news of Pat Hibbitts passing. The open forum has been scheduled for July 9th at 2:00 p.m. and will be held simultaneously at all three campuses.

The Chair reported that SFU received nearly \$13 million in NSERC funding, including \$10 million in Discovery grants for 58 projects spanning 15 departments and schools and six faculties. The projects range from research on brain function and virtual reality to nano-scale physics and environmental modelling. SFU received \$1.2 million for research infrastructure through the Research Tools and Instruments program, which represents a 54% success rate for SFU in this program. Eight Discovery Accelerator Supplements (DAS) were awarded to recognize SFU researchers for the high quality and potential of their research programs.

The Chair reported on upcoming events. The SFU Employee Barbecue will be held on August 19, with staff and faculty from all three campuses invited to attend. SFU is a partner in the Indian Summer Festival, using SFU's facilities at the Goldcorp Centre for the Arts and other locales in Vancouver. This festival runs from July 9-18 and is a mixture of different cultural and intellectual experiences. SFU is a sponsor of the Surrey Fusion Festival on July 18-19, which involves 100 staff, students, and faculty showcasing SFU's Surrey programs. SFU celebrates its 50th anniversary on September 9th. The major kickoff celebration will be held at 11:30 a.m. in Convocation Mall. In the evening, the celebration continues with a food fair, entertainment, and fireworks in the AQ courtyard. The details for the 50th anniversary celebration are available on the SFU homepage.

6. Question Period

Senator Yano asked the following question:

Students who convoked last month as well as current SFU students have expressed frustration about not having their major displayed on their bachelor's degree. As a bachelor's degree is a significant investment of both time and money, is the University willing to look into the feasibility of changing this current practice to identify a student's major, joint major, honours and or double minor on their degree?

Senate was informed that the Registrar had been researching this issue and a response would be forthcoming at a future Senate meeting.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Chair in Avalanche Risk Management (S.15-88)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by N. Hedley

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the Chair in Avalanche Risk Management.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Suspension of Admission to the International and Global Education Minor Program (S.15-89)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by A. Najaf

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the International and Global Education Minor Program within the Faculty of Education, effective Spring 2016.”

Robin Brayne, Acting Director of Undergraduate Programs from the Faculty of Education, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding the average number of graduates from this program over the past four years. Senate was informed that there were 11 graduates over the past four years.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) External Review Report of the Department of Political Science (S.15-90)

Senate received for information the external review report of the Department of Political Science.

A comment was made expressing support and appreciation for the Dean’s position on the external review reports for the departments of Political Science and Humanities.

Concern was expressed regarding unilateral changes to the structure of programs within Political Science and a request was made to include students of the affected departments and departmental student unions early in the process. Senate was informed that the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences will take student concerns into account.

A question was asked regarding the time frame for the extension. Senate was informed that the action plan for the external reviews for Political Science and Humanities will be due by July 2016.

A comment was made that the contractually-limited appointment in International Studies and the call to rectify gender imbalance could be actionable prior to restructuring these programs. Senate was informed that there is work to be done at the department and at the faculty level regarding these pressing issues.

iv) External Review Report of the Department of Humanities (S.15-91)

Senate received for information the external review report of the Department of Humanities.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.15-92)**

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

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.15-93)

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 Arts and Social Sciences (Cognitive Science Program; School of Criminology; Economics; English; French; Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; Centre for Hellenic Studies; History; School for International Studies; Labour Studies Program; Linguistics; Psychology; Sociology and Anthropology).

A question was asked whether there was a movement afoot to provide centralized information technology support to departments to manage the registration burden that arises within programs that allow special topics courses to be taken repeatedly. Senate was informed that the Registrar would investigate the possibilities within PeopleSoft to monitor repeated courses.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.15-94)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course and existing programs in the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology; Geography).

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.15-95)

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 Science (Behavioural Neuroscience Program; Biological Sciences; Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology; Chemistry; Physics; Faculty of Science programs).

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions (S.15-96)****Motion 1 - GGR 1.4.3, Continuity of Enrolment**

Moved by M. Kelm, seconded by J. Craig.

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.4.3 (Continuity of Enrolment).”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2 - GGR 1.8.4, Application to go on Leave

Moved by M. Kelm, seconded by U. Glässer.

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.8.4 (Application to go on Leave).”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3 - GGR 1.8.5, Extended Leave of Absence

Moved by M. Kelm, seconded by S. Spector.

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.8.5 (Extended Leave of Absence).”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions (S.15-97)

Motion 1: GGR 1.3.11, Application to Complete a Second Master’s or Doctoral Degree

Motion 2: GGR 1.3.11a, Application to Complete a Non-Joint Concurrent Graduate Degree

Motion 3: GGR 1.4.2, Enrolment

Motion 4: GGR 1.6.3, Senior Supervisor

Motion 5: GGR 1.6.4, Supervisory Committee

Motion 6: GGR 1.9.1, Examining Committee for a Master’s Degree Candidate

Senator Kelm asked the Chair whether Senate would approve moving the six motions in S.15-97 as an omnibus motion. The Chair asked Senate if there were any objections to Senator Kelm’s request. There were no objections and so Senator Kelm was asked to move the omnibus motion.

Moved by Senator Kelm, seconded by S. Spector:

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGRs 1.3.11, 1.3.11a, 1.4.2, 1.6.3., 1.6.4, and 1.9.1.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.15-98)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, added a new course and made revisions to an existing course and existing programs in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; Gerontology; GGR 1.9.3, Examining Committee for a Doctoral Thesis [FASS]).

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.15-99)

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

A question was asked regarding the rationale for the change in S.15-99, whether the change provided students with more flexibility when it appears that students are now required to enroll in BUS 880 no later than their second term. Senate was informed that the question would be referred to the Beedie School of Business for a response at a future meeting of Senate.

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.15-100)

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

vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.15-101)

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

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.15-102)

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

8. Other Business

i) Election Report (S.15-103)

Senate received for information a summary of the results of the student election for positions on Senate, and the results of the faculty election for positions on Senate.

9. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, September 14, 2015.

Senate was informed that the September meeting would be scheduled for 7:00pm with a Senate dinner at the Diamond Alumni Centre at 5:30pm.

Open session adjourned at 6:19pm, and Senate moved into the closed session.

Mark Walker

Registrar and Executive Director, Student Enrolment