



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

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

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Bartram, Lyn
Bird, Gwen
Birmingham, Elina
Budra, Paul
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Chen, Larissa
Chong, Dion
Craig, John
Curry, Joanne
Easton, Stephen
Gajdics, Sylvia
Glässer, Uwe
Hans, Prabhpal
Hinchliffe, Jo (for M. Walker)
Johnson, Joy
Kirkpatrick, Ted
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Lewthwaite, Jayme
MacAlister, David
Mac Namara, Aoife
Magnusson, Kris
Marks, Laura
McTavish, Rob
Murray, Catherine
Myers, Gordon
Najaf, Ali
Nanjundappa, Abhishek
Ng, Dorothy
O'Neil, John
Parkhouse, Wade
Paterson, David
Percival, Paul

Reich, Blaize
Ruben, Peter (for C. Cupples)
Somers, Julian
Spector, Stephen
Szymczyk, Barbara
Tingling, Peter
Weng, Enoch
Yang, Kathleen
Yano, Brady
Zaranyika, Rudo

Absent:

Abramson, Neil
Arzanpour, Siamak
Baharmand, Iman
Brennand, Tracy
Cupples, Claire
Driver, Jon
Eikerling, Michael
Giardini, Anne
Hedley, Nick
Jermias, Johnny
Kessler, Anke
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine
Mundy, Arjan
Nabbali, Essya Mabrouka
Najaf, Ali
Pappas, Panayiotis
Percival, Colin
Shaw, Chris
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Walker, Mark

In Attendance:

D'Arcy, Ryan
Roman, Mark
Vocadlo, David

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on September 14, 2015

The minutes of the open session on September 14, 2015 were approved as distributed, with a minor correction.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that after the approval of a motion by Senate to provide accommodation for students to attend the meeting concerning the future of Build SFU, the outcome of that meeting was approval of the debentures and bylaws required to enable that project to proceed. The Chair congratulated the students, and the SFSS, and expressed the University's pleasure with the outcome, and its commitment in working with the SFSS to ensure that project proceeds, and that it achieves its full potential.

The Chair remarked that, despite the fog, we had the largest number of participants ever for the Terry Fox Run – over 1500 people, 70 teams, and well over \$24,000 raised towards our \$35,000 goal. The Chair urged further contributions to help close the gap.

The Chair noted the opening of the new VentureLab space in downtown Vancouver, which opened on October 1st. This enlarges its space and positions it right in the heart of Vancouver, and will make it the largest business accelerator in the province. This was made possible because it is becoming part of a pan-Canadian network, with Ryerson University, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, funded by the Canadian Accelerator Incubator Program of the federal government. As reported previously, SFU received over \$10 million from that program to enable this move to take place. It is located in the Tower Building, right next door to Harbour Centre.

Coinciding with the opening of the VentureLab, the Vice President, Research released an innovation strategy for SFU, which ties together a wide range of initiatives from across campus that have been pioneered in different faculties and departments to drive innovation, and encourage and foster entrepreneurship. Things like: a partnership with Surrey Innovation Boulevard; 4D science labs at the Burnaby campus; Venture Connection, a university-wide student incubator program; and Radius, a social incubator for radical ideas useful for society. These initiatives are now linked without diminishing their individual identities, in a way that will ensure that they benefit from a relationship with each other, and are identified with SFU's overall commitments to promote innovation, and help secure more support from governments, and from other individuals. The Chair congratulated Joy Johnson, VP Research, on a successful launch.

The Chair reported that Mental Health Indicators for Canada, SFU's Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction, produced Canada's first ever national set of mental health indicators. The Health Commission of Canada commissioned the centre, which is led by the Faculty of Health Sciences Professor and Associate Dean, Elliot Goldner, to produce a report listing indicators for distinct groups of Canadians, including children, youths, seniors, and immigrant populations. The Chair congratulated Dr. Goldner for producing what was a breakthrough in terms of a national set of indicators.

The Chair noted that it is rankings season, with two major global rankings having come out: the QS World University Rankings, and the Times Higher Education Rankings. Both reported good news and less good news. With the emergence of universities in Asia, Canadian universities generally are moving down in the world rankings, not because they're doing any worse, but because some of these universities are doing better. In the QS Rankings, we moved down from 222 to 225. Relative to other Canadian universities, we moved up from the 12th to the 11th spot within Canada. QS identified SFU as #2 in Canada, and #66 in the world, in terms of citations per faculty. This reflects the impact of our research and recognizes the quality of research produced by our faculty members by virtue of how often they're cited in peer-reviewed journals. The fact that we're second in Canada and 66th in the world, according to QS, is a tremendous credit to our faculty and their research efforts.

In the Times Higher Education Rankings we dropped in the world rankings, with SFU now placing in the 251-300 category. In Canada, we rose one place to 14th. The citations category ranked us in the top 30% in the world, and #6 in Canada. The Chair noted the impressive results in terms of our faculty research effort, and the recognition of that effort by their peers, and by researchers around the world.

The Chair reminded Senate that the President's Dream Colloquium is underway, with a focus on traveling for health, and the international dimensions of health. This is open to the university community and is designed to foster inter-disciplinary dialogue. It's organized in cooperation with the Dean of Graduate Studies Office, and put together by faculty members from various disciplines.

The Chair reported that the President's Faculty Lecture Series is starting up on October 6th. Professor Krishna Pendakur will speak at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts. This series showcases our faculty, and our research faculty, to the community at large. Professor Pendakur will be speaking on "What does inequality mean in Canada?" On December 2nd, Marianne Ignace will be speaking on "Why First Nations Languages Matter." Dr. Ignace is the lead on a major partnership grant project that SFU is involved with on indigenous languages.

The Chair encouraged Senate to visit the First Peoples Gathering Space - a space not exclusively limited to First Nations or indigenous peoples, but designed in a way that is respectful and recognizes the strong presence of First Nations locally and of Metis and Inuit across the country. This space is located at Harbour Centre and was opened on September 29th.

The Chair encouraged Senate to visit the exhibits on display at the Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, as part of our 50th anniversary. It features both archaeological and artistic exhibits, with information being available on the 50th anniversary website. The Chair noted that these exhibits have previously been on display at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

The Chair noted some upcoming events: the SFU Public Square Community Summit will be held from October 30 to November 7, on the theme "We the City"; the Vancouver campus Open House will be on October 21st; and convocation will take place on October 8th and 9th, featuring honorary degree recipients Bill Nye, the Science Guy, and Nancy Turner.

The Chair reminded Senate of the upcoming federal election, and noted that there have been special voting offices set up on Burnaby campus from October 5-8.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted for question period.

6. Reports of Committees**A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)****i) Centre for High-Throughput Chemical Biology (C-HTCB) (S.15-113)**

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve the establishment of the Centre for High-Throughput Chemical Biology (C-HTCB) as a Centre for a five year term.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Chair in Technology Innovations for Youth Addiction Recovery and Mental Health (S.15-114)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by J. Craig

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the Chair in Technology Innovations for Youth Addiction Recovery and Mental Health.”

A concern was raised regarding one item in the Terms of Reference, under the section labeled “Additional Undertakings: Gift Agreement and Terms of Reference.” It notes that “only John Volken Academy students may participate as research participants on site at the John Volken Academy embedded laboratory, unless prior approval is granted by the Academy.” This might be considered a restriction on academic freedom of the researcher by controlling what subjects were being used in the research of a university professor, using publicly-funded equipment at their site. Senate was informed that the researcher would only spend part of their time in the lab at the John Volken Academy, and it would not restrict the freedom of doing research.

A question was asked if the equipment in the laboratory will be funded through the John Volken Academy, or whether it would include publicly-funded equipment. Senate was informed that in terms of publicly-funded equipment, the research being proposed involves portable equipment, with that equipment moving between the different sites being used, and thus doesn’t restrict access to publicly-funded equipment.

Questions were asked about SFU’s involvement with the John Volken Academy, and our level of responsibility for what is happening at the academy, particularly with respect to vulnerable adults. For the two-year residential treatment program, do we need to be asking questions about treatment modalities, orientation, qualification and background of the treatment team, adherence to a standard practice or a code of ethics, and whether or not the Volken Academy is following the service model of provincial standards for adult residential substance use services through the provincial government. Also, is SFU taking advantage of its own resources by consulting with programs such as the Counselling Psychology Program. Senate was informed that this an opportunity to include the Volken Academy, as the Chair would be involved in all mental health programs around inclusion, and that research would adhere fully to research ethics.

A question was asked about the establishment, by the Chair-holder, of a “Centre of Excellence” internal to the John Volken Academy, and if there are any precedents of endowed chairs embedded in entities like the John Volken Academy while still maintaining autonomy from that entity. Senate was informed there are precedents of researchers embedded outside of SFU in both provincial entities like Surrey Memorial Hospital, or entities like Volken Academy and others within the community.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Tom Foord Professor of Practice in Entrepreneurship and Innovation (S.15-115)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the Tom Foord Professor of Practice in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.”

A question was asked if \$2 million is enough to endow a research chair. Senate was informed that this isn’t a research chair, but a Professor of Practice, and so this will fund a Professor of Practice in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) External Review of the Beedie School of Business (S.15-116)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Beedie School of Business that resulted from its External Review.”

A comment was made as to the opaqueness of how financing for a faculty is determined. Senate was informed that we have a clearly defined method for the allocation of budgets from the VPA portfolio to the faculties. The Deans, through Deans’ Council, are always fully informed with the current state of the method for budgeting. Also, discussions occur with faculty directors, to go over budgeting line by line.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Name Change for the CIBC Centre for Corporate Governance and Risk Management (S.15-117)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by P. Budra

“That Senate approve the name of the CIBC Centre for Corporate Governance and Risk Management be changed to the Centre for Governance and Sustainability.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.15-118)

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.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.15-119)

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).

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions S.15-120****Motion 1 - GGR 1.9.4 Preparation for Examination of Doctoral Thesis**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by U. Glasser

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.9.4 (Preparation for Examination of Doctoral Thesis).”

A question was asked regarding the new language in 1.9.4. The old text had a list of what was considered relevant documentation, which has now been removed, thus, why are we now being less specific as to what constitutes relevant documentation. Senate was informed that, increasingly, departments and units are changing what constitutes a thesis. The goal is to be less prescriptive, allowing these matters to be dictated by the individual departments themselves.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2 - GGR 1.9.5 The Role of the External Examiner

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.9.5 (The Role of the External Examiner).”

A question was asked as to the circumstances that necessitated the change in language. Senate was informed that due to an increase in the number of PhD examinations that are taking place, departments and/or the supervisor were failing to send the examination off in a timely fashion to the external examiner.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3 - GGR 1.9.6 Notification of Doctoral Thesis Examination

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by J. Craig

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.9.6 (Notification of Doctoral Thesis Examination).”

A question was asked about the change in the GMAT requirements and if the GMAT is no longer required (but can be optionally included) because it is a poor indicator of success, should it be included at all. Senate was informed that the GMAT used to be a mandatory requirement, but it is weak predictor and often impedes entrance into the program. If someone is thought to be unqualified or lacks proper work ethic they can be asked to do the GMAT, as it can predict how ready they are to do graduate work. Thus, the GMAT can be kept in reserve if necessary.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.15-121)

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

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.15-122)

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

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.15-123)

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

The Chair introduced new Chief Information Officer (CIO), Mark Roman.

8. Information

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

Open session adjourned at 6:11p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Jo Hinchliffe
Associate Registrar