



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, February 5, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Andersen, Holly
Baharmand, Iman
Bains, Raman
Bartram, Lyn (via Surrey videoconference)
Bird, Gwen
Bubela, Tania
Budd, Thomas
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Christians, Julian
Christie, Claire
Dastmalchian, Ali (via Vancouver videoconference)
Derksen, Jeff
Fiume, Eugene
Forde, Nancy
Gajdics, Sylvia
Gray, Bonnie (via Vancouver videoconference)
Johnson, Joy
Keliipio, Kau'i
Keller, Peter
Khehra, Alam
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Leznoff, Daniel
Lord Ferguson, Sarah
MacAlister, David
Mac Namara, Aoife
Magnusson, Kris
Moens, Alexander
Mongrain, Steeve
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
Ng, Dorothy (via Surrey videoconference)
O'Neill, Susan
Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Poitras, Geoffrey

Pulkingham, Jane
Scott, Jamie
Shaw, Chris (via Surrey videoconference)
Singh, Amar
Smith, Judy
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Tingling, Peter
Wang, Christine
Williams, Tony
Zanette, Amanda

Absent:

Brennand, Tracy
Chen, Larissa
Chisty, Mohammad
Cupples, Claire
Garcha, Raajan
Giardini, Anne
Hedley, Nick
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine
Leung, Jeffrey
Luelfesmann, Christoph
Memon, Abdul Ahad
Parent, Michael
Peters, Joseph
Randhawa, Jaskarn
Ruben, Peter
Somers, Julian
Wiese, Kay

In Attendance:

Friskin, Barbara
Hart, Kim
Roberts, Heather

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on January 8, 2018

The minutes of the open session on January 8, 2018 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- i) At the November Senate meeting Senator Andersen asked a question about the structure and academic oversight of the Philosophers' Café program. Senator Smith informed Senate that for the previous eight years, academic oversight of the Philosophers' Café was provided by a faculty director hired to provide administrative support and oversight. Noting the need for a refresh, the new vision of the Philosophers' Café involves knowledge mobilization linking the program more directly to the faculties and to research. Anchoring the program in the Continuing Studies Liberal Arts program now provides a strong administrative home where issues like financial sustainability can be addressed. Also, an academic advisory committee will be convened and faculty liaison hired to ensure strong links to the faculties. There are also plans to involve Grad Student and Post-Doctoral moderators, thereby fostering the academic connection to the Philosopher's Café.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that on January 16th Advanced Education Minister Melanie Mark announced a provincial commitment for a major expansion of student spaces with a focus on technology. This is the first major expansion and investment in new student spaces in decades and should result in 2900 new student spaces over a number of years. The announcement was made at the SFU Surrey campus, and included a commitment to fund 320 undergraduate and 120 graduate spaces in SFU's new Sustainable Energy Engineering program. SFU was the only university to receive graduate spaces specifically. This represents the first phase of a three-phase academic expansion plan for SFU Surrey, with future program proposals in health systems innovation and creative technologies.

The Chair reported on recent research grant successes:

- SFU researchers were awarded \$6.6 million dollars for eight projects in the latest *CIHR Projects Grant Competition*, a 26% success rate well in excess of the national average of 15%.
- Nick Dulvy, Biological Sciences, received half a million dollars through the *Global Partnership for Sharks and Rays*.
- David Vocadlo, Chemistry, received \$200,000 for research from *Weston Brain Institute* for his research on treatments for Parkinson's diseases.
- Anoop Sarkar, Computing Science, has attracted \$195, 000 from *Traction Sales and Marketing Inc.* for his work on *cross-modal entity extraction*.

The Chair reported on research news:

- The deadline for providing feedback to the committee considering the reappointment of the Vice-President, Research and International is February 6th. The Open Forum took place on January 26th, and a video of that forum is available on the President's Office website.

- A powerful new database is being created by SFU genomics and bioinformatics researcher Fiona Brinkman and her team. The database is funded by a grant of \$9.1 million from *Genome Canada*, with support from SFU's new Data Hub.
- As part of a first of a kind initiative in BC, SFU Health Sciences researcher Anne-Marie Nicol is handing out free radon-testing kits for Vancouverites to test for the cancer-causing gas in their homes.

The Chair reported on SFU Innovation updates:

- Since December, SFU researchers have been approved for seven industry research contracts totaling half a million dollars.
- Louise Turner has been appointed the CEO of *Innovation Boulevard*, a health-tech partnership between SFU and the city of Surrey. She has held senior positions in both private and public sector organizations with a focus on growing companies in health and technology.
- Work is progressing under the leadership of the VP Research and International Joy Johnson to develop a new vision for SFU Innovates. This process involves Deans, SFU Innovates leads, External Advisory Board members, faculty, staff, students and supporters. The vision will guide innovation strategy's direction for the next five to ten years.

The Chair reported that *BMO* is committing \$500,000 for Indigenous initiatives at the Beedie School of Business. The donation will help Beedie be a national leader in indigenous education and research.

The Chair reported on upcoming events:

- The *Jack Blaney Award for Dialogue* will be presented at the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue on Tuesday, February 20th to Alice Nderitu, in recognition of her international leadership in the use of dialogue to advance peacebuilding and human rights. She will be giving a lecture at the Centre for Dialogue on February 21st on *peacebuilding and well-being through education*.
- *SFU Public Square Community Summit* is coming up February 26 to March 7. The focus of the summit, titled *Brave New Work*, is on the future of work, noting that while there are opportunities in the future work place, there are also challenges due to technology, artificial intelligence, and globalization. The signature event will take place on February 28th at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, entitled *The New World of Work: Thriving or Surviving* featuring American commentators Van Jones and Anne-Marie Slaughter and be moderated by the *CBC*'s Laura Lynch.
- The Annual Surrey Gala will take place at the Surrey campus on March 9th.

5. Question Period

No questions were submitted.

6. Invited Presenter

Aoife Mac Namara, Dean of Communication, Art and Technology, presented an overview of the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, following which she took questions.

A question was asked about an expected influx of international students into the faculty. Senate was informed that the data has not yet been made available, but the explanation may at least partly be explained by the way the University allocates international students.

A question was asked if there is a shared point of view that the Faculty tries to instill across its varied programs, and if the topics covered in the presentation are aspirational or have they already been implemented. Senate was informed that the Faculty is committed to preparing students to think about Communications and its relationship to equity and social justice, and to consider the role culture plays in shaping society and being an agent for change. It was noted that the topics covered are already happening within the Faculty, and that the aspirational aspects come into play during the academic planning process.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Beedie School of Business (S.18-16)

Senate received the External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Beedie School of Business for information.

ii) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Mathematics (S.18-17)

Senate received the External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Mathematics for information.

iii) External Review of the School of Engineering Science (S.18-18)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by T. Leacock

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

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) External Review of the Department of First Nations Studies (S.18-19)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by J. Pulkingham

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

A concern was raised about the limitations placed upon the Department by having only 3.5 full-time faculty members, and that there has only been a commitment from the Dean to add three term appointments. Senate was informed that 3.5 full-time faculty members is too small and that work is being done to develop a more robust and sustainable unit set against the demands of the Faculty. It was noted that since the writing of the report, one full-time continuing faculty position has been committed to the Department, along with three multiple-year term appointments and that work is being done with the Department to develop both a strategy in relationship to their 5-year plans, as well as the faculty renewal plan.

A question was asked about the service demands placed upon the Department’s faculty members and if anything could be done to alleviate them. Senate was informed that associate faculty members and multiple-year term appointments can play a role in terms of service to the

Department, not including tenure committees. It was noted that smaller departments can face difficulty filling their tenure committee with faculty members, often relying on assistance from other units, and making it important to build capacity across the Faculty and the University as a whole.

A comment was made that there is an ethical imperative to provide more robust resources to First Nations Studies beyond it simply being a small department. Senate was informed that the support of First Nations Studies does not fall solely upon the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences but upon the University as a whole. Increasing the number of indigenous faculty at SFU is a strategic priority, fully backed by the Office of the Vice-President, Academic.

A comment was made that even with the commitment of one more full-time faculty member the implementation of a graduate program is unrealistic. Senate was informed that the implementation of a graduate program at this time is aspirational.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED,
with one opposed.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Course Changes (S.18-20)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made course changes in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Physics, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.18-21)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School for International Studies).

iii) Program Changes (S.18-22)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Course Changes (S.18-23)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made course revisions in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts), the Faculty of Environment (Resource and Environmental Management), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Special Arrangements.

ii) New Course Proposals (S.18-24)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science) and the Faculty of Environment (Resource and Environmental Management).

iii) Program Changes (S.18-25)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Faculty of Environment (Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

iv) Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions (S.18-26)**Motion 1:**

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.3.5 (Admission Under Special Arrangements), GGR 1.3.5a (Cohort Special Arrangements), GGR 1.4 (Enrollment), GGR 1.9.4 (Preparation for Examination of Doctoral Thesis) and GGR 1.9.6 (Notification of Doctoral Thesis Examination).”

A comment was made that the kind of clarification offered in GGR 1.3.5 can serve as a significant enabler in relation to how a smaller program or department can start thinking about graduate programs. By using things like cohorts and individualized interdisciplinary studies programs, in collaboration with existing faculty members in other faculties, aspirational pilot programs can be developed.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2:

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.9.1 (Preparation for Examination) and GGR 1.9.3 (Examining Committee for Doctoral Thesis).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3:

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by C. Percival

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

A question was asked about the use of the word *may* in the line *The report may contain specific questions the external examiner would like posed to the candidate*. Senate was informed that the use of word *may* is intended as a prompt for the external examiner, since questions have not always been forthcoming in the past.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 4:

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.10.2 (Classification of the Thesis).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 5:

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.10.3 (Recommendation for the Award of the Degree).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 6:

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.10.4 (Submission of the Thesis to the Library).”

The motion was approved subject to a change in the wording, noting that GGR 1.10.4 should read *No degree examined as per 1.7.2a and 1.7.2b will be approved by Senate until the thesis is submitted to the Library.*

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 7:

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.11.3 (Postponement of Publication).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB)

i) Annual Report 2016-2017 (S.18-27)

Senate received the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB) Annual Report 2016-2017 for information.

A question was asked regarding the trend in there being less bursary money available for domestic students and more for international students. Senate was informed there is no correlation between a drop in domestic bursary money and an increase in international bursary money. When tuition is increased for international students, one quarter of that incremental amount is committed to various needs for international students, including bursaries. Given that international student tuition continues to increase, there will be a corresponding increase in the amount of funds made available for international student support.

8. Other Business

i) Initiative on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (S.18-28)

Senate received the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion memorandum for information.

Kim Hart, Special Advisor to the Provost on Equity and Diversity, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Senator Keller, in his role as Vice-President, Academic and Provost, informed Senate that an initiative has been undertaken on equity, diversity and inclusion. In December 2017 Kim Hart was appointed as Special Advisor to the Provost on Equity and Diversity. She has started work in

collaboration with and alongside several others at SFU, including Professor Genevieve Fuji Johnson (Political Science) who has been appointed as a Senior Advisor to the Provost's Office on Faculty Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement. During 2018, the Special Advisor, with the support of the Senior Advisor, will examine SFU's existing strategic plans, initiatives, data collection and analysis, policies and practices, and structures and consider their impact on equity, diversity and inclusion. The Special Advisor, with the support of the Senior Advisor and with the advice of an advisory group, will also lead a consultation with the SFU community (staff, faculty, administrators, students, and especially with those from under-represented groups) to obtain input about how SFU can shape its structures, processes and practices to infuse equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the university and achieve its ongoing commitment to a culture of inclusion and respect.

A question was asked about how the work done previously by the Salary Equity Recommendations Committee would fit in with the work currently being done, and would explanations be provided for previous recommendations not included in the upcoming report. Senate was informed that the committee would review previous work and that the report would include all recommendations brought forward.

A question was asked if the upcoming report would be an implementation plan or would it ultimately lead to further reports, and will that report be representative of the input provided by the various advisory groups. Senate was informed that the report would include action items for implementation, and that the report would be representative of the work done by the advisory groups.

A question was asked if those working in labs, along with food service workers and security would be included in the report. Senate was informed that Human Resources oversees the hiring of CUPE, APSA and TSSU employees. It was noted there is a certain category in the research domain currently not covered by the bargaining process, but that this is currently being looked at.

ii) Teaching Assessment Working Group (S.18-29)

Senate received the Teaching Assessment Working Group plan for information.

Barbara Frisken, Professor – Department of Physics, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Senator Keller, in his role as Vice-President, Academic and Provost, informed Senate that a Teaching Assessment Working Group (TAWG), was established in August 2017 to encourage an active conversation amongst faculty at SFU about how we assess and value teaching. The group includes representation from all faculties, the SFU Faculty Association (SFUFA), the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL), and Faculty Relations, and includes both teaching and research faculty. The committee has proposed three high-level goals to be considered by faculties and academic units during the development of their contributions to SFU's 2018-2023 Academic Plan:

- Faculty members are reflective practitioners within a community of teaching.
- Academic units value and reward teaching as one of the primary academic responsibilities.
- The University provides support to faculty members and academic units for the design, development, delivery, and evaluation of quality teaching.

A question was asked to outline the steps taken to inform the university community of these goals, thereby ensuring they are addressed in upcoming academic plans. Senate was informed that the committee has met with several faculty Deans, Chairs and Directors, and intends to provide these goals to the Deans, who can then distribute them to Chairs and Directors for consideration during academic planning. It was noted the committee plans to invite speakers from each faculty to discuss issues related to teaching assessment, and will also distribute questions to the departments.

A comment was made that the issue of teaching evaluation has been ongoing for at least the last fifteen years, including the formation of task forces at the behest of the Vice-President, Academic, with very little to show for their efforts. Senate was informed that teaching evaluation is an important issue that should continue to be addressed, and though progress may seem incremental, it is important to inform the SFU community of that progress and focus on the way forward.

A comment was made that research faculty may be placed in a difficult position, whereby they support a revamped teaching assessment process but must simultaneously navigate a highly competitive grant environment and thus are reluctant to risk the viability of that research. Senate was informed that focus has been placed on an internal assessment of teaching and the perception that many teachers feel their work is undervalued. It was noted that the working group will include both teaching and research faculty members.

9. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, March 5, 2018.

Open session adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar