



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, April 9, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Bartram, Lyn
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Bubela, Tania
Budd, Thomas
Chapman, Glenn
Chen, Larissa
Christians, Julian
Christie, Claire
Clapp, Alex (for Ingrid Stefanovic)
Cupples, Claire
Derksen, Jeff
Fiume, Eugene
Forde, Nancy
Gajdics, Sylvia
Gray, Bonnie (via Vancouver videoconference)
Johnson, Joy (via Vancouver videoconference)
Keliipio, Kau'i
Keller, Peter
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine
Laitsch, Dan (via Surrey videoconference)
Leacock, Tracey
Leung, Jeffrey
Leznoff, Daniel
Luelfesmann, Christoph
MacAlister, David
Magnusson, Kris
O'Neill, Susan
Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Poyntz, Stuart (for Aoife Mac Namara)
Pulkingham, Jane
Ruben, Peter
Shaw, Chris (via Surrey videoconference)
Smith, Judy

Somers, Julian
Tingling, Peter
Zanette, Amanda

Absent:

Andersen, Holly
Baharmand, Iman
Bains, Raman
Burley, David
Chisty, Mohammad
Dastmalchian, Ali
Garcha, Raajan
Giardini, Anne
Hedley, Nick
Khehra, Alam
Lord Ferguson, Sarah
Mac Namara, Aoife
Memon, Abdul Ahad
Moens, Alexander
Mongrain, Steeve
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
Ng, Dorothy
Parent, Michael
Poitras, Geoffrey
Randhawa, Jaskarn
Scott, Jamie
Singh, Amar
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Wang, Christine
Wiese, Kay
Williams, Tony

In Attendance:

Traynor, Kelly

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on March 5, 2018

The minutes of the open session on March 5, 2018 were approved as distributed, with one correction.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

At the March meeting Senator Leacock asked a question about the listed rationale for Communications Major and Honours changes. Senate was informed that an answer would be provided at the May Senate meeting.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that Wendy Chun holds the second chair awarded to SFU as part of the *Canada 150 Research Chairs Program*. She is going to join the School of Communications from Brown University to hold a Chair in *New Media*, where she hopes to develop coalitions that can create new approaches to digital democracies. There are only 25 chairs in total funded under the program which was created in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary. SFU was successful in securing two of those 25, with Caroline Coljin being previously announced to hold a Chair in *Infection, Evolution and Public Health*.

The Chair reported on recent research grant successes:

- Ruth Lavergne, principal investigator for one of three SFU Health Science research projects, was recently awarded \$1.25M in *CIHR* funding to examine how changes in the primary care physician work force are contributing to patient access problems.
- Scott Venners, in collaboration with the *First Nations Health Authority*, will be leading a 4-year \$700,000 population health initiative that will train four SFU indigenous graduate students in population health research methodology.
- Behraad Bahreyni from Mechatronic Systems Engineering has been awarded a \$288,000 *NSERC Collaborative Research and Development Grant* for research in particle acceleration micro sensors for sonar applications, for which he is also receiving \$144,000 in funding from *Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems Inc.*
- 22 SFU researchers from 12 departments were awarded 2017 *SSHRC Insight Grants*. They received a total of \$3.56M in research funding based on a success rate of 52.4%, well above the national average of 47.3%.
- Anne Marie Nicol of the Faculty of Health Sciences was awarded \$2.7M from the *Canadian Partnership Against Cancer* for the *CAREX Canada project*.
- Frank Gobas from the School of Resource and Environmental Management has been awarded \$338,000 to collaborate on a project funded by the *European Chemical Industry Council* entitled *Improved Characterization of Portioning and Biotransformation for Screening Organic Compounds for the Potential to Bioaccumulate in Airbreathing Species*.
- Jonathan Choy from the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry was awarded \$295,000 by the *Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada Grant-in-Aid Program* for his project *Immune and Vascular Effects of IL-6 in Transplant Arteriosclerosis*

- Victoria Claydon from the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology was awarded \$197,000 by the *Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada Grant-in-Aid Program* for her project *Mechanism and Management of Pediatric Syncope*.

The Chair reported that Kristy Duncan, *Minister of Science* and *Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities*, visited the Burnaby campus on April 9th, where she toured the *ROSIE* lab and the *Autonomy Lab* in the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

The Chair reported that Joy Johnson, Vice-President Research, and Sarah Lubik, Director of Entrepreneurship, have been selected to speak at the 2018 *#BCTECH Summit*.

The Chair reported that in his role as President, he led an SFU delegation to Singapore in late March to participate in the 2018 *Asia-Pacific Association for International Education Conference and Exhibition*, which SFU will host in 2020. This is a major conference attracting over 2,000 attendees from around the world. The delegation also stopped in Taiwan on the way back to connect with some academic partners, sign memoranda of understanding with key university partners and host an alumni reception.

5. Question Period

Senator Singh submitted the following question:

I was talking to a few athletes in regards to how SFU can support them academically.

Can Senate discuss how we can better support our athletes academically?

- *Additional time and resources for student athletes pertaining to assignments and projects if necessary.*
- *Better access to tutors and other academic services.*
- *Possible one on one time with academic advisors for student athletes to better stay on track.*

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar, responded to Senator Singh's question.

Kelly Traynor, NCAA Student Program Coordinator, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Senate was informed of the following supports in place for NCAA student-athletes:

- Student Services has designated 1.5 full time academic advisors to work exclusively with student-athletes. Student Services works in hand with student-athletes and their departments to provide support around a number of things including program and course planning, time management, and balancing academics with athletics. Additionally, academic advisors ensure that student-athletes are meeting the rules and regulations of progress towards their degree. Advisors first meet with students prior to their first term and continue throughout their career.
- All SFU varsity student-athletes are given priority enrollment to enable them to create a class schedule that does not conflict with their practice and travel schedules.
- SFU Athletics and the Academics First Program provide free tutors for student-athletes seeking support in 100 and 200 level classes. Tutors go through training each year to prepare them for this role and help them to navigate some of the unique challenges

facing student-athletes. In addition, drop-in support is provided for a number of 100 and 200 level math courses.

- Student-athletes receive a letter at the beginning of each term from the Director of Athletics, explaining their participation on a varsity NCAA team, as well as their travel schedule with their respective team. This letter offers some potential alternatives for how a student-athlete can make up missed work while traveling (at the discretion of the professor). In addition, Dr. Peter Ruben serves as the University's Faculty Athletic Representative and is available to speak directly with professors to help set up potential accommodations.
- There is quiet study-space set aside in the Lorne Davies Complex specifically for student-athletes. This space is supervised by Learning Coaches.
- Learning Coaches are third/fourth/fifth year SFU student-athletes with excellent study habits who are trained to provide academic support to their fellow student-athletes. They can provide assistance with creating study schedules, mentoring student-athletes' study habits and referrals to campus resources. Each incoming first year student is assigned a Learning Coach at the beginning of their first term at SFU.

6. **Invited Presenter**

Alex Clapp, Associate Dean of Environment, presented an overview of the Faculty of Environment, following which he took questions.

A question was asked on how much time students spend out in the environment doing experiential activities and how much time is spent in the classroom or lab. Senate was informed that students spend a considerable amount of time doing both. All programs in the Faculty emphasize experiential learning either with field courses, field trips, field camps, summer archaeological field camps, or physical geography field camps.

A question was asked to describe some of the challenges faced by the Faculty of Environment. Senate was informed that the main challenge faced in the last ten years has been the budget model, which funds undergraduate programs at a ratio disproportionate to what SFU had allocated in the past. This is especially the case for small faculties featuring a large graduate oriented program.

Noting the increases in international students and the stresses this can cause in terms of support, a question was asked to explain what the Faculty is doing to allow international students to be successful. Senate was informed that as the ratio of international students increase, the Faculty may start to see some of the problems experienced by other faculties. Of significance is the need for writing assistance amongst international students. Though no specific answer has been found, it was noted that efforts have been made to place students into support groups and find more effective ways to structure and publicize teaching and learning activities to deal with these challenges.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Appeals Board (SAB)

i) Annual Report (S.18-45)

Senate received the Senate Appeals Board Annual Report 2017 for information.

Noting that over 80% of Withdrawal Under Extenuating Circumstances (WE) appeals were approved, a question was asked if there are any mechanisms in place so there are fewer appeals coming to SAB. Senate was informed that in most cases appeals reach SAB because the student has presented new information, thus it is under the committee's jurisdiction to consider the appeal.

Noting that most appeals are based on new evidence, a question was asked if more could be done to inform students so they are making their strongest case when initially submitting a WE application. Senate was informed that efforts are made to work with the student so they are aware of what kinds of documents are required and what is expected of them. This sometimes means keeping a WE case open for quite some time. The WE office works on clear guidelines and asks for fairly standardized kinds of information, so when a student isn't initially able to provide the required information it falls to the appeal process when that information does become available. Also, the WE office makes sure the student understands why their original request was denied and refers them to the Ombuds Office if they need additional advice.

A question was asked about the lack of appeals for admission or re-admission to the University, where special circumstances are present. Senate was informed that it is very uncommon for admissions appeals to reach SAB. They are typically handled by the Admissions Office, who work with the student to determine if there are sufficient grounds for an appeal.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the School of Interactive Arts and Technology (S.18-46)

Senate received the External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the School of Interactive Arts and Technology for information.

ii) Suspension of Admission and Dissolution of the Ethnic and Intercultural Relations Certificate (S.18-47)

Motion 1:

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by J. Pulkingham

"That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Ethnic and Intercultural Relations Certificate in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2018."

A comment was made that SCUP should institute a policy for reviewing newly created programs after a set period of time to determine their success, thereby limiting the number of programs returning to Senate years later for dissolution.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2:

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by J. Pulkingham

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Ethnic and Intercultural Relations Certificate in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2018.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**i) Program Changes (S.18-48)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Cognitive Science Program, English, History, Linguistics, Philosophy), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Environment (Sustainable Development Program, School of Resource and Environmental Management) and the Faculty of Science (Statistics and Actuarial Science, Mathematics, Earth Sciences, Chemistry, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.18-49)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Centre for Hellenic Studies, History, Labour Studies Program, Language Training Institute, Philosophy) and the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management, Sustainable Development).

iii) Course Changes (S.18-50)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Engineering Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, English, Centre for Hellenic Studies, History, School of International Studies, Labour Studies Program, Language Training Institute, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts, School of Communication, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management, Sustainable Development Program) and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics, Earth Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

A question was asked about changes to ENSC 405W and how information about course changes can better be communicated to students. Senate was informed that changes were made based on *Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board* requirements that the course be offered in the final year of the student's term at SFU. Given that any course changes would have to pass through both SCUS and Senate with at least a four-month buffer before implementation, communication to students should follow a similar schedule.

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Program Changes (S.18-51)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Psychology, Urban Studies) and the Faculty of Environment (Geography); Health Sciences.

ii) New Course Proposals (S.18-52)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Political Science, Psychology) and the Faculty of Environment (Geography).

A question was asked about the course proposal for ECO 600 being listed a zero credit course requiring the collection of tuition. Senate was informed that ECO 600 is a joint program with BCIT and the charging of tuition allows for continuity of enrollment throughout the year, and also allows BCIT students access to the SFU Library and supervisory access during the summer.

iii) Program Changes (S.18-53)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology), the Beedie School of Business, The Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Environment (Geography), the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**i) Senate Committee Elections**

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

8. Other Business**9. Information****i) Date of the next regular meeting – Tuesday, May 22, 2018.**

Open session adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar