



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

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

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Batsih, Harman
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Bubela, Tania
Buttar, Sumrit Singh
Chandhok, Vikramaditya
Chapman, Glenn
Christians, Julian
Collard, Mark
Denholm, Julia
Fiume, Eugene
Freedman, Jackson
Gajdics, Sylvia
Gray, Bonnie
Ho, Shuna
Johal, Rumneek
Keliipio, Kau'i
Keller, Peter
Kim, Woo Soo (via Surrey videoconference)
Laitsch, Dan (via Surrey videoconference)
Leacock, Tracey
Luu, Susan
Magnusson, Kris
Parent, Michael (via Vancouver videoconference)
Park, Ed (for Jeff Derksen)
Percival, Colin
Planchenault, Gaelle
Poitras, Geoffrey
Pulkingham, Jane (via Vancouver videoconference)
Sanghera, Simran
Somers, Julian
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Tavakoli, Camelia
Tingling, Peter
Wang, Christine
Zanetta, Amanda

Absent:

Andersen, Holly
Bartram, Lyn
Bhalla, Srishti
Cupples, Claire
Dangi, Ridhi
Dastmalchian, Ali
Derksen, Jeff
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Forde, Nancy
Giardini, Anne
Johnson, Joy
Kalra, Mehak
Leznoff, Daniel
Lord Ferguson, Sarah
Luelfesmann, Christoph
Mac Namara, Aoife
Moens, Alexander
Mongrain, Steeve
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
O'Neill, Susan
Parkhouse, Wade
Plettner, Erika
Randhawa, Jaskarn
Scott, Jamie
Shaw, Chris
Stockie, John
Wiese, Kay

In Attendance:

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on May 22, 2018

The minutes of the open session on May 22, 2018 were approved as distributed.

3. Minutes of the Open Session of June 11, 2018 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on September 10, 2018**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- i) At the May meeting Senator Laitsch asked if plans were made to avoid rescheduling exams during the Easter weekend should any University closures occur during the exam period. Senate was informed that Principle 3 of the Calendar Committee states that *exams should be avoided on the Saturday/Sunday of Easter weekend*, and that Schedules has confirmed that every effort will be made to avoid doing so.

5. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that SFU and *Nanotech Security*, a company born out of SFU, have joined forces to commission a \$4.5M electron beam lithography system that will be installed at SFU's 4D LABS.

The Chair reported that SFU's Big Data Hub will soon be home to the *Canadian Statistical Science's Institute (CANSSI)* National Headquarters. *CANSSI* is a not-for-profit whose mission is to promote statistical sciences research and training in Canada and internationally. This move will add significant strength to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, and elevate SFU's reputation and impact nationally and internationally. As contemplated by the big data research cluster identified in our Strategic Research Plan, SFU and *CANSSI* will work together to enhance research excellence and strengthen connections between scholars, partners and communities across the field.

The Chair reported that Vice-President, Research and International, Joy Johnson and Executive Director of SFI International, Darren Schemmer, were in Australia in June to attend the *International Student Research Forum (ISRF)* at Griffith University. The forum, now in its tenth year, is jointly planned and delivered by representatives of Griffith University, the University of Southern Denmark, the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the University in Nebraska Medical Center. While in Australia, they also attended meetings with the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, and the University of Technology in Sydney.

The Chair reported that, in his role as President, he attended the fifteenth *Transatlantic Dialogue*, a biennial conference bringing together university leaders from the United States, Europe, and Canada to discuss issues of common interest. This year's dialogue was on the theme *Higher Education and its Communities: Openness, Democracy & Engagement*.

The Chair reported that the *McConnell Foundation* has announced a multi-year funding initiative to support the *BC Collaborative for Social Infrastructure*. This initiative looks at how universities can contribute to social infrastructure in various ways through procurements and through the use of their land and resources. *McConnell* has provided

significant funding to SFU and three other post-secondary institutions (BCIT, UNBC, and VIU) to share best practices and test ideas over the next three to four years in areas like sustainability, indigenous entrepreneurship, social procurements and library outreach.

The Chair reported on a successful convocation season running from June 12th to 15th, a highlight of which was the Indigenous Honouring Feast celebrating the success of more than 100 Indigenous student graduates on June 13th. The Chair also noted that the President's Employee Appreciation BBQ is coming up on July 11th.

6. Question Period

- i) Senator Johal submitted the following question:

Is there a possibility of incorporating SFUs sexual violence policy, as well as the location of our Sexual Violence Support and Prevention office, on course syllabus, as we already have an academic honesty provision strictly outlined? Providing information and resources about sexual violence and its very definition could create a safer and more positive learning environment where students feel comfortable.

Senator Keller, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that it is very important that the sexual violence policy be disseminated to students, but putting the entire policy onto the course syllabus would be not be feasible. A course syllabus covers materials related to the academic content of the course and there may be more appropriate ways to disseminate this information, along with other information on wellness, health and security.

- ii) Senator Chandhok submitted the following question:

I'd like to thank the Registrar and the Senate for their work implementing the previously requested change to the parchment to indicate a student's specific education achievement. The responses I've heard have been incredibly positive, however, I have been made aware of a situation where this is not the case and I'm wondering if the Registrar could indicate if legitimate concerns regarding this change have been made, and if there are plans to revisit or to revise the decision. For example, to make it optional, as it is the case at UBC.

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the Registrar's Office is prepared to investigate and report back to Senate on the idea of providing a mechanism for students with special circumstances to withhold their specialization.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)

i) Establishment of the School of Environmental Science (S.18-70 Addendum)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate take from the table and continue debate and action on S.18-70 - Establishment of the School of Environmental Science”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Noting that the motion has already been moved, a procedural comment was made that it is unnecessary to move the motion again given that the item has been taken from the table and debate continues from where it left off at the previous meeting.

Noting the debate around the motion that led to it being tabled, the Vice-President, Academic wished to address some of the issues raised at the June meeting:

- Consideration was given to returning this item back to SCUP, however, it was concluded that little would be gained by doing so given that SCUP had unanimously approved the motion.
- On the issue of a lack of consultation, it was stressed that extensive consultation has taken place, as far back as 2016. Consultation included the Dean of Science and partnering academic units, and though it did not lead to unanimous agreement on all points, the parties had agreed to not stand in the way of the proposal of the School going forward.
- The Faculty of Environment has demonstrated a realistic and sustained need for an academic program in Environmental Science. Similar programming already exists in elsewhere in Canada, and SFU is looking to take a leading role in western Canada.
- Environmental Science, under the leadership of the Faculty of Environment, has demonstrated sustained growth and the program has reached a size and a point of evolution where a move to an official academic unit makes sound business sense.
- There are organizational, administrative, and budgetary mechanisms in place to ensure that this interdisciplinary initiative does not become siloed.

Noting her absence at the June meeting, the Dean of Environment wished to address the four main areas of concern raised at the June meeting:

- On the issue of interdisciplinarity, this proposal advances a long standing and successful collaboration between the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Environment. Though housed within Environment, both faculties benefit financially. When the proposal speaks about the *hub-and-spoke* model of the SFU Environmental Science Program, the discipline based spokes in the Faculty of Science are just as important as the interdisciplinary hub in the Faculty of Environment. This model best allows the deliverance of programming that offers students the rigor of disciplinary understanding with the breadth of interdisciplinary applied knowledge through collegial and collaborative teaching.

- On the issue of siphoning faculty and students from other faculties or departments, the Faculty of Environment has no interest in or financial capacity to steal away faculty members from the Faculty of Science, nor is there an expectation that whole departments will migrate to the Faculty of Environment. As for poaching enrollments, notably from Biological Sciences, IRP statistics indicate that while Biology majors and minors have dropped by 58 students since 2012, the Applied Biology concentration in the Environmental Science Program has gained only 22 students. There is no evidence to indicate that those 22 students migrated over from Biology. The Faculty of Environment cannot be blamed for BISC program losses in any significant manner. Also, the budget model is not based around program enrollments but is rather based on course enrollments. Students enrolled in the Environmental Program still enroll in Science courses, thereby benefiting the Faculty of Science bottom line. The goal is to build enrollments for Biology and other Science departments through this program, thereby creating a win-win for both faculties.
- On the issue of SCUP's unanimous approval of the proposal and the implication that there was a lack of transparency it should be noted that all faculties and departments, including Science, were invited to provide feedback on various proposal drafts. The final documents presented to SCUP and Senate included three sets of changes: one in which typographical and grammatical errors were fixed; a second provided updated enrollment statistics; and a third included a brief statement indicating that the Deans of Science, Health Sciences and Environment had met to discuss Life Science's program planning across SFU and that they would continue to do so. Any suggestion that meaningful changes in the final proposal were withheld from the various collaborating departments would be inaccurate.
- On the issue of inadequate consultation around this proposal it should be noted that the current program operates with an advisory committee representing each of the departments offering service courses. The proposal was designed and approved collaboratively, incorporating comments and advice from that committee - a process that has been underway for more than two years. Furthermore, the proposal includes signed approvals from each of the departments who jointly offered the program in Science. Two of the Chairs have offered additional advice in finalizing the proposal and those comments are explicitly included in the body of the report. Finally, meetings were held with the Dean of Science to discuss this proposal, which led to a delay of almost a year in submitting the proposal. The Dean of Science raised a number of objections including concern about the resource impact of potential faculty and student migration, and the need to continue to consult broadly about Life Sciences at SFU. Having already addressed the resource impact, it should be noted that consultative meetings have already taken place between the Deans of Environment, Science, and Health Sciences, and that agreement was reached that consultation should continue even after the creation of the School, a point which is highlighted in the final proposal.

Regarding SCUP's approval of this program, a comment was made that the concern was not with the integrity of the presentation itself but with the information that came out at Senate that was not available to SCUP at the time of voting. This now puts Senators in the position of having to choose between two differing factions, when ideally those differences should have been aired at the committee level before coming to Senate.

The student Senator from the Faculty of Environment, speaking on behalf of student representatives from the Faculty of Environment, commented that what students appreciate most about the Environmental Science Program is the fact that it is interdisciplinary, requiring students to take courses across varied departments. The formation of a School of Environmental Science would positively impact students by providing an administrative framework, along with resources for both faculty and space.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.18-76)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.18-77)

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 (Language Training Institute), and the Beedie School of Business.

Noting that the new course proposal forms for two Punjabi courses list *none* in response to faculty with expertise to offer the course, a question was asked as to who would be teaching these courses. Senate was informed that SFU has already been teaching Punjabi language so instructors are in place. Courses are being created with Punjabi in the title so they are recognizable on the transcript, as opposed to being listed as general language courses.

iii) Course Changes (S.18-78)

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 Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Physics).

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Program Changes (S.18-79)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a program change in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Linguistics, Sociology and Anthropology), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Education, and Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies.

A concern was raised about the wording listed under program requirements for Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies which states that *students must complete two graduate on-campus courses*, suggesting that online courses would not count. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

ii) New Course Proposals (For Information) (S.18-80)

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 Engineering Science), and the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology, School of Communication).

iii) Course Changes (For Information) (S.18-81)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Beedie School of Business, The Faculty of communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Science), and Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies.

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.18-82 Revised)

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 – Monday, September 10, 2018.

Open session adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar