



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, March 4, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Ali, Mohammed
Bartram, Lyn (via Surrey videoconference)
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Bubela, Tania (via Vancouver videoconference)
Buttar, Sumrit Singh
Chapman, Glenn
Christians, Julian
Collard, Mark
Denholm, Julia
Derksen, Jeff
Elle, Elizabeth
Elmi, Parham
Fiume, Eugene
Forde, Nancy
Freedman, Jackson
Gajdics, Sylvia
Gray, Bonnie (via Vancouver videoconference)
Hendrigan, Holly
Kalra, Mehak
Keliipio, Kau'i
Keller, Peter
Kench, Paul
Kim, Woo Soo
Laitsch, Dan (via Surrey videoconference)
Leacock, Tracey
Leznoff, Daniel
Lord Ferguson, Sarah (via Vancouver videoconference)
Luelfesmann, Christoph
Luu, Susan
Mac Namara, Aoife
Magnusson, Kris
Moens, Alexander
Mohar, Amrita
Myers, Gord
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
O'Neil, Dugan (for Joy Johnson)
O'Neill, Susan

Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Peters, Joseph
Plettner, Erika
Pulkingham, Jane (via Van. videoconference)
Scott, Jamie
Sheikh, Daanyaal
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Stockie, John
Tavakoli, Camelia
Tingling, Peter
Walsby, Charles
Zanette, Amanda

Absent:

Andersen, Holly
Bhalla, Srishti
Chandhok, Vikramaditya
Dangi, Ridhi
Dastmalchian, Ali
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Giardini, Anne
Ho, Shuna
Johnson, Joy
Mongrain, Steeve
Parent, Michael
Planchenault, Gaele
Poitras, Geoffrey
Randhawa, Jaskarn
Sanghera, Simran
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Wiese, Kay

In Attendance:

Naqvi, Zareen

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on February 4, 2019

The minutes of the open session on February 4, 2019 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported on recent research grant successes:

- Olive Schulte from Computing Science has been awarded \$570,633 from *Natural Science Engineering Research Council of Canada* for his project entitled *Reinforcement Learning and Sport Analytics*.
- Steven Holdcroft from Chemistry has been awarded \$365,000 from *NSERC* for his project entitled *FlexCoat: flexible coating with inline QC for customized production of hydrocarbon membranes for next-generation electrochemical devices*.
- Henny Yeung from Linguistics has been awarded \$238,130 from *BC Knowledge Development Fund* for his project entitled *Building the Language and Development Lab*.
- Hogan Yu from Chemistry has been awarded \$121,060 from *NSERC* for his project entitled *Nanocontact Molding of three-dimensional Polymeric Replicas*.

The Chair reported on Big Data news:

- SFU has partnered with *Informed Opinions*, a national organization focused on trying to raise women's voices within the media and elsewhere, to develop a new tool that tracks in real time the number of women and men quoted in major news platforms in Canada. The *Gender Gap Tracker* uses the latest advances in text data mining and big data analytics to measure gender equity in news sources.
- A Big Data Consulting Service for external clients has been launched at SFU. Companies and organizations can now access leading experts across the data lifecycle to deliver insights and solutions.
- A call for proposals to the 2019 *Next Big Question in Big Data Fund* is now open, with an application deadline of April 1st. The seven projects funded in 2018 are in progress and their outcomes will be highlighted later this year.

The Chair reported on SFU Innovates news:

- *Health Promotion Lab* has entered into \$950,000 funding partnership with the *Public Health Agency of Canada*. In addition, the *Health Promotion Lab Slingshot Program* is working with five growth stage ventures focused on chronic disease prevention and health promotion. All five ventures will receive \$25,000 investments from the new SFU *RADIUS Slingshot Fund*, thanks to support from the *Vancity Community Foundation*.
- The *RADIUS Fellowship Program* kicked off its 5th annual cohort with 17 emerging leaders, bringing our regional network to 97 Fellows over the past five years.

- The eighth annual *SFU Coast Capital Savings Venture Prize* competition is back, with 40 entries submitted from faculty, staff, student and alumni teams. Winners are to be announced on April 11th.

The Chair reported that in furtherance to the commitment to academic freedom, SFU International is preparing to accept three new scholars this year. A *Writer in Refuge* arriving this spring will be based in Surrey through the *International Cities of Refuge (ICOR)* program, while thanks to support from the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, two scholars from Turkey will arrive this fall under the *Scholars at Risk Program*. One will be based in the World Literature Program and the other in the School for International Studies.

The Chair reported that he, along with the Vice-President, Research and International, led a ten-day mission to India, visiting Jaipur, Mumbai and Delhi. Also accompanying the mission was the Dean of Business and the Dean of Health Sciences, with the purpose of developing and strengthening educational research and cultural relationships with key partners in India.

Highlights included:

- Advancing student exchange programs and research initiatives with leading post-secondary institutions including *IIT Bombay*, *IIT Delhi*, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences*, and *SP Jain School of Global Management*.
- The Dean of Health Sciences exploring new research opportunities with the *Public Health Foundation of India* and the *National Institute of Health and Family Welfare*.
- Extending our clean energy and fuel cell research relationship with the *Indian Oil Corporation* to help them get off of fossil fuels and onto clean energy.
- Meeting with the *Bombay Stock Exchange Institute (BSEI)* to discuss plans for *Zone Startups India*, a business accelerator operated with *BSEI* and Ryerson University, and to explore joint educational initiatives, including a new pathway program in business that will enable Indian students to earn credit towards SFU's Masters of Science in Finance.
- Visiting the *Jaipur Literature Festival* where we held discussions with the Artistic Director of Vancouver's *India Summer Festival*, in which SFU has partnered for the past seven years.
- Presenting at a workshop co-hosted by India's *University Grants Commission* and *Participatory Research in Asia* on the development of a government policy concerning the social responsibility of post-secondary institutions.
- Attending a reception and dinner at *Canada House* in Delhi hosted in SFU's honor by the Canadian High Commissioner to India.

The Chair reported that SFU is leading an initiative with 15 other Canadian post-secondary institutions, plus the *Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching*, the *Howard R. Swearer Center for Public Service* at *Brown University*, and the *McConnell Foundation*, to look at the possibility of developing a Carnegie-like framework in Canada for measuring and acknowledging mutually beneficial university-community relationships, and for sharing knowledge and resources.

The Chair reported that he, along with Vice-President, External Relations, travelled to San Diego to attend the 2019 *Ashoka U Exchange*, to engage with other *Ashoka Changemaker* campuses and partners from around the world.

The Chair reported that the 7th annual SFU Public Square Community Summit, *Confronting the Disinformation Age*, will be held April 10-18. The April 16th keynote events, presented in partnership with *Vancity*, will feature three leading Canadian commentators - David Frum, Sue Gardner and Christopher Wylie - in a conversation moderated by the *CBC*'s Ian Hanomansing on the distortion of our information landscape and what we can do about it.

The Chair reported that the Senate – Board of Governors retreat is coming up on March 9th, and will provide an opportunity for Senate and Board members to have a strategic discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing SFU over the next ten years.

5. Question Period

i) Senator Buttar submitted the following questions:

1. *In one of the Senate meetings, I believe on October 1st, one of the senators asked regarding the possible risk associated between SFU and Huawei. In the ongoing diplomatic issue between Canada and China, I was wondering what the tendency of cooperation between our university and Huawei is, as the diplomatic issue is expected to get more intense in the future. Is there a need of revising the relationship between SFU and Huawei or possibly find an alternative if the situation gets worse and potentially poses a privacy threat to the university?*

Dugan O'Neil, Associate Vice-President, Research, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that SFU continues to monitor Canada's diplomatic relationship with China, and at this time, has no plans to revise its existing relationship with *Huawei*. In 2018 *Huawei Technologies Canada Corporation* developed a partnership with SFU's School of Computing Science. The resulting contract was for the establishment of a joint research lab under the leadership of SFU professor Richard Zhang of Computing Science. The lab provides a mechanism for SFU faculty to collaborate with *Huawei* on various research projects related to visual computing and machine learning. In recent months, media coverage has raised concerns about the status of Canadian intellectual property when dealing with Chinese companies. In particular, stories focused on university collaborations related to the development of 5G mobile technology to conduct remote spying and obtain foreign intelligence. The SFU contract provides clear guidance for the management of IP and is limited to areas that are not considered high risk, including machine learning and visual computing. It should also be noted that SFU has worked with many international partners. *Huawei Technologies Canada* is a legitimate business and work with *Huawei* has not been prohibited by the federal government. The freedom to pursue ideas across borders and across disciplines is important to allowing scientific insight and innovation to take place. Canada's universities and the Government of Canada are in regular communication on a variety of issues that touch the post-secondary community, including this one. SFU has strong protocols in place to assess and address issues impacting research, students and faculty and risks are monitored regularly.

2. *Using Saudi Arabia as an example, due the diplomatic crisis between the two countries in the summer, a significant number of Saudi students were forced to suspend their studies and leave Canada. With the ongoing diplomatic crisis, the possibility of a similar incident to happen between China and Canada is minimal but not entirely impossible. I was wondering with our 12% students from china, is there any emergency plan or policies to address this problem? An example could be IF the Chinese government has decided to stop sending their students to Canada, what is SFU going to do to compensate the gap in the number of students in both the short and long term?*

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

Senate was informed that SFU is cognizant of the risks associated with international students and diplomatic relations, which may involve a number of diplomatic responses including revoking student visas or not granting or delaying visa extensions or renewals. In each scenario the University is also aware of the financial consequences. Though SFU would not be alone in its response to such a situation, SFU is pursuing a gradual shift to a more diversified international body with growing international recruitment efforts in regions such as India, the United States, and South East Asia.

3. *I understand that there is a 2% on domestic student tuition fees in SFU and none on international students. I recognize that a substantial portion of revenue in the university is generated from international students. However, a lot of international students are dissatisfied with the constant increase in fees in the past few years. So my question is, is there any possible way to create a cap on international student's fees? If it is possible, what are the methods to push for this policy regarding this issue?*

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

Senate was informed that there has been a long standing 2% ceiling on increases in domestic undergraduate tuition. Also, as a result of student consultation, fee increases for incoming international students will not exceed double the domestic fee increase for five years following the student's admit date. Further, unlike many universities, SFU does not charge international graduate students differential fees except in the case of a small number of professional programs, meaning that international graduate students studying at SFU have an advantage over international graduate students studying elsewhere. It was noted that SFU directs a portion international undergraduate tuition revenue toward international student support and services.

6. Reports of Committees

- A) **Senate Committee on Enrollment Management and Planning (SCEMP)**
 - i) **Enrollment Plan 2019/2020; Undergraduate Admissions Targets for 2019/2020 (S.19-31)**

Motion 1:

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by G. Myers

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2019/2020 Enrollment Plan attached as Appendix A to document titled For SENATE March 4. 2019.”

Zareen Naqvi, Director of Institutional Research and Planning, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked to identify the percentage of incoming undergraduate students coming from FIC, and if this makes SFU dependent on a single source. Senate was informed that SFU admits between 900 to 1000 students from FIC on an annual basis. This number requires the University to do far less recruiting internationally, and these students come in well prepared having already done first year courses. It was noted that approximately 80% of the students enrolled at FIC come to SFU.

A suggestion was made to include data showing the frequency of admitted students by admission GPA and CGPA over time, thereby allowing for the tracking of how these students are doing over time. Senate was informed that the suggestion would be taken under advisement.

A question was asked about the cutoff and GPA calculations for Health Sciences and Communication, Art and Technology admission targets, noting a disproportionate amount of FIC students coming in. Senate was informed that each faculty has its own admission standards for coming from FIC. When calculating the number of international students admitted from outside of FIC, that number is impacted by the number expected to be coming from FIC. It was noted, however, that a clause was put in place allowing for the admittance of well-prepared international students that have graduated from BC high schools, having spent 3 years here.

Noting a modest increase for FTEs in Applied Sciences and that 30 graduate positions have been made available for the new Sustainable Environmental Engineering (SEE) program, a question was asked as to how much of that increase is for undergraduate positions in the SEE program. Senate was informed that for the SEE program in 2018/19 there were 40 new FTEs for Undergraduate and 30 new FTEs for Graduate. For 2019/20 the new targets for undergraduates are 80 FTEs and 30 FTEs for Graduate.

A question was asked about SFU’s philosophy towards student population growth and if there is a requirement to continue growing or would the University allow the student population to contract if the growth numbers trended downwards. Senate was informed that SFU wants to stay roughly 6% above the government target in terms of our FTEs. This means that SFU is sitting at approximately 100% of funded FTEs from the government, when co-op is taken out of the equation.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2:

Moved P. Keller, seconded by J. Scott

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2019/2020 Proposed Domestic Undergraduate Admission Targets by Faculty and Basis of Admission -All Campuses (Headcount), as indicated in Table C1 in Appendix C.”

After noting that the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) has failed to meet its enrolment targets over the last number of years, a question was asked as to when FASS will reach its enrolment targets. Senate was informed that enrolment targets for FASS have been lowered for this year to just over 2400, and they brought in just under 2300. It is anticipated that FASS will be very close to attaining 2400 next year.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3:

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by J. Scott

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2019/2020 Proposed International Undergraduate Admission Targets by Faculty and Basis of Admission - All Campuses (Headcount), as indicated in Table C2 in Appendix C.”

A question was asked about the uneven distribution targets across the faculties for international students. Senate was informed that Business is in high demand among international students, as is Applied Sciences. In both faculties, efforts are being made to enhance the ability of international students to succeed. Efforts to diversify have seen both the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology and the Faculty of Environment numbers increase. Also, movement is underway to create a pathway into Science from FIC.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Humanities (S.19-32)

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

ii) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Political Science (S.19-33)

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

iii) SFU Strategic Review 2018 (S.19-34)

Senate received the SFU Strategic Review 2018 for information.

A question was asked to explain the rationale for replacing *Tri-Council research funding* as an indicator for research quality with *total sponsored research income*. Senate was informed that when doing a dollar amount metric, *Tri-Council* funding is not a good representation of the dollar amount coming into the university. What has been proposed is to swap out dollar amounts and replace them with metrics around success rates.

A number of concerns were raised about replacing *Tri-Council research funding* with *total sponsored research income*. It was suggested that reporting both the success rate and the dollar total would be advantageous.

A request was made for future reports to provide greater context around the setting of targets and to be clearer in defining what it means to be below, meeting or exceeding expectations, and how that correlates to the listing of future targets.

iv) Name Change of Geography Major and Certificate in Spatial Information System (S.19-35)

Motion 1:

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by I. Stefanovic

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change from Geography Major to Human Geography Major in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2019.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2:

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by M. Collard

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change for the Certificate in Spatial Information Systems to Geographic Information Science Certificate in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2019.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Suspension of Admission to the Geography Extended Minor Program (S.19-36)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by

“That Senate approve suspension of admission to the Geography Extended Minor Program in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2019.”

A question was asked if there are plans to revise this program or will it ultimately be dissolved. Senate was informed that given that lack of interest expressed by students, the intention is to terminate this program.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.19-37)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Faculty of Communication, art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts), the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Earth Sciences, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.19-38)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program).

iii) Course Changes (S.19-39)

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 Computing Science, School of Engineering Science, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Environment (School of Environmental Science), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Earth Sciences, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Program Changes (S.19-40)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a program change in the Faculty of Environment (Development and Sustainability Graduate Certificate).

ii) Program Changes (S.19-42)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (English).

iii) Program Changes (S.19-43)

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), and the Faculty of Environment (Geography).

iv) New Course Proposals (S.19-44)

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 Mechatronic Systems Engineering), and the Faculty of Environment (Geography).

v) Course Changes (S.19-45)

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

vi) Annual Report 2018 (S.19-46)

Senate received the Senate Graduate Studies Report 2018 for information.

7. Other Business**i) SFU as Signatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum (S.19-47)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by A. Moens

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that Simon Fraser University proceed with the application to become a signatory to the Magna Charta Universitatum.”

A question was asked about the financial obligations of becoming a signatory member. Senate was informed that no fee is attached to becoming a signatory member, however, donations are accepted, with the average being 600 euros for small institutions and 1200 euros for larger institutions.

A question was asked to explain the strategic plan behind the *Magna Charta Universitatum*. Senate was informed that the *Magna Charta* was originally drafted as a declaration to uphold the

autonomy of universities and to protect academic freedom. Since its inception the number of signatories has grown worldwide, with nearly 900 universities signing on, representing 88 countries. It has been recognized, however, that the original version is heavily Eurocentric and there is now movement to draft an updated document better reflecting the global diversity of its signatories, while still maintaining the fundamental principles of the original. The next meeting of the *Observatory Magna Charta Universitatum* will be held at McMaster University in October, and SFU has been approached to become a member to be able to participate in this process. Having a seat at the table would allow SFU to advance the conversation around what the revised version would look like, and give voice to important issues such as reconciliation. If signed, SFU would be the first western Canadian university to become a signatory.

A question was asked if any signatories have ever withdrawn their signature and if there is any requirement, upon signing, of additional work-load or self-study. Senate was informed that no institution has withdrawn its signature, and there is no additional work-load or self-study upon signing.

Citing serious concerns about signing onto the current version of the *Magna Charta*, especially in light of the University's goals around reconciliation and indigenization, a question was asked if SFU could have a seat at table to lobby for contextual changes to the revised version without becoming a signatory. Senate was informed that one cannot have a seat at the table without first becoming a member.

A question was asked if the revised *Magna Charta* would be brought back to Senate for consideration. Senate was informed that any change in the document, or conversely, a failure to change the document, would be brought back to Senate for consideration.

A friendly amendment was accepted to change the motion to the following:

"That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that Simon Fraser University proceed with the application to become a signatory to the Magna Charta Universitatum, upon the stipulation that future revisions of the Magna Charta Universitatum be brought back to Senate and the Board of Governors for further review."

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED,
with five opposed.

Senator Pablo Nepomnaschy wished his opposition to the motion be recorded in the Minutes.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, April 1, 2019.

Open session adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar