



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, July 8, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Aistov, Nikita
Bartram, Lyn (via Vancouver videoconference)
Bubela, Tania
Chapman, Glenn
Chenier, Elise
Chou, Jennifer
Collard, Mark
Denholm, Julia (via Vancouver videoconference)
Derksen, Jeff
Dunsford, Russell
Elle, Elizabeth
Fiume, Eugene
Forde, Nancy
Fowler, Colin
Gallilee, Patty
Hendrigan, Holly
Hillman, Sterling (via Surrey videoconference)
Hoffer, Andy
Hogg, Robert
Johnson, Joy
Kench, Paul
Kimathi, Natasha
Krauth, Brian
Krogman, Naomi
Laitsch, Dan (via Surrey videoconference)
Luu, Susan
Magnusson, Kris
Mirhady, David
Myers, Gord
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
Parkhouse, Wade
Parmar, Abhishek
Planchenault, Gaelle
Poitras, Geoffrey
Poyntz, Stuart (via Vancouver videoconference)
Pulkingham, Jane
Raza, Samad

Tavakoli, Kimia
Tingling, Peter
Walsby, Charles
Weldon, Steve
Zanette, Amanda

Absent:

Brennand, Tracy
Dastmalchian, Ali
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Gajdics, Sylvia
Giardini, Anne
Gray, Bonnie
Gunn, Alexandra
Hall, Peter
Ho, Shuna
HoSang, Giovanni
Keliipio, Kau'i
Keller, Peter
Kim, Woo Soo
Leacock, Tracey
Leznoff, Daniel
Lord Ferguson, Sarah
Luelfesmann, Christoph
Parent, Michael
Percival, Colin
Plettner, Erika
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Stockie, John
Taykandy, Mason

In Attendance:

Davis, Trevor

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of May 21, 2019

The minutes of the open session on May 21, 2019 were approved as distributed.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of June 10, 2019

The minutes of the open session on June 10, 2019 were approved as distributed.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the Chair

The Chair welcomed the new Dean of Environment, Naomi Krogman. The Chair also thanked the outgoing Dean of Education, Kris Magnusson.

The Chair reported that professors Majid Bahrami and Farid Golnaraghi of Mechatronic Systems Engineering and JC (Jiangchuan) Liu of Computing Science have been elected *Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Engineering* in recognition of their outstanding work in areas such as sustainable energy-water systems, automated control systems, and communications technology.

The Chair reported that professor Gehard Greis of Biological Sciences was recently elected a *Fellow of the Entomological Society of Canada* and also received the *Distinction in Student Mentoring Award* from the *Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America*.

The Chair reported that six SFU graduate students were recently awarded *Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships*, each valued at \$150,000. Abdelrahman Askar in Engineering, Katherine Hanniball in Clinical Psychology, Sarah Johnson in Biological Sciences, Natalie Kinloch in Health Sciences, Kathryn Nurse in Computing Science and Denise Quesnel in Interactive Arts and Technology all received scholarships for their academic excellence, research potential and leadership within their fields.

The Chair reported that graduate student Kody Doxtater recently received the *Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship* to support his research which aims to reduce commercial tobacco use and addiction in Indigenous communities.

The Chair reported that SFU student founders of technology start-up *Novion* finished third in the global *Enzen Hackathon* after competing against more than 650 companies worldwide. The three-phase hackathon sought solutions for tackling worldwide energy, water and environmental challenges.

The Chair reported that Spring Convocation took place from June 11th to 14th, where SFU celebrated the graduation of 4800 students in the 2018-2019 school year, including 164 indigenous graduates. We also welcomed six honorary degree recipients and held an Indigenous Honouring Feast and a Reconciliation Breakfast.

The Chair reported that the SFU Aboriginal Steering Committee recently held a positive and productive meeting at which we received updates on a number of indigenous programs and initiatives underway across the university. Of note are plans for the expansion of the Indigenous

Student Centre and consultation will soon begin to identify the best location for a First People's Gathering Space.

The Chair reported that the SFU Community Corporation Board approved plans to construct a 90-unit rental project on Lot 21 to provide housing for graduate students and students with families.

6. Question Period

i) Senator Kimathi submitted the following questions:

1. *Can the Faculty of Education re-evaluate the criteria for the PDP Program so that students majoring in subjects such as Psychology and Health Sciences are eligible?*

Kris Magnusson, Dean of Education, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that under the provisions of the *BC Teachers Act*, the standards for Certification of teachers in British Columbia are established by the *British Columbia Teachers Council (BCTC)*, and regulated by the *BC Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB)*.

Currently, students majoring in subjects such as Psychology and Health Sciences are eligible to apply for the Elementary cohort of the PDP.

Psychology is not an optional route within PDP because it has not been approved by the *TRB* as a teachable subject in secondary, even though it is taught in secondary schools. Secondary Social Studies teachers often teach psychology, yet the *TRB* does not accept Psychology as a teachable major or minor for purposes of teacher certification, and therefore it is not acceptable into a teacher education program for Social Studies.

With regard to Health Sciences, PDP has worked with SFU Health Sciences faculty and the *TRB* to approve the Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Life Sciences Concentration as a Secondary Science (Biology) teachable. Dr. Allan MacKinnon, Dr. Stephen Smith, Dr. Paul Neufeld and Ms. Celeste Hambleton were involved in this effort.

2. *SFU has an excellent PDP program known for its ability to produce high-quality teachers. As many know, due to recent legal changes, the need for public school teachers is higher than ever. Why are so many programs acceptable under the Province of BC guidelines for secondary education not accepted by the PDP program, such as General Science, Business, and First Nations Studies?*

Kris Magnusson, Dean of Education, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that PDP does accept First Nations Studies as a teachable area for secondary Social Studies. On the PDP website under Secondary Admissions Requirements, there is a link titled *updated additional course requirements* next to the listing for Social Studies. There it lists all of the accepted teachable subjects, including First Nations Studies.

PDP does accept General Science if the applicant has the equivalent to a minor or a major concentration in one of our current categories: Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry or

Physics. This flexibility allows the consideration of applicants from applied sciences such as engineering. PDP Admissions works with Science Education faculty (Dr. Alan MacKinnon) to determine if general science courses meet the required equivalency to be accepted with a minor or major concentration.

PDP does not offer Business as a teachable as there is no ability to offer methodologies for Business. Also outside of the scope is Trades, Culinary Arts, Home Economics and Modern Languages which are offered in other teacher education programs. These areas would require additional specialized faculty, and often the creation of specialized teaching spaces. Representations have been made to the Ministry of Education to explore a broader system response to the preparation of teachers in specialized areas.

3. *SFU and the Province of BC must recognize the high value and interest in programs such as AP Psychology offered in high schools across BC. Is any work being undertaken by the University or related bodies to ensure degrees such as Psychology become acceptable in the province for secondary-level teaching?*

Kris Magnusson, Dean of Education, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that PDP is planning to meet with the *TRB* this fall to discuss how SFU's PDP and Teacher Education Programs are better able to prepare teachers to work with the redesigned curriculum in the secondary years. This will include discussions around subjects that are not currently approved by the *TRB* as teachable subjects, including Psychology.

ii) Senator Mirhady submitted the following question:

1. *Can we get a review of the reasoning behind the creation of the Centre for Educational Excellence, what sort of consultation took place with stakeholders, and what the consequences will be for teaching faculty, particularly those involved in distance education?*

Elizabeth Elle, Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the most important consideration in forming the Centre was that both the 2010 Task Force on Teaching and Learning, and the 2015 Task Force on Flexible Learning, recommended re-organizing. Those reports highlighted the need to better integrate the different support units and encourage more collaboration among them. Both of those task forces included extensive consultation with the SFU community.

The goal for restructuring was to bring together teams of individuals from existing units, allowing for better alignment by the objectives and skills embedded in their work. The new Centre for Educational Excellence is a combination and alignment of three existing centres: Online and Distance Education (CODE), Teaching and Learning (TLC), and English Language Learning, Teaching and Research (CELLTR). The plan is to also integrate the Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines (ISTLD) when their current agreement ends in one year.

The intention is to roll out a common web portal by September to serve as the first point of contact for faculty members (or departments or Faculties) to seek out the support they need. Work is being done to ensure there is no disruption of service, even as new leaders are hired and new processes are put in place. For instance, there are ongoing projects with September deadlines that remain a priority.

The consequences for faculty is that they will be better able to learn from each other and work collaboratively, and the University will be better able to provide the needed support for faculty to reach their best instructional self.

Regarding the specific question about online teaching, online courses have been centralized in CODE, and are returning to departments to be taught by faculty members, gradually, over three years. Although the delivery of courses is changing, the development of courses will continue to be done by the staff in the Centre. Faculty members will continue to work with course directors (or ECs) in the Division of Curriculum & Instruction on best practices for teaching in online or blended environments, and the course production team and others in the Division of Learning & Teaching Technology will support the technical side, producing canvas courses and doing back-end programming and web development.

A question was asked to explain how the library is involved. Senate was informed that the library is a separate group but will be involved in the Student Learning Commons and in areas of English as an Additional Language support. Also, consideration is being given to bringing back a SFU Steering Committee specifically to help learners, with the library holding an important place on that Committee.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) External Mid-Cycle Review for the Faculty of Education (S.19-79)

Senate received the External Mid-Cycle Review for the Faculty of Education for information.

A question was asked about the lengthy construction delays with the Education Building, but also more generally about delays in construction across the entire Burnaby campus. Senate was informed the University has suffered from a significant underinvestment in deferred and routine maintenance over many years and that catchup is only now being done. It was noted, however, that given the breadth of the question it would be advisable to address this subject at a future Senate meeting, possibly with a resource person in attendance who can assist in providing a fuller answer about how construction and upgrades are phased.

ii) Revisions to Policy R40.01 (S.19-80)

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by J. Johnson

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the revised Policy R40.01 (Research Centres and Institutes).”

Trevor Davis, Executive Director, Research Operations - Office of VP Research, was in attendance to respond to questions

Noting that section 6.1 states that the *Director of a Research Centre or Research Institute normally must be a continuing faculty member of the University*, a question was asked to explain the inclusion of the word *normally*. Senate was informed that the word *normally* was included to cover temporary or exceptional circumstances, such as when a faculty member retires and becomes emeritus faculty, but wants to continue providing leadership within the research centre or institute. It was noted that such circumstances would be treated judiciously and in consultation with the relevant members responsible for the research centre or institute.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.19-81)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.19-82)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology), and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry).

iii) Course Changes (S.19-83)

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 Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

A question was asked about Archaeology 201 and if the reduction from 4 units to 3 units will reflect less time spent in class and less course work. Senate was informed that that is the expectation.

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Program Changes (S.19-84)

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, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, French, Philosophy), and the Beedie School of Business.

ii) New Course Proposals (S.19-85)

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, School of Engineering Science, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Urban Studies), and the Faculty of Communications, Art and Technology (School of Communication).

iii) Course Changes (S.19-86)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, French, Philosophy), and the Beedie School of Business.

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.19-87 Revised)

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

8. Other Business

9. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, September 9, 2019.

Open session adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Kris Nordgren
Senate Secretary pro tem