



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

Open Session

Present: Joy Johnson, Chair

Andreoiu, Corina
Bartram, Lyn
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Bubela, Tania
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Chenier, Ele
Coleman, Gordon
Daniel, Bryan
Dauvergne, Catherine
Denholm, Julia
Derksen, Jeff
Everton, Mike
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Fiume, Eugene
Gedajlovic, Eric
Gemino, Andrew
Gray, Bonnie
Hall, Peter
Hendrigan, Holly
Hoffer, Andy
Kench, Paul
Kim, Woo Soo
Krauth, Brian
Krogman, Naomi
Kumpulainen, Kristiina
Laitsch, Dan
Lam, Allan
Lam, Daniel
Leznoff, Daniel
Lord Ferguson, Sarah
Martell, Matt
Masri, Kamal
McTavish, Rob
Mirhady, David
Murphy, David
Myers, Gord
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
Neustaedter, Carman

O'Neil, Dugan
O'Neill, Susan
Parkhouse, Wade
Parmar, Abhishek
Percival, Colin
Raza, Samad
Singh, Harry Preet
Spector, Stephen
Stockie, John
Strauss, Kendra
Tingling, Peter
Vrooman, Tamara
Walsby, Charles
Weldon, Steve
Wong, Alan

Absent:

Collard, Mark
Elle, Elizabeth
Gildersleve, Corbett
Gunn, Alexandra
Hogg, Robert
Liosis, Gabe
Luu, Susan
Modi, Nafoni
Mohamed, Osob
Pantophlet, Ralph
Pulkingham, Jane
Shaw, Chris
Singh, Tanishvir
Zandvliet, David

In Attendance:

Eigenfeldt, Arne
Khan Hemani, Rummana
Naqvi, Zareen
Shafey, Dina

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of January 11, 2021

The minutes of the open session on January 11, 2021 were approved as distributed.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of February 1, 2021

The minutes of the open session on February 1, 2021 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 reported that SFU is working hard to advocate for the Burnaby Mountain Gondola. Thanks was offered to the all those who are working to raise awareness around this important project.

The Chair offered congratulations to Senator Gabe Liosis, who has recently been elected as the next SFSS President.

The Chair reported that SFU suffered a brute force cyber-attack on February 5th. An investigation found that personally identifiable information was stored on the server and the University has notified all impacted individuals and is working closely with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) for BC to make sure that appropriate information is circulated. The University is auditing internal policies and procedures to identify improvements and is accelerating initiatives to strengthen SFU's cyber-security systems.

The Chair reported that a search committee has been struck for the newly created position of Vice-President, People, Equity and Inclusion. Consultations are ongoing and SFU community members will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the candidate profile and attend a town hall.

The Chair reported that SFU signed a memorandum of understanding with Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre on February 11th. The partnership will involve creating a new research program under the leadership of professor Mark Jaccard of SFU's School of Resource and Environmental Management and Elicia Maine, special advisor on Innovation to SFU's Vice-President, Research and International.

The Chair reported that the President's Lecture Series continues on March 9th with Associate Professor Lieke ten Brummelhuis from the Beedie School of Business discussing the topic *Work Hard, Play Hard: The Role of Recovery After Work*.

The Chair reported that the annual President's Dream Colloquium kicked off on February 25th with Afua Cooper, SFU Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Chair 2008-2009.

The Chair reported that SFU continues to move forward in meetings with its First Nations counterparts. A meeting was recently held with council members and staff of the Squamish Nation to discuss ways to work together on reconciliation partnerships.

A question was asked if there is any knowledge of the source and intent of the cyber attack and whether the RCMP and other law enforcement agencies are involved and whether there was any effort made with regard to ransom. Senate was informed that a ransomware request was made, but that SFU had backed up all the data, so it did not have to pay the ransom. The University is investigating and is working with the RCMP, but at this time there is no knowledge of who propagated the attack.

6. Question Period

No questions were submitted.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Calendar Committee (CC)

i) Modification of the Guidelines for the Determination of Term Schedules S (S.21-19)

Moved by S. Spector, seconded by B. Daniel

“That Senate approve the modification to the guidelines for the determination of term schedules, that the number of instructional days will be between 60-63.

Noting that the objective is to have 63 instructional days while still allowing for flexibility, a concern was raised that having this flexibility may lead to a slippery slope allowing for the number to be set at 60 days; it would be reassuring to have the document state that the intention is to aim for 63 instructional days per term, where possible..

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)

i) Revision to Calendar Committee Membership and Terms of Reference (S.21-20)

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve revisions to the Calendar Committee Membership and Terms of Reference.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Enrollment Management and Planning (SEMP)

i) Enrollment Plan 2021/2022; Undergraduate Admissions Targets for 2021/2022 (S.21-21)

Motion 1:

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2021/2022 Enrollment Plan attached as Appendix A to document title For SENATE March 1, 2021.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2:

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2021/2022 Proposed Domestic Undergraduate Admission Targets by Faculty and Basis of Admission – All Campuses (Headcount), as indicated in Table C1 in Appendix C.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3:

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by B. Daniel

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2021/2022 Proposed International Undergraduate Admission Targets by Faculty and Basis of Admission – All Campuses (Headcount), as indicated in Table C2 in Appendix C.”

Zareen Naqvi, Director - Institutional Research and Planning and Rummana Khan Hemani, Associate Vice-President, Students & International, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Senate was informed that there are two separate documents in the package. The first is around the current years enrollments and next year 's enrollment plan, and is the one that pertains to the three motions before Senate. The second is a long-range enrollment plan that has been developed over the last 18 to 20 months that's available for information and discussion. That document was used to provide 5-year projections in the Enrollment Plan. When looking at enrollment from this past year and going forward, the Enrollment Plan put together last March was quickly derailed when the pandemic hit. The challenges faced in terms of managing enrollments and coming to terms with the impact of the pandemic were severe because of the uncertainty that existed both in terms of whether students would take courses remotely in Fall 2020 and the late decisions made by government on international students and the impact of travel. Those same concerns also continue to exist going forward. New admissions normally make their decisions by May, however, due to the pandemic the deadline was extended to June and this will likely be the situation again this year in terms extending the acceptance deadline. Despite the challenges faced, SFU had a robust year, particularly on the international front. Contributing factors include a poor job market leading to an increase in domestic students taking Summer classes and the implementation of Pass/Fail grading for the Spring term, which led to more students being eligible to take Summer classes. A contributing factor to international increases was the lack of ability for students to travel home. Another contributing factor was changes made two years ago to entrance requirements in terms of English language for Fraser International College (FIC). The increase in the language requirements resulted in FIC students being able to transfer one semester early. Going into next year, the Enrollment Plan partly mimics the Enrollment Plan approved at Senate last year. The big difference that you will see is on the international front.

Last year, SFU brought in roughly 1800 new international students, compared to the usual number of 1600. Next year, SFU expects to bring in 1400 international students. The reason for this decline is because, unlike at other institutions, international students coming from country of origin to SFU is delayed by a year because they first enter FIC. It is projected that FIC will transfer approximately 320 students less than what they transferred this year. SFU is expecting next year to be another challenging year, but is confident that by setting conservative targets, it will be able to achieve them.

Noting that the report states that SFU admitted 1,849 new international students last year, 24% more than the minimum established in the previous year, a question was asked if this is being treated as a minimum or is this a target the University tries to hit. Senate was informed that the goal is to achieve the target. It's recognized that there were issues with not admitting qualified international secondary students and Senate allowed for exceeding the target to take in those students over and above the target.

A request was made that future reports include not only the total number of students admitted to a faculty, but also how many were admitted as first choice and how many were admitted as second choice. Senate was informed that adding this information should be possible. It was noted that admission requirements were changed two years ago with the intent of trying to ensure that students admitted to faculties are more likely to stay.

Noting that many US colleges and universities are seeing a 30-50% increase in enrollment and applications and a corresponding decline in international students in other regions of the world, a question was asked how SFU is experiencing this trend and if it will require a change in admissions to maintain the level of international students required to support the budget. Senate was informed that SFU finds itself in a very challenging position. One factor is that visa processing by the Canadian government can take up to nine months for some countries, as compared to four weeks for Great Britain. There is tremendous competition, not just from the US, but also from Great Britain, Australia and Ontario. The west coast and Vancouver remain a destination of choice for international students and SFU maintains a strong reputation, but there are warning signs to monitor.

Noting that for a seventh year in row the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences missed its admissions targets, a question was asked if they will hit their target in the coming year. Senate was informed that Arts and Social Sciences is making a concerted effort to attract students that are likely to stay and to make FASS their first choice. They are again altering their admission requirements to make them less stringent and make Group A and Group B courses more available. It was added that the faculty did exceed its FTE target, which speaks to the retention they are now seeing.

A question was asked about what happens to excess funds resulting from over enrollment, particularly of international students, within the budget model. Senate was informed that an adjustment was made to the model this year so that the Vice-President, Academic's share of those funds is shared with the faculties to support future initiatives. It was added that this was a change in process and it is intended to continue.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Upon approval of the three motions, a discussion followed on the Long-Range Strategic Enrolment Plan.

Senate was informed that about two years ago SFU started to develop a Long-Range Strategic Enrolment Plan. A critical element of having a forward-looking plan is that it allows enough time to make policy changes that will be reflected in the student body, it allows for the adjustment of resources, and it allows for a change in culture. Though the document is partly aspirational in nature, it is ambitious in that it includes graduate studies, and for the first time, non-credit studies.

A question was asked if non-credit studies could be migrated over to accredited, so that non-credit courses are not merely a prerequisite for entering into accredited studies. Senate was informed that this plan expands the permeability of the boundaries between credit and non-credit, but acknowledges that a number of people will be doing their studies periodically and to supplement their learning. The challenge of movement across non-credit to credit is often grounded in academic quality assurance and questions about governance and approval processes. Lifelong Learning has a robust approval process and also has an academic council structure that mirrors what is seen for credit studies. There is a commitment to the development and assessment of learning outcomes, both at the course and program level, and the development of a credential framework to establish programming requirements for micro-credentials. There are also conversations happening around transferability, portability and the movement across non-credit to credit and potentially vice versa. Lifelong Learning currently has a pilot underway with the Beedie School of Business that sees students who complete a non-credit certificate in Lifelong Learning able to access some assessments that will then allow them, in concert with employment experience, to move into the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.

A question was asked about diversifying international student recruitment and enrollment and to identify where the University is in terms of benchmarking and what the targets will be going forward. Senate was informed that SFU has decreased the number of international students coming from China from roughly 65% down to around 47% over a period of years, and this has been a concerted and collaborative effort with Fraser International College (FIC). This decrease from China has been partly balanced out by an increase in students from India. Meetings are held on a semesterly basis with FIC to look at admission requirements and FIC is also invited to speak with the SEMC Undergraduate Committee and SCUS. FIC has also been challenged to bring in students from different regions of the world where students may want to enter different types of programs. FIC also spends considerable time with the faculties and educating their students about opportunities that are available if they go into different faculties or different educational streams. In addition to this, Student Services is working, along with the faculties, to coordinate with FIC to offer complementary recruitment strategies. Efforts are being made to not only diversify the country of origin, but to also attract students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds by offering different kinds of scholarships and bursaries. The next step is taking these articulated goals and turning them into operational plans with concrete tactics to achieve them.

A question was asked about the recruitment of indigenous students and why there were not more concrete proposals that reflected the proposals made in the Pathways Project Final Report. Senate was informed that the Enrollment Plan does not put in any of the specifics coming from the Pathways Project Final Report because they are recommendations to the University and they have not yet been adopted. Also, the report had not been released at the time of drafting the Enrollment Plan, and as such, a less specific reference was added as a placeholder.

Noting that FIC has traditionally had deep roots in Asia, and specifically in China, a question was asked if FIC recruitment is still responsible for a larger percentage of students coming from a select number of countries when compared to recruitment by SFU. Senate was informed that FIC has been dramatically changing and the new CEO has been making Latin America a priority for recruitment. It was added that Bangladesh and various other countries are increasing their numbers going to FIC. Given that FIC provides roughly 67 to 70% of SFU's international students, it is difficult to compare statistics to those of students coming from BC high schools or university transfers, but there has been a concerted effort by FIC to diversify recruitment.

A concern was raised about micro-credentials and their potential to create challenges for the University, especially if such credentials can be attained without having to put in extra work to achieve them and can be incorporated into existing degrees. Senate was informed that throughout much of Canada, micro-credentials have not resonated with employers, and as such, the noted concern is on the University's radar.

A question was asked as to how Senate will be involved in protecting the academic integrity of programs developed under the micro-credential label. It was added that when looking at the Long-Range Strategic Enrolment Plan, none of the committees doing the work are Senate committees, and that Senate shouldn't only be approving things that are recommended to it, but should be involved in the creation of these programs and the academic oversight to follow. Senate was informed that planning committees are involved in enrollment planning and are responsible for bringing this document to Senate. The actual development of programs would follow the established committee structure currently in place around academic planning. It was noted that given that the uncertainty around micro-credentials, a larger conversation at Senate may be necessary.

D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.21-22)

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 Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication, School for the Contemporary Arts), the Faculty of Environment (Geography, School of Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Statistics and Actuarial Science).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.21-23)

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

iii) Course Changes (S.21-24)

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 Sustainable Energy Engineering, School of Mechatronics Systems Engineering), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Earth Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

iv) Annual Report 2019-2020 (S.21-25)

Senate received the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) Annual Report 2019-2020 for information.

v) Duolingo English Test (DET) (S.21-26)

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the extension of the Duolingo English Test pilot on an interim basis for the Fall 2021 term through to Fall 2023.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vi) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology Changes (S.21-27)

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by D. Lam

“That Senate approve the following course changes, new course proposals and program changes for the major, honours and extended minor in music, in the School of Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Fall 2021.”

Arne Eigenfeldt, Professor - School for the Contemporary Arts, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vii) Policy on Pass/Credit/No Credit Grading System (S.21-28)

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the temporary amendment to the Academic Standing and Continuance policy, such that the determination of academic standing for the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 terms will be made using a student's cumulative grade point average (CGPA) after two terms of enrollment and completion of at least nine units.”

Dina Shafey, Director - Student Services, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) New Course Proposals (S.21-29)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts).

ii) Course Changes (S.21-30)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a course change in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication).

F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.20-31 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, April 12, 2021

Open session adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Kathryn Verkerk
Senate Secretary pro tem