



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2021

1. **Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that SFU's executive team has been reviewing its accomplishments in relation to sustainability and climate justice and determined that despite significant accomplishments, more needs to be done and more needs to be done to communicate these accomplishments to the SFU Community. Divestment of fossil fuels is an important and emblematic commitment to climate justice and earlier today SFU announced its divestment plans. Thanks was offered to all those working alongside the executive team, including the SFSS, GSS, SFU 350, faculty and staff members and the Board of Governors Responsible Investment Committee.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, recently had the opportunity to take a boat trip up Indian Arm with Chief Jen Thomas of the Tsleil–Waututh Nation, along with council members and the Provost, Catherine Dauvergne. It was an afternoon spent learning about places of importance, including Burnaby Mountain. SFU continues to work on the development of a memorandum of understanding with the Tsleil–Waututh Nation.

The Chair reported that following an October 21st order from the Provincial Health Officer, vaccination is now mandatory for SFU staff, faculty and students working in health care facilities. In addition, as of November 15th all SFU employees will require mandatory vaccination to access federal government workspaces. The University is working to ensure that faculty, staff and students needing access to these spaces are made aware of these changes.

The Chair reported that in October SFU returned to holding in-person convocation ceremonies, making it the first university in Canada to offer in-person convocation this fall. A total of 2169 graduates were approved by Senate to cross the stage.

The Chair reported that Maclean's magazine ranked SFU as Canada's number one comprehensive university for 2022, sharing this honor with the University of Victoria. SFU has placed first in this category for 13 of the last 14 years. Comprehensive universities are recognized for their significant research activity and wide range of programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Chair reported that the Munro Lecture returned on October 20th with a lecture from Mariana Mazzucato, a world-renowned economist and SFU honorary degree recipient in 2020. The online lecture discussed the role of the public sector in tackling the grand challenges of our time and was attended by over 700 people. The Monroe Lecture is an annual address that brings scholars to SFU in recognition of former Vice-President, Academic and Provost Dr. John Monroe.

The Chair reported that in the light of increases in racism, discrimination and hate over the past 19 months, it's important for higher education institutions to ensure a safe environment

for learning, teaching and working. During the first week of October the University launched *Inclusion Benefits Us All*, a collection of tools, resources and actions people can take to ensure that others feel safe and welcome at SFU. One aspect of diversity and inclusion not often talked about is ideas and the freedom to express ideas. Some members of the SFU Community have expressed a reluctance to express their opinion, fearing they will be misunderstood or have their ideas taken out of context. The University must be a place where ideas can be freely expressed and debated and members must fight against forces attempting to constrain debate and Senate, in particular, is a place where this should happen.

A comment was made that following the September Senate meeting, but also prior to that, Senators and other SFU Community members have privately expressed their reluctance to offer their opinions on certain topics, fearing that doing so would be personally detrimental. Noting concern over this occurrence, and in the spirit of wanting to foster honest debate, Senator Percival offered to speak on behalf of other members, even when not in agreement with the opinions being expressed.

A comment was made that it may be useful to reserve time at a future Senate meeting, or at the annual Senate-Board of Governors retreat, to have complex discussions in a safe and open environment. When determining how best to have these discussions, it was added that it may be useful to use resources from the Center for Dialogue or from other scholars who are trained in having complex conversations rather than trying to do so on the Senate floor.

2. External Review of the Department of Physics (S.21-113)

Senate approved the Action Plan for the Department of Physics that resulted from its external review.

3. Elective Grading System Extension to Summer 2023 Term (S.21-114)

Senate approved the extension of the pilot Elective Grading System (P/CR/NC) through the Summer 2023 term.

4. Undergraduate Program Changes (S.21-116)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2022:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Computing Science

- Program: Computing Science Major
- Program: Computing Science Dual Degree Major
- Program: Computing Science Second Degree Major
- Program: Computing Science Honours
- Program: Computing Science and Linguistics Joint Major
- Program: Information Systems in Business Administration and Computing Science Joint Major
- Program: Computing Science Minor
- Program: Certificate in Computing Studies

- ii) **Faculty of Science**
 - a) ***Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology***
 - Program: Kinesiology Major (effective Spring 2022)
 - Program: Kinesiology Honours (effective Spring 2022)
- 5. **Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.21-117)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposal, effective Summer 2022:

 - i) **Faculty of Applied Sciences**
 - a) ***School of Computing Science***
 - Course (new): CMPT 403
- 6. **Undergraduate Course Changes (S.21-118)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2022:

 - i) **Faculty of Applied Sciences**
 - a) ***School of Engineering Science***
 - Course (prerequisite): ENSC 220
 - ii) **Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**
 - a) ***School for the Contemporary Arts***
 - Course (Q designation): CA 347
- 7. **Graduate New Course Proposals (S.21-119)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposal, effective Summer 2022:

 - i) **Faculty of Applied Sciences**
 - a) ***School of Computing Science***
 - Course (new): CMPT 772
- 8. **Graduate Course Changes (S.21-120)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course change, effective Summer 2022:

 - i) **Faculty of Applied Sciences**
 - a) ***School of Sustainable Energy Engineering***
 - Course (description, grading): SEE 896, 897

9. Senate Committee Elections (S.21-121)

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

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the December Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the November 2021 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-35102>.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Steven Noel, Senate Assistant, at 778-782-3168 or senate@sfu.ca.