



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2022

1. **Report of the Chair/Report of the Provost**

The Chair reported that in the previous week, Premier David Eby was at the SFU Surrey campus to announce the next steps for an SFU medical school. The announcement covered startup funding and the appointment of an interim consulting dean, Doctor Roger Strasser. It was added that Senate will have an important role to play in the establishment of a medical school and that nothing will be approved without Senate's input.

The Chair reported that on November 14th the SFU community was notified that the Bennett Library on Burnaby campus was closed due to the discovery of debris containing asbestos. Thanks was offered to the library staff and the Dean of Libraries for engaging with the community by providing updates and making sure a transparent process is in place. Given the age of some of the buildings, there is asbestos to be found in some of the building materials originally used, but that the University is committed to marking those places and making sure the asbestos is contained. Such discoveries mark a deeper problem around investment in new infrastructure and current building upkeep and is something that the Vice-President, Academic is working on.

The Chair reported there has been considerable progress around SFU: What's Next? and thanked all who participated in the community town hall meetings at which a draft framework was presented and feedback was sought from students, faculty, and staff. A considerable amount of feedback was provided, with many expressing the need to commit to teaching, mental health and well-being, and academic freedom. The next draft of SFU: What's Next? will be brought to the January Senate meeting for endorsement, and then on to the Board of Governors for final approval.

The Chair reported that over the past month she, in her role as President, has been meeting with the faculties to touch base and to connect with people. Topics of interest have included hybrid learning and other teaching options, enrollment numbers, research infrastructure and the importance of research, collaboration across faculties, and the need to break down operational silos.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, was recently in Calgary to celebrate the SFU scholars named to the Royal Society of Canada.

The Chair reported that SFU is in the midst of hiring a new University Secretary for the Board of Governors. The University Secretary plays an important role in terms of touching base with the Senate secretary and its bicameral governance structure. The expectation is to move forward early in the new year with the candidate pool and have someone in place by the spring of 2023.

The Chair reported that SFU has received a number of requests to revoke the honorary degree of Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, who was awarded her honorary degree in 2016. Since this issue arose, it was found that the University does not have a policy on how to revoke an honorary degree. Since honorary degrees are the remit of Senate, a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on University honors has been formed. The subcommittee is chaired by Chancellor Tamara Vrooman and is tasked with drafting a formal policy on honorary degrees that will include procedures for both granting and revoking degrees. Once a policy is in place, it will be used to determine whether Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond's honorary

degree will be revoked. It was added that at present, SFU does not have a process for confirming Indigenous identity for honorary degree recipients, nor for students, faculty and staff.

The Chair reported that last week, Vice-President, People Equity and inclusion, Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson, released a statement about a recent incident of racism and hate that occurred when an impersonator joined an SFSS organized Zoom meeting and posted hateful comments in the chat section. The University is working closely with the SFSS and thanks was offered to the Vice-President and to the SFSS for their actions and their commitment to anti-racism and anti-oppression.

Citing the infrastructure around student information systems, and Canvas in particular, which falls under the responsibility of Finance, a comment was made that it seems like decisions around upgrading the functionality of such systems are being made on the basis of finances and not on the best student learning outcomes. Senate was informed that previously, the CIO reported dually to the Vice-President, Finance and the Vice-President, Academic. This change, however, doesn't mean that decisions about the needs of Canvas or of the SFU community rest solely with Vice-President, Finance and that the VPA Office is still engaged in the process.

Noting that the University Secretary and the General Counsel roles have been split into two separate positions, a question was asked as to how the process for policy consultation will work given that the formerly unified role featured numerous policies reporting to a single person. Senate was informed that the University Secretary is responsible for the Policy Gazette and to make sure that policies that require Board approval are moved forward, whereas the General Counsel will oversee development and work with policy authorities on the development of policies. As such, staff around policy development will report to the General Counsel Office.

The Provost reported that the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training has confirmed the approval of a Master of Cybersecurity and a Master of Visual Computing degree programs. The programs were originally passed at Senate as a Master of Science in Professional Cybersecurity and a Master of Science in Professional Visual Computing. However, the Degree Quality Assessment Board and the Minister asked for a change in the title of these programs, as the Ministry was unwilling to approve the use of the term *professional* because they want to standardize the term across the Province.

The Provost reported that international enrollment is down for the fall term, with initial numbers for the spring also being down. Citing a question about what is being done to address the downturn, Senate was informed that the following things are being done or considered:

- SFU continues to work with Universities Canada to increase the rate at which they are processing study permits, which were taking six months to approve. That wait is now down to 11 weeks, but still well behind previous wait times of 6 to 8 weeks.
- The University continues to ask FIC to diversify its enrollments and there has been increases in the number of students coming from South America, despite the fact that those numbers are also down.
- Work is being done with Student Services to increase the capacity for international recruitment and funds are being reallocated to help with this. Further, Student Services is looking at repurposing some of the scholarship funding to make it more attractive for international students to come to SFU.
- The University is leveraging Navitas to have representatives stationed in various regions, starting with a position in Delhi to help pilot this partnership.
- Navitas is working on increasing its digital marketing to make SFU more visible in key regions.

- Given that international applications are still being done by hand, money needs to be spent on IT and a long-term plan is in place to do so.
- Work needs to be done to increase credit loads, as a small increase in average credit load can help the budget.
- Work also needs to be done on student retention to decrease the number of students lost to other institutions.
- Key courses need to be available online for those students who are still abroad and not able to get back.

The Provost provided the following updates on the medical school:

- Concerning the financial impact of a medical school, the government was clear in its understanding that creating a new medical school is far more expensive than putting additional seats at UBC and it is aware that the amount of funding being requested by SFU for a medical school will be substantial.
- The interim dean is playing a key role in helping SFU prepare the business case and getting ready for the proposal to Senate for a medical school.
- Additional consultants are being brought in to help with the process. Jon Meddings, who just finished a 10-year term as the Dean of Medicine at the University of Calgary, has agreed to provide advice on the medical program. Sarah Strasser, the partner of Roger Strasser, is also providing support, as is Nel Weiman, Acting Chief Medical Officer at the First Nations Health Authority.
- SFU is being asked to prepare a business case for Treasury Board, due May 31, 2023. This comprehensive document involves key partners including First Nations Health Authority, Fraser Health, as well as all health authorities. The University also needs to partner with UBC and do a complete facility assessment across Fraser Health, UBC and SFU.
- A series of working groups have been established to help develop the business case and to plan everything from curriculum to facilities. As such, there are working groups on curriculum, workforce, facilities and infrastructure, governance, admissions including student financial supports, research, engagement, and cost.
- To date, the government has provided every dollar requested by SFU. Funding is in place to move forward with the requisite steps for consideration of a medical school, to understand what the governance structure needs to be, and to follow the required process through SCUP, Senate and the Board of Governors.
- This process will involve consultations beyond what transpired last year, when sessions were held with students and faculty, Indigenous students, faculty and staff, and a closed session with Faculty of Health Sciences executive and staff. Externally, consultations have taken place with the city of Surrey's Mayor, the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, Doctors of BC, and First Nations Health Authority.

2. Strategic Research Plan (S.22-102)

Senate endorsed the 2023-2028 Strategic Research Plan as presented at the December 2022 Senate meeting.

3. Research Ethics Board (REB) Annual Report 2018/2022 (S.22-103)

Senate received the Research Ethics Board (REB) Annual Report 2018/2022 for information.

4. Revision and Renaming of GP 24 (S.22-104)

Senate received Revision and Renaming of GP 24 for information.

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-35702>

5. **Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS) Annual Report 2021/2022 (S.22-105)**
Senate received the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS) Annual Report 2021/2022 for information.
6. **Establishment of the Pacific Institute on Pathogens, Pandemics and Society (S.22-106)** Senate approved the establishment of the Pacific Institute on Pathogens, Pandemics and Society (PIPPS) as an Institute for a five-year term.
7. **Full Program Proposal for Japanese Studies Certificate (S.22-107)**
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for the Certificate in Japanese Studies in the Department of World Languages and Literature within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences effective Fall 2023.
8. **Centres and Institutes Annual Report 2021/22 (S.22-108)**
Senate received the Centres and Institutes Annual Report 2021/22 for information.
9. **Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications 2021/2022 (S.22-109)**
Senate received the Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications 2021/2022 for information
10. **Undergraduate Program Changes (S.22-110)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering

- Program: Mechatronic Systems Engineering Major
- Program: Mechatronic Systems Engineering and Business Double Degree Program Major
- Program: Mechatronic Systems Engineering Honours

ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) School of Interactive Arts and Technology

- Program: Admission requirement changes to major and joint major programs

iii) Faculty of Science

a) Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

- Program: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Major
- Program: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Honours

11. Undergraduate Program Changes (S.22-111)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Computing Science

- Program: Computing Science Major

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-35702>

- Program: Computing Science Honours
- Program: Computing Science Dual Degree Program
- Program: Computing Science Second Degree
- 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 Arts and Social Sciences

a) *Cognitive Science Program*

- Program: Cognitive Science Honours (effective Fall 2023)
- Program: Cognitive Science Major (effective Fall 2023)
- Program: Cognitive Science Minor (effective Fall 2023)

b) *Criminology*

- Program: Police Studies Minor (effective Fall 2023)
- Program: Legal Studies Minor (effective Fall 2023)
- Program: Criminology Major (effective Fall 2023)

c) *Economics*

- Program: Economics Major
- Program: Business and Economics Joint Major
- Program: Political Science and Economics Joint Major

d) *Global Asia Program*

- Program: Global Asia Minor (effective Fall 2023)

e) *History*

- Program: History Major (effective Fall 2023)
- Program: History Honours (effective Fall 2023)

f) *Indigenous Studies*

- Program: Indigenous Studies Major
- Program: Indigenous Studies Minor
- Program: Indigenous Studies Post Baccalaureate Diploma
- Program: Certificate in Indigenous Studies Research

g) *Linguistics*

- Program: Certificate in Linguistics of Speech Science (effective Fall 2023)

h) *Political Science*

- Program: Political Science Honours (effective Fall 2023)
- Program: Political Science Major (effective Fall 2023)
- Program: Political Science Minor (effective Fall 2023)
- Program: Political Science Extended Minor (effective Fall 2023)

i) *School of Public Policy*

- Program: Public Policy Minor

- j) World Languages and Literatures*
 - Program: Chinese Studies Certificate (effective Fall 2023)

iii) Faculty of Environment

- a) Geography*
 - Program: Human Geography Major
 - Program: Human Geography Honours

12. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.22-112)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

- a) School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering*
 - Course (new): MSE 360, 413, 460

13. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.22-113)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

- a) School of Computing Science*
 - Course (new): CMPT 476

ii) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

- a) Global Asia Program*
 - Course (new): GA 210, 211 (effective Fall 2023)
- b) Urban Studies Program*
 - Course (new): URB 499
- c) World Languages and Literatures*
 - Course (new): JAPN 351 (effective Fall 2023)

iii) Faculty of Science

- a) Biological Sciences*
 - Course (new): BISC 447
- b) Molecular Biology and Biochemistry*
 - Course (new): MBB 447

14. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.22-114)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Computing Science

- Course (deletion): CMPT 322W
- Course (title, description, equivalency): CMPT 376W

15. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.22-115)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) Economics

- Course (prerequisite): ECON 331
- Course (title, description): ECON 455W

b) Global Asia Program

- Course (description): GA 101 (effective Fall 2023)
- Course (title, description): GA 202 (effective Fall 2023)
- Course (deletion): GA 200, 201 (effective Fall 2023)

c) History

- Course (title, description, equivalency): HIST 276 (effective Fall 2023)
- Course (title, description): HIST 359, 441 (effective Fall 2023)
- Course (description): HIST 102W, 146, 255 (effective Fall 2023)

d) School for International Studies

- Course (description): IS 322
- Course (number, equivalency): IS 439

e) Linguistics

- Course (number, equivalency): LING 290 (effective Fall 2023)
- Course (prerequisite): LING 323, 350 (effective Fall 2023)

f) Philosophy

- Course (description): PHIL 105, 110 (effective Fall 2023)
- Course (units, description): PHIL 477 (effective Fall 2023)
- Course (deletion): PHIL 478 (effective Fall 2023)

g) Political Science

- Course (equivalency): POL 463 (effective Fall 2023)

ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) School of Communication

- Course (prerequisite): CMNS 359

iii) Faculty of Science

a) Biological Sciences

- Course (temporarily withdrawn): BISC 406, 435

16. Graduate General Regulation 1.5 Graduate Grading Systems and Policies (S.22-116)

Senate approved revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.5 - Graduate Grading Systems and Policies.

17. Graduate Program Changes (S.22-117)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program change, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Computing Science

- Program: Master of Science in Professional Cybersecurity
- Program: Master of Science in Professional Visual Computing

ii) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) Linguistics

- Program: Linguistics MA
- Program: Linguistics PhD

iii) Beedie School of Business

- Program: Business Administration in Indigenous Business Leadership Graduate Certificate
- Program: Business Administration in Indigenous Business Leadership Graduate Diploma
- Program: Indigenous Business Leadership Executive MBA

iv) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) Publishing Program

- Program: Publishing MPub

v) Faculty of Science

a) Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

- Program: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry MSc
- Program: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry PhD

18. Graduate Program Changes (S.22-118)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program change, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *English*

- Program: English MATE

19. Graduate New Course Proposals (S.22-119)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *Linguistics*

- Course (new): LING 880

ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) *Publishing Program*

- Course (new): PUB 890, 891

iii) Faculty of Science

a) *Molecular Biology and Biochemistry*

- Course (new): MBB 803

20. Graduate Course Changes (S.22-120)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *Linguistics*

- Course (title, description): LING 893

ii) Beedie School of Business

- Course (description): BUS 697

iii) Faculty of Science

a) *Earth Sciences*

- Course (title, description): EASC 620

b) *Molecular Biology and Biochemistry*

- Course (title, description): MBB 801
- Course (description): MBB 806

21. Graduate Course Changes (S.22-121)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2023:

i) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) *Digital Media*

- Course (title, description): DMED 501

22. Senate Library Committee (SLC) Annual Report 2021/22 (S.22-122)

Senate received the Senate Library Committee (SLC) Annual Report 2021/22 for information.

23. Senate Committee Elections (S.22-123 Revised)

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 October 2022 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-35702>.

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