



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, June 10, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Joy Johnson, Chair

Ali, Sikandra	Percival, Colin
Altman, Rachel	Rassier, Dilson
Bagga, Rishu	Ricker, Amy
Baker, Micah	Schiphorst, Thecla
Bhalloo, Shafik	Snyder, Jeremy
Bird, Gwen	Stockie, John
Brooks-Wilson, Angela	Sutherland, Jill
Bullock, Cécile	Szymczyk, Barbara
Carcano, Luana	Tong, Pok Man
Collard, Mark	Tucker, Rochelle
Do, Henry	Weldon, Laurel
Eftenaru, Cristina	Whitehurst, David
Elhayek, Abdulkarim	Williams, Vance
Everton, Mike	
Fatima, Fatima	
Fisher, Brian	
Fiume, Eugene	
Frank, Richard	
Fung, Aaron	
Gunawan, Derrick	
Hall, Peter	
Hashemi, Tara	
Herrenbrueck, Lucas	
Kerr, Jeannie	
Kessler, Anke	
Kim, Lisa	
Krogman, Naomi	
Laitsch, Dan	
Leznoff, Daniel	
Liu, Connie	
Lysova, Alexandra	
Magnusson, Kris	
Martell, Matt	
Masri, Kamal	
McKenzie, Janis	
Neustaedter, Carman	
O'Brien, Mary	
O'Neil, Dugan	
Parmar, Abhishek	

**Absent:**

Abu-Samhan, Mishael
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Chapman, Glenn
Denholm, Julia
Egri, Carolyn
Gray, Bonnie
Karaivanov, Alexander
Liu, Landy
Myers, Gord
Pantophlet, Ralph
Thornton, Allen
Traversa, Marissa
Vrooman, Tamara
Williams, JF

**In Attendance:**

Chartrand, Sean
Giovis, Christina
Hennigar, Francesca
Kingsbury, Paul
Spector, Stephen

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed the following new and re-elected Senators:

**New Faculty Senators:** Richard Frank (FASS); Luana Carcano (BUS); Rachel Altman (SCI)

**Re-elected Faculty Senators:** Shafik Bhalloo (BUS); Mark Collard (FENV); Connie Liu (BUS); Janis McKenzie (LIB); Gord Myers (FASS); Thecla Schiphorst (FCAT); John Stockie (SCI)

**New Student Senators:** Sikandra Ali (EDUC); Rishu Bagga (SCI); Micah Baker (FAS); Henry Do (FASS); Abdulkarim Elhayek (FENV); Fatima Fatima (BUS); Darrick Gunawan (FAS); Tara Hashemi (HSCI); Lisa Kim (FASS); Landy Liu (SCI); Amy Ricker (FASS); Pok Man Tong (FASS)

**Re-elected Student Senators:** Mishael Abu-Samhan (FASS); Aaron Fung (FASS); Abhi Parmar (BUS); Marissa Traversa (FASS)

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. The Minutes of the Open Session of May 21, 2024 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on July 8, 2024**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that during the Open session of the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Governors meeting, the Board unanimously approved the establishment of the School of Medicine as a faculty at SFU and the full program proposal for the Medical Doctor program. Thanks was extended to the School of Medicine team, to Senators who participated in the joint Board-Senate committee and to all Senators for their engagement on this topic. Now that internal approvals have been concluded, the school is shifting its focus towards the accreditation process, concluding the hiring of the founding dean and preparing to welcome medical students in 2026.

The Chair reported that on May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Honourable Terry Beech, the Honourable Josie Osborne, and partners visited the Burnaby campus to launch the SFU Clean Hydrogen Hub. The Clean Hydrogen Hub will provide on-site hydrogen production and serve as a testbed for emerging hydrogen-energy technologies. SFU received funding support for the hub from the federal government, provincial government, industry, the City of Burnaby and more. It will be led by SFU chemistry professor Steven Holdcroft.

The Chair reported that last week, it was announced that SFU received \$80 million in funding from the Province of B.C., the Digital Research Alliance of Canada and additional partners to upgrade Supercomputer Cedar, SFU's supercomputing facility. This investment will enable SFU to create a new system that replaces and upgrades the existing Cedar supercomputer, which is nearing the end of its life cycle.

The Chair reported that a new research group based at SFU has received \$14.6M in federal funding to help support public confidence in and access to vaccines, in preparation for future pandemics. The Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) Consortium is co-led by Kelley Lee, professor in SFU's Faculty of Health Sciences. The Consortium will bring together expertise in epidemiology, anthropology, communications, political science, history, law, philosophy, sociology and other fields. The team will work together to understand perspectives, attitudes and needs towards immune-based innovations.

Noting the approval of the establishment of the School of Medicine as a faculty by the Board of Governors, a question was asked regarding if there is an effective date attached to the establishment. Senate was informed that the establishment is effective immediately.

**i) Report of the Provost**

The Provost had nothing to report.

**5. Question Period**

No questions were submitted.

**6. Report of Faculties regarding students who have met requirements for Degrees, Certificates, and Diplomas**

**i) Adjustments – Graduate and Undergraduate Credentials (S.24-74)**

Senate received Adjustments – Graduate and Undergraduate Credentials for information.

**7. Reports of Committees**

**A) Calendar Committee (CC)**

**i) Academic Dates 2025-2027 (S.24-75)**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by A. Fung

“That Senate approve the schedule of academic dates for Fall 2025 to Summer 2027 terms.”

Stephen Spector, Calendar Committee Chair, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked about the potential for establishing a fall reading break. Senate was informed that SCUS is in the process of establishing a working group to look at the calendar, particularly for the fall semester. Consideration will be given to the question of a potential fall reading break and ensuring there's a proper break between the end of classes and the beginning of examinations, both of which are impacted by the limited number of teachable Mondays available during the fall semester. It was noted that the working group will liaise with the Calendar Committee, SCUS, and SGSC, however, at this point it's premature to offer a timeline.

A question was asked regarding if consideration is being given to dropping the number of teachable days down to 60, to allow for a break between the end of classes and the start of exams. Senate was informed that the Calendar Committee has been reviewing the number of teachable days and did discuss the potential of a 60-day semester at its last meeting. The

committee is currently gathering information from peer institutions as to how they handle their teaching days, and their semester and reading breaks. The committee will likely meet again at the end of the summer, with the expectation that it will bring a motion seeking Senate approval to go to community consultation on this issue.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**B) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)**

**i) Amendment of Policy A32.03 - Distinguished SFU Professor (S.24-76)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Amendment of Policy A32.03 - Distinguished SFU Professor.”

Citing concerns around the vagueness of the language in section 4.6, the following amendment to the policy was moved:

Motion:

Moved by A. Lysova, seconded by R. Altman

“That section 4.6 state that Equity considerations will be upheld in the evaluation of nominees and selection of awardees, in accordance with the SFU/SFUFA Collective Agreement and as described in SFU policy GP19. Additionally, the principles of academic freedom will be upheld in the evaluation of nominees and selection of awardees, in accordance with the SFU/SFUFA Collective Agreement.”

Noting that the original language in section 4.6 included canvassing, selection and promotion, a friendly amendment to the amendment was suggested to include language on canvassing. The mover of the amendment agreed with the inclusion of language on canvassing.

A concern was raised about having a policy drawing language from the Collective Agreement, given that the Collective Agreement is negotiated by the Board of Governors and an external body, with no Senate involvement. It was suggested that a solution to this problem would be to change the reference to the Collective Agreement to say the *Collective Agreement in place as of June 10, 2024*.

Citing a comment about policy not being out-of-step with the Collective Agreement, Senate was informed that the Collective Agreement cannot be out-of-step with approved policies. This interpretation was supported by the Supreme Court of British Columbia, which ruled that board of governors cannot negotiate a collective agreement with a union which disagrees with Senate approved policies.

The question was called and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT CARRIED,  
with 2 opposed and 2 abstentions noted.

A question was asked about the 4% cap on the number of distinguished professors and at what point are there more distinguished professors than non-distinguished professors. Senate was informed that the 4% cap is meant to limit the number of stipends the university is committed to awarding at any given time. It was added that over the last five years, 8 distinguished professors have been added per year for a total of 40, but that there is no obligation in the policy to name as many as eight recipients per year.

A question was asked about the exclusion of lecturers from this policy. Senate was informed that it would be unfair to compare lecturers, whose primary duty is teaching, with the contingency of faculty members whose job includes a research profile crucial to the selection criteria. As such, it would more advantageous to have an award that recognizes exceptional distinguished university lecturers.

A question was asked about the process for Senate introducing a new distinguished lecturer policy, or at the least, directing the university to look into a distinguished teaching award. Senate was informed that the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) will take the establishment of a distinguished lecture policy under consideration and report back to Senate at a future meeting.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Proposed Amendments to Policy B10.00 (Policy on University Policies and Procedures) (S.24-77)**

Senate received Proposed Amendments to Policy B10.00 (Policy on University Policies and Procedures) for information.

Francesca Hennigar, General Counsel - Office of the General Counsel, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Referring to the mention of core principles in the Executive Summary, a question was asked if the principles are identified or defined elsewhere. Senate was informed that the language is meant to be flexible and used as a frame around those principles, noting that SFU's strategic priorities and core values may evolve over time. It was added that the Office of the General Counsel will proceed with further consultation, including broad community consultation, and that feedback will be taken under advisement.

A number of concerns and questions were raised:

- Regarding section 2.1.1, a question was asked as to how a policy sponsor or designated lead can propose a new policy given that these individuals are appointed in response to a new policy proposal. Senate was informed that the language needs to be cleaned up, but that the folks who would be the policy sponsors or designated leads would be the first to observe that a policy change is needed.
- There is ambiguity around who is responsible for deciding whether a new policy should be adopted, leading to the potential conflict between the policy sponsor and the Governance, Risk and Compliance Committee. Senate was informed that the goal is to

reach consensus through discussion, but ultimately these are Board policies, with the Board deciding whether to proceed or not with a policy.

- There is a lack of an appeal process for the suggestion of a new policy or a policy change. Senate was informed there is no appeal process, wanting the Board's decision to be final. A follow-up was asked about a cooling off period should someone else request the same policy change. Senate was informed that consideration would be given to this.
- There is no language about reaching decisions in a timely manner. Senate was informed that language around considerations of timeliness will be provided.

**C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

**i) Full Program Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science (S.24-78)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by C. Liu

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2025.”

Shawn Chartrand, Assistant Professor - School of Environmental Science, and Christina Giovis, Associate Dean – Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Environment, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked about the rationale for the Enrollment Plan including a *commitment to ensure increased participation of women* when greater than 60% of current tenure-track faculty in Environmental Science are women, and the percentage of female students is expected to be over 60%. Senate was informed that such a comment was included as something to be mindful of as the program develops over time.

A follow-up question was asked regarding if there is a plan to recruit more men into the program. Senate was informed that women constitute a higher percentage of undergraduate students overall at SFU and that if this issue is of concern to Senate, it can be brought forward.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Full Program Proposal for a Master of Science in Environmental Science (S.24-79)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Elhayek

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Master of Science in Environmental Science within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2025.”

Shawn Chartrand, Assistant Professor - School of Environmental Science, and Christina Giovis, Associate Dean – Research and Graduate Studies, were in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Naming and Terms of Reference for the Libero Ero Chair in Climate Sustainability and Action (S.24-80)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the Terms of Reference for the Libero Ero Chair in Climate Sustainability and Action.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Program Name Change from French Master of Arts to Global French and Francophone Studies (S.24-81)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by H. Do

“That Senate approve the program name change from French Master of Arts to Global French and Francophone Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences effective Fall 2024.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Terms of Reference for the Aquatic Research Cooperative Institute Endowment (S.24-82)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Ricker

“That Senate approve the Terms of Reference for Aquatic Research Cooperative Institute Endowment.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**vi) Annual Report 2023/2024 (S.24-83)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) Annual Report 2023/2024 for information.

**vii) Name Change for the First Nations Language Centre (S.24-84)**

Senate received Name Change for the First Nations Language Centre for information.

**viii) Notice of External Reviews for 2024/25 (S.24-85)**

Senate received Notice of External Reviews for 2024/25 for information.

**D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**

**i) Elective Grading System Update (S.24-86)**

Senate received Elective Grading System Update for information.

A number of Senators expressed disappointment in the decision to discontinue the exploration of a revised Elective Grading System. Though sympathetic to the resources required to maintain such a system, it was argued that SFU should be able to develop some form of streamlined elective grading system, allowing students to take advantage of the varied courses on offer

without fear of compromising their grades. Senate was informed that SCUS can take another look at this issue, noting that the starting point would be looking at WQB requirements.

**ii) Program Changes (S.24-87)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Criminology, School of Public Policy), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Physics).

**iii) New Course Proposals (S.24-88)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology).

**iv) Course Changes (S.24-89)**

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, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Office of the Dean, English, Psychology), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology).

**E) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL)**

**i) Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy Motion (S.24-90)**

Moved by K. Magnusson, seconded by C. Liu

“That Senate initiates a process to develop policy regarding the use of generative artificial intelligence by instructors and students in teaching and learning at Simon Fraser University.”

Paul Kingsbury, Special Advisor to the Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding how membership will be addressed. Senate was informed that a pan-university working group would include those already well-versed in GenAI, and be drawn from instructors, undergraduate and graduate students, Academic Integrity, the Library, the Centre for Educational Excellence, and IT Services. Also, the working group should include members with technical literacy across different disciplinary interfaces.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**F) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**

**i) Program Changes (S.24-91)**

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

**ii) New Course Proposals (S.24-92)**

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 Engineering Science, School of Mechatronics Systems Engineering).

**iii) Course Changes (S.24-93)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Engineering Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, School of Public Policy), and the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Digital Media).

**G) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.24-94)**

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, July 8, 2024**

Open session adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Tom Nault  
Senate Secretary