



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, September 9, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Joy Johnson, Chair

Abu-Samhan, Mishael	Neustaedter, Carman
Al-Rawi, Ahmed	O'Brien, Mary
Altmann, Rachel	O'Neil, Dugan
Bagga, Rishu	Parmar, Abhishek
Bhalloo, Shafik	Percival, Colin
Bird, Gwen	Rassier, Dilson
Bullock, Cécile	Ricker, Amy
Carcano, Luana	Schiphorst, Thecla
Chapman, Glenn	Schmidt, Michèle
Collard, Mark	Snyder, Jeremy
Denholm, Julia	Stockie, John
Do, Henry	Sutherland, Jill
Eftenaru, Cristina	Szymczyk, Barbara
Elhayek, Abdulkarim	Thornton, Allen
Everton, Mike	Tong, Pok Man
Fatima, Fatima	Tucker, Rochelle
Fisher, Brian	Weldon, Laurel
Fiume, Eugene	Whitehurst, David
Frank, Richard	Williams, Vance
Fung, Aaron	
Gray, Bonnie	
Gunawan, Derrick	
Hall, Peter	
Hashemi, Tara	
Herrenbrueck, Lucas	
Karaivanov, Alexander	
Kessler, Anke	
Kim, Lisa	
Kingsbury, Paul	
Krogman, Naomi	
Laitsch, Dan	
Leznoff, Daniel	
Liu, Connie	
Liu, Landy	
Lysova, Alexandra	
Martell, Matt	
McKenzie, Janis	
Myers, Gord	

**Absent:**

Ali, Sikandra
Baker, Micah
Brennand, Tracy
Brooks-Wilson, Angela
Egri, Carolyn
Kerr, Jeannie
Masri, Kamal
Pantophlet, Ralph
Traversa, Marissa
Vrooman, Tamara
Williams, JF

**In Attendance:**

Blair, Alison
Fullerton, Margarita
Heer, Karamjeet

Tom Nault, Senate Secretary  
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of June 10, 2024**

The minutes of the open session on June 10, 2024 were approved as distributed.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of July 8, 2024**

The minutes of the open session on July 8, 2024 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 the following updates on the School of Medicine:

- In July the Provincial government announced an additional \$60M in operational and space funding.
- Appointment announcements were made regarding Dr. David J. Price as founding dean and Christine Burnell as executive director, operations.
- A major step was recently taken towards accreditation with submission of the Data Collection Instrument (DCI) and Medical School Self-Study to the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools. The next step is a final DCI submission on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair reported that with the Vice-President-External stepping down, she, in her role as President, has taken on a more active role in government relations to ensure that all levels of government understand the importance funding universities. It was also noted that the Chair, in her role as President, and Senator O’Neil, in his role as Vice-President, Research, will be traveling to Ottawa in a few weeks to share funding priorities with the federal government and to advocate for SFU and the post-secondary sector in general.

The Chair reported that SFU continues to face budget challenges. Restrictions from the federal government continue to have an impact on enrolment and on the perception of Canada as a welcoming place for international students.

The Chair reported that Martin Pochurko, Vice-President Finance and Administration, has announced his decision to retire from SFU, effective February 7, 2025. A search committee is being formed with the intention of filling the role prior to his departure to ensure a smooth transition.

The Chair reported that SFU received \$6.6M in federal support for two new hubs—the Climate-Smart Data Collaboration Centre and the Agricultural Genomics in Action Centre—funded through Genome Canada. An additional \$9.2M was provided by provincial governments, businesses and research partners. The new centres will advance genomics-based agriculture and food system innovations to help Canadian agriculture industry innovate, cut its carbon footprint and boost sustainable food systems.

The Chair recognized this year's Distinguished SFU Professors: Genevieve LeBaron, Daniel Leznoff, Anne Salomon, Glen Tibbits and Andrew Wister.

The Chair recognized three SFU scholars named to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) as Fellows this year: Leith Davis, David Vocadlo and Nicholas Dulvy. It was also noted that SFU will host the RSC 2024 Celebration of Excellence and Engagement from November 7 to 9, 2024.

The Chair welcomed Paul Kingsbury to Senate, in his new role as Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching pro tem.

**i) Report of the Provost**

The Provost reported that more concrete enrollment numbers, along with initiatives to recover international enrollment, will be provided at the October Senate meeting. As of today's date, international admission numbers are down 14-15% as compared to target numbers.

A question was asked if the shortage in international enrollment is mitigated by domestic enrollment. Senate was informed that though domestic enrollment numbers are on target, the difference in funding is too significant to close the budget gap.

**6. Question Period**

No questions were submitted.

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

**i) Candidates - Graduate Credentials (S.24-109)**

Moved by M. O'Brien, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the awarding of the graduate credentials as recommended by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Further, that the Dean of Graduate Studies and the University Registrar be empowered to make any required amendments to the list of students who have met the requirements for their credential.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Candidates – Undergraduate Credentials (S.24-110)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Ricker

“That Senate approve the awarding of undergraduate credentials as recommended by the Deans of the Faculties. Further, that the respective Dean and the University Registrar be empowered to make any required amendments to the list of students who have met the requirements for their credential.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

## 8. Reports of Committees

### A) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)

#### i) Amendment of Policy A32.03 - Distinguished SFU Professor (S.24-111)

Moved by D. O'Neil, seconded by J. Stockie

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

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

#### ii) Proposed Public Interest Disclosure Policy (S.24-112)

Senate received Proposed Public Interest Disclosure Policy for information.

Alison Blair, Interim Director of Internal Audit, and Margarita Fullerton, University Secretary, were in attendance to respond to questions.

#### iii) Amendment to GP20 - Endowment Management Policy (S.24-113)

Senate received Amendment to GP20 - Endowment Management Policy for information.

Karamjeet Heer, Associate Vice-President, Finance, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked about allowing changes to the use of funds after 25 years and if the impacted unit would have a say in the reallocation of funds. Senate was informed community feedback identified endowments established 20-30 years ago that are not being utilized because their terms are so restrictive. In those cases, efforts will be made reallocate funds for similar purposes rather than letting the funds sit dormant. It was also added that if the donor is still alive, the University will always work with the donor given the obligation to report back on the use of the funds.

### B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

#### i) External Review Report for the Library (S.24-114)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by V. Williams

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Library that resulted from its external review.”

Noting that the Library serves the broader SFU community, a question was asked regarding if the community will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on the development of a *clear mission statement*. Senate was informed that the primary mechanism for gathering feedback would be the Senate Library Committee (SLC), so the development of a mission statement would go through the library's process for its part in developing the academic plan for the university.

Citing a line in the report stating *Library Administration should ensure that Reconciliation and EDI are recognized throughout the three libraries to be the responsibility of all staff*, a comment

was made that the library's response to the should clarify that librarians have academic freedom and cannot be compelled to adopt any particular ideology.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED,  
with one abstention.

**ii) Naming and Terms of Reference for the Legacy for Airway Health Chair in Health Communication (S.24-115)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Fung

"That Senate approve the Terms of Reference for the Legacy for Airway Health Chair in Health Communication."

A question was asked to clarify the meaning of equity focused research in relation to the Chair's purpose. Senate was informed that the concept of equity, in this instance, is not meant to be prescriptive in terms of a particular take on equity, but rather as a larger area of research specialization within the context of differential health impacts and health communication.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Program Changes to the MBA, MOT MBA, and GDBA (S.24-116)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by H. Do

"That Senate approve the program changes for the Master of Business Administration MBA, the Management of Technology MBA, and the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration within the Beedie School of Business effective Fall 2025."

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Suspension of Admission to the Philosophy Double Minor (S.24-117)**

Senate received Suspension of Admission to the Philosophy Double Minor for information.

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

**i) High School Admission Requirement Changes - Faculty of Communication Art, and Technology (S.24-118)**

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by A. Parmar

"That Senate approve the changes to the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology Grade 12 admission requirements, effective Summer 2025."

Citing concerns over a lack of clarity around the list of grade 12 course requirements and uncertainty around if these changes will negatively impact some grade 12 students who do not have the required courses, a motion to refer this item back to SCUS was moved:

Motion:

Moved by C. Percival, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve referring item S.24-118 (High School Admission Requirement Changes - Faculty of Communication Art, and Technology) back to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Removal of the Language 11 (second language) Requirement (S.24-119)**

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by A. Elhayek

“That Senate approve the removal of the Language 11 (second language) requirement from the undergraduate admission criteria, effective Summer 2025.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) New WQB Designations (S.24-120)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved WQB designations in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (World Languages and Literatures, Humanities, School of Public Policy), and the Faculty of Science (Physics).

**iv) Revised Calendar Definitions (S.24-121)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved revised calendar definitions.

**v) Program Changes (S.24-122)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Political Science/French), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Environment (School Environmental Science, Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics).

**vi) Course Changes (S.24-123)**

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 Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Mathematics).

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

**i) Annual Report 2023/2024 (S.24-124)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Annual Report 2023/2024 for information.

**E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)****i) Graduate General Regulation 1.3.10 Admission of a Non-degree Student (S.24-125)**

Moved by M. O'Brien, seconded by V. Williams

“That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.3.10 Admission of a Nondegree Student.”

A friendly amendment was suggested to change the wording from *courses must have been completed within three years (9 terms) of starting the graduate credential* to *courses must have been completed no more than three years prior to starting the graduate credential*.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Program Changes (S.24-126)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Public Policy), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), and the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology).

**iii) Course Changes (S.24-127)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Beedie School of Business.

**F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)****i) Senate Committee Elections (S.24-128 Revised)**

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

**9. Other Business****i) Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2023/24 Grades Report (S.24-129)**

Senate received Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2023/24 Grades Report for information.

Zareen Naqvi, Director - Institutional Research and Planning, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting the brevity of the current Grades Report compared to reports submitted prior to 2023, it was suggested that it would be useful for Senate to receive the more expansive report going forward.

**ii) Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2023 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report (S.24-130)**

Senate received Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2023 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report for information.

Zareen Naqvi, Director - Institutional Research and Planning, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The following suggestions and comments were made:

- Referencing the employment statistics, it was suggested that the employment hours per week be further broken down given that the difference between working 10-12 hours per week and 25 hours per week is significant.
- It was suggested that it would be useful to have the answers to questions broken down by domestic student responses and international student responses.
- Noting that 36% of students were unable to register for all of the required courses they wanted, it was suggested that it would be useful to know how many of those students were blocked in their degree progress and how many were able to take the required courses in a later term.
- It was requested that the report include more information on trends, especially around course availability, to better determine if progress is being made year to year.
- Noting a question on the methods of transportation used to get to classes, it was suggested that it would be useful to have information on peoples' experiences travelling to and from campus.
- It was suggested that knowledge translation be formally used on the data that is collected to better understand how changes can be implemented.

**iii) Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: Effect of COVID/Grading Policies on Grades/Performance (S.24-131)**

Senate received Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: Effect of COVID/Grading Policies on Grades/Performance for information.

Zareen Naqvi, Director - Institutional Research and Planning, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made that it would be useful to see a statistical summary of what the average course grades would have been without the changes to grading policy implemented in response to COVID.

**10. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting - Monday, October 7, 2024**

Open session adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Tom Nault  
Senate Secretary