



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, April 7, 2025 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

Ali, Sikandra

Altmann, Rachel

Ashoughian, Gohar

Baker, Micah

Bhalloo, Shafik

Brooks-Wilson, Angela

Carcano, Luana

Chapman, Glenn

Collard, Mark

Denholm, Julia

Eftenaru, Cristina

Egri, Carolyn

Everton, Michael

Fatima, Fatima

Fisher, Brian

Fiume, Eugene

Frank, Richard

Gray, Bonnie

Gunawan, Derrick

Hall, Peter

Karaivanov, Alexander

Kessler, Anke

Khangura, Harinder

Kim, Lisa

Kingsbury, Paul

Krogman, Naomi

Leznoff, Daniel

Liu, Landy

Martell, Matt

McKenzie, Janis

Myers, Gord

Neustaedter, Carman

O'Brien, Mary

O'Neil, Dugan

Percival, Colin

Rassier, Dilson

Schiphorst, Thecla

Snyder, Jeremy

Stockie, John

Sutherland, Jill

Thornton, Allen

Tucker, Rochelle

Weldon, Laurel

Whitehurst, David

Williams, Vance

Zickfeld, Kirsten

Absent:

Al-Rawi, Ahmed

Bagga, Rishu

Brennand, Tracy

Bullock, Cécile

Do, Henry

Elhayek, Abdulkarim

Fung, Aaron

Hashemi, Tara

Herrenbrueck, Lucas

Laitsch, Dan

Liu, Connie

Lysova, Alexandra

Masri, Kamal

Pantophlet, Ralph

Ricker, Amy

Schmidt, Michèle

Szymczyk, Barbara

Tong, Pok Man

Traversa, Marissa

Vrooman, Tamara

Williams, JF

In Attendance:

Eigenfeldt, Arne

Heidi, Dai

Kouzin, Alex

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of February 3, 2025

The minutes of the open session on February 3, 2025 were approved as distributed.

3. The Minutes of the Open Session of March 3, 2025 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on May 20, 2025

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that Senate is currently undergoing a Senate Review and thanks was extended to the committee members who stepped up to help with this work. SFU has not reviewed its Senate function and structures for many years and there are areas where improvements and efficiencies can be made. Given the scale of the task, and to make the best use of Senators' time in support of the university's academic mission, a consultant has been hired to work with the committee on this project. The consultant's name is Cheryl Foy, and she has previously conducted a review of UBC's Senate and comes highly recommended. Once the review process is complete, the committee will make recommendations and Senate will have the final say on whether or not those changes are enacted.

The Chair reported that the Board of Governors (BoG) approved the 2025-26 budget at the March Board meeting. The 2025-26 budget reflects SFU's commitment to financial sustainability, academic excellence, and strategic investments despite ongoing challenges in the post-secondary sector.

The Chair reported that BoG recently approved the creation of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, previously approved by Senate. This change will help transform the SFU experience for graduate students at SFU and improve research, teaching and graduate supervision functions. Thanks was offered to Mary O'Brien and the Grad Studies team for their work and to Senate for its input throughout the process.

The Chair provided updates on leadership positions at SFU:

- Effective March 17th, Jon Harding has joined SFU as Vice-President, Finance and Administration. Thanks was given to Karamjeet Heer for serving as Vice-President, Finance and Administration pro tem prior to Jon's arrival.
- Effective May 1st, Vinitha Gengatharan will be joining SFU as its inaugural Executive Lead, International Strategy. This role was created to advance SFU's international strategic initiatives, which encompass strengthening SFU's international brand, fostering global engagement and opportunities for students, enhancing research impact worldwide and driving efforts to recruit and retain international students.

The Chair noted that proposed changes to the IP Policy, which was initially on the agenda for today's meeting, has been removed with a plan to reassess based on feedback and will come back to Senate at a later date.

The Chair reported that at the March BoG meeting, an update was provided on the proposed Indigenous Welcoming Procedure, which is being led by Chris Lewis and the Indigenous Council Office (ICO). There's been a lot of discussion about how the university verifies Indigenous identity, and this procedure came out of concerns around fraud and false claims to Indigenous identity and the obligation to ensure that benefits are going to the right place. The ICO will be piloting the Indigenous Welcoming approach with several units over the next year, including the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the School of Medicine.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, was recently in Singapore and Hong Kong to build on SFU's international presence. Meetings were held with alumni and donors, as well as with students and parents to get a better sense of their concerns and decision-making process when it comes to international student enrolment.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, recently attended the Faculty and Staff Awards ceremony to celebrate Excellence in Teaching and Distinguished SFU Professor award winners, among others. Congratulations was extended to Senator Danny Leznoff for being recognized as a Distinguished SFU Professor.

The Chair reported that SFU continues to need to be thinking about how it can work with government, both provincially and federally, to make the case for how important it is to fund and support universities. A trip to Victoria is planned at the end of the month to talk to key players around SFU's funding situation, and to Ottawa after the election to discuss international student caps and the potential to repatriate Canadian scholars who have been working in America but might want to leave.

i) Report of the Provost

The Provost reported that SFU's 2025–26 budget was recently approved by the BoG and reflects prioritizing the academic mission of the university. Steps were taken to preserve the academic experience and student life, noting that scholarships and bursaries were not cut in the 25/26 budget and the faculties did not see significant cuts. A number of months ago, it was forecasted that SFU would accumulate a deficit of almost \$70 million in two years, however, the university did finish with a balanced consolidated budget for 2025/26. It was added that SFU is now working with a comprehensive multi-year budget to predict what its finances will be in the next four to five years. Once that multi-year plan is available, it will be brought to Senate.

A question was asked regarding why fossil fuel divestment plays such a prominent role in the budget. Senate was informed that this divestment is a one-time gain and the exact amount will depend on market conditions and cannot be counted on beyond the 2026/27 budget cycle.

6. Question Period

No questions were submitted.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)

i) Updates to GP 03 - Donations Policy (S.25-63)

Senate received Updates to GP 03 - Donations Policy for information.

Alex Kouzin, Senior Director - Advancement Information Services and Data Governance, was in attendance to respond to questions.

ii) Updates to GP 35 - Named Recognition of Buildings, Academic Endowments and Academic Units (S.25-64)

Senate received Updates to GP 35 - Named Recognition of Buildings, Academic Endowments and Academic Units for information.

Alex Kouzin, Senior Director - Advancement Information Services and Data Governance, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made that it would be helpful to add a line to the policy stating that a donor would have no influence over the academic operations to which the money is being donated. Senate was informed that legislation is such that donations must be given without constraints and a donor has no influence in terms of where those dollars are going to be spent. It was added that a line could be added to the policy, but it is the practice of advancement officers to ensure that no strings are attached to donations.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Establishment of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (S.25-65)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve the establishment of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM), within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, for a 5-year term.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute (S.25-66)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by V. Williams

“That Senate approve the establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute for a five-year term.”

A question was asked regarding if the focus of this institute is more on health technology and should the name of the institute reflect that more narrow focus. Senate was informed that the institute is meant to be a general health institute, collaborating with Fraser Health. The list of names that are currently on the institute reflect a group of people that have come together to

propose it to Senate, but the expectation is for the membership to be much broader by the time it's actually established and there's a mechanism for people to join.

Noting a line stating *ways of knowing to be integrated into healthcare, research, and innovation through the institute*, a question was asked to provide a definition as to what *ways of knowing* means in a scientific context. Senate was informed that *ways of knowing* refers to different knowledge systems and approaches to accumulating knowledge, and thus is a common way of referring to those alternative systems.

Noting a lack of mention of the Faculty of Health Sciences in the document, a question was asked regarding how the institute will enlist members from across the university to be a part of the institute. Senate was informed that Bob Hogg, Associate Dean, Research – Faculty of Health Sciences, is a member of the Executive Committee of the proposed institute and that consultation has been done across the university. Proposed director of the institute, Carolyn Sparrey, answered similar questions at SCUP and assured the committee that it was her intention to build an inclusive institute across all areas of health research at the institution.

Noting again a lack of consultation and representation, a suggestion was made to delay voting on this item until the proposers can consult more widely with groups such as Health Sciences, Psychology and Statistics. As such, the following motion to postpone consideration of this item was moved:

Moved by C. Percival, seconded by R. Altman

“That consideration to approve the establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute for a five-year term be postponed until the next meeting of Senate.”

With a motion to postpone under consideration, the following comments were made for and against:

- The precedent of Senate stating that the proposers must consult with a certain group to get approval is problematic given the stated intention to build an inclusive institute.
- A delay in the approval of the institute would be disappointing to SFU's partners and the university would then have to manage that disappointment.
- Although delaying the consideration may strain the relationship with Fraser Health, there are other relationships that need to be nurtured and thus broader consultation is required.
- If postponed, the document does not need a significant rewrite, but rather the inclusion of more people from different areas of the university.
- There are prescribed rules for the establishment of institutes and that threshold has been met. It is common for institutes to have evolving membership and the feedback provided at Senate will be provided to the proposers.
- A motion to postpone only makes sense if it's coupled with a request for the proposers to consult more widely than has been the case.
- There is a discrepancy between the breadth of the description of the institute and the breadth of the listed membership.

- The intent of the institute, expressed by both Dr. Hogg and Dr. Sparrey, is to expand its membership to be more reflective of the interest being expressed, including from Health Sciences.
- In terms of adding new members, the document contains provisions for ratifying new members and outlines its internal governing structure.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION FAILED

With the motion to postpone having failed, consideration returned to the original motion.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) FASS-Exeter Partnership (S.25-67)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Dual Degree Program between SFU’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the University of Exeter’s Law School, including the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in the Foundations of Canadian Law in the School of Criminology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.”

Dai Heidi, Associate Dean - Learning and Teaching, and Student Experience (FASS), was in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting use of the term accelerated program in the document, a question was asked to explain what makes this an *accelerated* program. Senate was informed that it's accelerated in the sense that students will have both a bachelor's degree and a law degree after six years. Students will complete 90 units at SFU rather than the usual 120, and they will get some credit for what they've done at Exeter Law School.

A question was asked about tuition rates and about if a student is unsuccessful at Exeter, can they come back to SFU and complete their degree at a normal tuition rate, or conversely, can they get their law degree and dropout of their bachelor's degree. Senate was informed that this is an expensive program, but it should be remembered that students are saving on a year of education and thus would be gaining an extra 1-2 years of earning potential on a lawyer's salary. A 20% tuition discount has been negotiated with Exeter, which is a first for such a program in Canada. If a student is unsuccessful at Exeter, they are able to come back to SFU to complete their degree, but they wouldn't get block transfer credit for the courses they've done at Exeter. It would technically be possible for a student to complete their SFU portion and then ultimately meet the requirements to practice law in England, but it was argued that such an occurrence would be exceedingly rare.

Noting that students return to SFU for a sixth year to complete their BA, a question was asked to clarify how this sixth year would work. Senate was informed that students returning in their sixth year will complete their Certificate in Foundations of Canadian Law. These Certificate courses will comprise 20 of the remaining 30 units to be completed, and do not count towards their Exeter LLB.

A follow-up was asked about the remaining 10 units required to complete the BA and if programs have enough flexibility for students to complete those units without going over the 120 units needed for their degree. Senate was informed that when programs were approached about participating in this program, many did not need to change their curriculum given that they already had flexibility built into their program and thus completing the number of required units for the degree wouldn't be a challenge. For programs that would not have been able to accommodate returning students, changes have been made to major requirements for students in this program. Those students will be declared into a concentration inside a major program, which in some cases is different than what regular BA students are declared into. This has been done so that these students can complete the program in six years.

A question was asked regarding if the certificate courses need to be taught by someone with a law degree. Senate was informed that these courses do not need to be taught by someone with a law degree and thus there are potentially some instructors in the faculty who would have the expertise to teach, if not all, then some of these courses. It was added, however, that the documentation does refer to these courses as being taught by lawyers because it is felt that doing so would help professionalize students.

Noting that holders of a foreign law degree need to be accredited to practice law in Canada, a question was asked regarding if consultation was held with the National Committee on Accreditation to determine if the certificate courses offered are sufficient for accreditation. Senate was informed that this part of the program has been designed with extensive consultation both with the National Committee on Accreditation and the Law Society of British Columbia.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Creative Professional Practice (S.25-68)
Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Creative Professional Practice in the Office of the Dean within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.”

Arne Eigenfeldt, Associate Dean, Academic (FCAT), was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Program Changes for the Master of Public Policy (S.25-69)
Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by V. Williams

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program changes for the Master of Public Policy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2025.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vi) Program Name Change for Theatre (Production and Design Streams) (S.25-70)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by J. Sutherland

“That Senate approve the program name changes from Theatre (Production and Design Streams) to Performance Production and Design in the School for the Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Fall 2025.”

Arne Eigenfeldt, Associate Dean, Academic (FCAT), was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vii) Suspension of Admission to the Dialogue Minor (S.25-71)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by N. Krogman

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Dialogue Minor in the School of Communication within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Fall 2025.”

Arne Eigenfeldt, Associate Dean, Academic (FCAT), was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding if consideration is being given to bringing some form of the dialogue program back in a different and more cost-effective form in the future. Senate was informed that there are ongoing conversations between the Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching pro tem and the Executive Director of the Centre for Dialogue about the role of the centre and how it can be integrated in different ways across disciplinary contexts.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

viii) Consultation on the Naming of the Stella Sun Professorship in International Management (S.25-72)

Senate received Consultation on the Naming of the Stella Sun Professorship in International Management for consultation.

ix) Notice of External Reviews for the 2025/26 Academic Year (S.25-73)

Senate received Notice of External Reviews for the 2025/26 Academic Year for information.

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.25-74)

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 Engineering Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, Global Humanities, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Urban Studies Program), 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 (Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.25-75)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Engineering Science, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Urban Studies Program), the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology), and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Dean of Science Office).

iii) Course Changes (S.25-76)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course change in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, French, Gerontology, History, Indigenous Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, Urban Studies Program), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication, School for the Contemporary Arts, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Environment (Geography), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

iv) New WQB Designations (S.25-77)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new WQB designations in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (French, Global Humanities, Philosophy, School of Public Policy, Sociology and Anthropology, Urban Studies Program), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Dean of Science Office, Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences).

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Program Changes (S.25-78)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), and the Faculty of Science (Statistics and Actuarial Science).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.25-79)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Political Science, Urban Studies Program), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

iii) Course Changes (S.25-80)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Urban Studies Program), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts), and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

iv) Course Deletions (S.25-81)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course deletions in the Faculty of Science (Statistics and Actuarial Science).

v) Course Reinstatement (S.25-82)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a course reinstatement in the Faculty of Science (Mathematics).

E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.25-83)**

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**i) Update on Guidelines for Students and Instructors in the Event of a Labour Dispute (S.25-84)**

Senate received Update on Guidelines for Students and Instructors in the Event of a Labour Dispute for information.

A concern was raised with the use of the term *legal strike*, arguing it may put students in a situation where they don't want to cross the picket line because they believe it's legal, but they might get into trouble if it later turns out not to be a legal strike. Senate was informed that the guidelines work on the presumption that if there are picket lines, whether they're technically legal or not, it wouldn't be appropriate for someone acting in good faith to suffer consequences for not crossing. The guidelines are assuming a legal strike and are not designed to deal with other forms of disruption, and an illegal strike would fall into the category of other disruptions. It was added that communication from instructors will play an important part and there is an expectation that instructors communicate to students what might happen in a given scenario.

A question was asked regarding if granting an academic concession is fully at the discretion of a faculty member. Senate was informed that the decision to grant concessions does come down to the faculty member, but consideration should also be given to the policies and procedures that have been decided at the department or faculty level.

A concern was raised with instructors being required to grant concessions for a degree or program. Senate was informed that when it comes to program and/or degree requirements, the instructor may make recommendations, but approval rests either with the Registrar or the Dean of Graduate Studies on the advice of the chair of the department.

Highlighting a distinction between the comment that the university *respects the right of students not to cross the picket line* and the document which states that the *university...respects the right of students and employees to choose whether to cross a legal picket*, it was suggested that further clarity be added to the guidelines around those differences.

9. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting - Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Open session adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Tom Nault
Secretary of Senate