



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, July 7, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Joy Johnson, Chair

Accettola, Evan	Rassier, Dilson
Al-Rawi, Ahmed	Schmidt, Michèle
Altman, Rachel	Shulepova, Sofia
Baker, Micah	Snyder, Jeremy
Bhalloo, Shafik	Stockie, John
Black, Sam	Sutherland, Jill
Brennand, Tracy	Szymczyk, Barbara
Chapman, Glenn	Travers
Choi, Jake	Weldon, Laurel
Collard, Mark	Whitehurst, David
Crage, Suzanna	Williams, Vance
Davidson, Sara (for Dan Laitsch)	Zickfeld, Kirsten
Denholm, Julia	
Dhelia, Priyanka	
Doyon, Andreanne (for Christina Giovas)	
Eftenaru, Cristina	
Egri, Carolyn	
Eigenfeldt, Arne (for Carman Neustaedter)	
Everton, Michael	
Fiume, Eugene	
Gislason, Maya	
Gough, Aidan	
Gray, Bonnie	
Gunawan, Derrick	
Hall, Peter	
Hashemi, Tara	
Herrenbrueck, Lucas	
Khangura, Harinder	
Kim, Lisa	
Kingsbury, Paul	
Kwan, Isabelle	
Liu, Connie	
Lysova, Alexandra	
Martell, Matt	
Masri, Kamal	
Murali, Surya	
Myers, Gord	
O'Brien, Mary	
O'Neil, Dugan	
Percival, Colin	

**Absent:**

Ali, Sikandra
Ashoughian, Gohar
Bagga, Rishu
Brooks-Wilson, Angela
Carcano, Luana
Do, Henry
Ferenc, Ava
Fisher, Brian
Frank, Richard
Giovas, Christina
Jahandideh, Roman
Laitsch, Dan
Leznoff, Daniel
Liu, Landy
McKenzie, Janis
Neustaedter, Carman
Pantophlet, Ralph
Schiphorst, Thecla
Thornton, Allen
Vrooman, Tamara

**In Attendance:**

Maine, Elicia
McKenna, Sean
Peragine, Mike
Singh Semb, Kamaldeep

Kris Nordgren, Secretary of Senate pro tem  
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

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

**New Faculty Senators:** Sam Black (FASS); Suzanna Crage (FASS); Maya Gislason (HSCI); Travers (FASS)

**Re-elected Faculty Senators:** Bonnie Gray (FAS); Lucas Herrenbrueck (FASS); Matt Martell (BUS); Vance Williams (SCI)

**New Student Senators:** Evan Accettola (FASS); Jake Cho (FAS); Priyanka Dhelia (BUS); Ava Ferenc (FENV); Aidan Gough (FASS); Roman Jahandideh (FCAT); Isabelle Kwan (FAS); Surya Murali (FAS); Sofia Shulepova (FASS)

**Re-elected Student Senators:** Sikandra Ali (EDUC); Rishu Bagga (SCI); Micah Baker (FAS); Henry Do (FASS); Darrick Gunawan (FAS); Tara Hashemi (HSCI); Lisa Kim (FASS); Landy Liu (SCI)

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of April 7, 2025**

The minutes of the open session on April 7, 2025 were approved as distributed.

**3. The Minutes of the Open Session of May 20, 2025 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on September 8, 2025**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Chair thanked everyone who attended June Convocation. For the first time, nine ceremonies were held to accommodate more than 4,000 graduates and their guests.

The Chair reported that SFU continues to rank among the world's best when it comes to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. The 2025 rankings were released in June and saw SFU placing 35<sup>th</sup> overall and within the top 5 in Canada for Affordable and Clean Energy, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Climate Action, Peace Justice and Strong Institutions and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

The Chair congratulated Dr. Amy Parent, associate professor in the Faculty of Education and Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Governance and Education, for being named joint chair of the UNESCO Chair in Transforming Indigenous Knowledge Research Governance and Rematriation. In this role, she will help to advance Indigenous rights, knowledge system and self-determination across the globe.

The Chair reported that as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, she, in her role as President, has been appointed chair of the Research Universities' Council of B.C. for a two-year term.

The Chair reported that on June 12, 2026, SFU Chancellor Tamara Vrooman will have served the maximum six-year term as per the University Act. Therefore, the University is beginning the process of selecting a new chancellor. The selection of SFU's next Chancellor represents a unique opportunity to advance the university's strategic priorities and reflect its values in public leadership. The Chancellor serves as a key ambassador, supporting SFU's reputation, relationships, and responsibility to lead in critical areas such as Reconciliation, innovation, and inclusive excellence. Guided by the University Act and SFU policy B10.12, a Chancellor Selection Committee will be formed that includes two members of Senate, elected by the Senate - one faculty member and one student member. Senate will also have a role to play in providing feedback on the selection criteria and terms of reference for the selection committee through the Senate Committee on University Honours (SCUH). The formation of the Committee will occur in July, and feedback will be solicited on the selection criteria and TOR over the summer.

The Chair reported that SFU has re-negotiated a long-term lease agreement at SFU Harbour Centre. This step reaffirms SFU's commitment to a dynamic, sustainable, and thriving presence in the heart of downtown Vancouver. A recent review of space has highlighted how post-pandemic shifts—such as hybrid work, online instruction, and evolving technologies—have changed how spaces are used at the Vancouver campus. In response, the new agreement will better utilize space within Harbour Centre to enhance opportunities for collaboration while also reducing costs and its environmental footprint. There will be no reduction in student or classroom space. As part of this plan, programs currently located in the Harbour Centre Tower building — Venture Labs and Beedie School of Business administrative offices—will be integrated into the main Harbour Centre building. This move will better connect Beedie's growing graduate programs and Venture Labs' expanding partnerships with the university community. The Provost is working closely with deans, faculty, and staff to ensure that space is allocated equitably and enables collaboration and is also thoughtfully planned and well-supported throughout this transition. All space moves within Harbour Centre are expected to be complete by September 2026.

The Chair reported that the SFU School of Medicine has now submitted the initial phases of Undergraduate Medical Education accreditation for review and held a site visit that went very well. It is expected to hear back from the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools on a decision in fall 2026. The School has also finalized key components of curriculum, built out leadership and administrative teams, secured interim facilities and launched clinical faculty recruitment and begun work on an application for Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) accreditation for submission by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks was extended to the entire team at the SoM for their hard work so far.

Noting that over time SFU has slipped in the overall Times Higher Education ranking, a question was asked regarding the reasons for this decline. Senate was informed that over time, the trend has seen SFU drop in the rankings, which is also true for most Canadian institutions. Though this trend is not coming from a single cause, as more and more institutions join the rankings, some countries have made significant investments in their post-secondary systems and to individual universities within those systems. It was added that more information on this topic will come to a future Senate meeting.

**i) Report of the Provost**

The Provost reported that after using its full Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) allocation, the provincial government has given SFU 400 additional allotments. This marks an important step towards the recruitment of international students and it is hoped that this increase will be included in the baseline for allocations next year.

**6. Question Period**

No questions were submitted.

**7. Report of Faculties regarding students who have met requirements for Degrees, Certificates, and Diplomas****i) Adjustments – Undergraduate Credentials (S.25-108)**

Senate received Adjustments – Undergraduate Credentials for information.

**8. Reports of Committees****A) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)****i) Draft Intellectual Property Policy and Definitions (R 30.03) (S.25-109)**

Senate received Draft Intellectual Property Policy and Definitions (R 30.03) for information.

Kamaldeep Singh Sembhi, Director - Technology Licensing & IP Legal Counsel, and Elicia Maine, Associate Vice-President - Knowledge Mobilization and Innovation, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting that the Board of Governors approved a special policy statement in respect of policy R 30.03 which states that SFU *specifically acknowledges that IP created exclusively by a student Creator in the course of completing the requirements for an academic degree...is owned by the student Creator, to the extent that the IP comprises part of the requirements for the degree or certificate*, a question was asked to clarify what is intended by the latter part of that statement. An example was offered of a student using software to help write a thesis, but not having that software as part of the thesis. Senate was informed that the language from the statement is taken verbatim from the current IP policy and will serve as a temporary holdover until a new IP policy is in place. As to the example provided, if software is used for only a part of a thesis, what the university would receive would be for non-commercial and research scholarly use only.

A concern was raised that section 5.1.2 sounds like institutional overreach, and a question was asked regarding if the university can publish someone's research without permission. Senate was informed that this policy revision is creator-friendly and the language used is as generous as any of the creator-owned policies across Canada. And while efforts have been made to build a creator-friendly innovation ecosystem, the institution retains the right to use research for teaching and research purposes. It was added that consideration will be given to the language used to ensure it does not imply that the university can publish someone's research without permission.

A question was asked as to how this policy revision would impact companies coming into the classroom to work with students on projects. Senate was informed that the policy revision should not impose any more restrictions than currently exist. Generally, if a company comes in to work on a project there is an agreement in place with the university. If there isn't, any IP created by the student would be owned by the student, absent any agreement to the contrary. The company may also provide their own agreement to be negotiated with the student.

A follow-up was asked regarding if there is a standard template that can be provided to a company to protect both the company and the student from risk. Senate was informed that the Technology Licensing Office has helped in these situations to ensure that the company understands what it's getting into, but it was added that the Office can only represent the university and not the student.

A question was asked about the definition listed for *creator* in section 2.3 of Appendix A, noting that the language can be read either very narrowly or very broadly. Senate was informed that the intent is to reduce the scope and speak to software and patent language only. It was added that the language used in the definition can possibly be made more precise to capture software and invention that is being used for commercialization.

A question was asked regarding how the policy would impact a student who received feedback/assistance from an instructor in the development of an idea that went to market. Senate was informed that when speaking about IP, it's important to compartmentalize what type of IP is being referred to. For patents, there is a legal test as to who is considered the inventor. If both the student and the instructor contributed to the inventive aspect of the IP, then both would be considered the inventors. Similarly, for copyright, if an instructor assisted in the authorship of the IP, both would be recognized as authors. In either case, much of the determination around these issues would fall to legal tests of the IP rather than to the policy itself.

**ii) Decision and Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Senate Grade Appeal (S.25-110)**  
Senate received Decision and Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Senate Grade Appeal for information.

Noting that this report recommends changes to both policy and practice, the following motion was moved:

**Motion:**

Moved by M. O'Brien, seconded by L. Kim

“That Senate approve the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Senate Grade Appeal Committee, as outlined in S.25-110, be referred to the Senate Committee on University Studies (SCUS) for review and consideration of appropriate implementation measures, including potential policy changes, and that SCUS report back to Senate with its findings and proposed actions upon completion of the review.”

A question was asked to clarify the recommendation in section 2.1.2, which states that *instructors be required to provide a distribution of grades /breakdown of assignments and their*

*corresponding grade weight in writing before the term begins.* Senate was informed that this recommendation refers to the breakdown of assignments and what percentage of the overall grade will be assigned to each given assignment, and also to what range of grade constitutes receiving an A or B and so forth. It was added that an edit would be made to the language to better reflect the intention.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Full Program Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Economics Major and Honours (S.25-111)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by C. Liu

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Economics Major and Honours in the Department of Economics within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.”

David Freeman, Undergraduate Chair - Department of Economics (FASS), was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Suspension of Admission to the Computing Science Dual Degree Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy (S.25-112)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by C. Liu

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Computing Science Dual Degree Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in the School of Computing Science within the Faculty of Applied Sciences, effective Fall 2026.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Changes to Undergraduate Admission Requirements for British Columbia (B.C.) Grade 12 High School Applicants (S.25-113)**

Moved by P. Kingsbury, seconded by K. Masri

“That Senate approve, effective Fall 2026, the changes to undergraduate admission requirements for British Columbia (B.C.) Grade 12 High School applicants, as outlined in the appendix.”

Mike Peragine, Director - Student Recruitment and Admissions, and Sean McKenna, Senior Director – Student Services Operations, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting that UBC, U of T, and McGill require a minimum of six grade 12 courses, a question was asked to explain the discrepancy in SFU requiring five approved academic Grade 12 courses. Senate was informed that a thorough environmental scan was done and only small numbers of

schools require six grade 12 courses, with five being the predominate number. Requiring six would make it more difficult for applicants to meet SFU requirements and would put them at a disadvantage.

A question was asked about the change in English Language Requirements whereas students can take any grade 11 English course but only one specific grade 12 course. Senate was informed that at the grade 11 level, students have multiple grade 11 English courses they can choose from, whereas at the grade 12 level, they must take English Studies 12 (or equivalent) as part of their graduation requirement.

A question was asked to explain the rationale for moving to an unweighted model rather than weighing courses required for a particular faculty. Senate was informed that an analysis was done of the applicant pool from the last few years using the weighted model in comparison to the same students on an unweighted model and the difference in their scores is approximately 2 points. Further, in order to facilitate early admissions offers in the fall, grade 12 marks are not available so students are using grade 11 marks as a representative of their grade 12 marks, which doesn't provide an accurate picture. The new model works off of only official grades, which would be all grade 11 final marks and any interim grade 12 marks. It was added that the unweighted model encourages consistency across all subjects rather than just ones weighted at a higher level and reduces inequities and confusion around courses that are weighed differently from one program to another.

A question was asked regarding how early offers of admission might impact the awarding of scholarships. Senate was informed that there is a mechanism in place for scholarships to be revoked if certain conditions are not met. It was noted that once a certain minimal cutoff is met, grades don't play a significant factor in determining which students receive scholarships.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) SFU Calendar Full-Time and Part-Time Student Definitions (S.25-114)**

Moved by P. Kingsbury, seconded by A. Gough

“That Senate approve, effective Spring 2026, the addition of the full-time and part-time student definitions to the SFU Calendar.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Annual Report 2023-2024 (S.25-115)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) Annual Report 2023-2024 for information.

Noting a discussion at the March 2024 Senate meeting on the Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Policy and an agreement that SCUS report back to Senate on the academic success, or lack thereof, of students admitted under this policy, a question was asked regarding if SCUS has considered providing such reports to Senate. Senate was informed that this would be taken under advisement and reported back to Senate.

**iv) Program Changes (S.25-116)**

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 Art and Social Sciences (Psychology), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences).

**v) New Course Proposals (S.25-117)**

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 Computing Science), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program), and the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology, Geography, School of Environmental Science).

**vi) Course Changes (S.25-118)**

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 Beedie School of Business, Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Environment (School of Environmental Science), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences).

**vii) WQB Designations (S.25-119)**

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 (Humanities, International Studies, Philosophy, Political Science), the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Earth Sciences).

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

**i) Annual Report 2024-2025 (S.25-120)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Annual Report 2024-2025 for information.

A question was asked regarding if the Distinguished Lecturer Award is moving forward. Senate was informed that a Distinguished Lecturer Award & Policy Working Group was formed and has met several times but that nothing concrete has been put forward as of yet.

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

**i) Graduate General Regulations 1.12 Time Limit for Completion and 1.7 Program Requirements (S.25-121)**

Moved by M. O'Brien, seconded by Travers

“That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulations 1.12 Time Limit for Completion (effective Spring 2026) and 1.7 Program Requirements, (effective Summer

2026)."

Citing concerns over the language in section 1.7.2 stating that *theses...can be provided in other languages if the supervisory committee has the proficiency to supervise in that chosen language*, a motion to refer this item back to SGSC was moved:

Motion:

Moved by M. O'Brien, seconded by C. Percival

"That item S.25-121 (Graduate General Regulations 1.12 Time Limit for Completion and 1.7 Program Requirements) be referred back to SGSC."

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION TO REFER CARRIED

**ii) Graduate General Regulations 1.2 Administration of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and 1.9 Preparation for Examinations (S.25-122)**

Moved by M. O'Brien, seconded by M. Baker

"That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulations 1.2 Administration of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (effective Spring 2026) and 1.9 Preparation for Examinations (effective Summer 2026).

A question was asked to clarify if an advisory member with *lived experiences* was added to the examining committee, would they be a voting member. Senate was informed that the expectation would be that a person brought on as an advisory member would not be a voting member. It was added that this category was introduced so that there could be additional expertise provided to the committee by a non-academic member.

A question was asked around the rationale for adding the advisory member at the examining stage. Senate was informed that advisory members can be brought on early in the process. If, for example, a student is working with a member from the community on a community project, that individual will have been involved from early on and would be considered part of what the student is receiving in terms of supervisory capacity. As such, the expectation is that this individual would be recognized as being an advisory member on the examination committee.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED,  
with 3 abstentions.

**iii) Program Changes (S.25-123)**

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

**iv) Program Changes (S.25-124)**

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

**v) New Course Proposals (S.25-125)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Environment (Geography).

**vi) New Course Proposals (S.25-126)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management).

**vii) Course Changes (S.25-127)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (English).

**viii) Course Deletions (S.25-128)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a course deletion in the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management).

**F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.25-129)**

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) SFU Academic Plan (2025-2030): Presentation on the Latest Draft (S.25-130)**

Senate received SFU Academic Plan (2025-2030): Presentation on the Latest Draft for information.

Senator Hall did a brief presentation, following which he responded to questions.

A concern was raised that feedback provided by a group of faculty members has not been incorporated into this version of the Academic Plan, despite having been submitted by the deadline. The feedback focused on such things as academic freedom, bolstering language around academic excellence, and concerns over administrative overreach, particularly related to mandates for indigenization and decolonization. Senate was informed that the feedback has been received and is appreciated, and though some has been taken on board, not all feedback will be adopted into the final draft.

A comment was made that the Academic Plan should place a greater focus on teaching excellence. Though many of the efficiencies and redesigns around curriculum are positive, it was stated that it would be beneficial to have language specifically on the practice of teaching, similar to what appears in the Research section. Senate was informed that consideration is being given to what kinds of commitments the University can and should be making around teaching excellence.

Noting the feedback provided on concerns around academic freedom, a question was asked regarding if faculty members will have the opportunity to see a revised draft and submit comments on it. Senate was informed that feedback provided on the first draft has been helpful when considering the plan as an attempt to try and align the activities of the University, but it was argued that nothing in the Academic Plan should be read as impinging on individual academic freedoms.

A question was asked regarding what the consultation process will look like around Internationalization and Global Engagement. Senate was informed the SFU International Office has a relatively new executive director who's picking up the work of developing an academic plan and a strategic plan around internationalization. Though the exact process around consultation is unknown, it would be expected that it would follow a similar process that deans follow when consulting within their faculties on faculty plans.

Referencing a line from the presentation around consideration of how many students SFU can *educate well*, a question was asked to clarify what that means. Senate was informed that a part of educating well is understanding SFU's place as a research-intensive comprehensive university. There is also a strong resource component at play, given that the provincial government gives the university a certain amount of money for a certain number of domestic students, and when that threshold is exceeded, SFU doesn't generate enough revenue to be able to provide a good education with robust support services.

**10. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting - Monday, September 8, 2025**

Open session adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Kris Nordgren  
Secretary of Senate pro tem