SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

SENATE SUMMARY
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

1. **Report of the Chair**

   The Chair reported that SFU faced a security incident on Burnaby campus over the summer. Since that event, students, faculty and staff reported that the emergency response was not as robust as it needed to be and caused concern and confusion among the SFU community. Assurance was given that Galib Bhayani, Chief Safety and Risk Officer, has conducted a full debrief within SFU, including with union and employee group representatives, and also with the RCMP. It was added that SFU is committed to learning, improving and ensuring consistent processes and communication in the case of any future incidents, and Safety and Risk Services will share details with the community this fall on what to expect in an emergency and how to access accurate information.

   The Chair reported that SFU welcomed 34 new faculty members this September in faculties and departments all across the university, from Psychology and Health Sciences to Education, Business, Sustainable Energy Engineering and Indigenous Languages.

   The Chair reported that SFU has welcomed Nobel Prize-winning chemist Thomas Cech as the inaugural President's Distinguished Visiting Scholar, a position created to recognize academics who have been trailblazers in their field and enable distinguished scholars to spend time at SFU. This fall, Cech will co-teach a molecular biology and biochemistry course and provide advice and mentorship to faculty members, enhancing the SFU experience for community members across the Faculty of Science and the university.

   The Chair recognized a number of faculty members for their recent achievements:

   - Computing Science professor Jiangchuan Liu, Public Policy professor Kora DeBeck, Health Sciences professor TJ (Travis) Salway and REM professor Tammara Soma for being named to the Royal Society of Canada, the nation's top academic honour;
   - Health Sciences professor Zabrina Brumme for being elected as a Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Fellow;
   - REM professor Mark Jaccard for being awarded the Order of British Columbia, the province's highest honour, for his outstanding contributions to global climate action;
   - Environmental professor Ruth Joy and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry professor Peter Unrau for being awarded a combined total of $3.3M in funding from NSERC's Collaborative Research and Training Experience program for their respective projects.

   The Chair reported the following leadership updates:

   - Sean Markey began his appointment as Dean, Faculty of Environment, effective August 1, 2025 for a 5-year term.
   - David Bangsberg will join SFU effective October 15, 2025 as the next Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Jeremy Snyder will continue as dean pro tem until David's arrival.

As reported at the previous Senate meeting, the Chair reminded Senate that Chancellor Tamara Vrooman is nearing the end of her maximum six-year term as Chancellor, per the University Act. As such, the university is beginning the process of selecting a new chancellor. Guided by the University Act and SFU policy B10.12, a Chancellor Selection Committee has been formed that includes two members of Senate, Sikandra Ali (student rep) and Matt Martell (faculty rep). The first committee meeting will be held in September, and a call for nominations will be issued to Senate and members of the community later this fall.

The Chair reported that since the summer of 2024, SFU's Artificial Intelligence strategy committee and many other subcommittee members from across the university have been exploring the opportunities and impacts of AI at SFU, in the areas of learning and teaching, research, operations and external engagement. An overall SFU AI strategy is now in draft and will be shared early this fall. As part of this work, a document entitled *Learning & Teaching with Artificial Intelligence Guidelines* has been drafted. These guidelines aim to provide guidance for instructors, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as an AI framework for unit leaders. The guidelines will be distributed to stakeholders across the university for review, feedback and refinement during the fall term and ultimately submitted to Senate for approval.

The Chair reported that the government relations team continues to advance SFU's strategic priorities through engaging with the provincial and federal governments on topics including financial sustainability, the Cedar Supercomputing Centre expansion and SFU's leadership in research topics including climate innovation, research infrastructure and AI research and adoption. The Chair, in her role as President, is headed to Ottawa next week for meetings with key government stakeholders, and a mission to Victoria is being planned for next month as well.

The Chair reported some dates and events to be aware of this fall:

- Friday, Sept. 12: First Peoples' Gathering House Grand Opening – all community members are invited to an open house from 2:30-6:00 pm. Drop by to enjoy performances from Indigenous performers, bannock and tours of the new space.
- Saturday, Sept. 20: Marianne and Gibson Art Museum opening. While the opening event is ticketed, once the museum is open it will be free and open to all.
- Wednesday, Sept. 24: Faculty and Staff Town Hall.

2. **Report of the Provost**
The Provost reported that steps are being taken to finalize the Academic Plan (2025-2030). It will be presented to the Board of Governors at the end of September, and then will be brought to Senate for information. Thanks was extended to everyone who participated in the consultation process and provided feedback on the plan.

3. **Candidates – Graduate Credentials (S.25-131)**
Senate approved 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.

https://www.sfu.ca/senate/documents/years/2025/sept.html

4. **Candidates – Undergraduate Credentials (S.25-132)**
Senate approved 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.

5. **Senate Appeals Board (SAB) Annual Report 2023 (S.25-133)**
Senate received Senate Appeals Board (SAB) Annual Report 2023 for information.

6. **Senate Appeals Board (SAB) Annual Report 2024 (S.25-134)**
Senate received Senate Appeals Board (SAB) Annual Report 2024 for information.

7. **Examination Policy (S.25-135)**
This item was withdrawn and referred back to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS).

8. **Undergraduate Program Changes (S.25-136)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2026:

    i) **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

        a) *School of Criminology*
        - Program: Criminology Major

    ii) **Beedie School of Business**

        - Program: Course Access Information and Grade Requirements
        - Program: Business Major
        - Program: Business Honours

    iii) **Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**

        a) *School of Interactive Arts and Technology*
        - Program: Major Admission Requirements
        - Program: Minor Admission Requirements

        b) *Publishing Program*
        - Program: Print and Digital Publishing Minor

    iv) **Faculty of Science**

        a) *Statistics and Actuarial Science*
        - Program: Data Science Major

https://www.sfu.ca/senate/documents/years/2025/sept.html

9. **Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.25-137)**
   Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Spring 2026:

   i) **Faculty of Education**

   - Course (new): EDUC 111, 443, 455

10. **Undergraduate Course Changes (S.25-138)**
    Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2026:

    i) **Faculty of Applied Sciences**

    a) *School of Computing Science*
       - Course (prerequisite): CMPT 403, 431, 433, 454, 471, 479

    b) *School of Engineering Science*
       - Course (equivalency): ENSC 280

    ii) **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

    a) *Office of the Dean*
       - Course (title, description, prerequisite, equivalency): FASS 222, 223, 224
       - Course (deletion): FASS 225

    b) *School of Criminology*
       - Course (units): CRIM 300W, 320, 321, 330

    c) *School for International Studies*
       - Course (prerequisite, description): IS 497

    iii) **Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**

    a) *School of Communication*
       - Course (units): CMNS 497, 498

    b) *School of Interactive Arts and Technology*
       - Course (prerequisite): IAT 355, 360

11. **New WQB Designations (S.25-139)**
    Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following WQB designations, effective Summer 2026:

    i) **New WQB Designations**

    - Course (B-Hum, B-Soc): HIST 138 (effective Spring 2026)
    - Course (B-Hum): CMNS 226

https://www.sfu.ca/senate/documents/years/2025/sept.html

- Course (B-Soc): PHIL 270
- Course (B-Soc): SDA 270
- Course (Q designation): EASC 413, 415
- Course (Q designation): SDA 100 (effective Fall 2025)

ii) **WQB Removals**

- Course (Q designation): REM 221, 412 (effective Fall 2026)

12. **Graduate General Regulation 1.2 Administration of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (S.25-140)**
Senate approved the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.2 Administration of the Faculty of Graduate Studies effective Summer 2026.

13. **Graduate General Regulation 1.4 Enrollment (S.25-141)**
Senate approved the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.4 Enrollment effective Summer 2026.

14. **Graduate General Regulation 1.7 Program Requirements (S.25-142)**
Senate approved the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.7 Program Requirements effective Summer 2026.

15. **Graduate General Regulation 1.10 Examinations (S.25-143)**
Senate approved the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.10 Examinations effective Summer 2026.

16. **Graduate General Regulation 1.11 Publication of Thesis (S.25-144)**
Senate approved the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.11 Publication of Thesis effective Summer 2026.

17. **Graduate General Regulation 1.12 Time Limit for Program Completion (S.25-145)**
Senate approved the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.12 Time Limit for Program Completion effective Summer 2026.

18. **Graduate Program Changes (S.25-146)**
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program change, effective Summer 2026:

i) **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

a) *Psychology*
- Program: Psychology MA

19. **Graduate Course Changes (S.25-147)**
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course change, effective Summer 2026:

    i)   Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

        a) Gerontology
- Course (title): GERO 802
- Course (description): GERO 811, 820, 850

    ii)   Faculty of Science

        a) Biological Sciences
- Course (description, Prerequisite): BISC 854

20. **Graduate Course Reinstatement (S.25-148)**
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course reinstatement, effective Fall 2025:

    i)   Faculty of Applied Sciences

        a) School of Engineering Science
- Course (reinstatement): ENSC 861

21. **Senate Committee Elections (S.25-149)**
Senate received a summary of the nominations, positions elected by acclamation, positions requiring an online vote, and outstanding vacancies for Senate committees.

22. **Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2024/25 Grades Report (S.25-150)**
Senate received Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2024/25 Grades Report for information.

23. **Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2024 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report (S.25-151)**
Senate received Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2024 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report for information.

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the November Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the September 2025 Senate documents: https://www.sfu.ca/senate/documents/years/2025/sept.html.

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

https://www.sfu.ca/senate/documents/years/2025/sept.html