



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

Open Session

Present: Joy Johnson, Chair

Al-Rawi, Ahmed
Altman, Rachel
Ashoughian, Gohar
Bangsberg, David
Brooks-Wilson, Angela
Carcano, Luana
Chapman, Glenn
Collard, Mark
Crage, Suzanna
Denholm, Julia
Eftenaru, Cristina
Everton, Michael
Ferenc, Ava
Fisher, Brian
Fiume, Eugene
Frank, Richard
Gislason, Maya
Gray, Bonnie
Gunawan, Darrick
Hall, Peter
Hashemi, Tara
Herrenbrueck, Lucas
Khangura, Harinder
Kingsbury, Paul
Laitsch, Dan
Liu, Connie
Lysova, Alexandra
Markey, Sean
Martell, Matt
Masri, Kamal
McKenzie, Janis
Myers, Gord
Neustaedter, Carman
O'Brien, Mary
O'Neil, Dugan
Pantophlet, Ralph
Percival, Colin
Price, David
Rassier, Dilson
Schiphorst, Thecla

Schmidt, Michèle
Shulepova, Sofia
Snyder, Jeremy
Stockie, John
Sutherland, Jill
Szymczyk, Barbara
Thornton, Allen
Toma, Mary
Washington, Marvin
Weldon, Laurel
Whitehurst, David
Williams, Vance
Zickfeld, Kirsten

Absent:

Accettola, Evan
Ali, Sikandra
Bagga, Rishu
Baker, Micah
Bhalloo, Shafik
Black, Sam
Brennand, Tracy
Choi, Jake
Dhelia, Priyanka
Do, Henry
Gough, Aidan
Jahandideh, Roman
Kim, Lisa
Kwan, Isabelle
Leznoff, Daniel
Liu, Landy
Murali, Surya
Travers
Vrooman, Tamara

In Attendance:

Gill, Parm
Seth, Shashi
Stern, Pam
Taylor, Donald

Tom Nault, Secretary of Senate
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 September 8, 2025

The minutes of the open session on September 8, 2025 were approved as distributed.

3. The Minutes of the Open Session of October 6, 2025 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on December 1, 2025

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that SFU has again been named the top comprehensive university in Canada according to Maclean's magazine. This marks the 16th time SFU has earned this title in the past 17 years.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, was in Ottawa last week to attend Universities Canada's annual membership meeting. At the meeting members were presented with some new polling data that—for the first time in years—showed an upturn in Canadians who feel positively about universities. The data also showed that we are living in an age of precarity, with people living in an ongoing state of uncertainty and anxiety. Given this, universities have an opportunity to offer a message of reassurance and hope—through research, teaching, learning and work, and to act as a stabilizing force for communities and for the country. The Chair added that at this meeting she was officially installed as chair of the Universities Canada Board. As a B.C. university, SFU has struggled to get traction in Ottawa in the past, and it's hoped that this appointment will help give SFU a lift in terms of visibility and influence on the east coast.

The Chair reported that Premier David Eby visited the Surrey campus last month to share news about where the new location of the medical school facility is going to be and opening admissions to the medical school. Though much work remains, thanks was extended to Senator Price and the medical school team for their work up to this point.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, along with an SFU delegation, travelled to Victoria for the annual caucus receptions. Meetings were held with both the NDP and Opposition caucuses to share the latest from SFU. Senator Price also joined to speak to the School of Medicine. It was noted that building up goodwill and demonstrating to the government that SFU can be a good partner for them is going to be helpful in the long term, especially given the continuing need to have conversations about ensuring a sustainably-funded post-secondary sector.

The Chair reported that after receiving approval from Senate, the 2025-2030 Academic Plan was formally released and shared with students, faculty and staff last month. This plan was the result of many months of hard work by faculty and staff across the university and thanks was given to

those who contributed to the process. The Academic Plan outlines SFU's ongoing commitment to the academic mission and creating an exceptional educational experience for students, while also reflecting strategic direction and priorities as outlined in What's Next and research priorities as outlined in the Strategic Research Plan.

The Chair highlighted the following upcoming engagement opportunities:

- November 6: SFU Strategic Research Plan Town Hall
 - SFU is now at the midway point of the 2023-2028 Strategic Research Plan, and will take this as an opportunity to share the progress made so far and to hear from community members and look ahead from now through to 2028.
- November 20: Budget Info Session
 - Faculty and staff are invited to join SFU leadership for a virtual info session that will provide insights into the university's 2026-27 budget planning process. This session will help faculty and staff better understand and engage with budgetary discussions in their departments and units.

i) Report of the Provost

The Provost had nothing to report.

6. Question Period

i) Senator Khangura submitted the following question:

Will the retention period for courses in Canvas Cloud be long enough to satisfy the above departmental and instructor requirements?

Senator Kingsbury responded to this question.

Senate was informed that consultation has been held with Archives and Records Management and they are in the early stages of drafting a new records retention schedule and disposal authority for Canvas. At this time, no changes to current retention practices are being made, but broader stakeholder consultation on the Canvas RRSDA is planned for 2026. The move from on-prem Canvas to the cloud raises retention questions, which will be addressed through consultation with key stakeholders. Retention periods will be set to meet departmental, university, and instructor needs, while complying with copyright and privacy legislation. These considerations will apply to both the current on-prem system and the future cloud environment.

ii) Senator Collard submitted the following questions:

- a. *Will the President and Chair of Senate agree to instruct the Dean of the School of Medicine to provide Senate with a full and transparent explanation of this matter? Specifically, I would like to know the following: Were two different versions of the FPP prepared and Senate given only one of them, as the dates of the documents imply? Regardless, whom will be held to account, what will the consequences be, and what corrective measures will be taken to prevent a recurrence?*

- b. *Will the President and Chair of Senate agree to instruct the School of Medicine's leadership team to present the current staffing plan for the School to Senate for its consideration and approval?*

Senator Price responded to this question.

Senate was informed that in terms of the faculty staffing model, authority to appoint employees of the university, including teaching staff, rests with the Board of Governors. What is being proposed by the medical school is that medical students will be taught by a combination of medical research faculty and clinical faculty and other qualified instructors in both classroom and clinical settings. Teaching delivery occurs across multiple settings, including traditional classrooms, labs, laboratory environments, simulation facilities, clinical sites, as well as community-based locations. This multimodal approach ensures that comprehensive medical education combines both theoretical knowledge with practical application. Rigorous standards will be maintained for faculty qualifications, with appointments based on expertise, credentials, and alignment with educational objectives. This ensures students receive high-quality instruction from appropriately qualified professionals across all aspects of the medical curriculum.

The current complement of School of Medicine (SoM) faculty includes individuals who held appointments as full professors at other universities, many with tenure, as well as a number of faculty with Masters of Education. Clinical faculty, or clinicians, are accredited practicing physicians who provide current practical medical experience from active practice. The medical research faculty are full-time employees, and those positions are focused on research, scholarship, education, and mentoring related to primary care systems and outcomes. Core research is focused on understanding, influencing, and improving structures, systems, and outcomes in primary care. The SoM is focused on being leaders in research and scholarly work in this country, particularly in the primary care landscape. All of these medical research faculty are tenure-tracked appointments, from the assistant to the full professor levels, typically requiring a PhD or equivalent research doctorate credentials. Medical research faculty are required to teach and will contribute to scholarship, education, mentoring, and service, while also bringing their cutting-edge research focused on primary care systems and outcomes.

Instruction to focus on relevant modules and thematic components of the years one, two, and three are a key component of this as well. Clinical faculty contractor positions provide episodic clinical instruction and supervision. These are primarily practicing physicians, medical doctors, and others who provide clinical instruction and supervision in clinical settings. These are typically three-year renewable term appointments for practicing medical physicians with MD credentials or equivalent health professional degrees. They are compensated through a provincially negotiated stipend identical to what UBC professors would receive and with no guaranteed hours.

- c. *Will the President and Chair of Senate agree to (a) instruct the Dean of the School of Medicine to halt the active Medical Research Faculty searches and propose steps to bring the searches into line with policy A10.08, the assurances given to Senators in the*

Q&A document circulated on 17-Oct-25, and the principle that professors should hire professors; and (b) allow Senate to approve the proposed steps before hiring resumes?

The Chair responded to this question.

Senate was informed that with respect to the collective agreement, it's important to note that faculty in the School of Medicine are not yet part of the SFUFA collective agreement, so it does not apply. Additionally, while SFU has a number of policies related to recruitment, there's no independent requirement that an official university policy government recruitment processes within a faculty. The practice at SFU has been that hiring units determine their own hiring processes as part of collegial governance. When it comes to medical research faculty, this means that the SoM can determine its processes, subject to the principles in its faculty governance materials. Those materials do not have to prescribe the specific steps taken by a search committee, and even the SFUFA collective agreement stipulates that the parties acknowledge that there's variation of recruitment and hiring practices among academic units and existing academic hiring policies that are managed through faculty relations and do not follow prescriptive processes, including visiting faculty and university research associate.

- d. *Will the President and Chair of Senate agree to develop a mechanism for reviewing all proposals due to come to Senate with a view to identifying matters that are of particular importance and therefore should be highlighted by motion sponsors and explicitly discussed by Senate?*

With the allotted time for Question Period having passed, the Chair informed Senate that written responses for the unanswered questions would be prepared and shared with Senators, as stipulated by the Rules of Senate.

Note: the written response was distributed to Senators on November 12, 2025.

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

i) Adjustments – Undergraduate Credentials (S.25-169)

No adjustments were submitted.

8. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)

Prior to addressing the SCAR items, as motion was moved to change the start time of the December 1, 2025 Senate meeting:

Motion:

Moved by P. Kingsbury, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That the December 1, 2025 Senate meeting begin at 6:30 pm.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

i) Consultation Plan for R30.04 Copyright Compliance and Administration Policy (S.25-170)

Senate received Consultation Plan for R30.04 Copyright Compliance and Administration Policy for information.

Donald Taylor, University Copyright Officer – SFU Library, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A concern was raised about section 3.3 of the university's *Fair Dealing Guidelines*, which narrowly defines what counts as a *short excerpt*. It was noted that fair dealing is a user's right under copyright law, shaped largely by court decisions, and that Section 3.2 reflects this established case law. However, section 3.3 goes beyond what the law requires by prohibiting instructors from distributing entire short works (such as short stories or poems) when those works appear in a collection or anthology. This restriction prevents sharing short stories or poems with students via Canvas, even when such use would otherwise be permitted under fair dealing. As a result, students may be forced to buy multiple collections, creating unnecessary financial burdens. Senate was informed that section 3.3 reflects widely adopted guidelines from Universities Canada and peer institutions that distinguish creative works (like short stories) from scholarly works. Courts recognize creative works as having a different nature and purpose, and are often written for remuneration and entertainment rather than research or education, which justifies different treatment under fair dealing. It was added that these are guidelines and that the courts have not set strict quantitative limits on fair dealing. When a proposed use falls outside the guidelines, instructors should consult the Copyright Office for guidance, as use may still qualify as fair dealing for educational or research purposes upon review.

Noting that section 4.4 of SFU's *Fair Dealing* policy states that a *short excerpt* means *an entire single poem or musical score from a copyright protected work containing other poems or musical scores*, a question was asked around if distribution of a single poem is allowed. Senate was informed that a new set of guidelines is being introduced because the existing ones on the website contain transcription errors and no longer reflect current practice. Changes in circumstances, especially following the York case, made it clear that the guidelines needed to be more limited and clearly defined. Although practices were updated in 2020, the old guidelines are outdated and have not been operational for about five years, necessitating this update. As to the use of a single poem, that would depend on a number of factors including what poem is being used, its copyright status, and the source of the material.

A question was asked about how long it would take to receive a response from the Copyright Office once a question is submitted. Senate was informed that the typical turnaround time for a response is between 24 and 48 hours in most cases.

ii) Consultation Plan for R50.03 Postdoctoral Fellows Policy (S.25-171)

Senate received Consultation Plan for R50.03 Postdoctoral Fellows Policy for information.

Quoting section 4.2.1 which states that in addition to research a Postdoctoral Fellow (PDF) *may also be involved in undergraduate and graduate lecturing, laboratory instruction, tutorials, assisting with supervision of undergraduate projects, and...supervision*, a question was asked regarding if limits should be placed on non-research activities in order for a person to hold a PDF position. Senate was informed that there's a wide variety of ways that postdocs are trained across the institution. In some disciplines, it's unusual for a postdoc to participate in anything but the research that they were hired under. In others, participation in the education of students is considered a key part of postdoctoral training, whether that's education through mentoring of research projects or in the classroom. As such, this policy is built to provide that kind of flexibility to faculty members and their postdocs.

B) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS)

i) Annual Report 2024/2025 (S.25-172)

Senate received the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS) Annual Report 2024/2025 for information.

C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Full Program Proposal for a Theatre and Performance Minor (S.25-173)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by C. Liu

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Theatre and Performance Minor in the School for the Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.”

With the resource person not being in attendance to respond to questions, the Chair decided to move consideration of items S.25-173 and S.25-174 to the December 2025 Senate meeting.

ii) Full Program Proposal for a Theatre and Performance Extended Minor (S.25-174)

As noted above, consideration of this item is moved to the December 2025 Senate meeting.

iii) External Review Report and Action Plan for the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (S.25-175)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by V. Williams

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies that resulted from its External Review.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Program Name Change for the Urban Studies Certificate (S.25-176)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program name change from the Urban Studies Certificate to Urban Change Certificate in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.25-177)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication, School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.25-178)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

iii) Course Changes (S.25-179)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Mathematics).

A question was asked seeking the rationale for CHEM 109, 191 and 192 being temporarily withdrawn. Senate was informed that these courses did not attract the number of students as hoped by the department, and have been replaced by other courses that have been more popular.

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

i) Learning & Teaching with Artificial Intelligence Guidelines (S.25-180)

Moved by P. Kingsbury, seconded by J. Stockie

“That Senate approve the Learning & Teaching with Artificial Intelligence Guidelines at Simon Fraser University.”

Parm Gill, Instructional Designer in the Learning and Teaching Division - Centre for Educational Excellence, and Shashi Seth, Educational Developer, Online and Blended Learning - Centre for Educational Excellence, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made that AI is a vague descriptor and there may be a need, given their varying requirements, to differentiate between generative AI that produces text and generative AI that produces images.

A comment was made that some of the language used in the guidelines could be interpreted as being prescriptive, specifically the use of the word *we* or *we pledge*, which can make the guidelines feel prescriptive. It was suggested that the recommendations could be made clearer by highlighting that are coming from a specific committee and do not obligate faculty or staff to adopt particular pledges or commitments.

In reference to AI and academic integrity, a question was asked regarding if it's known how large a problem this is becoming. Senate was informed that exact numbers are unknown, but

there is an urgency in terms of understanding the size of the problem. A spring report from the Learning Experiences Assessment and Planning (LEAP) unit indicated that *respondents estimated that 10% of students are using AI in a way that violates academic integrity, equating to an estimated 2,424 potential academic integrity violations amongst undergraduate students in the Spring 2025 semester alone.*

A question was asked regarding if resources will be available to make SFU instructors better teachers using AI. Senate was informed that the Center for Educational Excellence (CEE) has put a lot of work into developing and delivering workshops on the instructional uses of AI and to create a modicum of critical literacy for instructors. Further, a digital learning working group is being formed to replace the AI Task Force and will help establish concrete and useful guidelines and workshops to assist instructors.

A question was asked regarding if there is any expectation that AI detection tools for instructors, which are currently not recommended, will improve or become reliable enough to be adopted in the near future, and is there potential for changing this stance anytime soon. Senate was informed that AI detectors are not completely reliable and shouldn't be used as definitive proof of AI use. Whether the opinion on AI detectors changes is dependent on future discussions around AI and how the technology evolves.

Noting that the guidelines call for changes to the Student Academic Integrity Policy (S10.01), a question was asked about the potential of increased instructor workload due to academic dishonesty procedures. Senate was informed that that updating academic integrity involves revising the policy and then revising the procedures. A key recommendation is a diversionary, educational approach to cases of AI misuse and academic dishonesty, treating them as teachable moments. It was added that academic dishonesty cases are likely underestimated due to the amount of work that can accompany a case, coupled with the precarious positions of sessional instructors and TAs, which can discourage reporting. Despite the complexity of this issue, updating academic integrity procedures is an important step in addressing concerns around under-reportage.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

F) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Graduate General Regulation 1.6 Supervision (S.25-181)

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

“That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.6 Supervision, effective Summer 2026.”

Pam Stern, Associate Dean, Policy + Curriculum, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked around centralized power within the Faculty of Graduate Studies and if it would be preferable to have an intermediary authority between departmental graduate program chairs and the dean. Senate was informed that the proposed changes to GGR 1.6 are minimal and are to ensure that completion options within this section of the GGRs align with those that have

already been passed by Senate. A more fulsome set of changes to GGR 1.6 will be coming to Senate in the new year and will look to place more decision-making authority with departmental graduate studies committees.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Program Changes (S.25-182)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), and the Faculty of Environment (School of Environmental Science).

iii) New Course Proposals (S.25-183)

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 Sustainable Energy Engineering), and the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology, School of Environmental Science).

iv) Course Changes (S.25-184)

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

G) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.25-185)

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) Welcome Day Programming Spring Term 2026 (S.25-186)

Senate received Welcome Day Programming Spring Term 2026 for information.

10. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting - Monday, December 1, 2025

With regular business having concluded, and noting that the time is only 7:05 pm, a question was asked about extending the meeting to address the unanswered questions from Question Period. The chair informed Senate that such a motion would be considered if moved:

Motion:

Moved by R. Altman, seconded by D. Gunawan

“That the open session of Senate be extended by 15 minutes to discuss the unanswered questions from Question Period.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION FAILED

Open session adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Tom Nault
Secretary of Senate