



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, December 1, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Joy Johnson, Chair

Accettola, Evan  
Ali, Sikandra  
Al-Rawi, Ahmed  
Altman, Rachel  
Ashoughian, Gohar  
Baker, Micah  
Bangsberg, David  
Bhalloo, Shafik  
Black, Sam  
Brooks-Wilson, Angela  
Carcano, Luana  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chenier, El (for Mary O'Brien)  
Collard, Mark  
Crage, Suzanna  
Denholm, Julia  
Dhelia, Priyanka  
Do, Henry  
Eftenaru, Cristina  
Everton, Michael  
Fisher, Brian  
Fiume, Eugene  
Gebre, Engida  
Gough, Aidan  
Gray, Bonnie  
Gunawan, Darrick  
Hall, Peter  
Hashemi, Tara  
Herrenbrueck, Lucas  
Khangura, Harinder  
Kim, Lisa  
Kingsbury, Paul  
Kwan, Isabelle  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Liu, Connie  
Markey, Sean  
Martell, Matt  
Masri, Kamal  
McKenzie, Janis

Myers, Gord  
Neustaedter, Carman  
O'Neil, Dugan  
Price, David  
Rassier, Dilson  
Schiphorst, Thecla  
Schmidt, Michèle  
Shulepova, Sofia  
Snyder, Jeremy  
Stockie, John  
Sutherland, Jill  
Szymczyk, Barbara  
Toma, Mary  
Travers  
Washington, Marvin  
Weldon, Laurel  
Whitehurst, David  
Williams, Vance

**Absent:**

Bagga, Rishu  
Brennand, Tracy  
Choi, Jake  
Ferenc, Ava  
Frank, Richard  
Gislason, Maya  
Jahandideh, Roman  
Liu, Landy  
Lysova, Alexandra  
Murali, Surya  
O'Brien, Mary  
Pantophlet, Ralph  
Percival, Colin  
Thornton, Allen  
Vrooman, Tamara  
Zickfeld, Kirsten

**In Attendance:**

Long, James

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 October 6, 2025**

The minutes of the open session on October 6, 2025 were approved as distributed.

Referring to the discussion on medical school admissions at the October 2025 Senate meeting, it was pointed out that it remains unclear whether if open-stream candidates would still have a chance to participate in the multiple mini-interview (MMI) process if more candidates than the maximum limit apply through the indigenous stream and are all deemed suitable for the MMI. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought from the medical school team.

**3. The Minutes of the Open Session of November 3, 2025 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on January 5, 2026****4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that SFU recently announced a decision to seek readmission to U Sports – Canada’s leader in university sports. This decision was made to ensure the long-term sustainability of varsity sport at SFU and took into consideration financial, logistical and legal challenges, along with the independent report produced by Bob Copeland. There are many steps in the application process, and assuming all steps are successful, SFU varsity teams would begin competing in Canada West in fall 2027. Until that time, SFU will continue to compete in the NCAA. Updates will be provided to the community as the application to U Sports moves forward.

The Chair reported that the Province recently launched an independent review to strengthen the public post-secondary education system and ensure it is sustainable and well-positioned to support people in B.C. and B.C.’s economic growth. The review is being led by Don Avison, KC, former B.C. deputy minister and former board chair of Emily Carr University of Art + Design. The report and recommendations will be delivered by March 15, 2026. Senate will be updated on this topic as the review gets underway.

The Chair reported that earlier this month, SFU launched the review and consideration of reappointment process for Vice-President Research and Innovation Dugan O’Neil. As mandated by GP 29, a committee has been established to review Dr. O’Neil’s performance and to provide a recommendation for either a reappointment or to initiate a search for a new incumbent. Senators are encouraged to participate in this decision, with feedback by email and survey being accepted until December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair reported that the recent federal budget, which was approved on November 17<sup>th</sup>, included several positive signals for the post-secondary sector. The government has budgeted \$50 billion over 10 years for local infrastructure, including housing and transportation, and \$1

billion to attract high-quality research talent and researchers to Canada. Ottawa also published its annual immigration levels plan with the budget. Consistent with the federal government's approach to date around immigration, the plan included a reduction in study permit allocations. However, international graduate students studying at research universities are now exempt from requiring Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs).

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, was in Ottawa earlier this month for the annual Canadian Science Policy Conference alongside many members of SFU's research team. SFU hosted several panels alongside industry partners on the topics of quantum computing, AI and international collaboration.

The Chair reported that six SFU researchers have been named among Canada's new and renewed Canada Research Chairs:

- Angela Kaida, Faculty of Health Sciences – New Tier 1 CRC in HIV and Sexual & Reproductive Health Equity
- Dara Kelly-Roy, Beedie School of Business – New Tier 2 CRC in Indigenous Economic Wellbeing and Freedom
- Krista Stelkia, Faculty of Health Sciences – New Tier 2 CRC in Indigenous Health Governance
- Manolis Savva, Faculty of Applied Sciences – Renewed Tier 2 CRC in Computer Graphics
- Matthias Danninger, Faculty of Science – Renewed Tier 2 CRC in Experimental Particle Physics
- Palashi Vaghela, Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology – New Tier 2 CRC in Technological Change for Inclusion

**i) Report of the Provost**

The Provost had nothing to report.

**6. Question Period**

No questions were submitted.

Referencing the application to U Sports, a question was asked regarding if SFU will get its football team back if that application is successful. Senate was informed that even if the application to U Sports is successful, SFU does not plan on adding any new teams.

A follow-up question was asked regarding what would happen if SFU is not successful in its application to U Sports. Senate was informed that SFU would be welcome to remain in its current division, however, there is confidence that SFU will be welcomed back to U Sports.

**7. Reports of Committees**

**A) Calendar Committee (CC)**

**i) Academic Dates Guidelines (S.25-187)**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by M. Martell

“That Senate approve the Guidelines for Determining the Academic Calendar of Dates.”

Stephen Spector, CC Chair, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding if language has been added in the new collective agreement to allow flexibility around holiday dates. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

A question was asked regarding if SFU is considering adding a fall reading break. Senate was informed that adding a fall reading break has been discussed at the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) and with colleagues at Senate, but a decision was made not to pursue a change to the calendar that would potentially create a full reading break, as well as necessitate changing the commencement of examinations. It was added, however, that SCUS could take up this issue again, should Senate wish it to do so.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Revision to Academic Dates – Summer 2026 and 2027 Convocation Dates (S.25-188)**

Stephen Spector, CC Chair, was in attendance to respond to questions.

**Motion 1:**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by P. Dhelia

“That Senate approve the revised schedule of academic dates for the Summer 2026 term by adding one additional ceremony on the afternoon of Monday, June 8, 2026 to the June/Spring 2026 convocation ceremony. Spring 2026 Convocation will now run from June 8th to June 12th, 2026.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 2:**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve the revised schedule of academic dates for the Summer 2027 term by adding one additional ceremony on the afternoon of Monday, June 7, 2027 to the June/Spring 2027 convocation ceremony. Spring 2027 Convocation will now run from June 7th to June 11th, 2027.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Academic Dates - Fall 2027 to Summer 2030 (S.25-189)**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by J. Stockie

“That Senate approve the schedule of academic dates for the Fall 2027 to Summer 2030 terms.”

Stephen Spector, CC Chair, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**B) 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.”

James Long, Theatre and Performance Area Coordinator - School for the Contemporary Arts, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Quoting the proposal which states that the *SCA's Theatre and Performance program is unique in the region...with the exception of some aspects of the York (Toronto) curriculum which has a more academic approach to creation*, a question was asked to clarify what *more academic* means in this context. Senate was informed that the proposal is differentiating between the creative research and academic research realms within theatre and performance. Use of the word *academic* refers more to the lecture and writing concentrated approach to learning that York utilizes, as opposed to SFU's in-studio practice-based learning. For example, in the second year York has 12 units dedicated to reading and writing about performance theory, whereas SFU has only 3.

A follow-up comment was made to suggest that the term *classroom-based*, or some such similar term, would be better than *more academic*. Senate was informed that the suggested wording would be given consideration.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Gough

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

James Long, Theatre and Performance Area Coordinator - School for the Contemporary Arts, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Name Change for the Centre for the Studies of Print and Media Cultures (S.25-190)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by M. Baker

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the renaming of the Centre for the Studies of Print and Media Cultures to the Institute for the Studies of Print and Media Cultures.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Name Change for the International Cybercrime Research Centre (S.25-191)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the renaming of the International Cybercrime Research Centre to the International Cybercrime Research Institute.”

A comment was made on the difference between a center and institute, noting that a centre reports up to the dean of a faculty and is generally centered in one faculty, whereas an institute reports to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation and is required to have a multi-faculty membership structure.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Centres and Institutes Annual Reports (S.25-192)**

Senate received Centres and Institutes Annual Reports for information.

**vi) Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications (S.25-193)**

Senate received Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications for information.

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

**i) Program Changes (S.25-194)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Cognitive Science Program, School of Criminology, Economics, Gerontology, Global Humanities, School of International Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Dean’s Office, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry)

**ii) New Course Proposals (S.25-195)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Gerontology, Global Humanities, Philosophy, Political Science, Urban Studies Program), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**iii) Course Changes (S.25-196)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, English, Gerontology, Global Humanities, History, Indigenous Studies, School for International Studies, Philosophy), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Physics).

**iv) WQB Approvals (S.25-197)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved and removed WQB designations in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (History, School of Public Policy), the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management, Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology).

**D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)****i) Program Changes (S.25-198)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Education.

**ii) Course Changes (S.25-199)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**iii) Course Deletions (S.25-200)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a course deletion in the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**E) Senate Library Committee (SLC)****i) Annual Report 2024/2025 (S.25-201)**

Senate received the Senate Library Committee (SLC) Annual Report 2024/2025 for information.

**F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)****i) Senate Committee Elections (S.25-202 Revised)**

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) Process Revision for Full Program Proposals Approvals (S.25-203)**

Senate received Process Revision for Full Program Proposals Approvals for information.

A question was asked regarding if there are scenarios in which changes wouldn't come back to Senate for approval. Senate was informed that this process gives a committee chair discretion to determine if changes are significant enough to require Senate review. Though most changes tend to be minor, this process ensures that no alterations have been made that might cause concern.

A question was asked regarding if there will be a change in the process for updating dates on documents after revisions are made. Senate was informed that the revised date could be placed in brackets underneath the original date.

**9. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting - Monday, January 5, 2026**

Open session adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Tom Nault  
Secretary of Senate