

## SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2025

### 1. 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 15th.

The Chair reported that the recent federal budget, which was approved on November 17th, 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

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

Senate approved and recommended 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.

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

Senate approved and recommended 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.

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

Senate approved Guidelines for Determining the Academic Calendar of Dates.

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

**Motion 1:**

Senate approved 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.

**Motion 2:**

Senate approved 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.

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

Senate approved the schedule of academic dates for the Fall 2027 to Summer 2030 terms.

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

Senate approved and recommended 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.

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

Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the renaming of the International Cybercrime Research Centre to the International Cybercrime Research Institute.

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

Senate received Centres and Institutes Annual Reports for information.

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

Senate received Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications for information.

**11. Undergraduate Program Changes (S.25-194)**

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) Cognitive Science Program**

- Program: Cognitive Science Major
- Program: Cognitive Science Honours

**b) School of Criminology**

- Program: Criminology and Psychology Joint Major
- Program: Criminology Major

**c) Economics**

- Program: Economics Major
- Program: Economics Honours
- Program: Business and Economics Joint Major
- Program: Political Science and Economics Joint Major
- Program: Business and Economics Joint Honours
- Program: Economics Extended Minor
- Program: Economics Minor

**d) Gerontology**

- Program: Gerontology Minor
- Program: Gerontology Post Baccalaureate Diploma

**e) Global Humanities**

- Program: Religious Studies Certificate

**f) School of International Studies**

- Program: International Studies Minor

**g) Linguistics**

- Program: Computing Science and Linguistics Joint Major
- Program: Linguistics of Speech Science Certificate

**h) Philosophy**

- Program: Philosophy Major
- Program: Philosophy Honours
- Program: Business, Philosophy and the Law Joint Major
- Program: Philosophy and Health Sciences Joint Major

- Program: Ethics Certificate
- Program: Philosophy and Methodology of Science Certificate
- Program: Social Data Analytics Minor

**ii) Beedie School of Business**

- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology and Business Joint Major BSc
- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology and Business Joint Major BA or BBA

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

**a) Dean's Office**

- Program: Digital Journalism Certificate (effective Fall 2026)
- Program: Sound Certificate (effective Fall 2026)

**b) School of Interactive Arts and Technology**

- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology Major BA (effective Fall 2026)
- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology Major BSc (effective Fall 2026)
- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology Honours BA (effective Fall 2026)
- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology Honours BSc (effective Fall 2026)

**iv) Faculty of Health Sciences**

- Program: Health Sciences Major BSc
- Program: Health Sciences Honours BSc

**v) Faculty of Science**

**a) Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology**

- Program: Behavioural Neuroscience Major (effective Fall 2026)
- Program: Behavioural Neuroscience Honours (effective Fall 2026)

**b) Molecular Biology and Biochemistry**

- Program: Genomics Certificate

**12. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.25-195)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposal, effective Summer 2026:

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

**a) Gerontology**

- Course (new): GERO 455

**b) Global Humanities**

- Course (new): HUM 131

- c) *Philosophy*
  - Course (new): PHIL 305
- d) *Political Science*
  - Course (new): POL 304
- e) *Urban Studies Program*
  - Course (new): URB 460 (effective Fall 2026)

ii) **Faculty of Health Sciences**

- Course (new): HSCI 360

**13. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.25-196)**

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 Mechatronic Systems Engineering*
  - Course (prerequisite): MSE 320 (effective Fall 2026)
- b) *School of Sustainable Energy Engineering*
  - Course (prerequisite): SEE 466 (effective Fall 2026)

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

- a) *School of Criminology*
  - Course (description): CRIM 101, 131, 210, 241, 251, 310, 331, 332, 335, 343, 346, 352, 355, 413, 458, 491, 499
  - Course (description, prerequisite): CRIM 302, 320
  - Course (prerequisite): CRIM 358
  - Course (description, equivalency): CRIM 402, 451
- b) *English*
  - Course (description): ENGL 202, 209, 210, 211, 213, 216, 272
- c) *Gerontology*
  - Course (number, prerequisite, equivalency): GERO 404
- d) *Global Humanities*
  - Course (title, description): HUM 130
- e) *History*
  - Course (description, equivalency): HIST 111
  - Course (title, description): HIST 332

**f) *Indigenous Studies***

- Course (title, description): INDG 232

**g) *School for International Studies***

- Course (deletion): IS 209
- Course (number, title, description, equivalency): IS 230

**h) *Philosophy***

- Course (description): PHIL 342

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

**a) *School for the Contemporary Arts***

- Course (equivalency): CA 149, 217, 319W (effective Fall 2026)

**b) *School of Interactive Arts and Technology***

- Course (equivalency): IAT 106

**iv) Faculty of Health Sciences**

- Course (prerequisite): HSCI 336, 338, 440, 441, 442

**v) Faculty of Science**

**a) *Mathematics***

- Course (prerequisite): MATH 348, 360
- Course (prerequisite): MACM 201 (effective Fall 2026)
- Course (prerequisite): MATH 190, 240, 242 (effective Fall 2026)

**b) *Molecular Biology and Biochemistry***

- Course (description): MBB 402

**c) *Physics***

- Course (prerequisite): PHYS 100 (effective Fall 2026)
- Course (temporarily withdrawn): PHYS 431

**14. WQB Approvals and Removals (S.25-197)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following WQB approvals and removals, effective Fall 2026:

**i) New WQB Designations**

- Course (W designation): HIST 135
- Course (W designation): PLCY 300 (effective Spring 2026)

**ii) WQB Removals**

- Course (B-Sci): REM 200
- Course (Q designation): GEOG 414, 451, 455W
- Course (Q designation): BPK 484
- Course (W designation): GEOG 381W, 417W

**15. Graduate Program Changes (S.25-198)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program change, effective Summer 2026:

**i) Faculty of Education**

- Program: Secondary Mathematics Education MEd
- Program: Secondary Mathematics Education MSc

**16. Graduate Course Changes (S.25-199)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course change, effective Summer 2026:

**i) Faculty of Education**

- Course (number, prerequisite, equivalency): MATH 603
- Course (number, title, prerequisite, equivalency): MATH 604

**ii) Faculty of Science**

**a) *Molecular Biology and Biochemistry***

- Course (title, description): MBB 702, 721, 723 (effective Fall 2026)

**17. Graduate Course Deletions (S.25-200)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course deletion, effective Fall 2026:

**i) Faculty of Science**

**a) *Molecular Biology and Biochemistry***

- Course (deletion): MBB 764

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

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

**19. 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.

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

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

<https://www.sfu.ca/senate/documents/years/2025/dec.html>

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

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Steven Noel, Senate Assistant, at [senate@sfu.ca](mailto:senate@sfu.ca).