

SENATE SUMMARY

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2026

1. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that the province's public post-secondary review is continuing to roll out. President Johnson has met with Don Avison. He is being selective in who he chooses to interview, and he has now met with representatives from across the sector, including student groups and unions. The report and recommendations are currently scheduled to be delivered by March 15, 2026, and Senate will be provided updates as the process moves ahead.

The Chair reported that the federal government allocated British Columbia 32,596 study permit application spaces for 2026, a 57% cut from the 2025 allocation. This follows a 40% cut to British Columbia's undergraduate allocation in 2025 compared to 2024. This year, the provincial government allocated 80% of available permits to public post-secondary institutions—approximately a 30% increase from the number of permits allotted to public institutions in 2025. This is a welcome change and one that SFU has been advocating for with the provincial government. SFU received 1,500 undergraduate provincial attestation letters (PALs) for 2026. Last year, SFU received 900 PALs initially, and due to our high utilization, received another 400 by request during the summer. In addition, graduate programs are no longer subject to the PAL process, allowing for increased utilization of PALs for undergraduate students.

The Chair reported that last month, President Johnson shared that SFU would be participating in the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs program, which is aimed at recruiting international researchers to Canada. SFU is eligible to receive up to \$6M for researchers recruited under this program and launched a recruitment initiative in mid-December to attract nominees in strategic areas. Campus visits from top candidates are expected to begin in early February.

The Chair reported that the School of Medicine continues to advance as it prepares to welcome its first cohort of medical students this August. Following successful recruitment and outreach efforts, the School's application window closed on December 8, 2025 with more than 1,500 applications received. The next stage of applicant review has now begun. Construction is now underway on the School's interim space in Surrey, and early design and development work on the School's permanent space has started. Multiple streams of research planning are also underway. Contributing to this work, SFU recently signed an MOU with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) that commits the university to aligning with core principles of research involving Indigenous peoples, as well as working with the FNHA to identify opportunities for advancing the health and wellness needs of B.C. First Nations.

The Chair reported that in January, SFU's Community-Engaged Research Initiative (CERi) celebrated its 5-year anniversary. Since its inception in 2020, CERi has supported hundreds of students, scholars and community organizations through flexible research space, funding, graduate training and media production—all designed to mobilize academic knowledge into action. Thanks was extended to all who have been involved in this work and for advancing SFU's commitment to community-engaged research.

The Chair acknowledged that February is Black History Month (BHM). This year, the theme of BHM as announced by the federal government is Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations. There are a number of activities occurring across the university in honour of BHM, including the opening of SFU's long-awaited Black Student Centre.

2. Full Candidates – Graduate Credentials (S.26-14)

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.

3. Program Candidates – Undergraduate Credentials (S.26-15)

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.

4. Revisions to GP 17 - Health and Safety Policy (S.26-16)

Senate received Revisions to GP 17 - Health and Safety Policy for information.

5. Program Changes for Management of Technology MBA (S.26-17)

Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the program changes for the Management of Technology MBA within the Beedie School of Business, effective Fall 2026.

- Course (new): BUS 744, 745, 746
- Course (units): BUS 752

6. Program Changes for MA in English (S.26-18)

Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the program changes for the Master of Arts in English in the Department of English within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2026.

- Course (new): ENGL 825
- Course (units, description): ENGL 882

7. Suspension of Admission to the Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies Pathway (S.26-19)

Senate approved suspension of admission to the Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies Pathway within the Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective Fall 2026.

- Program: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies PhD
- Program: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies MASc
- Program: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies MA
- Program: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies MSc

8. **Termination of the Development and Sustainability Graduate Certificate (S.26-20)**
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the termination of the Development and Sustainability Graduate Certificate in the School of Resource and Environmental Management within the Faculty of Environment.
9. **External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Global Humanities (S.26-21)**
Senate received External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Global Humanities for information.
10. **External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Political Science (S.26-22)**
Senate received External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Political Science for information.
11. **External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the School of Interactive Arts and Technology (S.26-23)**
Senate received External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the School of Interactive Arts and Technology for information.
12. **SFU School of Medicine: Revised Admission Criteria (S.26-24)**
Senate approved the revisions to the admissions policy for the Medical Doctor (MD) program within the School of Medicine, effective Fall 2026, for applicants submitting their application for Fall 2027 and later.
13. **Undergraduate Program Changes (S.26-25)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Fall 2026:
 - i) **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**
 - a) **Deans Office**
 - Program: Medical Humanities and Social Sciences Minor
 - Program: FASS dual degree program
 - b) **Cognitive Science Program**
 - Program: Cognitive Science Major
 - Program: Cognitive Science Honours
 - Program: Cognitive Science Minor
 - c) **School of Criminology**
 - Program: Criminology Major
 - Program: Foundations of Canadian Law Certificate
 - Program: Forensic Studies Certificate
 - Program: Legal Studies Certificate
 - Program: Police Studies Certificate
 - Program: Legal Studies Minor
 - Program: Police Studies Minor

- d) *Economics***
 - Program: Business and Economics Joint Honours
 - Program: Economics Major
- e) *English***
 - Program: English Major
- f) *French***
 - Program: French and Francophone Studies Major
- g) *Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies***
 - Program: Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Major
- h) *Gerontology***
 - Program: Gerontology Minor
- i) *Global Humanities***
 - Program: Global Humanities Major
 - Program: Hellenic Studies Certificate
- j) *Indigenous Studies***
 - Program: Indigenous Studies Major
- k) *School for International Studies***
 - Program: International Studies Major
- l) *Labour Studies Program***
 - Program: Labour Studies Certificate in Workplace Rights
 - Program: Labour Studies Major
 - Program: Labour Studies Minor
- m) *Linguistics***
 - Program: Linguistics and Anthropology Joint Major
 - Program: Linguistics of Speech Science Certificate
 - Program: Linguistics Major
- n) *Philosophy***
 - Program: Philosophy Major
- o) *Political Science***
 - Program: Political Science Major
- p) *Psychology***
 - Program: Psychology Major
- q) *Sociology and Anthropology***
 - Program: Sociology Major
 - Program: Anthropology Major

- r) ***Urban Studies Program***
 - Program: Urban Worlds Major
- s) ***World Languages and Literatures***
 - Program: World Literature Major

ii) Faculty of Environment

- a) ***Geography***
 - Program: Physical Geography Major
 - Program: Physical Geography Honours
 - Program: Urban Worlds Major
- b) ***School of Resource and Environmental Management***
 - Program: Resource and Environmental Management Major
 - Program: Resource and Environmental Management Honours
 - Program: Sustainable Development Minor
 - Program: Sustainable Development Certificate

iii) Faculty of Science

- a) ***Biological Sciences***
 - Program: Biological Sciences Major
 - Program: Biological Sciences Honours
 - Program: Environmental Toxicology Minor
- b) ***Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology***
 - Program: Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Major
 - Program: Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Honours
- c) ***Chemistry***
 - Program: Chemistry Major
 - Program: Chemistry Honours
 - Program: Chemical Physics Major
 - Program: Chemical Physics Honours
- d) ***Molecular Biology and Biochemistry***
 - Program: Genomics Certificate
 - Program: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Minor

14. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.26-26)

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

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

- a) ***School of Criminology***
 - Course (new): CRIM 409

b) *Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies*

- Course (new): GSWS 336, 337, 338

c) *Linguistics*

- Course (new): LING 380

d) *World Languages and Literatures*

- Course (new): SPAN 360

ii) Faculty of Environment

a) *School of Environmental Science*

- Course (new): EVSC 350

iii) Faculty of Science

a) *Biological Sciences*

- Course (new): BISC 450

15. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.26-27)

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

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) *School of Engineering Science*

- Course (prerequisite): ENSC 180, 251,
- Course (prerequisite, equivalency): ENSC 252

b) *School of Computing Science*

- Course (description, prerequisite): CMPT 467

ii) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *Economics*

- Course (prerequisite): ECON 325, 381, 392, 393, 435
- Course (title): ECON 333

b) *History*

- Course (prerequisite): HIST 372

c) *Linguistics*

- Course (prerequisite): LING 309W, 315, 330, 401, 415

d) *Political Science*

- Course (prerequisite): POL 201
- Course (equivalency): POL 472

iii) Faculty of Education

- Course (units): EDUC 406

iv) Faculty of Environment

a) Geography

- Course (prerequisite): GEOG 261, 324, 362W, 363, 364, 365, 424
- Course (title, prerequisite): GEOG 267

b) School of Resource and Environmental Management

- Course (description, prerequisite): REM 431

v) Faculty of Science

a) Biological Sciences

- Course (prerequisite): BISC 101

b) Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology

- Course (number, units): BPK 301
- Course (units): BPK 326, 407, 409

16. WQB Approvals and Removals (S.26-28)

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 (B-Hum): CA 386
- Course (W designation): HIST 407
- Course (W designation): POL 330, 490
- Course (W designation): PPE 301 (effective Fall 2027)
- Course (W designation): MATH 141

ii) WQB Removals

- Course (Q designation): RISK 201, 311, 321, 360W, 411, 422, 441
- Course (Q designation): STAT 205, 285, 320, 330, 350, 380, 403, 410, 430, 445, 450, 452, 460, 475, 485

17. Graduate General Regulation 1.3 Admissions (S.26-29)

Senate approved the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.3 Admissions, effective Fall 2026.

18. Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Annual Report 2025 (S.25-30)

Senate received the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Annual Report 2025 for information.

19. Graduate Program Changes (S.26-31)

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

i) Faculty of Environment

a) Geography

- Program: Geography MA
- Program: Geography MSc

ii) Faculty of Science

a) Earth Sciences

- Program: Earth Sciences PhD

20. Graduate Course Changes (S.26-32)

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

i) Beedie School of Business

- Course (title, repeat for credit, allow multiple enroll in term): BUS 725

21. Senate Committee Elections (S.26-33)

Senate received a summary of the nominations, positions elected by acclamation, positions requiring an online vote, and outstanding vacancies for Senate committees.

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the March Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the February 2026 Senate documents: <https://www.sfu.ca/senate/documents/years/2026/february.html>.

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