



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

Open Session

Present: Joy Johnson, Chair

Ali, Sikandra
Al-Rawi, Ahmed
Altman, Rachel
Ashoughian, Gohar
Bangsberg, David
Brooks-Wilson, Angela
Carcano, Luana
Collard, Mark
Crage, Suzanna
Denholm, Julia
Dhelia, Priyanka
Eftenaru, Cristina
Eigenfeldt, Arne (for Carman Neustaedter)
Everton, Michael
Fiume, Eugene
Frank, Richard
Gebre, Engida
Gislason, Maya
Gray, Bonnie
Gunawan, Darrick
Hall, Peter
Hashemi, Tara
Herrenbrueck, Lucas
Hubinette, Maria
Khangura, Harinder
Kwan, Isabelle
Laitsch, Dan
Leznoff, Daniel
Liu, Connie
Lysova, Alexandra
Markey, Sean
Martell, Matt
Masri, Kamal
McKenzie, Janis
Myers, Gord
O'Brien, Mary
O'Neil, Dugan
Percival, Colin
Price, David
Rassier, Dilon
Schiphorst, Thecla
Schmidt, Michèle
Shulepova, Sofia

Stockie, John
Sutherland, Jill
Szymczyk, Barbara
Toma, Mary
Washington, Marvin
Weldon, Laurel
Whitehurst, David
Williams, Vance
Zickfeld, Kirsten

Absent:

Accettola, Evan
Bagga, Rishu
Baker, Micah
Bhalloo, Shafik
Black, Sam
Brennand, Tracy
Chapman, Glenn
Choi, Jake
Do, Henry
Ferenc, Ava
Fisher, Brian
Gough, Aidan
Jahandideh, Roman
Kim, Lisa
Kingsbury, Paul
Liu, Landy
Murali, Surya
Neustaedter, Carman
Pantophlet, Ralph
Thornton, Allen
Vrooman, Tamara

In Attendance:

Dorrington, Yolanda
Hall, Wenona
Kennett, Malcolm
Nordgren, Kris
Perry, Mike
Stern, Pamela
Sun, Wayne

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 February 2, 2026

The minutes of the open session on February 2, 2026 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

Regarding the recent provincial budget, the Chair reported that operating grants for public post-secondary institutions will remain stable in 2026-27. Although this budget saw a significant adjustment to the pace of the government's capital plan, these adjustments do not impact the School of Medicine and the expected funding for the school was received.

The Chair reported that SFU continues to wait on recommendations coming out of the provincial post-secondary review. The report and recommendations are currently scheduled to be delivered by March 30, 2026, as the province granted a two-week extension to the original report deadline.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, recently traveled to India as part of a Universities Canada delegation of more than 20 presidents, and then to Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. The trip was a positive one, with connections being made with academic and industry partners at conferences like the Canada-in-Asia Conference and QS India Summit, and discussed potential opportunities for collaboration, as well as holding recruitment and alumni engagement events across the countries. One specific area of focus in India was collaboration around hydrogen innovation, which is a key priority for the Indian government right now, and an area that SFU has a lot of strength in.

The Chair provided an update on the progress of recruitment for the Government of Canada's new Canada Impact+ Research Chairs program. The goal of the program is to recruit internationally based researchers with expertise in eight strategic areas, including those related to SFU research priorities: AI/quantum and climate innovation. SFU must submit applications for researchers it hopes to recruit through this program to a maximum of \$6 million annually. SFU has received more than 200 applications, and over the past few weeks hosted visits from 23 of the most outstanding applicants. The University plans to submit 4-6 nominations for the March deadline and likely a smaller number for the June deadline. It's expected to hear back on the March applications in June, and the June applications in September.

The Chair congratulated Barry Traux and John Willinsky, both members of the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, for receiving the Order of Canada in recognition of their outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.

The Chair congratulated four SFU researchers who received more than \$4.4M in funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research: Mirza Faisal Beg and Faranak Farzan from the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Kora DeBeck from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Randy McIntosh from the Faculty of Science.

The Chair reported that SFU is receiving new federal support from PacifiCan in service of accelerating defense and dual-use innovation. As part of a provincial package investing more than \$46.6M in eight projects, PacifiCan is providing funding to five research infrastructure initiatives, two at SFU and three at UBC, that will help BC companies bring breakthrough technologies to market more quickly. One SFU initiative will establish a Vancouver Quantum Network designed to help B.C. companies proactively address emergency cybersecurity challenges as quantum computing abilities advance; the other will support the creation of a secure, high-performing computing network led by SFU to train AI models and process sensitive data.

i) Report of the Provost

With a requirement to present the annual budget to the Board of Governors in the next couple of weeks, the Provost reported that SFU will have a balanced budget by the end of the year. This marks the third year in a row that the university has come from a substantial predicted deficit to a balanced budget. The voluntary retirement program has concluded, with over 80 employees retiring. Following this, units submitted requests to refill certain positions based on essential needs and ongoing restructuring. A review group is evaluating these requests in alignment with each unit's workforce plans, while maintaining the goal of achieving significant cost savings. Decisions will be made with a university-wide perspective, with ongoing discussions involving individual units. Final decisions on which positions will be refilled are expected within the next few weeks, as the evaluation process nears completion.

On the recruitment of international scholars, a question was asked regarding if SFU is competing with other Canadian institutions for specific scholars. Senate was informed that SFU is competing with other institutions for candidates. Results have been mixed thus far, with some candidates choosing SFU, while others have chosen to go elsewhere. Because candidates can only be nominated by one institution, the aim is to submit 4–6 applications, but the final selection is uncertain and depends on which candidates accept or decline offers.

5. Question Period

No questions were submitted.

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

i) Adjustments – Undergraduate Credentials (S.26-34)

Senate received Adjustments – Undergraduate Credentials for information.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on Enrollment Management and Planning (SCEMP)

i) Enrollment Plan 2026/2027; Undergraduate Admission Targets for 2026/2027 (S.26-35)

Yolanda Dorrington, Associate Director – Institutional Research and Planning (IRP), Wayne Sun, Intermediate Analyst – IRP, and Mike Perry, Analyst – IRP, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Motion 1:

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by M. O'Brien

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the SFU Enrolment Plan for fiscal year 2026/2027.”

Referring to the open minutes from March 2016, during which Senate was informed that future reports would include data on applicant success rates for each program, it was noted that this information has not appeared in subsequent reports. As a result, a request was made to include these details in future reports. Further, referring to the open minutes of March 2021 where a request was made to include not only the total number of students admitted to each faculty, but also how many were admitted as first choice and how many were admitted as second choice, a renewed request was made to include these details in future reports. Senate was informed that both requests can be accommodated in future reports.

Noting that the Fall 2025 admission cutoff for the School for Contemporary Arts (SCA) is slightly higher for domestic students (81%) than for international students (80%), a question was asked regarding if this difference is intentional, and whether this pattern is likely to reoccur in future admissions cycles. Senate was informed that in the context for SCA, they consider a diverse portfolio in terms of admitting students and rely on grade point averages as just one piece of information in an enrollment portfolio. As such, the slightly lower international cutoff is not typical but also not unusual in this context.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2:

Moved by P. Hall, T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Proposed Domestic Undergraduate Admission Targets by Faculty and Basis of Admission—All Campuses (Headcount), for fiscal year 2026/2027.”

Noting that Applied Sciences admission cutoffs have been consistently higher than other programs over the past 20 years, suggesting that the university seems to be managing demand by raising cutoffs rather than increasing capacity, a question was asked whether the university can aspire to have the same cut-offs across the university. Senate was informed that the university wants to ensure that it's admitting students who are able to succeed, but at the same time admitting students that the university is able to appropriately support to succeed. There are some program areas, Computing Science for example, that have particular resource demands and there is a constraint on class size due to the amount of computing lab spaces. In the long term, SFU does want to try to meet demand, but SFU is also a comprehensive university, trying to maintain a certain suite of programs that offer the province a breadth of opportunities for education. A

particular challenge that this year's enrollment plan had to face is that a planned expansion in tech-related seats was reduced by provincial funding changes from 500 to 333 seats. Given this, no near-term commitment can be made to standardize admission cutoffs across programs.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3:

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by V. Williams

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Proposed International Undergraduate Admission Targets by Faculty and Basis of Admission—All Campuses (Headcount) for fiscal year 2026/2027.”

A request was made to improve the clarity of Graph 3 by adjusting the dual-axis scaling for Undergraduate Domestic and International Program FTE Trends so that both axes use comparable ranges and aligned grid lines, allowing easier visual comparison of changes between the two groups.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) External Review for the Department of Indigenous Studies (S.26-36)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by M. Everton

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of Indigenous Studies that resulted from its External Review.”

Wenona Hall, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Indigenous Studies – FASS, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting that reconciliation reflects institutional objectives, a question was asked regarding how the program ensures that students can critically examine reconciliation and decolonization frameworks, including empirical critique for policy effectiveness, without those perspectives being marginalized. Senate was informed that an initial pilot project is underway to assess educational goals. This involves developing a survey and selecting a small number of courses to evaluate how well program objectives are being met. Findings and lessons learned from the pilot will inform a broader assessment. It was added that Indigenous Studies perspectives and teachings are taken seriously within the institution, and there is no indication that survey results from this area would be marginalized.

Noting that the review calls for more external collaboration and support for reconciliation beyond the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, a question was asked regarding what this goal would look like from a university perspective. Senate was informed that upholding truth and reconciliation is a priority for the university and one that goes beyond a single department or faculty. It was added that reconciliation is a main pillar of the Academic Plan, which was

approved by Senate, and all faculties and departments are asked to outline how they are supporting the pillars of the Academic Plan.

A concern was raised around the action plan, with the speaker feeling it contains personal political opinions not commonly expressed in comparable reviews submitted to Senate. Senate was informed that there may be differing opinions as to whether the action plan contains political opinions and that such tensions need to be considered by Senators when voting.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED,
with one abstention.

ii) Termination of the Senior Citizens Certificate (S.26-37)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by V. Williams

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the termination of the Senior Citizens Certificate in the Dean of Arts Office within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Examination Policy (S.26-38)

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by D. Whitehurst

“That Senate approve, effective Fall 2026, the changes to Policy T20.02 Final Examinations as outlined in the appendix.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Double Minor Students and Upper Division Writing Requirements (S.26-39)

Senate received Double Minor Students and Upper Division Writing Requirements for information.

iii) Program Changes (S.26-40)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts), the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology, School of Environmental Science, Geography, School of Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Physics).

iv) New Course Proposals (S.26-41)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Environment (School of Environmental Science), and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry).

v) Course Changes (S.26-42)

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

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Graduate General Regulation 1.6 Supervision (S.26-43)**

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

"That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.6 Supervision, effective Fall 2026."

Pamela Stern, Associate Dean - Policy and Curriculum, and Malcolm Kennett, Associate Dean - Student Affairs, were in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Program Changes (S.26-44)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a program change in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science).

iii) Course Changes (S.26-45)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program).

E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.26-46)**

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**9. Information****i) Date of the next regular meeting - Monday, April 13, 2026**

Open session adjourned at 6:15 p.m.