



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 7, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: David Paterson, Vice-Chair

Andersen, Holly
Arzanpour, Siamak
Baharmand, Iman
Bartram, Lyn
Bassi, Prab
Binotto, Jordan
Brennand, Tracy
Budra, Paul
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Christians, Julian
Dale, Nadia
Dastmalchian, Ali
Gallilee, Patty (for Gwen Bird)
Glässer, Uwe
Gray, Bonnie
Han, Richard
Hedley, Nick
Ige, Adebola Abayomi
Johnson, Joy
Keller, Peter
Kirkpatrick, Ted
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Leznoff, Daniel
MacAlister, David
Mac Namara, Aoife
McTavish, Rob
Miller, Tatum
Moens, Alexander
Mongrain, Steeve
Myers, Gordon
Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pulkingham, Jane

Spector, Stephen
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Szymczyk, Barbara
Tabin, Yvonne
Tingling, Peter
Williams, Tony

Absent:

Abramson, Neil
Bird, Gwen
Birmingham, Elina
Chen, Larissa
Cupples, Claire
Farah, Arr
Gajdics, Sylvia
Giardini, Anne
Hans, Paul
Haywood, Weldon
Khan Hemani, Rummana
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine
Lewthwaite, Jayme
Magnusson, Kris
Malhan, Blossom
O'Neil, John
Petter, Andrew
Pooghkay, Curtis
Ruben, Peter
Sekhon, Gurbir
Shaw, Chris
Wiese, Kay

In Attendance:

Holdcroft, Steven
Stebnor, Eleanor
Toward, Jeff

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on September 12, 2016

The minutes of the open session on September 12, 2016 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- i) At the July Senate meeting Senator Leacock asked a question regarding the breakdown of continuing versus sessional non-tenured track faculty teaching upper division courses. Senator Keller responded, citing statistics compiled by Institutional Research and Planning:

For fiscal year 2015-2016 the percentage for upper division undergraduate courses is as follows: 12.5% taught by continuing non-tenure track faculty; 23.0% taught by sessional instructors; 14.3% taught by other limited term appointments.

It was noted that there is no ideal answer as to what constitutes the right percentage. That would depend on the discipline, subject matter, learning outcomes and the course objectives and the quality of the instructors. Also, value judgments should not be made about the quality of the learning experience received from a course taught by a regular tenure track faculty versus a limited appointment session instructor or a continuing non-tenure track faculty.

A concern was raised that more than a third of upper division courses are taught by non-continuing instructors. Such occurrence can mean that individual instructors don't know in advance what course they will be teaching, that they may not have the opportunity to teach the course multiple times, and thus they can't make improvements to the course over time.

A question was asked on the percentage of upper division undergraduate courses taught by PhD students. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and reported at a future Senate meeting.

A comment was made that this report would be interesting to see before Senate on an annual basis, however, it may be useful do a break down by faculty, and to compile numbers based on student head count rather than on course count.

- ii) At the July Senate meeting Senator Leacock asked a question regarding Business proposals for new courses that are shorter than the norm. Senate was informed that Senator Dastmalchian would provide a response at the December Senate meeting.
- iii) At the September Senate meeting discussion was held on how Senators could be better briefed on information and trends of relevance to decisions made at Senate. Two suggestions that arose were an annual joint Senate/Board of Governors (BOG) retreat, and short presentations at Senate by each Dean. Both possibilities have been discussed by the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR), with the intention to proceed on both ideas. For presentations by the Deans, the suggestion is to have one 15 minute presentation per Senate meeting with a focus on information about the faculty that would help Senators make informed decisions in relation to that faculty, but also to other

faculties. For the Senate retreat the suggestion is to hold it on a Saturday in either March or April, with an invited speaker to talk about trends of relevance to post-secondary education, followed by smaller group discussions. It was noted that more details would follow.

4. **Report of the Chair**

The Vice-Chair noted that the Chair was returning from Hong Kong and passed on the Chair's regrets for not being at Senate.

The Vice-Chair reported that the Board of Governors approved the following named programs on which the President previously consulted Senate: *The Hari and Madhu Varshney Visiting Scholars Program in Indian Studies*, and the *Webster Visiting Scholar and Lecture Series in Biological Sciences*.

The Vice-Chair reported that the Vice President, Research has established an SFU Innovates Advisory Committee. The goal of the committee is to bring together top thinkers in the innovation sphere to help SFU strengthen its innovation strategy, to discuss emerging opportunities, and to creatively consider what is next in innovation.

The Vice-Chair noted some research awards and honours: Jin Li, Canada Research Chair in Global Investment Strategy at the Beedie School of Business, has been named to the Royal Society College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists; John Willinsky of the Publishing@SFU program, and head of the Public Knowledge Project, has been named one of three finalists for the 2016 SSHRC Impact Awards in the Connection category. The successful recipient will be presented with a \$50,000 award at a ceremony in Ottawa on November 22nd; Computing Science professor Martin Ester has been named 2016's most influential scholar in data mining. The international ranking, which is determined by citation counts in top-venue publications, is produced annually by AMiner, an academic search and mining system based at Tsinghua University.

The Vice-Chair noted the following university rankings: Maclean's Magazine's University Rankings were released on October 26th and for the third year in a row, and for the eighth time in nine years, Simon Fraser University topped the rankings in the comprehensive universities category; SFU finished 10th amongst all universities in Maclean's reputational survey; Research Infosource's rankings of Canada's Top 50 Research Universities were released on October 27th. SFU ranked first amongst comprehensive universities for research income growth. Over the past 15 years, SFU's research income has increased 362%. SFU placed third amongst comprehensive universities on Research Infosource's *University of the Year* list; in its 2017 World University Rankings, Times Higher Education ranked SFU 10th in Canada overall, and 8th for citations. SFU's ranking in the world is 232; and in the 2017 U.S. News Global University Rankings, SFU placed 11th in Canada based on research output, impact, and reputation. The rankings also place SFU in the top 10 Canadian universities in 8 subject areas.

The Vice-Chair noted a successful Fall Convocation on October 6th and 7th, at which Honorary Degrees were conferred on Evan Tesla II Adams, Vivienne Poy, Tamara Vrooman and Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams.

The Vice-Chair reported that the grand opening of the Charles Chang Innovation Centre at 308 Hastings Street took place on Sept. 27th. In addition to providing 52 furnished rooms that

accommodate up to 68 graduate students, the second floor will serve as a hub for social innovation and student entrepreneurship programs. In particular, this floor will provide space for RADIUS (RADical Ideas Useful to Society), SFU's social innovation lab and venture incubator, and for the Beedie School of Business's Graduate Certificate in Science and Technology Commercialization.

The Vice-Chair noted some upcoming events: the Surrey Expansion Announcement on November 8th; the Munro Lecture with S. Parasuraman, Director of the Tata Institute for Social Science on November 15th; the Annual Surrey Gala on November 17th; and the Burnaby Campus Winter Warm-up on November 30th.

5. Question Period

Senator Tingling asked the following question:

The faculty contract under consideration replaces the concept of sabbatical credits with a calendar based mechanism. While I may benefit from such a change, I am concerned (particularly since it may be retroactive) that this could have negative consequences for students and university culture because faculty may be motivated to adjust their schedules to compressed teaching (i.e. all teaching one semester). This could have knock on effects of reducing the time available for and likelihood of student contact because a faculty member teaching four courses in one semester has less discretionary time than one teaching two courses and faculty not teaching or engaged in off-campus research are more likely to be physically absent for eight months rather than four. I am wondering why the administration is making such a change, if these possible negative consequences were considered, and if the change will also be applied to those holding academic administrative appointments.

Peter Keller, Vice-President, Academic responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the relevant sections of the Collective agreement between SFUFA and SFU are Article 27, *Research Workload*, and Article 46, *Study Leave*. Though Article 46 introduces change to the study leave system, the purpose of and eligibility for sabbatical remain unaltered. With respect to the concerns expressed by Senator Tingling it was noted that there are a number of things that have not changed despite process streamlining that would prevent the issues raised from occurring. Article 27.22 stipulates that the Dean, in consultation with the Chair, will have final authority over workload and teaching assignments, in order to ensure that the unit meets its curricular and enrollment obligations. Further, Article 27.3 states that for every two semesters of teaching, the research faculty member is entitled to one semester without teaching duties, called the research semester. Also, Article 27.18 looking at the balance of teaching and research semesters is to be reviewed on an annual basis and states that where teaching research semesters are owed, the Chair will ensure that a plan is in place to restore balance over the subsequent cycle and prior to the start of any study leave, resignation or retirement.

Senator Tingling asked if the agreement applies retroactively, in particular to those currently holding academic administrative appointments. Senator Keller informed Senate that he did not have an answer, but would bring one back to Senate.

A comment was made that when discussing certain topics, such as faculty contracts, it would be beneficial to provide Senate with written material in advance to better understand the topic to be addressed.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Research Ethics Board (REB)

i) Annual Report 2014-2015 (S.16-105)

Senate received for information the Research Ethics Board Annual Report for 2014-2015.

Jeff Toward, Director – Office of Research Ethics, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked as to why the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 REB Annual Reports were submitted simultaneously. Senate was informed that administrative issues interfered with data collection for the 2014-2015 report. It was noted that this was an isolated occurrence.

ii) Annual Report 2015-2016 (For Information) (S.16-106)

Senate received for information the Research Ethics Board Annual Report for 2015-2016.

Jeff Toward, Director – Office of Research Ethics, was in attendance to respond to questions.

B) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)

i) Senate Process for Named Recognition Proposals (S.16-107)

Senate received for information the Senate Process for Names Recognition Proposals.

It was noted that an amendment was made to the Senate Process for Named Recognition Proposals document and that #3 should read as follows: *If Senate approval and recommendation to the Board of Governors is required, it will be reported back to the Open Session of Senate as an information item once the proposal has been approved by the Board of Governors.*

A question was asked about what happens if the Board of Governors does not approve a proposal. Senate was informed that in such an instance it would be reported back in the Closed Session of Senate.

A question was asked to provide an update on the review of university policies, notably GP 35. Senate was informed that the VP Academic would look into this issue.

ii) Redaction of S.15-115 (S.16-108)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approve the permanent redaction of the gift details of S. 15-115 - Tom Foord Professor of Practice in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS)

i) Annual Report 2015-2016 (S.16-109)

Senate received for information the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies Annual Report for 2015-2016.

D) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Dissolution of the Centre for Coastal Science and Management (S.16-110)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by I. Stefanovic

“That Senate approve the dissolution of the Centre for Coastal Science and Management as a Research Centre.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) External Review of the Department of Chemistry (S.16-111)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by S. Spector

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

Steven Holdcroft, Professor and Chair – Department of Chemistry, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) External Review of the Department of Humanities (S.16-112)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by P. Budra

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

Eleanor Stebnor, Chair – Department of Humanities, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked to outline growth initiatives for the department. Senate was informed that the department plans to focus on its strengths, and that means programs such as the Asia-Canada Program will receive greater commitment.

A comment was made that though the External Review recommended strong connections between science and the humanities, there was no mention of any action being taking to achieve this. Senate was informed that consideration will be given to this, but the department is not yet at the stage to address this recommendation.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) External Review of the Department of Political Science (S.16-113)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by A. Moens

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

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) SFU’s Strategic Research Plan for 2016-2020 (S.16-114)

Senate received for information SFU’s Strategic Research Plan for 2016-2020.

E) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.16-115)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing programs and courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering).

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.16-116)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made a revision in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.16-117)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to a course in the Beedie School of Business.

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology
(October meeting) (S.16-118)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing programs and courses in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication).

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology
(September meeting) (S.16-119)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Art and Technology).

vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.16-120)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to a course in the Faculty of Education.

vii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.16-121)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing programs in the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences).

F) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.16-122)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science, School of Engineering Science).

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.16-123)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made a revision to an existing course in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Political Science).

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.16-124)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing program and courses in the Beedie School of Business.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.16-125)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to courses in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.16-126)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.16-127)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing programs and courses in the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences, Statistics and Actuarial Science, Mathematics).

vii) Temporary and Permanent Withdrawal of Courses (S.16-128)

Senate received for information a list of courses to be temporarily and permanently withdrawn.

G) Senate Library Committee (SLC)

i) Open Access Policy (S.16-129)

Moved by P. Gallilee, seconded by D. Laitsch

“That Senate approve the Open Access Policy effective January 1, 2017.”

After a discussion on the nature of the Open Access Policy and where the policy would reside, a motion to table was introduced.

Moved by T. Leacock, seconded by P. Percival

“that the motion be tabled until further consultation can be held.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED,
with three abstentions noted.

H) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.16-130)

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

7. Other Business

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, December 5, 2016.

Open session adjourned at 6:23 p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Jo Hinchliffe

Acting Executive Director, Student Enrolment, and Associate Registrar