

## SENATE SUMMARY

### MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2020

#### 1. Report of the Chair

The Chair welcomed new Faculty of Education Senators Kristiina Kumpulainen and David Zandvliet. Noting that some may not have attended the October meeting, the Chair welcomed new Senators Kendra Strauss, Eric Gedajlovic, David Murphy and Ralph Pantophlet.

The Chair reported that tonight marks the final Senate meeting for Jon Driver, Provost and Vice-President, Academic pro tem. Appreciation was offered for his work on behalf of the University, made especially challenging by the onset of the COVID pandemic.

The Chair reported that SFU has again been ranked the number one comprehensive university in Canada for the 12th time in 13 years based on Maclean's Magazine 2021 ranking. In terms of reputational ranking, SFU is now 10th among all 49 Canadian universities that were included in that ranking. Also, SFU placed 2nd in the student services category and raised its student satisfaction ranking to 12th.

The Chair reported that SFU's recent virtual Convocation and installation ceremonies were a success and featured some changes including the addition of indigenous drumming and newly designed regalia featuring motifs created by Chief Janice George and Willard Buddy Joseph, both expert weavers and teachers from the Squamish Nation. Local artist Beverly Barnes also redesigned regalia for the President and Chancellor. A total of 2018 students graduated this fall (1443 undergraduate students and 575 graduate students) and honorary degrees were awarded to Sarah Diamond, an SFU alumnus and past president of the Ontario College of Art Design, and Mina Shum, an award winning independent Canadian screenwriter, director and producer.

The Chair reported that efforts to improve the learning experience for students during these unprecedented times are ongoing and as the University moves into the Spring term, most courses will continue to be delivered remotely. However, there will be increased in-person courses offered in programs requiring research and experiential learning. Students in these programs will hear directly from their faculties, thereby allowing them ample time to make the necessary arrangements. Also, the University will accommodate more in-person graduate level courses, as those courses tend to be smaller in size. Details about the process for submitting courses or portions of courses for in-person delivery will be communicated in the near future.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, is committed to continuing to forge deeper relations with First Nations communities. A productive meeting was recently held with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Chief and Tsleil-Waututh Nation Council to discuss various collaboration opportunities to support students and to increase the visibility of Tsleil-Waututh Nation across SFU.

The Chair noted the recent and unexpected election promise made by the BC New Democratic Party to launch a second medical school in British Columbia at SFU's Surrey Campus. The announcement indicates that SFU will be offering this program in partnership with Fraser Health and the First Nations Health Authority. Though this announcement aligns with plans considered in the past for a medical program focused on primary care and fits alongside longstanding advocacy for the Surrey campus, it was noted that much work remains to be done and no program would move forward without the approval of Senate and the Board of Governors.

The Chair reported that the search for the next Vice President, Research and International has been launched and a virtual forum and consultation session for the Community is scheduled for November 18th at 1:00 pm.

2. **Postponement of External Reviews for 2020-2021 Academic Year (S.20-117)**  
Senate received the Postponement of External Reviews for 2020-2021 Academic Year for information.
3. **Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Financial Analysis (S.20-118)**  
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Financial Analysis within the Beedie School of Business, effective Summer 2021.
4. **Program Changes to Health Sciences MSc and PhD (Addition of IOGS) (S.20-119)**  
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the addition of the Optional Interdisciplinary Oncology Graduate Specialization (IOGS) to the Health Sciences Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy within the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective Summer 2021.
5. **Program Changes to Molecular Biology and Biochemistry MSc and PhD (Addition of TRAIN) (S.20-120)**  
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the addition of the Optional Specialization in Translational and Integrative Neuroscience (TRAIN) to the Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2021.
6. **Undergraduate Program Changes (S.20-121)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2021:
  - i) **Faculty of Applied Sciences**
    - a) **School of Computing Science**
      - Program: Computing Science and Linguistics Joint Major

**ii) Faculty of Education**

- Program: Professional Development Program (PDP)
- Program: Professional Linking Program (PLP)
- Program: Professional Qualification Program (PQP)
- Program: Helping Expand Access for Returning Teachers (HEART) Practicum

**iii) Faculty of Science**

**a) *Biological Sciences***

- Program: Environmental Toxicology Minor

**b) *Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology***

- Program: Professional Kinesiology Certificate

**c) *Statistics and Actuarial Sciences***

- Program: Data Science Honours
- Program: Data Science Major
- Program: Statistics Honours
- Program: Statistics Major

**6. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.20-122)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposal, effective Summer 2021:

**i) Faculty of Applied Sciences**

**a) *School of Sustainable Energy Engineering***

- Course (new): SEE 486

**7. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.20-123)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2021:

**i) Faculty of Education**

- Course (description): EDUC 401W

**ii) Faculty of Science**

**a) *Statistics and Actuarial Science***

- Course (deletion): STAT 341

**8. Graduate Program Changes (S.20-124)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2021:

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

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

- Program: Visual Analytics Graduate Certificate

**9. Graduate Course Changes (S.20-125)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2021:

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

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

- Course (units, description): IAT 856

**10. Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions (S.20-126)**

Senate approved revisions to GGR 1.3.3 (English Language Competence).

**11. Senate Committee Elections (S.20-127 Revised)**

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

**12. Revision to Academic Dates 2020/2021 (S.20-128)\***

**Motion 1:**

Senate approved that the first day of classes for the Spring 2021 term be revised from Tuesday, January 5 to Monday, January 11 and that the first day of classes for the Summer 2021 term be revised from Monday, May 10 to Monday, May 17.

**Motion 2:**

Senate approved the revised Spring 2021 calendar.

**Motion 3:**

Senate approved that the number of teaching days in Summer 2021 term be reduced from 63 days to 61 days.

**Motion 4:**

Senate approved the revised Summer 2021 calendar.

\*Approved at a Special meeting of Senate on November 26, 2020.

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the December Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the November 2020 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-34550>.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Steven Noel, Senate Assistant, at 778-782-3168 or [senate@sfu.ca](mailto:senate@sfu.ca).