



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 2, 2020 at 5:30 pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

Open Session

Present: Joy Johnson, Chair

Andreou, Corina
Bartram, Lyn
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Bubela, Tania
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Chenier, Elise
Coleman, Gordon
Daniel, Bryan
Denholm, Julia
Derksen, Jeff
Driver, Jon
Elle, Elizabeth
Everton, Mike
Fiume, Eugene
Gedajlovic, Eric
Gemino, Andrew
Gunn, Alexandra
Hall, Peter
Hendrigan, Holly
Hoffer, Andy
Kench, Paul
Krauth, Brian
Krogman, Naomi
Kumpulainen, Kristiina
Lam, Allan
Lam, Daniel
Laitsch, Dan
Leznoff, Daniel
Lord Ferguson, Sarah
Luu, Susan
Martell, Matt
Masri, Kamal
McTavish, Rob
Mirhady, David
Murphy, David
Myers, Gord
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
O'Neil, Dugan

O'Neill, Susan
Pantophlet, Ralph
Parkhouse, Wade
Parmar, Abhishek
Percival, Colin
Pulkingham, Jane
Singh, Harry Preet
Spector, Stephen
Stockie, John
Strauss, Kendra
Tingling, Peter
Underhill, Owen
Walsby, Charles
Wong, Alan
Zandvliet, David

Absent:

Collard, Mark
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Gildersleve, Corbett
Gray, Bonnie
Hogg, Robert
Kim, Woo Soo
Liosis, Gabe
Modi, Nafoni
Mohamed, Osob
Nguyen, Candy
Raza, Samad
Shaw, Chris
Singh, Tanishvir
Vrooman, Tamara
Weldon, Steve

In Attendance:

Lee, Frank
Silverman, Michael

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of September 14, 2020

The minutes of the open session on September 14, 2020 were approved as distributed.

3. The Minutes of the Open Session of October 5, 2020 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on December 7, 2020

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. 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 alumna 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.

6. Question Period

No questions were submitted.

In terms of the University gradually opening up, a question was asked if there are any plans for the reopening of athletics and recreation programs. Senate was informed that the gym and the pool are currently open if you book a specific time and specific safety protocols have been put in place. It was added that some of SFU's teams, which participate in the NCAA, have been training and though competitions were cancelled for the Fall term, discussion is ongoing as to the Spring 2021 term.

Noting the challenges of teaching online courses and the significant increase in the amount of time needed to both prepare and deliver these courses, a question was asked to outline what supports are being put in place to help faculty navigate these challenges. It was added that the challenges facing faculty can be especially poignant for faculty members facing career inflection points, as the current situation can interfere with research time. Senate was informed that the University has been in discussion with the Faculty Association and there are certain circumstances, with pre-tenure faculty for example, where special consideration is being given to delay tenure or introduce options to modify study leave plans due to COVID. Work is also being done with the Faculty Association to modify the performance review process and an announcement will be forthcoming. With the help of the deans, a review is being completed of the supports that have been put in place at the faculty level. The Centre for Education Excellence has also assisted faculty establish alternative teaching plans.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) 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.

ii) Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Financial Analysis (S.20-118)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve and recommend 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.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Program Changes to Health Sciences MSc and PhD (Addition of IOGS) (S.20-119)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend 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.”

Frank Lee, Associate Professor and Director, MSc & PhD Programs – Faculty of Health Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Program Changes to Molecular Biology and Biochemistry MSc and PhD (Addition of TRAIN) (S.20-120)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve and recommend 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.”

Michael Silverman, Professor and Faculty Graduate Chair - Department of Biological Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.20-121)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.20-122)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Sustainable Energy Engineering).

iii) Course Changes (S.20-123)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Science (Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Program Changes (S.20-124)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

ii) Course Changes (S.20-125)

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

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

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.3.3 (English Language Competence).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) 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.

8. Other Business

9. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, December 7, 2020

Open session adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Kris Nordgren
Senate Secretary pro tem