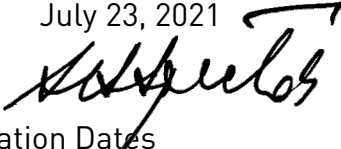




## MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	July 23, 2021
FROM	Stephen Spector		
RE:	Chair, Senate Calendar Committee Revision to Academic Dates – Fall 2021 Convocation Dates		

At its meeting of July 23, 2021, the Calendar Committee reviewed, for approval by Senate, a revision to the 2021/2022 academic year.

The committee was asked to look at revising the previously approved schedule for 2021/2022 to add two additional days - October 5th and 6th - to the Fall 2021 Convocation ceremony dates.

The rationale for this request is to allow for a reduction in the size of each ceremony in order to provide graduands and guests with the best in-person graduation experience possible.

The Calendar Committee recommends:

**MOTION:**

“That Senate approve the revised schedule of academic dates for the Fall 2021 term by adding two additional days to the Fall 2021 convocation ceremony. Convocation will now run from October 5th to October 8th, 2021 rather than from October 7th to 8th, 2021.”

**MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTENTION** Calendar Committee **DATE** July 22, 2021  
**FROM** Gloria Chu, Director, Ceremonies and **PAGES**  
Events  
**RE:** Fall 2021 Convocation Ceremonies – adding two more days of ceremonies

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Plans will soon be underway for October 2021 convocation ceremonies. In line with this fall's anticipated move to Step 4 of BC's Restart Program and Stage 4 of SFU's Return to Campus plan, in-person ceremonies are being planned for the October 2021 graduates. For the "virtual" graduates from 2020 and June 2021, they will be invited for in-person ceremonies in 2022 (they were advised earlier in July).

It is requested that in addition to October 7 and 8, that ceremonies are also held on October 5 and 6. Traditionally, fall convocation consists of 4 in-person ceremonies over 2 days. The request to add the additional dates will allow for each ceremony to be reduced in size – 8 ceremonies would be held, consisting of 200 – 250 grads and 600-750 guests.

The rationale for reducing the size of each ceremony is as follows:

- enables the delivery of safe in-person ceremonies (which includes staging indoors) should the province stay at, or return to, Step 3 through October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- mitigates the impacts on resources and facilities - the university has had very limited number of students, staff and faculty on campus and in particular, minimal gatherings of any size for over 1.5 years; and,
- moderates the mental health stresses on students, staff, faculty and guests who are now unaccustomed to mass gatherings.

In addition to the in-person ceremonies, an enhanced live-stream of the ceremonies will be available online.

The President, Chancellor, Vice-President, External Relations, Vice-President Academic and Provost, Vice-Provost, Students and International/Registrar, Student Services, and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies have all been informed of this proposed direction and are in support of adding these two dates for the Fall 2021 graduates.

Please feel to reach out to me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Gloria Chu (Director)  
cc. Joanne Curry  
Kris Nordgren  
Tom Nault  
Steve Birnie