



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, December 5, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Joy Johnson, Chair

Ahsan, Shariq  
Arseneault, Donovan  
Bhalloo, Shafik  
Bird, Gwen  
Brooks-Wilson, Angela  
Bubela, Tania  
Campbell, Lara  
Chapman, Glenn  
Coleman, Gordon  
Collard, Mark  
Daniel, Bryan  
Denholm, Julia  
Derksen, Jeff  
Dhesa, Priyanka  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Everton, Mike  
Faris, Reema  
Fiume, Eugene  
Gray, Bonnie  
Hendrigan, Holly  
Karaivanov, Alexander  
Kayande, Ujwal  
Krogman, Naomi  
Kumpulainen, Kristiina  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Liu, Connie  
Magnusson, Kris  
Martell, Matt  
Masri, Kamal  
Masri, Lynn  
McKenzie, Janis  
McTavish, Rob  
Myers, Gord  
O'Neil, Dugan  
Parent, Michael

Parkhouse, Wade  
Parmar, Abhishek  
Percival, Colin  
Schiphorst, Thecla  
Shinkar, Igor  
Silverman, Michael  
Spector, Stephen  
Stockie, John  
Vrooman, Tamara  
Williams, JF  
Williams, Vance

**Absent:**

Andreoiu, Corina  
Brennand, Tracy  
Herrenbrueck, Lucas  
Lam, Allan  
Murphy, David  
Nagy, Judit  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo  
Neustaedter, Carman  
Pantophlet, Ralph  
Rashmi, Samiya  
Sidhu, Harneer  
Subbiah, Arun  
Tran, Lisa  
Van Veen, Melissa

**In Attendance:**

Aujla, Jastej Singh  
Davis, Trevor  
Richards, Michael  
Westerlaken, Kristie

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed, with a note that item S.22-102 (Strategic Research Plan) is for approval and not for information.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of September 12, 2022**

The minutes of the open session on September 12, 2022 were approved as distributed.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of October 3, 2022**

The minutes of the open session on October 3, 2022 were approved as distributed.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

At the October Senate meeting Senator Myers asked a question about releasing two reports commissioned by SFU in regard to a possible SFU Medical School. In the response from the Vice-President, Academic it was noted that *Senate is responsible for academic matters, whereas the Board of Governors is responsible for fiscal matters. That means Senate's responsibility lies with ensuring the quality of academic programs and its decisions and is not usually related to the financial viability of a program.* Senator Myers raised concerns with this response, arguing that it's not possible to make a rational judgment about the establishment of a new academic program, like the Med School, without considering both the benefits of the program and the financial costs of the program. Noting that both the University Act and the terms of reference of the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) allow Senate to consider finances in making its recommendations on the establishment of a new academic program, Senator Myers requested that Senate be provided with all relevant financial details regarding a medical school.

The Vice-President, Academic responded to this request.

Senate was informed that in the response provided in October, the word *usually* was used because the budgetary work is mostly done by SCUP under delegated authority. It is reasonable to expect that SCUP will see the proposed budget for the medical school and that this information should be shared with Senate to allow for an informed decision.

A follow-up question was asked regarding if the budgetary material will be made available ahead of the business case going forward to the Province. Senate was informed that given the timelines the University is facing for providing a business case, there will be time after the business case has been submitted, given that the numbers may not be available before the actual submission date.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that in the previous week, Premier David Eby was at the SFU Surrey campus to announce the next steps for an SFU medical school. The announcement covered startup funding and the appointment of an interim consulting dean, Doctor Roger Strasser. It was added that Senate will have an important role to play in the establishment of a medical school and that nothing will be approved without Senate's input.

The Chair reported that on November 14<sup>th</sup> the SFU community was notified that the Bennett Library on Burnaby campus was closed due to the discovery of debris containing asbestos.

Thanks was offered to the library staff and the Dean of Libraries for engaging with the community by providing updates and making sure a transparent process is in place. Given the age of some of the buildings, there is asbestos to be found in some of the building materials originally used, but that the University is committed to marking those places and making sure the asbestos is contained. Such discoveries mark a deeper problem around investment in new infrastructure and current building upkeep and is something that the Vice-President, Academic is working on.

The Chair reported there has been considerable progress around SFU: What's Next? and thanked all who participated in the community town hall meetings at which a draft framework was presented and feedback was sought from students, faculty, and staff. A considerable amount of feedback was provided, with many expressing the need to commit to teaching, mental health and well-being, and academic freedom. The next draft of SFU: What's Next? will be brought to the January Senate meeting for endorsement, and then on to the Board of Governors for final approval.

The Chair reported that over the past month she, in her role as President, has been meeting with the faculties to touch base and to connect with people. Topics of interest have included hybrid learning and other teaching options, enrollment numbers, research infrastructure and the importance of research, collaboration across faculties, and the need to break down operational silos.

The Chair reported that she, in her role as President, was recently in Calgary to celebrate the SFU scholars named to the Royal Society of Canada.

The Chair reported that SFU is in the midst of hiring a new University Secretary for the Board of Governors. The University Secretary plays an important role in terms of touching base with the Senate secretary and its bicameral governance structure. The expectation is to move forward early in the new year with the candidate pool and have someone in place by the spring of 2023.

The Chair reported that SFU has received a number of requests to revoke the honorary degree of Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, who was awarded her honorary degree in 2016. Since this issue arose, it was found that the University does not have a policy on how to revoke an honorary degree. Since honorary degrees are the remit of Senate, a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on University honors has been formed. The subcommittee is chaired by Chancellor Tamara Vrooman and is tasked with drafting a formal policy on honorary degrees that will include procedures for both granting and revoking degrees. Once a policy is in place, it will be used to determine whether Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond's honorary degree will be revoked. It was added that at present, SFU does not have a process for confirming Indigenous identity for honorary degree recipients, nor for students, faculty and staff.

The Chair reported that last week, Vice-President, People Equity and inclusion, Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson, released a statement about a recent incident of racism and hate that occurred when an impersonator joined an SFSS organized Zoom meeting and posted hateful comments in the chat section. The University is working closely with the SFSS and thanks was offered to the

Vice-President and to the SFSS for their actions and their commitment to anti-racism and anti-oppression.

Citing the infrastructure around student information systems, and Canvas in particular, which falls under the responsibility of Finance, a comment was made that it seems like decisions around upgrading the functionality of such systems are being made on the basis of finances and not on the best student learning outcomes. Senate was informed that previously, the CIO reported dually to the Vice-President, Finance and the Vice-President, Academic. This change, however, doesn't mean that decisions about the needs of Canvas or of the SFU community rest solely with Vice-President, Finance and that the VPA Office is still engaged in the process.

Noting that the University Secretary and the General Counsel roles have been split into two separate positions, a question was asked as to how the process for policy consultation will work given that the formerly unified role featured numerous policies reporting to a single person. Senate was informed that the University Secretary is responsible for the Policy Gazette and to make sure that policies that require Board approval are moved forward, whereas the General Counsel will oversee development and work with policy authorities on the development of policies. As such, staff around policy development will report to the General Counsel Office.

**i) Report of the Provost**

The Provost reported that the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training has confirmed the approval of a Master of Cybersecurity and a Master of Visual Computing degree programs. The programs were originally passed at Senate as a Master of Science in Professional Cybersecurity and a Master of Science in Professional Visual Computing. However, the Degree Quality Assessment Board and the Minister asked for a change in the title of these programs, as the Ministry was unwilling to approve the use of the term *professional* because they want to standardize the term across the Province.

The Provost reported that international enrollment is down for the fall term, with initial numbers for the spring also being down. Citing a question about what is being done to address the downturn, Senate was informed that the following things are being done or considered:

- SFU continues to work with Universities Canada to increase the rate at which they are processing study permits, which were taking six months to approve. That wait is now down to 11 weeks, but still well behind previous wait times of 6 to 8 weeks.
- The University continues to ask FIC to diversify its enrollments and there has been increases in the number of students coming from South America, despite the fact that those numbers are also down.
- Work is being done with Student Services to increase the capacity for international recruitment and funds are being reallocated to help with this. Further, Student Services is looking at repurposing some of the scholarship funding to make it more attractive for international students to come to SFU.
- The University is leveraging Navitas to have representatives stationed in various regions, starting with a position in Delhi to help pilot this partnership.
- Navitas is working on increasing its digital marketing to make SFU more visible in key regions.

- Given that international applications are still being done by hand, money needs to be spent on IT and a long-term plan is in place to do so.
- Work needs to be done to increase credit loads, as a small increase in average credit load can help the budget.
- Work also needs to be done on student retention to decrease the number of students lost to other institutions.
- Key courses need to be available online for those students who are still abroad and not able to get back.

The Provost provided the following updates on the medical school:

- Concerning the financial impact of a medical school, the government was clear in its understanding that creating a new medical school is far more expensive than putting additional seats at UBC and it is aware that the amount of funding being requested by SFU for a medical school will be substantial.
- The interim dean is playing a key role in helping SFU prepare the business case and getting ready for the proposal to Senate for a medical school.
- Additional consultants are being brought in to help with the process. Jon Meddings, who just finished a 10-year term as the Dean of Medicine at the University of Calgary, has agreed to provide advice on the medical program. Sarah Strasser, the partner of Roger Strasser, is also providing support, as is Nel Weiman, Acting Chief Medical Officer at the First Nations Health Authority.
- SFU is being asked to prepare a business case for Treasury Board, due May 31, 2023. This comprehensive document involves key partners including First Nations Health Authority, Fraser Health, as well as all health authorities. The University also needs to partner with UBC and do a complete facility assessment across Fraser Health, UBC and SFU.
- A series of working groups have been established to help develop the business case and to plan everything from curriculum to facilities. As such, there are working groups on curriculum, workforce, facilities and infrastructure, governance, admissions including student financial supports, research, engagement, and cost.
- To date, the government has provided every dollar requested by SFU. Funding is in place to move forward with the requisite steps for consideration of a medical school, to understand what the governance structure needs to be, and to follow the required process through SCUP, Senate and the Board of Governors.
- This process will involve consultations beyond what transpired last year, when sessions were held with students and faculty, Indigenous students, faculty and staff, and a closed session with Faculty of Health Sciences executive and staff. Externally, consultations have taken place with the city of Surrey's Mayor, the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, Doctors of BC, and First Nations Health Authority.

Arguing that the failure to bring the finances to SCUP goes against the SCUP terms of reference and the University Act, a question was asked as to when the finances for a medical school will be brought to SCUP. Senate was informed that when preparing the business case, most of the planning related to finances cannot take place until the curriculum is known, until postgraduate opportunities are known, and the infrastructure is known. The working group on costing will not

being doing its main work until the end of February. When the numbers are available, they will then be brought to SCUP. It was added that in general terms, operating funds were anticipated to be around \$200 million for infrastructure, costing was around \$60 million, and a cost estimate by KPMG at around \$200,000 per student.

Noting that scholarships were mentioned twice in the report, a question was asked when these matters will be brought to the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB). Senate was informed that such information would not come from the VPA from the committee and from Student Services.

A question was asked if there is a better way to manage enrollment ranges in regard to Senate targets, as well as how funds are accounted for to ensure that if there are drops in international student enrollment, the University is not faced with budget cuts. Senate was informed that international enrollment numbers are set by the Senate Committee on Enrollment Management Planning (SCEMP), with numbers being finalized in February and coming to Senate in March. Up until the pandemic, the University had a fairly consistent expectation as to what international enrollment numbers would be, but that the pandemic has resulted in volatility given that a significant portion of SFU's government grant and tuition revenue comes from international enrollment.

With regards to a medical school, a question was asked if scholarships and bursaries for Indigenous students will be part of the planning. Senate was informed that planning has not been finalized, but there are committees working on these issues. One of the key elements will be getting an Advancement Officer working on funding as early as possible.

On the naming of an interim dean for the medical school, a question was asked if the appointed person was selected by the government or did SFU have a role in the decision. Senate was informed that SFU chose the person.

**ii) Strategic Research Plan (S.22-102)**

Moved by D. O'Neil, seconded by S. Spector

"That SFU Senate endorse the 2023-2028 Strategic Research Plan as presented at the December 2022 Senate meeting."

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**6. Question Period**

No questions were submitted.

**7. Reports of Committees**

**A) Research Ethics Board (REB)**

**i) Annual Report 2018-2022 (S.22-103)**

Senate received the Research Ethics Board (REB) Annual Report 2018/2022 for information.

Kristie Westerlaken, Director - Research Ethics, and Trevor Davis, Executive Director - Research Operations, were in attendance to respond to questions.

**B) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)**

**i) Revision and Renaming of GP 24 (S.22-104)**

Senate received Revision and Renaming of GP 24 for information.

Jastej Singh Aujla, Chief Information Security Officer, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting that the definition of misuse under this policy includes seeking to gain or gaining unauthorized access to ICT resources, a concern was raised that students could potentially be found to have gained unauthorized access even if they had done so in a responsible manner for the purpose of ensuring that vulnerabilities can be identified and corrected. Senate was informed that the role of the CIO and CISO is to protect the digital assets of the University. In such a scenario, IT Services would inform stakeholders of the vulnerability and inform Student Services of what has occurred. Investigation of such matters would be carried out by Student Services based on the applicable policies.

**ii) Human Rights Office Update**

Senate was informed that earlier this year, the University began exploring changes to the reporting structure for the Human Rights Office and the Bullying and Harassment Central Hub. At that time, stakeholders across SFU were engaged over the summer and early fall, and on November 1<sup>st</sup> a message announcing the change in reporting structure was distributed to all faculty, staff and students. The details of the reporting structure changes were that the Human Rights Office was moved to the Vice-President, People, Equity and Inclusion portfolio and now reports to the Executive Director of the Equity Office, while the Bullying and Harassment Central Hub was shifted to the Vice-President, People, Equity and Inclusion (VPPEI) portfolio and reports to the director of the Human Rights Office. The transition was made to co-locate offices working towards shared goals to improve processes and services, providing a more consistent and streamlined experience for those seeking support in relation to GP 18 (Human Rights Policy) and GP 47 (Bullying and Harassment Policy). It was also intended to enable better collaboration with the Equity Office on case management and addressing intersectoral issues of human rights, equity and a respectful working culture and environment.

Changes to university structures and reporting, including these changes, fall under authority of the President and do not require approval from the Board of Governors or Senate. However, it has since been realized that based on policy B 10, any changes to a policy authority requires community consultation and a review by SCAR to decide on how to move forward. This matter did come to SCAR, which determined that this change in policy authority does need to come to Senate for information. This error was inadvertent and immediate steps are being taken to correct the mistake and ensure that the proposed changes go through the correct governance process. As such, later this week members of the university community will be asked to provide input on the proposed revisions to GP 18 and GP 47. This will be done via e-mail, with all comments and responses being logged. Community consultation will be open until December 21<sup>st</sup>.

A question was asked about why policy authority resides in a single individual rather than a body of people. Senate was informed that SFU's policies are structured so that a policy authority oversees and ensures that policies are kept up-to-date and are reviewed regularly, and that they are implemented in a timely manner.

A question was asked whether this item will return to Senate once the consultation period ends. Senate was informed that this item will come back to SCAR for consideration, and that based on the feedback received, a determination will be made on if it needs to come back to Senate.

A question was asked if this change places the Human Rights Office under authority of the Human Resources portfolio, and if so, does this pose a conflict. Senate was informed that this change falls under the VPPEI, and that Human Resources is but one function that sits under that authority. As to potential conflict, confidentiality and processes have to be very clear to protect people's information and to make sure that due process is being followed when there are complaints.

**C) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS)**

**i) Annual Report 2021/2022 (S.22-105)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS) Annual Report 2021/2022 for information.

A question was asked about the difference between fee-based registrations and free and sponsored registrations, especially in terms of the disparity in registration numbers for the Liberal Arts and 55+ programs. Senate was informed that Lifelong Learning offers courses that charge a fee for participation, however, it also offers events and information sessions that do not require payment. Many of the registrations for the Liberal Arts and 55+ programs are at least partially sponsored because those registrations are subsidized through an endowment.

**D) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

**i) Establishment of the Pacific Institute on Pathogens, Pandemics and Society (S.22-106)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by T. Bublea

“That Senate approve the establishment of the Pacific Institute on Pathogens, Pandemics and Society (PIPPS) as an Institute for a five-year term.”

Michael Richards, Associate Vice-President, Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked if this institute will continue beyond the end of COVID. Senate was informed that the institute does plan to carry on beyond the five years. The five years is due to a significant amount of funding from the government for setting up a three and then five-year program. It was added that an additional amount of approximately \$6 million has already been raised to continue beyond the initial five years.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Full Program Proposal for Japanese Studies Certificate (S.22-107)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for the Certificate in Japanese Studies in the Department of World Languages and Literature within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences effective fall 2023.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Centres and Institutes Annual Report 2021/22 (S.22-108)**

Senate received the Centres and Institutes Annual Report 2021/22 for information.

Michael Richards, Associate Vice-President, Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting the length of this report, and the challenge in reading such a lengthy report, a question was asked to explain what types of things might committee members be looking for within such a long document. Senate was informed that the first thing being considered is if a report has in fact been submitted and then if the centre or institute is following policy. Beyond that, members are looking for evidence that the centre or institute is an active part of the scholarly community. Further, members are looking for things that are anomalous. For example, when a centre or institute is being closed or extended for an unusual term, the committee will consider why this is happening and discuss consultation to ensure everything is handled appropriately with affiliated staff and faculty.

A question was asked if centres and institutes receive SFU funding, and if so, do they receive scrutiny as a result of that funding. Senate was informed that SFU generally does not fund centres and institutes, but that newly created institutes do sometimes receive a resource package to assist in their early stages. Any financial support for centres would come from related endowments.

**iv) Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications 2021/2022 (S.22-109)**

Senate received the Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications 2021/2022 for information.

Michael Richards, Associate Vice-President, Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

**E) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)****i) Program Changes (S.22-110)**

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 Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**ii) Program Changes (S.22-111)**

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 Arts and Social Sciences (Cognitive Science Program, Criminology, Economics, Global Asia Program, History, Indigenous Studies, Linguistics, Political Science, School of Public Policy, World Languages and Literatures), and the Faculty of Environment (Geography).

**iii) New Course Proposals (S.22-112)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering).

**iv) New Course Proposals (S.22-113)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Global Asia Program, Urban Studies Program, World Languages and Literature), and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**v) Course Changes (S.22-114)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science).

**vi) Course Changes (S.22-115)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, Global Asia Program, History, School for International Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences).

**F) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)****i) Graduate General Regulation 1.5 Graduate Grading Systems and Policies (S.22-116)**

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by J. Stockie

“That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.5 Graduate Grading Systems and Policies.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Program Changes (S.22-117)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Linguistics), the Beedie School of Business,

the Faculty of Communication, Art & Technology (Publishing Program), and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**iii) Program Changes (S.22-118)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a program change in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (English).

**iv) New Course Proposals (S.22-119)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Linguistics), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program), and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**v) Course Changes (S.22-120)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Linguistics), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**vi) Course Changes (S.22-121)**

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

**G) Senate Library Committee (SLC)**

**i) Annual Report 2021/22 (S.22-122)**

Senate received the Senate Library Committee (SLC) Annual Report 2021/22 for information.

**H) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.22-123 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, January 9, 2023**

Open session adjourned at 6:52 pm