

SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF JUNE 5, 2023

1. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that June Convocation runs from June 6th to 9th. Honorary degrees will be conferred to seven individuals: Adelle Blackett, Donald Dingwell, Barbara Findlay, Dany Laferrière, Joy MacPhail, Svend Robinson, and Zainub Verjee.

The Chair reported that last week, SFU launched What's Next: The SFU Strategy at an event with over 150 people, including many dignitaries, board members, donors, business leaders and members of the SFU community. The event allowed the University to share its new vision, purpose and framework for action.

The Chair reported that today, she, in her role as President, attended the Indigenous Honouring Feast, hosted by the Indigenous Student Centre. Indigenous faculty, staff, students, representatives from the Host Nations and guests raised their hands with respect and in honour of the achievements of graduating Indigenous students. Several attendees wore traditional ceremonial regalia, underpinning the importance of connection to the community.

The Chair reported that last week, the Times Higher Education 2023 Impact Rankings were released and SFU was recognized as number one for its global impact on sustainable cities and communities – and fifth in the world for its response to climate action. The annual rankings measure universities' strengths in advancing the United Nations' sustainable development goals, which call on developed and developing countries to partner on critical global issues.

The Chair reported that last week, she, in her role as President, was invited to speak at the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, sharing the role SFU plays in building a more innovative, sustainable, and prosperous economy and future for all British Columbians.

The Chair reported that the Provost model continues to be strengthened at SFU in support of the academic mission and delivering on the priorities outlined in What's Next: the SFU Strategy. Over the past year, two key governance committees have been implemented and empowered:

- The Integrated Planning Committee (IPC), responsible for long-range planning and ensuring that budgeting is aligned with the strategic priorities, and the mission, vision and values of the university. This committee is chaired by the Provost;
- The Budget Planning Committee, responsible for development of SFU's budget. This committee is chaired by the Provost and VP Finance and Administration.

The Chair reported that SFU will be welcoming Dr. Mary O'Brien as the new Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies, formerly the role held by Jeff Derkson, Dean and Associate Provost, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Studies.

The Chair reported that Francesca Hennigar has been appointed General Counsel. Francesca previously served as Acting General Counsel, and following a rigorous external recruitment, is being appointed permanently to the role.

2. Report of the Provost

The Provost reported the following Summer enrollment updates:

- New undergraduate students are down 13 to 14% from last year, which is similar to targeting. This means there are 13% fewer undergraduate students enrolled than anticipated.
- Full-time student enrollment has decreased by 8.5%. Part-time enrollment is also down.
- Total AFTEs are down 5%.
- Co-op enrollments are down 22% and as such, is contributing a 3% decrease in total AFTEs.
- Non-Co-op students taking regular courses are down 2.5%; Non-Co-op international AFTEs are down by 190.
- For the Fall term, new fall enrollments for international undergraduates by head count are fifty ahead of target from this time last year.

The Provost reported that SFU's new Provost starts on August 15th and onboarding has begun. Onboarding has also begun for the new Dean of Graduate Studies. The University is also finalizing the appointments for the Dean of Education and the Associate Vice-President, Academic. The call for committee members for the Dean of Medicine should be forthcoming later this month.

The Provost provided the following updates on the medical school:

- A draft interim business case for the medical school was submitted on May 31st.
- Revisions are already being made to the draft and are due mid-June.
- The ministries are currently looking at the draft to make recommendations for adjustments.
- The University is also analyzing the business case submitted by Fraser Health Authority to see where there is overlap or congruencies.
- The anticipated submission of the full business case in final form is the end of September, which is when it goes to Treasury board.
- The draft interim business case submitted on May 31st will continue to be worked on for the remainder of the summer.
- It is intended to initiate the search for the dean of the medical school in September.
- The decision on funding from the provincial government is expected in March 2024.
- The internal approval processes for the creation of a medical school will be initiated in Spring 2024, with the goal of bringing it to Senate in around April or May of 2024, once the funding decision has been announced.
- A decision on the founding dean is anticipated to be around the same time period of April 2024.
- The submission of the Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) program, once it's gone through the various levels, and if approved, would be expected at Senate in about June 2024.
- The first accreditation meeting material deadline for submission is in September 2024 and the first onsite review by the Committee on Accreditation of Medical Schools (CACMS) would take place in January 2025.

3. Correction: Program Name Change for the Master of Science in Professional Computer Science (S.23-79)

Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the program name change from the Master of Science in Professional Computer Science to the Master of Science in Big Data within the Faculty of Applied Sciences, effective Spring 2024.

4. Blended Learning Assessment (S.23-80)

Motion 1:

Senate approved the adoption of Blended courses as a permanent course section classification and expand the scheduling patterns available for use for the in-person component of blended courses.

Motion 2:

Senate approved as a two-year pilot, a new designation that replaces the in-person component of blended courses with a synchronous online component, provided the synchronous online component is scheduled during Low Utilization Period as defined in the Classroom and course scheduling procedures (e.g. 4:30 PM or later). The new designation will be called BLS, to distinguish from the typical BL courses.

5. Undergraduate Program Changes (S.23-81)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Spring 2024:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *Linguistics*

- Program: Linguistics of Speech Science Certificate

b) *World Languages and Literatures*

- Program: Italian Studies Certificate (effective Summer 2024)

ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) *School for the Contemporary Arts*

- Program: Dance Major

6. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.23-82)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposal, effective Spring 2024:

i) Faculty of Science

a) *Mathematics*

- Course (new): MATH 468, 469

7. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.23-83)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Spring 2024:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) English

- Course (prerequisite): ENGL 418W

b) History

- Course (description): HIST 349, 436
- Course (description, equivalency, prerequisite): HIST 460

c) Indigenous Studies

- Course (description): INDG 442, 447

d) Labour Studies Program

- Course (title): LBST 301W, 312

e) Linguistics

- Course (prerequisite): LING 301W, 321, 322, 324, 330, 362, 408, 431, 432

f) Political Science

- Course (title, description): POL 132

g) Psychology

- Course (prerequisite): PSYC 371

ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) School for the Contemporary Arts

- Course (description, units, prerequisite): CA 425

iii) Faculty of Science

a) Biological Sciences

- Course (prerequisite): BISC 405

b) Mathematics

- Course (title, description, prerequisite): MATH 348 (effective Fall 2024)
- Course (title, description, prerequisite, equivalency): MATH 360 (effective Fall 2024)

c) Physics

- Course (prerequisite): PHYS 344

8. Senate Committee Elections (S.23-84 Revised)

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

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the July Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the June 2023 Senate documents:

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-36056>.

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