

SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2023

1. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that the dynamic in the Middle East is creating challenging dynamics at the university as well, and that the priority is to ensure that students, faculty and staff are aware of supports and can access what they need to be and feel safe. SFU has stood up an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to support the Executive in managing the institutional response. The EOC is actively monitoring the situation and members of the SFU team are working directly with anyone who is impacted. Campus Public Safety has been working closely with student groups and is regularly in discussion with the Jewish Student Association, the Multi-faith Center, and the Muslim Student Association.

Regarding comments made by an SFU alumnus and recipient of the Dean of Graduate Students Convocation Medal at a recent event in Vancouver, the Chair reported that SFU released a statement on this issue to state unequivocally that it does not agree with nor support these comments in any way, and this individual has no affiliation with SFU beyond being an alumnus. The University has also received many calls for the individual's medal to be rescinded. The revocation of an academic award can only occur under SFU's policy on Student Academic Integrity, if there was academic dishonesty or academic misconduct while an individual was a student.

The Chair thanked those who participated in fall Convocation.

The Chair reported that SFU was again ranked Canada's #1 comprehensive university by Maclean's 2024 University Rankings, for the 15th time in 16 years.

The Chair reported that SFU has reached a tentative agreement with SFUFA, and that the TSSU voted to ratify their collective agreement last week. The Chair recognized members of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for their work around implementing an alternate grading system for students this term, in response to labour dispute impacts on courses.

The Chair reported that the annual Board/Senate retreat, originally scheduled for November 24th, has been moved to January 25th.

The Chair reported that during the week of September 25th, faculties, departments and units from across SFU came together in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Chair, in her role as President, joined the SFU Surrey community in Holland Park for an afternoon of drumming, storytelling and bannock, in partnership with the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee. The Chair also opened a special event on Burnaby campus featuring keynote speaker Phyllis Webstad, founder of Orange Shirt Day.

The Chair reported that right after the Senate meeting, she, in her role as President, is flying to East Africa to formalize partnerships with Aga Khan University (AKU) and the Nelson Mandela

African Institution of Science and Technology. Dugan O'Neil, VPRI and Naomi Krogman, Dean - Faculty of Environment, will also be in attendance to explore further opportunities for research and collaboration.

Regarding the medical school, the Chair reported that at the end of October, she, in her role as President, and several SFU representatives, including deans and student representatives from the SFSS, GSS and First Nations, Metis and Inuit Student Association, went to Victoria to meet with members of government and talk about how SFU is making a difference for B.C. students and communities.

The Chair reported that the annual budget townhall was held last week. SFU faces a financial shortfall in the 2023/24 fiscal year, due to lower international enrollment and increased cost pressures. It's expected that these enrollment trends and the effects of inflation will continue, and SFU's budget will remain tight over the next few years.

Noting that the final draft of the Senate Review is on the agenda, the Chair reported that over the past year, the Board of Governors has been undergoing a governance review. Through this process, a number of areas for efficiencies and improvement have been identified, including a more collaborative working relationship with Senate. It is hoped that such a review of Senate will provide similar results.

2. Report of the Provost

The Provost reported that Dr. David Price has been announced as an acting dean for the medical school, Dr. Evan Adams has been named the new acting associate dean of Indigenous Health, and Dr. Maria Hubinette has been named as an associate dean for academic and faculty planning. Work is currently being done to review existing curriculum from medical schools from different universities, including Calgary, McMaster, and Toronto. Work has also begun on preparing the foundations for the accreditation of the medical school. The University has been in touch with government to guarantee continuous funding for the medical school over the next few years, and to advance the conversation on when more details will be able to be shared with Senate.

The Provost reported that SFU is facing a short fall of about \$12 million that primarily comes from lower enrollment of international students. Given the shortfall, operational budget cuts of about 2.2% have been implemented across the University. Also, effective immediately, a hiring freeze has been announced and is to be reevaluated at the end of the fiscal year.

3. Amended R20.01 Policy (S.23-121)

Motion 1:

Senate approved the change to Policy R20.01 Procedures related to the definition of quorum - namely accepting the proposed change to SOP 302.004 section 5.4.1 (removal of definition).

Motion 2:

Senate approved the Procedures for Policy R20.01 as revised.

4. Proposed Policy R70.01 - SFU Excellence in Research Awards (S.23-122)

Proposed Policy R70.01 - SFU Excellence in Research Awards was withdrawn at Senate.

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-36379>

5. **Senate Review (S.23-123)**
Senate approved the final draft of the Senate Review document.
6. **Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS) Annual Report 2022/2023 (S.23-124)**
Senate received the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS) Annual Report 2022/2023 for information.
7. **SAT/ACT Admission Requirement Elimination (S.23-125)**
Senate approved, commencing Fall 2024, that the SAT/ACT admission requirement for undergraduate applicants studying an American High School curriculum (i.e., US12) will be optional rather than required.
8. **SEE High School Admissions Requirement Change (S.23-126)**
Senate approved the supplementary application for the Sustainable Energy Engineering program (SEE) be optional for undergraduate high school admission.
9. **P-CR-NC Grading Basis for Fall 2023 (S.23-127)**
Senate received P-CR-NC Grading Basis for Fall 2023 for information.
10. **Undergraduate Program Changes (S.23-128)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program change, effective Summer 2024:
 - i) **Faculty of Applied Sciences**
 - a) **School of Computing Science**
 - Program: Computing Science Dual Degree Program Major
 - b) **School of Sustainable Energy Engineering**
 - Program: Sustainable Energy Engineering Major
 - Program: Sustainable Energy Engineering Honours
 - ii) **Beedie School of Business**
 - Program: Corporate Environmental and Social Sustainability Certificate
 - Program: Business Technology Management Certificate (**effective Fall 2024**)
 - Admission requirement changes to the Beedie School of Business minor program (**effective Fall 2024**)
 - Program: Business Minor (**effective Fall 2024**)
 - Program: Business Honours (**effective Fall 2024**)
 - Program: Business and Economics Joint Honours (**effective Fall 2024**)
 - Program: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and Business Administration Joint Honours (**effective Fall 2024**)
 - iii) **Faculty of Science**
 - a) **Earth Sciences**
 - Program: Earth Sciences Honours

- Program: Earth Sciences Major
- Program: Earth Sciences Certificate (effective Fall 2024)

11. Undergraduate Program Changes (S.23-129)

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

i) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) School of Interactive Arts and Technology

- Admission requirement changes to the School of Interactive Arts and Technology minor program
- Program: IAT One program

12. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.23-130)

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

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Computing Science

- Course (new): CMPT 400

13. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.23-131)

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

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering

- Course (new): MSE 453, 454

14. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.23-132)

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

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Sustainable Energy Engineering

- Course (prerequisite): SEE 351

ii) Beedie School of Business

- Course (equivalency): BUS 207
- Course (description, equivalency): BUS 233

15. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.23-133)

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

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Engineering Science

- Course (prerequisite): ENSC 450, 495

ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) School of Interactive Arts and Technology

- Course (title, description): IAT 244

iii) Faculty of Science

a) Chemistry

- Course (prerequisite): CHEM 121 (effective Fall 2024)

16. Minimum Funding Policy (S.23-134)

Senate received Minimum Funding Policy for consultation.

17. Grading Practices and Deadlines for Fall 2023 (S.23-135)

Senate received Grading Practices and Deadlines for Fall 2023 for information.

18. Withdrawal Deadline for Fall 2023 (S.23-136)

Senate received Withdrawal Deadline for Fall 2023 for information.

19. Senate Committee Elections (S.23-137)

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

20. Course Withdrawal Deadline Extension (S.23-138)

Senate received Course Withdrawal Deadline Extension for information.

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 2023 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-36379>.

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