



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Joy Johnson, Chair

Bhalloo, Shafik  
Bird, Gwen  
Bullock, Cécile  
Chapman, Glenn  
Collard, Mark  
Denholm, Julia  
Dhesa, Priyanka  
Egri, Carolyn  
Everton, Mike  
Faris, Reema  
Fiume, Eugene  
Fung, Aaron  
Gray, Bonnie  
Hall, Peter  
Herrenbrueck, Lucas  
Karaivanov, Alexander  
Krogman, Naomi  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Liu, Connie  
Lysova, Alexandra  
Magnusson, Kris  
Martell, Matt  
Masri, Kamal  
McKenzie, Janis  
Muntean, Reese  
Myers, Gord  
Nelson, Todd  
Neustaedter, Carman  
O'Brien, Mary  
O'Neil, Dugan  
Percival, Colin  
Pratt, Elspeth  
Rassier, Dilson  
Rincon, Laura  
Schiphorst, Thecla  
Schmidt, Michèle  
Singh Walia, Harkirat  
Stockie, John

Sutherland, Jill  
Szymczyk, Barbara  
Thornton, Allen  
Tucker, Rochelle  
Vuong, Quang  
Weldon, Laurel  
Whitehurst, David  
Williams, Vance

**Absent:**

Abu-Samhan, Mishael  
Barlow, Leanne  
Brennand, Tracy  
Brooks-Wilson, Angela  
Bubela, Tania  
D'Silva, Tyler  
Eftenaru, Cristina  
Fisher, Brian  
Hodaly, Alexander  
Kerr, Jeannie  
Kessler, Anke  
Manzer, Mussaab  
Nahmiash, Amanda  
Pantophlet, Ralph  
Parmar, Abhishek  
Parent, Michael  
Sawan, Amani  
Shinkar, Igor  
Traversa, Marissa  
Vrooman, Tamara  
Williams, JF  
Zuluaga, Natalia

**In Attendance:**

Eigenfeldt, Arne  
Naqvi, Zareen  
Ortabasi, Melek  
Stern, Pamela

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of February 5, 2024**

The minutes of the open session on February 5, 2024 were approved as distributed.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

At the February meeting a friendly amendment was made to S.24-16 (Proposed Policy R70.01 - SFU Excellence in Research Awards) to include a member of Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB) on the Awards Advisory Committee. It was determined after the meeting that SPCSAB only has jurisdiction over University funded and donor funded student financial aid and awards, not research awards. It was added, however, that it would be beneficial to have input from SPCSAB on the Awards Advisory Committee, thus the amendment can stand.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that last week, the province confirmed funding for the SFU Medical School through Budget 2024. In addition to the operating grant, SFU has been informed that a capital proposal will be funded as well. The University was also informally told that the proposal for operating will be fully funded, with details to follow.

The Chair reported that the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) has designated two members (Senator Myers and Senator Brooks-Wilson) to work with the Board of Governors to review the budget.

The Chair reported there is a new Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, the Honorable Lisa Beare. SFU has reached out to welcome Lisa to her position and to ensure that SFU remains connected to the Ministry during this time of transition.

The Chair reported that the University continues to work with the government around the international student visa cap and what that will mean for SFU. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills shared their response to the international student visa cap announced by the federal government in January and SFU is pleased with the approach the provincial government has taken in distributing the 83,000 undergraduate study permits that were allocated for British Columbia, with 53% of the permits going to public post-secondary institutions.

The Chair reported that this continues to be a challenging time for BC's post-secondary sector, with several institutions experiencing budget deficits. Thanks was expressed to members of the executive team working to try to develop a balanced budget to bring to the Board of Governors at the end of March.

**i) Report of the Provost**

The Provost reported that the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR) suggested that the approval by SCUP of the Notice of Intent for the SFU Medical School be placed under Report of the Provost due to the importance of this matter for further discussions.

SCUP's discussion focused on the academic importance of the medical school and how it will fit into the SFU environment. It was noted, however, that SCUP did not discuss the budget or finances.

The Provost reported that SFU and those involved with international recruitment have been working with the government over the past weeks and are pleased with the principles being adopted. The government has tried to shift the majority of international students' acceptance into public universities as compared to what they have done in past years. In the previous year, SFU had approximately 450 to 500 international students, whereas the new cap allots approximately 850 international students. This new cap number adds a 20% base to grow, plus an additional 50% to account for the fact that not every study permit application turns into a registered student.

A question was asked regarding if the international cap includes incoming students on exchange. Senate was informed that one-term exchanges are not included because one does not need a study permit, whereas two-term (8 month) exchanges are included in the count.

A question was asked if the 850-cap number is for the year or on a semesterly basis. Senate was informed that the 850 is for the year and includes only students who need to apply for a study permit. Students already in the BC College system or in the K-12 system, provided they update their institution of study while they're physically in Canada, won't count against the cap. It was added that FIC enrollments won't count against the cap and that the cap only counts for undergraduate programs and graduate certificate and diploma programs, meaning masters and doctoral degree programs are excluded from the cap.

A question was asked regarding how SFU will ensure it admits the maximum number of students allowed within the cap. Senate was informed that the University has been trying to diversify the countries from which students are recruited, and has been working more intensively with potential applicants as this process has developed.

**i) Notice of Intent for the SFU Medical School (S.24-28)**

Senate received Notice of Intent for the SFU Medical School for information.

A question was asked regarding when specific descriptions and definitions of terms used in the program will be made available. Senate was informed that in the two-stage process, a notice of intent is a request to develop the full program proposal, which will provide more depth on the structure of the program and the rationale behind it.

On the promise of government funding, a question was asked regarding if the province has agreed to fund the estimated costs or the actual costs, and who would pay should costs exceed expectation. Senate was informed that the government will fund the cost as approved in the business plan. The business plan was drafted to be as realistic as possible to have funding from the province that would cover all the costs, so the expectation is that costs will not exceed funding.

## 5. Question Period

- i) Senator Whitehurst submitted the following question:

*My question is the result of conversations with colleagues, sparked in part by an Op-Ed in the Vancouver Sun by my Faculty of Health Sciences colleague, Professor Jeremy Snyder (<https://vancouversun.com/opinion/op-ed/jeremy-snyder-new-medical-school-at-sfu-shouldnt-be-named-after-simon-fraser>). The title of the Op-Ed is, “New medical school at SFU shouldn't be named after Simon Fraser” and, in it, Professor Snyder puts forward the opinion that Simon Fraser University cannot name its medical school after its own namesake while simultaneously claiming that the vision of the school is to promote equity and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.*

*So, my two-part question is: (i) assuming a medical school is approved, what processes will be in place to determine how it is named? and (ii) what discussions/considerations have there been, if any, about the appropriateness of naming a medical school (which proposes to embed First Nations, Inuit and Métis knowledge systems and perspectives) after a man who directly furthered the British colonial project in what is now Western Canada?*

The Chair responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the practice when new faculties, departments or schools are brought forward is to name them in such a way that depicts their function. Thus, a proposal will be brought to Senate to establish a medical school likely to be titled School of Medicine. The policy for naming of academic units is outlined in policy GP35 and in article 4.3 it's stipulated that proposals for the naming of academic units are to be made by the Board of Governors by the President, on the advice of the Vice-President, Academic, and, for the naming of Research Centres and Institutes, the Vice-President, Research, the Vice-President, Advancement & Alumni Engagement, the Deans of the Faculties involved, SCUP and Senate. At present, the only named school at SFU that has gone through this process is the Beedie School of Business. However, that name remains locked into the SFU name as the SFU Beedie school of Business. As such, the process is to follow GP 35 to consider naming of schools.

With regard to the second question, proposals for the naming of academic units in compliance with policy will necessitate the Vice-President, Academic and the Dean of the new faculty or school to consult with the members of the academic unit involved to ensure that the majority are in support of the naming. Given that consideration around the naming should involve extensive time and consultation, it is appropriate to first have Senate establish the school and recruit the faculty before any consideration relating to naming takes place.

- ii) Senator Percival submitted the following question:

*At the May 15, 2023 meeting of Senate, a motion was passed concerning the Diverse Qualifications Admissions Policy, which was 14 years past its Senate-approved expiry date:*

*"That Senate approve the Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee's mandate until December 31, 2023, and that its mandate be approved retroactively to cover students admitted while the Diverse Qualifications Admission Policy was lapsed."*

*As far as I am aware, no further motion has come forward to Senate concerning the Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Policy, and this interim authorization has now also expired. Is this intentional?*

Peter Hall, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that this was not intentional and it is suggested that a review of the Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee (DQAC) be incorporated as part of the Senate Review. As such, the following motion was moved:

**Motion:**

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by T. Schiphorst

*"That Senate approve the Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee's mandate until the end of the current Senate Review, and that its mandate be approved retroactively to cover students admitted while the diverse qualifications admissions policy has lapsed on December 31st, 2020. Further, that the Senate Review Committee include recommendations on the DQAC's mandate as part of the current Senate Review."*

Citing concerns over adding more work onto the Senate Review Committee, a suggestion was made for the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) consider this item and also report back to Senate on the academic success, or lack thereof, of students admitted under this policy. Senate was informed that this suggestion would be taken as a friendly amendment to be considered by SCUS.

iii) Senator Singh Walia submitted the following question:

*Has the SCUS committee looked into a review of the current concentrations available under the Beedie Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program, with a focus on expanding the current number of concentrations available, especially the addition of Real Estate as a concentration? Given that there is high interest in the subject, which can be judged by the establishment of the Beedie Urban Development Program (BUDP) by the Beedie Career Management Centre (CMC) and students, plus an existing club called SFU Real Estate Club, which represents a keen interest among students pursuing the BBA program. From a broad perspective, this addition will put SFU on par with other institutions in BC, like the UBC Sauder School of Business program called the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) program with a specialization in real estate, and help attract more talent to the university and result in better placements in the job market for students looking to pursue a career in real estate.*

Peter Hall, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that SCUS has not taken up this topic for consideration, and that it would look to the Beedie School of Business to bring forward proposals for new streams and concentrations. It was added that this was something that was looked at by Business in their most recent comprehensive review of their undergraduate programs, and they concluded that they would not be in a position to add concentrations to their current programs.

## 6. Reports of Committees

### A) Research Ethics Board (REB)

#### i) Annual Report 2022/2023 (S.24-29)

Senate received the Research Ethics Board (REB) Annual Report 2022/2023 for information.

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

#### i) Changes to Policy A32.03 – Distinguished SFU Professor Program (S.24-30)

Senate received Changes to Policy A32.03 – Distinguished SFU Professor Program for consultation.

A question was asked regarding the rationale for having a Distinguished SFU Associate Professor and a Distinguished SFU Assistant Professor category. Senate was informed that when the policy was created, it was felt the policy should be flexible enough to recognize exceptional faculty members at any stage of career. It was added that since its inception, no assistant professors have been nominated and only one distinguished associate professor has been awarded. Further changes in relation to how the policy recognizes assistant, associate, or full will be taken under advisement.

A question was asked about someone being declared a distinguished assistant professor and subsequently getting promoted to professor, does that person then become a distinguished professor or do they need to be re-distinguished. Also, a question was asked regarding section 4.2 and if the renewal of a 5-year term is limited to a single renewal or can there be multiple renewals. Senate was informed that an individual would have to be re-distinguished at the professor level. As to the renewal of a 5-year term, the policy does not intend to limit it to a single renewal.

A question was asked regarding if consideration has been given to awarding a distinguished lecturer. Senate was informed that such a proposal has not been made, but it is something that could be discussed with the Provost.

### C) Senate Committee on Enrollment Management and Planning (SEMP)

#### i) Enrollment Plan 2024/2025; Undergraduate Admission Targets for 2024/2025 (S.24-31)

Zareen Naqvi, Director - Institutional Research and Planning, was in attendance to respond to questions.

### Motion 1:

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the SFU Enrolment Plan for fiscal year 2024/2025.”

Citing the comment that there is a reconciliation mechanism in place should there be a \$5M tuition deficit, a question was asked to explain what that mechanism would be. Senate was informed that if the University under enrolls, a portion of that gap in the budget gets passed along to the faculties, in the same way as if the University over enrolls, the benefits of that are passed along to the faculties. It was added that the conversation at SCEMP included a request for an update that would show faculties what kind of reconciliation was necessary.

Noting that the undergraduate international (unfunded) total peaked as a percentage of the overall undergraduate total at 23% in 2020/21, a concern was raised that projections for 2029/30 show the international percentage dropping to as low as 16%. Senate was informed that those projections were based on current trends using information that was available at the time. It was added that these projections do not change the long-range goal for undergraduate international enrollment, which is set at 25%. It also does not change the plans to promote and direct international student enrollment.

A question was asked

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 2:**

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by D. Rassier

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Proposed Domestic Undergraduate Admission Targets by Faculty and Basis of Admission –All Campuses (Headcount), for fiscal year 2024/2025.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 3:**

Moved by P. Hall, seconded by D. Rassier

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Proposed International Undergraduate Admission Targets by Faculty and Basis of Admission – All Campuses (Headcount) for fiscal year 2024/2025.”

Noting that Fraser International College (FIC) has a high acceptance rate, a question was asked if SFU has explored a similar process for recruiting international students. Senate was informed that SFU has taken steps to play a more active role in the direct admission of international students. One of the ways FIC binds the students they admit is by having a relatively high deposit, and this is something SFU is looking at. It was added that one of the reasons FIC makes a good partner is because they hold on to their students and send them on to SFU at a high rate.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Deletion of the Latin American Studies Graduate Certificate (S.24-32)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by M. O'Brien

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the deletion of the Latin American Studies Graduate Certificate in the School for International Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Summer 2024.”

Melek Ortabasi, Associate Dean - Undergraduate Programming, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Dissolution of the Post Baccalaureate Diploma (PBD) in Police Studies (S.24-33)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Post Baccalaureate Diploma (PBD) in Police Studies in the School of Criminology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2024.”

Melek Ortabasi, Associate Dean - Undergraduate Programming, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Full Program Proposal for the Certificate in Sound (S.24-34)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for the Certificate in Sound within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.”

Arne Eigenfeldt, Associate Dean, Academic – FCAT, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Program Name Change for the French Language Proficiency Certificate (S.24-35)**

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by M. O'Brien

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program name change from the French Language Proficiency Certificate to Certificate in French, in the Department of French within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2024.”

Melek Ortabasi, Associate Dean - Undergraduate Programming, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Suspension of Admission to the Teacher Education (PQP) Professional Qualification Program (S.24-36)**

Senate received Suspension of Admission to the Teacher Education (PQP) Professional Qualification Program for information.

**E) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**

**i) Program Changes (S.24-37)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication, School for the Contemporary Arts), and the Faculty of Environment (School of Environmental Science, Geography).

**ii) New Course Proposals (S.24-38)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences).

**iii) Course Changes (S.24-39)**

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 Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts, School of Communication, School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology, Geography, Dean of Environment Office, School of Environmental Science, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Sustainable Development Program), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Physics).

**F) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**

**i) Graduate General Regulation 1.4.5 Leave of Absence (S.24-40)**

Moved by M. O'Brien, seconded by V. Williams

“That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.4.5 Leave of Absence.”

Pamela Stern, Associate Dean, Policy and Curriculum – Graduate Studies, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting that the University of Toronto stops the clock for all leaves, an explanation was sought for why SFU did not follow a similar model. Senate was informed that this decision has a lot to do with the newly approved funding policy. When someone takes a leave of absence that stops the clock, it is generally for reasons beyond the control of the individual. When someone takes a leave of absence for personal or professional reasons the clock is not stopped, and this primarily because funding would be required to cover that extra year.

In a follow-up, it was pointed out that guaranteed funding covers four years, leaving a potentially significant number of students who are beyond those four years who could benefit from having their leave not count towards the clock. Senate was informed that it is possible to request an

extension and that when an extension is requested beyond what is currently allowed, the Dean of Graduate Studies, along with another member from Graduate Studies, meets with every student to ensure they can still complete their program.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Annual Report 2023 (S.24-41)**

Senate received the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Annual Report 2023 for information.

**iii) Program Changes (S.24-42)**

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 (Linguistics).

**iv) Course Changes (S.24-43)**

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 Environment (School of Resource & Environmental Management).

**v) Course Deletions (S.24-44)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a course deletion in the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management).

**vi) Course Reinstatements (S.24-45)**

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

**G) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.24-46)**

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

**7. Other Business**

**8. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, April 8, 2024**

Open session adjourned at 6:51 p.m.