



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

Open Session

Present: Joy Johnson, Chair

Abu-Samhan, Mishael
Barlow, Leanne
Bhalloo, Shafik
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Brooks-Wilson, Angela
Bubela, Tania
Collard, Mark
Denholm, Julia
Dhesa, Priyanka
Eftenaru, Cristina
Egri, Carolyn
Faris, Reema
Fisher, Brian
Gray, Bonnie
Hall, Peter
Herrenbrueck, Lucas
Karaivanov, Alexander
Kerr, Jeannie
Krogman, Naomi
Laitsch, Dan
Leznoff, Daniel
Liu, Connie
Magnusson, Kris
Martell, Matt
Masri, Kamal
McKenzie, Janis
Myers, Gord
O'Brien, Mary
O'Neil, Dugan
Parmar, Abhishek
Percival, Colin
Pratt, Elspeth
Rassier, Dilson
Rincon, Laura
Schiphorst, Thecla
Singh Walia, Harkirat
Stockie, John

Sutherland, Jill
Szymczyk, Barbara
Traversa, Marissa
Tucker, Rochelle
Weldon, Laurel
Whitehurst, David
Williams, Vance

Absent:

Bullock, Cécile
Chapman, Glenn
D'Silva, Tyler
Everton, Mike
Fiume, Eugene
Fung, Aaron
Hodaly, Alexander
Kessler, Anke
Lysova, Alexandra
Manzer, Mussaab
Muntean, Reese
Nahmiash, Amanda
Nelson, Todd
Neustaedter, Carman
Pantophlet, Ralph
Parent, Michael
Sawan, Amani
Schmidt, Michèle
Shinkar, Igor
Thornton, Allen
Vrooman, Tamara
Vuong, Quang
Williams, JF
Zuluaga, Natalia

In Attendance:

Tom Nault, Senate Secretary
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. The Minutes of the Open Session of March 4, 2024 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on May 21, 2024**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported the following leadership updates:

- Tania Bubela, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, will be leaving SFU to take a role at the Aga Khan University as the new Provost and Vice-President Academic, effective July 1, 2024. Thanks was expressed to Tania for her work at SFU. A search for a new Dean will be launched soon and a Dean pro tem will be installed in the interim.
- The Dean of Libraries and University Librarian search has commenced, with an Open Forum held on February 29th.
- The search for the Dean of the Beedie School of Business is now in the interview phase, and the Dean of the SFU Medical School is in the final stage of the search process.

The Chair reported that in March, she, in her role as President, and other members of the executive team, attended the annual SFU Awards Gala to celebrate members of the SFU community.

The Chair congratulated this year's Excellence in Teaching Award Winners:

- Tara Holland, Senior Lecturer - Department of Geography and School of Environmental Science;
- Mauve Pagé, Senior Lecturer - Publishing Program;
- Marianne Ignace, Distinguished Professor, Department of Indigenous Studies and Department of Linguistics;
- Tammara Soma, Assistant Professor - School of Resource and Environmental Management;
- Daria Ahrensmeier, Lecturer - Department of Physics;
- Molly McVey, Lecturer, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering.

The Chair congratulated winners of the 2023 Community-Engaged Research Initiative Awards:

- Tammara Soma, Assistant Professor - School of Resource and Environmental Management;
- Nicholas Blomley, Professor - Department of Geography;
- Dana Lepofsky, Professor - Department of Archaeology;
- Meridith Sones, PhD candidate - Faculty of Health Sciences;
- Claire Shapton, recently-graduated Masters of Arts student - Department of Geography;
- Marina Chavez, Masters of Arts student - Department of Geography;

The Chair reported that the joint Board-Senate committee on the SFU Medical School has met twice and thanks was expressed to Senator Brooks-Wilson and Senator Myers for taking on this work.

The Chair shared the latest timelines for the SFU Medical School:

- March 21st – joint Board-Senate working group met, and again on April 3rd;
- March 28th – socialized medical school finances at Board and prepared for a motion to create a medical school;
- Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) received and discussed the Full Program Proposal (FPP) for the Undergraduate Medical Education Program (UGME) on April 4th, and will make a decision on a motion to approve the FPP on April 18th;
- Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) – April 25th and May 8th – will receive documents for creation of a medical school and proposed FPP, then make a decision on motion to approve formation of a medical school and FPP for Doctor of Medicine Degree;
- May 13th – special meeting of Senate – introduce proposal to create a medical school, with budget parameters provided, and to have a first reading of the FPP;
- May 21st – Senate meeting – motion to establish a medical school, and to approve the FPP;
- May 23rd – Board meeting – motion to approve establishment of a medical school;
- Backup approval meetings on June 10th (Senate) and June 27th (Board) if needed;
- Summer – team to seek ministerial approval pursuant to S 29 of the University Act.

i) Report of the Provost

The Provost reported that SFU is following all the steps to allow full discussion of the program and the potential formation of the medical school and are in the final stages of selecting a dean in preparation for the potential approval.

The Provost reported that SFU is starting to develop, under the leadership of Peter Hall, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic, a new academic plan. Efforts will be made to ensure that all voices that are needed to be heard during this process are heard and that the new academic plan becomes a main driver of What's Next: The SFU Strategy.

5. Question Period

i) Senator Dhesa submitted the following question:

At the June 2023 Senate Meeting, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies brought forward the recommendation to not extend the Elective Grading System pilot, which ended in 2023.

Given the benefits the Elective Pass/Fail grading system provides students in exploring courses and interests beyond their main field of study, there was discussion and recommendation regarding further consultation and research to bring back a more comprehensive version of the Pass/Fail System - however a timeline was not stated.

Given that the longer the implementation of such a program is delayed, more students will be missing out on opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills, and as we are approaching the end of the 2024 Spring semester - are there any updates from SCUS regarding implementation as well as a timeline of when this program should be expected?

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

Senate was informed that SCUS expects to bring a recommendation to its June meeting. Consultation has occurred leading up to that, and whatever recommendation comes out of SCUS would likely make its way to Senate by early fall.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Dissolution of the Indigenous Studies and Linguistics Joint Major (S.24-47)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Indigenous Studies and Linguistics Joint Major in the Department of Indigenous Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Dissolution of the Latin American Studies Co-operative Education Program (S.24-48)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by L. Weldon

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Latin American Studies Co-operative Education Program in the School for International Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Establishment of the Research Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies on the French-Speaking World (S.24-49)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by H. Singh Walia

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Research Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies on the French-Speaking World within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for a five-year term.”

A comment was made that it would be helpful to more clearly define what multidisciplinary means with regards to this Institute. Senate was informed that the constitution for the Centre notes that it *aligns with Faculty priorities, especially with regards to its focus on interdisciplinarity and cross-department collaborations (in FASS as well as with other faculties such as the Faculty of Education).*

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) External Review Report for the Faculty of Health Sciences (S.24-50)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by M. Abu-Samhan

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Faculty of Health Sciences that resulted from its external review.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Program Name Changes for the French Cohort Programs (S.24-51)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by T. Schiphorst

“That Senate approve the program name changes from:

French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs French Major with a Political Science Extended Minor to French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs French and Francophone Studies Major with a Political Science Extended Minor in the Department of French within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs Political Science Major with a French Extended Minor to French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs Political Science Major with a French and Francophone Studies Minor in the Department of French within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vi) Revised Terms of Reference for the Salish Weave Chair in Salish Art Practices (S.24-52)

Moved by D. Rassier, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Salish Weave Chair in Indigenous Arts Practices and Pedagogies.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vii) Suspension of Admission to the Archaeology and Indigenous Studies Joint Major (S.24-53)

Senate received Suspension of Admission to the Archaeology and Indigenous Studies Joint Major for information.

viii) Establishment of the Aquatic Research Cooperative (ARC) Institute and Termination of the Cooperative Resource Management Institute (CRMI) (S.24-54)

Moved by D. O’Neil, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the establishment of the Aquatic Research Cooperative (ARC) Institute for a five-year term.”

Senate received Termination of the Cooperative Resource Management Institute (CRMI) for information.

A question was as to which faculty this institute falls under. Senate was informed that due to it being a research institute, ARC doesn't belong to any one faculty and is considered a university-wide structure.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

E) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Annual Report 2022/2023 (S.24-55)

Senate received the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) Annual Report 2022/2023 for information.

ii) Faculty of Science – Data Science Major and Honours (S.24-56)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved to revoke the upper and lower division requirement changes to the Data Science Major and Data Science Honours programs (SCUS 23-43ii) (S.23-51 e. 3.ii).

An explanation was sought as to why previously approved program changes are now being revoked. Senate was informed that there were a number of changes coming from these programs that were significant in nature. These changes were routed through the University Curriculum and Institutional Liaison (UCIL) office to be reviewed by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. Due to the amount of work involved with ministry approval, the department decided not to proceed, opting instead for smaller changes, and requested that the previously approved changes be revoked.

iii) Spring 2025 High School Admission Requirement Changes for Beedie School of Business (S.24-57)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved changes to the Beedie School of Business Grade 12 admission course requirements, reassigning Calculus 12 from a List A course to a List B course, effective Spring 2025.

A request was made to provide a clearer rationale for this admission requirement change. Senate was informed that this change is intended to encourage students to apply to the Beedie school of Business. Students who complete Calculus 12 perform better with respect to analytical courses, however, students that complete Pre-Calculus 12 and then take Calculus 12 underperform in Calculus 12 to a point where they can no longer be considered for the Beedie School of Business. As a result, counselors advise high school students not to take Calculus 12. Because Beedie does want students to take Calculus 12, moving it from List A to List B will allow and encourage students to take Calculus 12 without being penalized for doing so.

A question was asked about why counselors would be advising students to avoid a particular List A if that course is a requirement. Senate was informed that List A includes a number of courses that students can take, giving them the option to take required courses other than Calculus 12.

A question was asked regarding how this change will affect international students. Senate was informed that if a student is in high school, they would fall under the same requirements of List A and List B. If the student is a transfer student, they have already completed what is needed to be admitted into the Business. It was added that Fraser International College (FIC) students would count as transfer students and would need to complete those courses that are required to transfer from FIC to SFU.

Noting that the discussion was veering into territory beyond the scope of the item at hand, it was suggested that SCUS would be a more appropriate venue to have expanded discussions on issues like lack of preparedness of students coming in from high school, differences in grading between certain high school courses, the role SFU can play in teacher development, and the need to consider more holistic admissions procedures.

iv) Program Changes (S.24-58)

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, Economics, English, Global Humanities, History, Social Data Analytics Minor), The Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

v) New Course Proposals (S.24-59)

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 Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (French, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Sociology and Anthropology), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Art and Technology), the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

vi) Course Changes (S.24-60)

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 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, Gerontology, Global Humanities, Indigenous Studies, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Chemistry, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Physics, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

F) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Program Changes (S.24-61)

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 (Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.24-62)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

iii) Course Changes (S.24-63)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

G) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.24-64)

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 special meeting - Monday, May 13, 2024

ii) Date of the next regular meeting - Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Open session adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Tom Nault
Senate Secretary