

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
**University Secretariat**  
**MEMORANDUM**

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**To:** Senate  
**From:** Alison Watt, Director, University Secretariat  
**Subject:** Scheduling of Senate meetings  
**Date:** 5 September, 2006

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Notice of Motion

**Time of Senate meetings**

A senator recently raised the issue of the difficulty of engaging faculty in governance and service roles in the University. As evidence of this, it was noted that all the Faculty Senator positions, except one, were elected by acclamation this spring.

One problem that has frequently been raised as a barrier to involvement in Senate has been the timing of Senate – scheduled in the evening since 1965. This item has been considered a couple of times by Senate but has been rejected in the past.

The original rationale for the evening meetings has been that it would not conflict with classes. However, this is not the case now. SFU runs classes until 10 p.m. and there is no time that this would be “class-free”.

Another concern is the availability of off campus members of Senate. In a recent change to the University Act, the Government eliminated four of the eight off-campus members of Senate (the Order-in-Council members) and currently there are four Convocation Senators, two of whom are connected to the campus and two who are employed off campus. The Convocation elections will take place in 2008 and if the change in the time is approved by Senate, we can ensure that candidates are aware of the new times.

Some of the advantages include:

- a) Consistency of time. Senators and staff would know that the meeting was scheduled at the new time, rather than the fluctuation between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. that we have seen frequently in the last few years.
- b) Making Senate more visible and accessible to the community by having it held in the day-time when more people are around.
- c) Service on Senate is a service to the University that is one of the responsibilities of faculty members and it should be included within the regular work-day, as are all Senate’s committees.

d) A 2:30 p.m. start would allow for Senate meetings to end at 5:30 p.m. in time for people to collect their children from Childcare.

e) The elimination of the Senate dinner would be a cost saving.

SCAR is agreeable to having this debated at Senate in October with a suitable motion which would include an automatic review of the time of Senate in May 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley" or similar, located on the right side of the page.