



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, President and Chair

Acierno, Kyle  
Armstrong, Arthur  
Black, Sam  
Brandhorst, Bruce  
Budra, Paul (representing J. Craig)  
Chapman, Glenn  
Cupples, Claire  
Cyr, Dianne  
Dhillon, Arinder  
Driver, Jon  
Easton, Stephen  
Eckman, Charles  
Fizzell, Maureen  
Fontaine, Marc  
Francis, June  
Garneau-Scott, Christi  
Geisler, Cheryl  
Gordon, Robert  
Kohn, Jordan  
Kong, Shuyu  
Krane, Bill  
Kropinski, Mary Catherine  
Leacock, Tracey  
Lee, Benjamin  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Magnusson, Kris  
McRae, Jennifer  
Moghaddamjoo, Sarah  
Myers, Gordon  
Nilson Levisohn, Michelle  
O'Neil, John  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Paterson, David  
Pavsek, Christopher  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Perry, Tom  
Peters, Joseph

Pierce, John  
Pilarinos, Andreas  
Pinto, Mario  
Rajapakse, Nimal  
Reyerros, Diego  
Ruben, Peter  
Russell, Robert  
Shapiro, Daniel  
Warner, D'Arcy  
Woodbury, Rob  
Wussow, Helen

**Absent:**

Brennand, Tracy  
Chen, Alexander  
Golnaraghi, Farid  
Hughes, David  
Laitsch, Dan  
Mann, Geoff  
Sahinalp, Cenk  
Shaw, Chris  
Somers, Julian  
Tashakor, Pasha  
Taylor, Carole  
Yeung, Lorenz

**In Attendance:**

Lindsay, William  
Tiffany, Evan

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Minutes of the Open Session on July 4, 2011**

A minor correction was noted in the minutes. The minutes were approved as distributed with this correction.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The chair reported that he had met with incoming first year students, new graduate students and new faculty and that some exciting events were coming up at SFU.

**5. Question Period**

There were no questions submitted for question period.

**6. Reports of Committees****A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)****i) Certificates (S.11-104)**

Senate received the review on certificates for information. The registrar and director of university curriculum were congratulated on the quality of the document. A question was raised regarding the recommendation that certificates with diminishing enrolment be reviewed. Senate was informed that the policy for discontinuing programs would be followed when determining whether or not to discontinue a certificate. A concern was raised regarding the recommendation that proposals for new certificates include evidence of demand and a targeted enrolment plan. Senate was informed that there is a wide range of evidence that could be used to support the proposal of a certificate.

It was clarified for Senate that before any recommendations were implemented, they would have to go through the regular approval process.

**ii) Certificate in Ethics: Theory and Application (S.11-105)****Motion**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Fizzell

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Ethics: Theory and Application within the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2012.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Indigenous Research Institute (S.11-106)****Motion**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Francis

“That Senate approve the proposal for the establishment of the Indigenous Research Institute as an Institute for a five year term.”

Support for the institute was expressed along with a concern regarding the quality and breadth of the documentation provided in comparison to other research institute proposals and the steering committee membership. Senate was informed that past institute proposals were reviewed and some were found to be less detailed than this document. Senate was also informed that over time the institute will likely expand and additional members from other faculties will be added.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Library External Review Report (S.11-107)**

Senate received the library external review report for information. The dean of library services was complimented for the professional and thorough review that was conducted.

**B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)****i) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.11-108)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to an existing course in the Beedie School of Business.

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art & Technology (S.11-109)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Interactive Arts & Technology, Communication, Contemporary Arts).

**iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.11-110)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Environment (Resource and Environmental Management).

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.11-111)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a minor revision to an existing course in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.11-112)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology).

**C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)****i) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.11-113)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and minor revisions to existing courses in the Beedie School of Business.

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.11-114)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and minor revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**D) Senate Nominating Committee****i) Elections by Senate (S.11-115)**

Senate received a summary of the outstanding vacancies and nominations received for the Senate committees. The vacancies were brought to Senate's attention with a request for senators to encourage colleagues to participate in the governance of the university.

**7. Other Business****i) Senate Committee on University Honours – Membership (S.11-116)****Motion**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Percival

“That Senate approve a change in membership for the Senate Committee on University Honours; the VP Advancement and Alumni Engagement be named as a member ex-officio replacing the VP External Relations effective immediately.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ii) Envision Discussion Paper (S.11-117)**

Senate received the envision discussion paper for information. The vice-chair assumed the role of chair so that a presentation could be made by the president. A discussion followed the presentation with questions for clarification, suggestions for improvement and supportive comments.

Clarification was requested in regards to the purpose of the guiding principles and it was explained that the principles were intended to be viewed as adding to the vision not replacing the vision. Several senators expressed the opinion that some ambiguous language was unnecessarily used (i.e. engaged, community, social) and that superlatives were over used. Others expressed concern with the lack of specific words such as: academic, intellectual, scholar, or ethics. Several senators expressed a concern over the lack of support for basic research found within the document. An opinion was expressed that more specific examples and support would help humanize and strengthen the document. A suggestion was made to write the objectives in a sharper way to facilitate putting them into action. Several requests were made for clear action items. Some supportive remarks were that the document described SFU very well, that it would likely continue to generate ongoing discussions and that the envision process did a good job of engaging the community.

Senate was reminded that this discussion paper was not an operational planning document but a vision document that will be given meaning through planning processes and daily work efforts.

**iii) Election Report to Senate (S.11-118)**

Senate received the election report to Senate for information. A suggestion was made that the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR) should review the rules around filling vacant positions on Senate to avoid positions remaining vacant. Senate was informed that the Registrar's office was currently reviewing the Senate rules and would be considering this item in that review. Once the review is complete, the suggested changes will be submitted to SCAR.

**8. Information****i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, October 3, 2011.**

Open session adjourned at 9:15 pm and Senate moved directly into the closed session.

Kate Ross  
Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment