SFU SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY THINKING OF THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, President and Chair

Acierno, Kyle Black, Sam Brandhorst, Bruce Brennand, Tracy Chapman, Glenn Craig, John Cyr, Dianne Dhillon, Arinder Driver. Jon Easton, Stephen Eckman, Charles Fizzell. Maureen Fontaine. Marc Francis, June Garneau-Scott, Christi Golnaraghi, Farid Gordon, Robert Hatala, Marek (for C. Geisler) Haunerland, Norbert (for M. Pinto) Kohn, Jordan Kong, Shuyu Krane, Bill Laitsch, Dan Leacock, Tracey Li, Paul Magnusson, Kris McRae, Jennifer Myers, Gordon O'Neil, John Palis. Heather Parkhouse. Wade Paterson, David Pavsek, Christopher Percival, Colin Percival, Paul Perry, Tom Peters, Joseph Pierce, John Pilarinos, Andreas

Rajapakse, Nimal Robinsmith, Stacey Ruben, Peter Warner, D'Arcy Woodbury, Rob Yeung, Lorenz

Absent:

Armstrong, Arthur Chen, Alexander Cupples, Claire Hughes, David Kropinski, Mary Catherine Lee, Benjamin Leznoff, Daniel Mann, Geoff Moghaddamjoo, Sara Nilson Levisohn, Michelle Russell, Robert Sahinalp, Cenk Shapiro, Daniel Shaw, Chris Somers, Julian Tashakor, Pasha Taylor, Carole Wussow, Helen

In Attendance:

Collins, Colleen Geiger, Andrea Hinchliffe, Jo Jones, John Pavlov, Andrey Rahilly, Tim Richmond, Stuart Rose, Gordon,

Kate Ross, Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment Shelley Gair, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session on December 5, 2011 The minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair informed Senate that the strategic vision was now posted on the envision SFU website and that plans are being made to incorporate the vision into the university's planning framework. A public launching of the strategic vision will likely happen in late February.

SFU received the evaluation report from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and the Chair reported that it was very positive. It included some of the following recommendations: a clearer articulation of the university's mission; meaningful, accessible and verifiable indicators for assessing our core themes, programs and services; a need to establish and assess student learning outcomes; and more aggressive and comprehensive plans to meet our deferred maintenance needs. Senate was informed that some of these concerns have already been addressed and others are underway, such as the development of performance indicators. As well, Senate was informed that the report may help in sending a message to government that external evaluators are concerned with the state of our infrastructure. The President and Vice President Academic will be meeting with the NWCCU later in the week to respond to any questions and concerns.

The Chair reported that the application process for the Dream Colloquium resulted in two proposals being accepted for this coming year. Each colloquium will bring six speakers to the university which will create a program for graduate students and a speaker series for the university. Appreciation was expressed to those who collaborated across faculties to produce the two proposals. It was also reported that "breakfast with the president" has been well received with similar numbers of students, faculty and staff attending.

Lastly, concern was expressed over the federal and provincial agenda and the lack of attention education is receiving in an economic and social sense. Senate was informed that efforts are being made to increase our government relations but that more needs to be done in this area.

5. Question Period

A question was raised during the meeting regarding whether or not the SFU program in Oaxaca City, Mexico would be reviewed for safety reasons since a UBC student has recently died in Mexico. Senate was informed that a review of local situations are conducted on an annual basis before any field school takes place and that in the past field schools in Mexico have been cancelled when there is a safety concern.

6. **Reports of Committees**

A) Student Discipline Matters

i) Annual Report (S.12-1)

Senate received the Student Discipline Matters annual report from 2010 to 2011 for information. A question was raised as to why repeat cases of academic dishonesty suspensions range from two to six semesters. Senate was informed that the suspension recommendations depend on the circumstances of each case and the penalties of past cases that are similar. A question was raised regarding the increase in annual SCODA (Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals) cases. It was explained that this number does fluctuate year by year but that there seems to be more cases since some new policies (i.e. FD grade) were implemented.

Some questions were raised in regards to the approach taken with students dealing with mental health issues. It was explained to Senate that the disciplinary process is an opportunity to have contact with a student before things get worse and to try to provide an understanding of what is expected and what supports are necessary for them to continue their education.

Senate was informed that the increase in academic dishonesty cases is most likely due to more people reporting cases as a result of a change in process. Plans are being made to improve communications with all students regarding academic dishonesty and the resulting consequences.

B) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB)

i) Annual Report (S.12-2)

Senate received the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries annual report from 2010 to 2011 for information.

C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Establish School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering (S.12-3)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

"That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the proposal to establish the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering within the Faculty of Applied Sciences."

Concern was expressed that fourteen out of thirty-nine votes were against the creation of this separate academic unit and that this may lead to morale problems. Senate was informed that the initial concern was over the division of resources and the possibility of people being transferred to other campuses but now there is a better understanding of how it will be handled.

Clarification was requested in regards to the statement, "There is no duplication of courses between Burnaby and Surrey" on page 5. Senate was informed that in general different faculty members from different campuses teach their own courses but there are some first year courses that may be taught on both campuses by the same faculty member.

Question was called and a vote taken.

ii) Change of Degree Name from Master of Financial Risk Management to Master of Science in Finance (S.12-4)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

"That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the change of degree name from Master of Financial Risk Management to Master of Science in Finance, within the Beedie School of Business."

It was confirmed for Senate that this change is effective immediately.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Suspension and Dissolution of Mathematical Sciences Specialization (S.12-5)

Motion 1

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Craig

"That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Mathematical Sciences Specialization program within the Faculty of Education."

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

"That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Mathematical Sciences Specialization program within the Faculty of Education."

Question was called and a vote taken.

iv) Suspension of Admission to the Major in Latin American Studies (S.12-6)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Percival

"That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Major in Latin American Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences."

A letter was read on behalf of the students from the Latin American Student Union which expressed thanks to their professors and a request for SFU to create measures for preventing small programs from closing.

A summary of student demand for this program was requested and provided, with clarification that no faculty positions will be in jeopardy if the program is dissolved. Senate was informed that

the major in Latin American Studies was closed once before and then reinstated but that the resources cannot be justified for maintaining a major in this discipline.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) External Review Report of the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology (S.12-7)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Ruben

"That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology that resulted from its External Review."

A question was raised regarding the process of external reviews when recommendations are made that may have an impact on other units within the university. Senate was informed that this concern has been raised before and that steps have been made to adjust the process to give Deans an opportunity to have interaction with external review teams from other faculties.

Concern was expressed that the action plan didn't follow the standard template. Senate was assured that the process was made known but that compliance with the process isn't always possible.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vi) External Review Report of the Department of Economics (S.12-8)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Craig

"That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of Economics that resulted from its External Review."

A concern was expressed that the justification for cuts focused mainly on market analysis rather than pedagogical implications. Senate was assured that many hours have been spent by key people in the department to find a way to offer the best quality of education within the resources available.

A question was asked regarding the rationale for moving Econ 301 to a 200 level. Senate was informed that this course is an intermediate core course that was originally placed at the 300 level so that students would be required to take the course at SFU. Due to the increased demand for economic courses and the fact that Econ 301 is a prerequisite for many upper division courses, it was decided to move the course to a 200 level.

Question was called and a vote taken.

vii) Centre and Institute Report 2010/2011 (S.12-9)

Senate received the Centre and Institute Report for 2010 to 2011 for information.

viii) Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications (S.12-10)

Senate received the Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications for information.

ix) SFU Library Strategic Research Plan 2011 – 2016 and SFU Library Annual Report 2010 – 2011 (S.12-11)

Senate received the SFU Library Strategic Research Plan for 2011 to 2016 and the SFU Library Annual Report from 2010 to 2011 for information.

D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.12-12)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (Engineering Science).

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.12-13)

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

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.12-14)

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

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.12-15)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved revisions to existing programs in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.12-16)

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

E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.2 (S.12-17)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by P. Ruben

"That Senate approve the revision of GGR 1.3.2 which outlines the criteria for admission to a graduate diploma program."

A request was made for an overview of the various changes that are being recommended to the General Graduate Regulations. Senate was informed that the General Graduate Admission requirements were crafted in 1980/1981 and were last reviewed approximately ten years ago. Documentation was reviewed from a number of universities and the review showed that the admission requirements needed to be addressed so that students who have done well in their later years of study are able to get into the graduate programs. A second area of revision will increase opportunities for graduate students. It addresses a change in demographics resulting from fewer students going directly from an undergraduate degree into a graduate degree.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.2.a (S.12-18)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by D. Cyr

"That Senate approve the addition of GGR 1.3.2.a which outlines the criteria for admission to a graduate certificate program."

Question was called and a vote taken.

iii) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.3 (S.12-19)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by S. Black

"That Senate approve the revision of GGR 1.3.3 which outlines the criteria for admission to a master's program."

Question was called and a vote taken.

iv) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.4 (S.12-20)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by S. Easton

"That Senate approve the revision of GGR 1.3.4 which outlines the criteria for admission to a doctoral program."

A friendly amendment was accepted to delete the words "provided minimally" found in item ii) under the heading of revised language.

MOTION CARRIED

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.8.a (S.12-21)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by P. Ruben

"That Senate approve the addition of GGR 1.3.8.a which outlines the criteria for admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's program."

A friendly amendment was accepted to delete the words "or better" found at the end of the sentence in item a) under the heading of calendar language. A concern was expressed regarding editorial errors that should have been corrected before submission to Senate. It was agreed that the motion will be approved subject to the non-substantive editorial errors being corrected.

A question was raised regarding the necessity of a concurrent program since undergraduate students can already take graduate courses. Senate was informed that various graduate programs around the university were interested in developing this program. The concurrent program will allow students to reduce the length of time for their Master's degree and provide a more stimulating environment which may help attract and keep top students.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vi) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.11.a (S.12-22)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

"That Senate approve the addition of GGR 1.3.11.a which outlines the application to complete a non-joint concurrent graduate degree."

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vii) General Graduate Regulation 1.7.6 (S.12-23)

Motion Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by N. Haunerland

"That Senate approve the revision of GGR 1.7.6."

A friendly amendment was accepted to delete the words "Mary Ann says this never happens at the time of application" found on p. 3 in item d) under the heading of revised language. It was agreed that the motion will be approved subject to some editorial changes that do not affect the substance of the document.

Question was called and a vote taken.

viii) SFU Exchange Program: Outbound Graduate Students Criteria (S.12-24)

Senate received the eligibility requirements for SFU graduate students to participate in exchange programs for information.

ix) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.12-25)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to an existing course and an existing program in the Faculty of Education.

F) Calendar Committee (CC)

i) Academic Dates 2012 – 2015 (S.12-26)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Fontaine

"That Senate approve a Schedule of Academic Dates 2012 – 2015."

A request was made for the Calendar Committee and Senate to consider adding a spare block once a week, as some other universities have done, to help with creating a positive experience for students. Senate was informed that this is an issue for the Scheduling department to consider rather than the Calendar Committee.

A discussion followed regarding various dates that didn't appear to be correct. It was agreed by Senate that the motion be withdrawn and resubmitted at a future meeting so that the dates can be reviewed and confirmed.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Elections by Senate (S.12-27)

A revised Senate paper distributed prior to the start of the meeting, showed a position that was elected by acclamation and vacancies that would be carried forward to the next Senate meeting.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, February 6, 2012.

Open session adjourned at 8:50 pm and Senate moved directly into the closed session.

Kate Ross Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment

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MOTION CARRIED

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Motion 1

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MOTION CARRIED

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Motion 2

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Question was called and a vote taken.

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v) External Review Report of the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology (S.12-7)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Ruben

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Motion

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v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.12-16)

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

E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.2 (S.12-17)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by P. Ruben

"That Senate approve the revision of GGR 1.3.2 which outlines the criteria for admission to a graduate diploma program."

A request was made for an overview of the various changes that are being recommended to the General Graduate Regulations. Senate was informed that the General Graduate Admission requirements were crafted in 1980/1981 and were last reviewed approximately ten years ago. Documentation was reviewed from a number of universities and the review showed that the admission requirements needed to be addressed so that students who have done well in their later years of study are able to get into the graduate programs. A second area of revision will increase opportunities for graduate students. It addresses a change in demographics resulting from fewer students going directly from an undergraduate degree into a graduate degree.

Question was called and a vote taken.

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ii) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.2.a (S.12-18)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by D. Cyr

"That Senate approve the addition of GGR 1.3.2.a which outlines the criteria for admission to a graduate certificate program."

Question was called and a vote taken.

iii) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.3 (S.12-19)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by S. Black

"That Senate approve the revision of GGR 1.3.3 which outlines the criteria for admission to a master's program."

Question was called and a vote taken.

iv) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.4 (S.12-20)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by S. Easton

"That Senate approve the revision of GGR 1.3.4 which outlines the criteria for admission to a doctoral program."

A friendly amendment was accepted to delete the words "provided minimally" found in item ii) under the heading of revised language.

MOTION CARRIED

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) General Graduate Regulation 1.3.8.a (S.12-21)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by P. Ruben

"That Senate approve the addition of GGR 1.3.8.a which outlines the criteria for admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's program."

A friendly amendment was accepted to delete the words "or better" found at the end of the sentence in item a) under the heading of calendar language. A concern was expressed regarding editorial errors that should have been corrected before submission to Senate. It was agreed that the motion will be approved subject to the non-substantive editorial errors being corrected.

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Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

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Senate received the eligibility requirements for SFU graduate students to participate in exchange programs for information.

ix) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.12-25)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to an existing course and an existing program in the Faculty of Education.

F) Calendar Committee (CC)

i) Academic Dates 2012 – 2015 (S.12-26)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Fontaine

"That Senate approve a Schedule of Academic Dates 2012 – 2015."

A request was made for the Calendar Committee and Senate to consider adding a spare block once a week, as some other universities have done, to help with creating a positive experience for students. Senate was informed that this is an issue for the Scheduling department to consider rather than the Calendar Committee.

A discussion followed regarding various dates that didn't appear to be correct. It was agreed by Senate that the motion be withdrawn and resubmitted at a future meeting so that the dates can be reviewed and confirmed.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Elections by Senate (S.12-27)

A revised Senate paper distributed prior to the start of the meeting, showed a position that was elected by acclamation and vacancies that would be carried forward to the next Senate meeting.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, February 6, 2012.

Open session adjourned at 8:50 pm and Senate moved directly into the closed session.

Kate Ross Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment