



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, President and Chair

Black, Sam
Brandhorst, Bruce
Burley, David
Cameron, Rob (for Nimal Rajapakse)
Chapman, Glenn
Collins, Colleen (for Daniel Shapiro)
Cupples, Claire
Driver, Jon
Fairey, Elaine (for Charles Eckman)
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Francis, June
Geisler, Cheryl
Hall, Angie
Hedley, Nick
Jozaghi, Ehsan
Kessler, Anke
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Leivdal, Joseph
Liljedahl, Peter (for Wade Parkhouse)
Magnusson, Kris
McFetridge, Paul (for John Craig)
Myers, Gordon
O'Neil, John
Palis, Heather
Parekh, Nimisha
Paterson, David
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Perry, Tom
Pilarinos, Andreas
Pinto, Mario
Quarmby, Lynne
Robinsmith, Stacey
Ruben, Peter
Schellenberg, Betty
Somers, Julian
Tingling, Peter
Warner, D'Arcy

Absent:

Antle, Alissa
Birmingham, Elina
Brennand, Tracy
Chen, Alexander
Corbett, Kitty
Cyr, Dianne
Delgrande, Jim
Easton, Stephen
Elle, Elizabeth
Golnaraghi, Farid
Gordon, Robert
Kopahi, Moe
Kropinski, Mary Catherine
Kwon, Caleb
Leznoff, Daniel
Li, Paul
Lundgreen-Nielsen, Jens
McRae, Jennifer
Pierce, John
Sakhrani, Rohan
Shaw, Chris
Szeto, Henderson
Taylor, Carole
Wilson, Meaghan
Zhang, Kevin
Wussow, Helen

In Attendance:

Boysel, Mary
Lastoria, Dean
Rahilly, Tim
Steele, Stephen

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session on April 8, 2013

The minutes of the open session on April 8, 2013 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Chair confirmed that the correct wording of the response to the question regarding S.13-39 SCEMP Enrolment Plan, whether GPA cutoffs could be or would be included in the future, was “would be” and not “could be”.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, expressed appreciation to the following Senators whose terms of office expire on May 31, 2013: Sam Black, Bruce Brandhorst, Dianne Cyr, Mary-Catherine Kropinski, Paul Li, Alexander Chen, Angie Hall, Joseph Leivdal, Jens Lundgreen-Nielsen, Heather Palis, Nimisha Parekh, Andreas Pilarinos, Stacey Robinsmith, Rohan Sakhrani, Henderson Szeto, Meaghan Wilson, and Kevin Zhang.

The Chair reported that it was too early to discern the direction of the newly re-elected provincial government with respect to post-secondary education. The Chair indicated he will continue to advance the Opportunity Agenda and SFU’s particular needs for investment in infrastructure at the Burnaby campus and for meeting the growing demand for space in Surrey.

The Chair reported that SFU participated in the Global University Network conference in Barcelona. The Chair indicated SFU’s presentations were well received, highlighting SFU’s work in the Downtown Eastside, the SFU Public Square and the strategic mission and commitment to community engagement.

The Chair reported on three areas of the strategic vision: research, students, and community. First, he reported that three SFU researchers, Fiona Brinkman, Cenk Sahinalp, and Steve Jones, will be leading collaborative bio-informatics research projects, supported by grants from Genome Canada. Also, two SFU researchers, Mark Brockman and Andrew Blaber, will receive funding from the France-Canada Research Fund to carry out joint collaborative research projects. Second, the Chair reported on the recent Symposium on Teaching and Learning held at the Burnaby campus, which brought together SFU faculty, staff and students for workshops on such topics as experiential learning. Finally, the Chair reported on the recent announcement of \$750,000 in funding from TD Bank for a community engagement centre, to be housed at the Surrey Public Library near the SFU Surrey campus.

5. Question Period**i) Response to Questions from Senate (S.13-71).**

A series of questions were submitted by a Senator in April 2013 regarding: the number of Aboriginal students at SFU; funding for Indigenous Service Programs and other Aboriginal strategic initiatives; GPA, degree completion rates, and retention rates of Indigenous students; and faculty resources. The Office for Aboriginal Peoples provided a report to Senate in response to the questions.

Several questions were asked and comments made regarding the potential causes for the gender gap between male and female Indigenous students in terms of total numbers and degree

completion rates. Senate was informed that efforts have been made to partner with Aboriginal communities, to recruit male applicants, and to ensure applicants have the prerequisites and are prepared to come to university in general.

A comment was made that the document omitted the \$100,000 per year for scholarships, awards or bursaries, which is allocated to increase need-based support for indigenous undergraduate students.

A question was asked whether the comparable retention rates of all students could be provided. Senate was informed that this information would be provided.

A question was asked regarding enhanced access to the Centre for Students with Disabilities and Academic Advising for Indigenous students. Senate was informed that funding was used to develop programs that were jointly administered between the centres.

The Chair acknowledged and thanked William Lindsay, the Director of the Office of Aboriginal Peoples, for the report and thanked Tim Rahilly, Associate Vice-President, Students, for attending the Senate meeting as a resource person.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Minor in French Language (S.13-72)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by B. Schellenberg.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Minor in French Language in the Department of French within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2013.”

Two corrections were noted and made to the document prior to the question being called.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Contemporary Arts (S.13-73)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Francis.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in the School for the Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Fall 2013.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Dissolution of the Nanomed Canada Research Network (S.13-74)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Black.

“That Senate approve the proposal to dissolve the Nanomed Canada Research Network as an Institute and that the functions be absorbed into the operations of 4D LABS, effective immediately.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Establishment of the Chronic Pain Research Institute (S.13-75)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Ruben.

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

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Consolidated 2010 – 2013 Academic Plan Progress Report (For Information) (S.13-76)

Senate received the Consolidated 2010-2013 Academic Plan Progress Report for information.

vi) External Reviews for 2013 – 2014 Academic Year (For Information) (S.13-77)

Senate received the list of external reviews and external review updates that are scheduled for the 2013-2014 academic year for information.

vii) SCUP Annual Report 2012 – 2013 (For Information) (S.13-78)

Senate received the SCUP Annual Report for the period of April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013. for information.

An error was noted on the second page of the report.

viii) Evaluation of Educational Goals (S.13-40)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Robinsmith.

“That the quality of academic programs at SFU be enhanced through the following practices and processes:

1. each academic unit will develop a public statement of educational goals for each academic program prior to its next external review, commencing with reviews in the spring term of 2014;
2. commencing with reviews scheduled for spring term 2015, each academic unit will include in the self-study for the external review an evaluation of the success of the unit in meeting the educational goals of its program(s), using methods and evidence selected by the academic unit;
3. resources for the development and evaluation of the statement of educational goals will be provided by the Vice-President Academic, together with assistance from relevant support units;
4. SCUTL will oversee these processes, and will report annually to Senate on their implementation and impact;
5. a thorough evaluation of the costs and benefits of the above practices and processes will be made for Senate in 2017 after the third year of implementation, and Senate will determine whether and on what basis they should be continued.”

An amendment was proposed by Senator P. Percival, and seconded by Senator T. Leacock, to change the wording of the first line of the motion to read “That the following practices and processes be implemented with the goal of enhancing the quality of academic programs at SFU”

Question was called on the amendment and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

A question was asked regarding how much control the departments would have to determine the method of measurement and what would be the reaction of the Administration if the external review process drove the departments toward more rigid measurement methods. Senate was informed that the proposal was to ensure the departments would keep control over the data collected and the way in which their achievements were measured, as appropriate for their own discipline.

A question was asked regarding the preliminary self-assessment. Senate was informed that it would likely take some time for the departments to develop their self-assessment process and that the first departments to develop their methods would not have the full data nor a data collection process they might need to evaluate, so that they would conduct a preliminary self-assessment.

A question was asked whether this proposal and the forum of learning outcomes and assessment that will arise from this proposal will meet the requirements of the NWCCU. Senate was informed that SFU is developing a process that respects the diversity of the disciplines, that acknowledges the limitations of a learning outcomes approach, and that departments that want to use a learning outcomes approach can do so.

A question was asked regarding the potential for the provincial government to intervene in this process. Senate was informed that it is much harder for external agencies to intervene if SFU has an established process for articulating and measuring educational goals.

Question was called on the motion as amended and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Curriculum Revisions — Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.13-79)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added new courses and made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Linguistics; and Humanities).

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.13-80)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Beedie School of Business.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.13-81)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Environment (Geography).

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.13-82)

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

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Graduate General Regulation 1.9.2 (For Information) (S.13-83)

Senate received editorial changes to Graduate General Regulation 1.9.2, Preparation for Examination of Master's Thesis, for information.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.13-84)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, added new courses and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Beedie School of Business.

A question was asked regarding the lack of prerequisites in the new course proposals. Senate was informed that the courses are part of a cohort program and are taken in the order in which they are offered, but the order could be made clearer.

A question was raised regarding whether the faculty confirmed that they could cover the costs in the Library Report. Senate was informed that the faculty responded to the Library that the resources were not required.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.13-85)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology; and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

7. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, June 10, 2013.

Open session adjourned 8:11 pm and Senate moved directly into the closed session.

Kate Ross
Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment