



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Acierno, Kyle
Antle, Alissa
Birmingham, Elina
Burley, David
Corbett, Kitty
Craig, John
Cupples, Claire
Driver, Jon
Eckman, Charles
Elle, Elizabeth
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Francis, June
Hedley, Nick
Jawanda, Harvey
Kessler, Anke
Kopahi, Moe
Kwon, Caleb
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Lehal, Japreet
Leznoff, Daniel
Lu, Yoko
Magnusson, Kris
Myers, Gordon
Norouzi, Yasmine
O'Neil, John
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Perry, Tom
Petter, Andrew
Pierce, John
Pinto, Mario
Quarmby, Lynne
Parkhouse, Wade
Rajapakse, Nimal
Ruben, Peter

Shaffer, Catherine
Shapiro, Daniel
Shapiro, Lisa
Smith, Jon
Thiara, Karanvir Singh
Tingling, Peter
Truong, Tesicca
Wakarchuk, Forrest
Warner, D'Arcy
Wussow, Helen

Absent:

Brennand, Tracy
Chapman, Glenn
Delgrande, Jim
Easton, Stephen
Eikerling, Michael
Geisler, Cheryl
Golnaraghi, Farid
Jermias, Johnny
Jozaghi, Ehsan
Khan, Humza
Pappas, Panayiotis
Paterson, David
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Taylor, Carole

In Attendance:

Blair, Alison
Chan, Liny
Hibbitts, Pat
Naqvi, Zareen
Wong, Jimmy
Yang, Dongya

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

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

The minutes of the open session on July 8, 2013 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 welcomed the new faculty Senator, Jon Smith, and new student Senator, Forrest Wakarchuk, and then provided an update on several items.

The Chair reported that Simon Fraser University was named among the top 100 universities in the world in Social Sciences and among the top 150 in Mathematics, Computing Science and Economics/Business, and was ranked thirteenth in Canada in the 2013 Academic Ranking of World Universities conducted by the Center for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The Chair reported on recent awards and honours. Owen Underhill, School of Contemporary Arts, and Patricia Mooney, Department of Physics, were elected to the Royal Society of Canada. Peter Anderson, Department of Communications, has been appointed to the Order of BC. John O'Neil, Dean of Health Sciences, was elected to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

The Chair highlighted other research accomplishments. The Department of Computing Science received a \$1.65 million NSERC CREATE Grant, in partnership with UBC, the BC Cancer Agency, and the Vancouver Prostate Centre for researching big data management, genomics and DNA sequencing. Robert Young, Mario Pinto, and David Voadlo are involved in another CREATE grant, led by the University of Toronto, on epigenetics and universal access to free or low-cost medicines. SFU received seven Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Post-doctoral fellowships. SFU researchers Angela Brooks-Wilson, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Robert Hogg, Health Sciences, and Ryan Morin, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, earned CIHR Open Operating Grants totaling \$1.7 million. Two SFU-led collaborative projects received funding: Kelley Lee Gilmore, Health Sciences, who is leading a project with the National Institutes of Health, received \$2 million in funding; and Scott Venners, Health Sciences, is leading a collaboration with the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and received \$505,000 in funding.

The Chair made note of upcoming events. On September 12, SFU marks Reconciliation Week with a Day of Reconciliation on campus. Speakers will be talking about their residential school experience and there will be a film screening of *We Were Children*. The Chair noted that Senate had approved a motion to accommodate students who wish to attend the Reconciliation Week events at the Senate meeting in July and encouraged participation in the events during the week. Terry Fox Day will be held on September 24 and universities across Canada will be participating in Terry's Cause on Campus events. The SFU Public Square Community Summit will be held between September 28 and October 4 with a week-long set of activities, including an evening with Robert Reich, a dynamic and provocative speaker.

i) Annual Financial Report (S.13-108)

The Annual Financial Report was received by Senate for information. P. Hibbitts, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, A. Blair, Associate Vice President, Finance, and J. Wong, Associate Director, Financial Services, were in attendance to respond to questions.

P. Hibbitts informed Senate that the reporting format was changed this year from a balance sheet to an income statement focus. She stated that the overall fundamentals were good; however, concerns with investments, the defined benefit pension plan, and the maintenance of SFU's physical structure were noted.

A question was asked how deferred capital contributions (DCCs) can increase our net debt if DCCs refer to funds coming in. Senate was informed that DCCs are not debt, but are reported in this manner in accordance with the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS).

A question was asked regarding SFU's approach to spending unrealized investment gains. Senate was informed that SFU has made predictions of the long-term average gains and considered spending up to the average unrealized gains per year. In years with low returns, SFU may spend more than actual unrealized gains; however, in years with good returns, spending may be less. The PSAS limits SFU's ability to spend unrealized gains.

A concern was raised regarding the increase in spending on community engagement from \$15 million to \$20 million. Senate was informed that one of the challenges on the income statement in reporting by function was identifying engagement, research and instruction given that units have moved between Vice-Presidents' portfolios.

A comment was made that the report was relatively optimistic given a recent article in the Vancouver Sun on deferred maintenance told a different story. Senate was informed that these areas of concern are addressed in the Risk and Uncertainties section of the report.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted for question period.

6. Reports of Committees**A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)****i) Dissolution of the Explorations in the Arts and Social Sciences Certificate Program (S.13-109)****Motion**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by T. Perry.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Explorations in the Arts and Social Sciences Certificate Program in the Explorations Program within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Summer 2014.”

Jane Pulkingham, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Individuals with Medical and/or Law Degrees for Research Ethics Board (S.13-110)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by Y. Norouzi.

“That Senate approve the list of individuals with medical and/or law degrees qualified to serve on the Research Ethics Board.”

Mario Pinto, Senator and VP, Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made that adjunct professors are not faculty per SFU Policy A12-08, nor are they “community members not affiliated with SFU” per policy R20.01. An **amendment** was proposed by Senator C. Percival and seconded by Senator Pinto to exclude two adjunct professors, Graeme Bowbrick and George Cadman, from the list.

Question was called on the amendment and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

A suggestion was made and noted that the discrepancy in the Research Ethics Board policy would be referred to SCAR for review

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Establishment of the SFU-JLU Joint Centre for Bioarchaeological Research (JCBR) (S.13-111)

Motion

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by J. Pierce.

“That Senate approve the proposal for the establishment of the SFU-JLU Joint Centre for Bioarchaeological Research (JCBR) as an Institute for a five-year term.”

Dongya Yang, faculty member from the Department of Archaeology, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.13-112)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added new courses and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics; First Nations Studies; French; Gerontology; Hellenic Studies Program; History; School for International Studies; Linguistics; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; and Sociology and Anthropology).

A comment was made that the rationale for HS 276, “six new courses necessary to support new faculty member”, should be phrased differently.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.13-113)

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

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Communication, Art and Technology (S.13-114)

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 Communication, Art and Technology (School for Interactive Art and Technology; School for the Contemporary Arts; and Publishing Program).

A comment was made that the rationale for removing the equivalency statement for IAT 110 to accommodate a program did not explain whether IAT 102 and IAT 110 were no longer overlapping in content. Senate was informed that the comment would be passed on to the department.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.13-115)

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

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.13-116)**

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

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**i) Senate Committee Elections (For Information) (S.13-117)**

Senate received a summary of the nominations, positions elected by acclamation, positions requiring an online vote, and outstanding vacancies for the Senate committees.

7. Other Business**i) Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Reports (S.13-118)**

Senate received the 2012/13 Grades Report, and the 2012 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report for information.

Z. Naqvi, Director, Institutional Research and Planning, and L. Chan, Senior Analyst, Institutional Research and Planning, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding the difference in grade point averages between departments and what could be done to normalize grading across departments in the Grades Report. A comment was made that, while grades were higher in the Faculty of Education, many of the students in the PDP program were admitted with high GPAs from other faculties.

Further comments were made that the discrepancy might result in an unfair advantage for departments with higher grades being awarded. Senate was informed that, of the scholarships/awards open to all faculties, the science faculties often have the higher number of scholarship winners.

A question was asked whether the class average could be included on the transcript. Senate was informed that a consultation will take place over this academic year to redesign the official transcript.

A comment was made regarding the high percentage of students who struggle in their classes because of their instructors' English language skills. Senate was informed that SFU Lifelong Learning has a free program for international graduate students to improve English language skills.

ii) Revision to Policy A32.01 (S.13-119)

Motion

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by Y. Narouzi.

“That Senate approve the revisions to Policy A32.01, Award for Excellence in Teaching.”

Clarification was requested that a five year continuing position was required to be eligible, and not for sessional or temporary positions adding up to five years. Senate was informed that the criteria were set to evaluate sustained performance over a specific time period.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Presidential Re-Appointment Review Committee Election (S.13-120)

Senate was informed that online voting would take place from September 10 to 12, 2013, to elect the undergraduate student member of the Presidential Re-Appointment Review Committee.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, October 7, 2013.

Open session adjourned 8:13 pm and Senate moved into the closed session after a five-minute recess.

Kate Ross
Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment