



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Burley, David  
Cupples, Claire  
Driver, Jon  
Fairey, Elaine  
Francis, June  
Gordon, Robert (for J. Craig)  
Guttman, Julian  
Jawanda, Harvy  
Jozaghi, Ehsan  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leacock, Tracey  
Lehal, Japreet  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Magnusson, Kris  
McTavish, Rob  
Myers, Gordon  
Norouzi, Yasmine  
O'Neil, John  
Pappas, Panayiotis  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Paterson, David  
Pavsek, Christopher  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Perry, Tom  
Pinto, Mario  
Rajapakse, Nimal  
Shaffer, Catherine  
Shapiro, Lisa  
Smith, Jon  
Thiara, Karanvir Singh  
Tingling, Peter  
Warner, D'Arcy  
Wussow, Helen

**Absent:**

Acierno, Kyle  
Antle, Alissa  
Bell, Lynne  
Birmingham, Elina  
Brennand, Tracy  
Chapman, Glenn  
Corbett, Kitty  
Delgrande, Jim  
Easton, Stephen  
Eikerling, Michael  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia  
Golnaraghi, Farid  
Gotfrit, Martin  
Hedley, Nick  
Jermias, Johnny  
Kessler, Anke  
Khan, Humza  
Kopahi, Moe  
Kwon, Caleb  
Lu, Yoko  
Pierce, John  
Quarmby, Lynne  
Ruben, Peter  
Shapiro, Daniel  
Shaw, Chris  
Somers, Julian  
Taylor, Carole  
Truong, Tesicca  
Wakarchuk, Forrest

**In Attendance:**

Kropinski, Mary-Catherine  
Lougheed, Pat  
Morantz, Erin  
Zwagerman, Sean

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on April 7, 2014**

The minutes of the open session on April 7, 2014 were approved with a minor revision.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that SFU moved slightly higher in the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking of top universities under 50 years of age, improving to 24th in the world and 2nd in Canada. In the 2014 Leiden rankings, SFU ranked 267<sup>th</sup> in the world, 116<sup>th</sup> in North America and 10<sup>th</sup> in Canada. The Leiden rankings were expanded in 2014 to measure the performance of 750 universities worldwide, based solely on citation impact and scientific collaboration. SFU particularly stood out for collaboration, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in Canada and 61<sup>st</sup> in the world for its proportion of long distance collaborative publications, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Canada and 22<sup>nd</sup> in the world for its proportion of international collaborative publications. SFU was in the top 10 in Canada, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> for mean citation score and 10<sup>th</sup> for the proportion of its publications in the top 10% most frequently cited.

The Chair reported on the April launch of SFU's Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement that was approved by Senate in 2013. The event was well attended and confirmed the high level of interest in the community for promoting a greater awareness of diaspora-related issues and research.

The Chair noted that IRMACS celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April, dedicating its 2014 thematic year to the pan-Canadian research initiative AGE-WELL, Aging Gracefully across Environments using technology to support Wellness, Engagement and Long Life. Andrew Sixsmith of Gerontology is one of 23 co-investigators of AGE-WELL, which brings together 10 academic and health institutions.

The Chair reported on recent research funding announcements. Bingyun Sun of Chemistry will use her \$300,000 grant from the CFI's John R. Evans Leaders Fund to obtain the most sensitive system currently available for studying cell surface proteins. Erik Kjeang of Mechatronic Systems Engineering will use his \$120,000 CFI grant to equip the fuel cell and battery testing facility at the SFU Surrey campus. Cenk Sahinalp of Computing Science is co-investigator in the Cancer Genome collaborator project led by the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research that received the second-ever NSERC Discovery Frontiers in Big Data grant. He will lead the module on computation methods for sequencing for which SFU will receive close to \$1 million of the total \$6 million project funding.

The Chair reported on recent research awards and honours. Eleven SFU women, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni, have been nominated for the 2014 YWCA Women of Distinction awards. Nominees include Diana Allen of Earth Sciences for her research in environmental sustainability and her contribution to public policy and mentorship, and retired staff member Justine Bizzochi, founder of SFU Venture Connections. English professor emirata Sandra Djwa received the Canada Prize in the Humanities from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences for her biography of Canadian poet P.K. Page, *Journey with No*

*Maps: A Life of P.K Page.* The book was previously recognized with the Governor General's Literary Award and was shortlisted for the Charles Taylor Prize.

On the innovation front, the Chair reported that SFU was named runner-up for BC's most entrepreneurial post-secondary institution of the year award from Startup Canada. Five young SFU entrepreneurs and SFU Venture Connection clients received Top 30 Under 30 awards from *BC Business Magazine*.

The Chair reported on the major reengineering initiative recently announced by the Government of British Columbia. The impact on post-secondary institutions is not entirely clear at this time; however, it is apparent that the government is tying operating grants to educational programs that correlate to high-demand jobs. The Chair noted that this initiative will have to be factored into academic planning over the next few years and that there is a suggestion that student financial assistance programs will also be refocused to align with labour market priorities.

The Chair reported on upcoming events in the community. The SFU Vancouver campus is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 21. The SFU Alumni annual general meeting will be taking place on May 22. On May 23, SFU is participating with other groups to commemorate the centenary of the Komagata Maru incident. SFU recently undertook a major digitization project to capture important archival information around the Komagata Maru that is accessible through the SFU Library website.

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, expressed appreciation to the following senators whose terms of office expire on May 31, 2014: Lynne Bell, Kitty Corbett, June Francis, Farid Golnaraghi, Christopher Pavsek, Tom Perry, Kyle Acierno, Harvey Jawanda, Humza Khan, Moe Kopahi, Caleb Kwon, Japreet Lehal, Yoko Lu, Yasmine Norouzi, Catherine Shaffer, Karanvir Singh Thiara, Tesicca Truong, Forrest Wakarchuk, and D'Arcy Warner.

Outgoing convocation senator, D'Arcy Warner, noted that he worked for Dr. Gordon Shrum, the first chancellor of SFU, and had asked Dr. Shrum about his vision for the University. Dr. Shrum told him that the most important reason for the existence of Simon Fraser is to provide the best education possible for the students. Senator Warner congratulated the University for doing just that.

## 5. **Question Period**

There were no questions submitted for question period.

## 6. **Reports of Committees**

### A) **Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)**

#### i) **Proposed Changes to the Committee to Review University Admissions and the Senate Appeals Board (S.14-55)**

Moved by P. Percival; seconded by P. Pappas.

"That Senate approve the elimination of the Committee to Review University Admissions and the revised terms of reference for the Senate Appeals Board."

A question was asked regarding the term "academic or administrative judgment" in section 6 under Purpose and Jurisdiction of the proposed terms of reference. Senate was informed that the

intent of the term was for the Senate Appeals Board to avoid second guessing judgments or decisions based on the same evidence and policies. The Senate Appeals Board would hear an appeal where there was an issue with the process, for example, where not all the evidence was considered or where the evidence was considered improperly.

A comment was made that section 7 addresses the jurisdiction of the Senate Appeals Board and should therefore come before item 6, which addresses what decisions the Board does not have the jurisdiction to consider. An amendment was proposed by Senator P. Pappas and seconded by Senator P. Percival, to reorder the Purpose and Jurisdiction of the proposed terms of reference, so that section 6 becomes section 7, section 7 becomes section 6 and the reference to section 7 in section 8 be changed to section 6 reflect the renumbering.

Question was called on the amendment and a vote taken. MOTION CARRIED

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

**B) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL)**

**i) Annual Report 2013-2014 (S.14-69)**

Senate received for information the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Annual Report for 2013-2014.

**C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

**i) Suspension of Admission and Dissolution of the Early Learning Specialization Program (S.14-70)**

MOTION 1:

Moved by J. Driver; seconded by P. Pappas.

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Early Learning Specialization Program within the Faculty of Education, effective Spring 2015.”

Question was called and a vote taken. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 2:

Moved by J. Driver; seconded by R. McTavish.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Early Learning Specialization Program within the Faculty of Education, effective Spring 2015.”

Question was called and a vote taken. MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Full Program Proposal for a Joint Major in English and History (S.14-71)**

Moved by J. Driver; seconded by J. Francis

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Joint Major in English and History in the Department of English and the Department of History within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2015.”

A question was asked why a joint honours program in English and History was not being considered at the same time as the major. Senate was informed that there was no answer at this time and the suggestion was noted.

A question was asked whether the information provided to address the question of labour market demand would be sufficient for the Ministry of Advance Education. Senate was informed that the full program proposal did not require Ministry approval because the University already offers a major in both English and History.

A question was asked whether the University can help faculty members with the labour market demand review that is required for new program proposals. Senate was informed that information regarding employment outcomes of students graduating with particular degrees is available on the Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) website and that IRP is available to help find information.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) City of Surrey-Powertech-NSERC Executive Industrial Research Chair in Energy Systems for Smart Cities (S.14-72)**

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

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the City of Surrey-Powertech-NSERC Executive Industrial Research Chair in Energy Systems for Smart Cities.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) New Ethicists for SFU Research Ethics Board (S.14-73)**

Moved by J. Driver; seconded by E. Jozaghi.

“That Senate approve the list of individuals with ethics qualifications to serve on the Research Ethics Board.”

A comment was made that the list of individuals with ethics qualifications was not a complete list of qualified ethicists at SFU. Senate was informed that the list included only those faculty members with ethics qualifications who have volunteered to serve on the Research Ethics Board and that this distinction would be made clear in future.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Annual Report 2013-2014 (S.14-74)**

Senate received for information the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) Annual Report for 2013-2014.

**D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**

**i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-75)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of

Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication; School for the Contemporary Arts).

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.14-76)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added a new course in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.14-77)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added a new course and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences; Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology; Chemistry; Mathematics).

A question was asked regarding the prerequisites for MACM 203 and MACM 204 and whether the statement would penalize students who switch programs after completing 80 units. Senate was informed that students are often precluded from taking certain courses if they had taken previous courses with similar content. These prerequisites would be referred back to the Department of Mathematics for confirmation.

**7. Other Business**

**i) Annual Strategic Review 2014 (S.14-78)**

Senate received for information the Annual Strategic Review for 2014.

A concern was raised that the number of credits completed in research courses was dropping and that the Review conflates research and experiential learning.

A comment was made that the downward trend in indicator 4 (p. 11 of the Review) was not a reason to drop the indicator. Senate was informed that this was an oversight.

A comment was made that outcome 2 of Core Theme One – “students acquire skills necessary in an ever-changing world” – assumes that the average number of credits of experiential learning is helpful to students. A suggestion was made that a better measure of success might be whether students who have taken experiential learning courses have a higher probability of being employed than students who have not taken these courses.

A comment was made that the ratio of ITS operating and project resources to total operating resources (p. 13 of the Review) is not a good indicator of IT Services performance. A suggestion was made to use alternative metrics that are common in the private sector, such as: percentage of time servers are up; polling the University community on IT Services performance; or the response time for services requests.

A comment was made regarding the value the University is gaining from the amount of work that has been done on the planning framework and that the procedure has expanded beyond usefulness.

Senate was asked to provide input and feedback in writing to the email address on the cover memo of S.14-78.

**ii) Election Report (S.14-79)**

Senate received for information a report on the results of elections to Senate and the Board of Governors.

**8. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, June 9, 2014.**

Open session adjourned at 6:29 pm and Senate moved into the closed session.

Jo Hinchliffe

Acting Executive Director, Student Enrolment, and Associate Registrar