



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, March 6, 2017 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

### **Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Andersen, Holly  
Arzanpour, Siamak  
Baharmand, Iman  
Bartram, Lyn  
Bassi, Prab  
Brennand, Tracy  
Budra, Paul  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chen, Larissa  
Christians, Julian  
Cupples, Claire  
Dale, Nadia  
Dastmalchian, Ali  
Fiume, Eugene  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Gallilee, Patty (for Gwen Bird)  
Gray, Bonnie  
Han, Richard  
Ige, Adebola Abayomi  
Keller, Peter  
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine  
Leacock, Tracey  
Lewthwaite, Jayme  
Leznoff, Daniel  
MacAlister, David  
Magnusson, Kris  
Malhan, Blossom  
Moens, Alexander  
Mongrain, Steeve  
Murray, Catherine (for Jane Pulkingham)  
Myers, Gordon  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul

Peters, Joseph  
Ruben, Peter  
Scott, Jamie  
Sekhon, Gurbir  
Stefanovic, Ingrid  
Szymczyk, Barbara  
Wiese, Kay

### **Absent:**

Abramson, Neil  
Binotto, Jordan  
Bird, Gwen  
Birmingham, Elina  
Farah, Arr  
Giardini, Anne  
Hans, Paul  
Hedley, Nick  
Johnson, Joy  
Laitsch, Dan  
Mac Namara, Aoife  
McTavish, Rob  
O'Neil, John  
Paterson, David  
Pooghkay, Curtis  
Pulkingham, Jane  
Shaw, Chris  
Spector, Stephen  
Tabin, Yvonne  
Tingling, Peter  
Williams, Tony

### **In Attendance:**

Legris, Luoise  
Naqvi, Zareen

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar  
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of January 9, 2017**

The minutes of the open session on January 9, 2017 were approved as distributed.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of February 6, 2017**

The minutes of the open session on February 6, 2017 were approved as distributed.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- i) At the January Senate meeting Senator Percival asked why there would be a need for a selected topics course at the first year level, noting that ECON 182 lacks descriptive detail in its proposal. Catherine Murray, Associate Dean – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, informed Senate that ECON 182 will allow for opportunities to teach an elective course on economic issues of interest to significant numbers of non-economics students. Similar to previous special topics courses taught at the 200 level, topics may include things like the 2008 global financial crisis or a course on inequality with Thomas Piketty's book *Capital in the 21st Century*. It was noted that such courses are a good way of testing the viability of 100 level electives before adding them to the calendar.
- ii) At the January Senate meeting Senator Bartram asked a question regarding the percentage of PhD students among sessional instructors teaching upper division undergraduate courses. Senator Keller informed Senate that the percentage of PhD students among sessional instructors teaching upper division undergraduate courses has fluctuated between 17% and 22% since 2012.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported on a number of research grant successes:

- Physics professor Bernd Stelzer is setting up a new particle physics research facility at SFU Burnaby and at TRIUMF with support from CFI's John R. Evans Leaders Fund. The particle physics detector lab is one of a number of funded initiatives from the fund that will support world-class research at SFU.
- Computing Science professor Jian Pei has been awarded a \$495,000 NSERC Strategic Partnerships Grant for his *Fraud Investigation at Scale: Methods and Tools* project. He is one of five SFU researchers to receive funding which totals over \$2.1 million.
- Public Policy professor Kora DeBeck has been awarded a \$300,000 CIHR New Investigator Research Grant in Child and Youth Health for her project, *Addiction treatment engagement among street-involved youth in Vancouver*.
- Biological Sciences professor Zamir Punja has been awarded \$285,000 from Agrima Botanicals Corp. for his project, *Enhancing growth and quality of medical marijuana in hydroponic systems*.

The Chair reported on the official launch of KEY - SFU's Big Data Initiative, which took place in February. KEY has already started offering programming, including a very successful reading week workshop series. This initiative is set to run over the next three years and provide support to the community in all areas of Big Data.

The Chair reported the launch of SFU's Data Centre is set for April 20<sup>th</sup>. Located in the Water Tower building, the new state-of-the-art data centre will be the largest in Canada. It will be supported by Compute Canada and will establish SFU as a leader in terms of computing data in Canada.

The Chair noted that SFU Innovates will have a major presence at the upcoming #BCTECH Summit, happening March 14-15. Twelve SFU researchers will be showcasing their technologies, with Stephanie Simmons, CRC in nanoelectronics in the Department of Physics, joining a keynote panel on quantum computing.

The Chair reported that Venture Connection will receive \$1 million over the next five years from Coast Capital Savings. Venture Connection is our student incubator facility, which hosted a Venture prize competition in February attended by 250 people. Over \$37,500 in cash prizes was awarded to student entrepreneurs, and \$24,000 of in-kind services was awarded to the overall winner, Orello Hearing Technologies, a company that sprung from our own Technology Entrepreneurship @SFU Program.

The Chair reported that VentureLabs, our technology business accelerator program, is now fully operational on the 11th and 12th floors of Harbour Center in the tower next to our campus. There's room for new companies and shared meeting space for Angel investors. Also, another cohort of startup companies will travel to Hong Kong and China this month, marking the second such visit to China in partnership with Hanhai Holdings under the C2CAN program.

The Chair reported that SFU has passed Phase 1 of the Ashoka Changemaker designation process by successfully demonstrating that SFU is a field-leading institution for social innovation and social entrepreneurship. Phase 2 will entail a site visit scheduled for later this month, where Ashoka will meet with SFU administration, faculty, staff and students to review the University's work in social innovation. Ashoka is one of the world's foremost social entrepreneurship organizations, with only 38 institutions worldwide holding the Changemaker designation. Achieving this designation will elevate our status as a leader in social innovation and social entrepreneurship and provide us access to a global network of universities with similar strengths.

The Chair reported some recent and upcoming events:

- In conjunction with Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday the SFU Public Square Community Summit will be hosting a series of events and dialogues on the theme of *Who Needs Canada?* There are still a number of upcoming events including one on the Middle East and the Refugee crisis with Robert Fisk, and one on SFU's globally focused investigations and innovations hosted by Vice-President, Research Joy Johnson.
- In response to the recent United States travel ban *We Are All SFU* events were hosted on all three campuses, highlighting that we believe in welcoming international students, and we regret any developments which might be perceived as threatening to students and which send a contrary message.
- The Student Volunteers Appreciation Gala took place on February 24<sup>th</sup>, with roughly 380 students in attendance representing 57 volunteer programs.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> saw the launch of our 20 Year Sustainability Vision, resulting from a year-long consultation with students, faculty and staff across all three campuses to envision SFU's sustainable future.

- The President's Dream Colloquium on *Understanding Medical Marijuana* is underway. The Honorable Anne McLellan, leader of the federal Task Force on Cannabis Legalization, will be speaking on March 23rd.
- The President's faculty lectures, where faculty members share some of their research and insights with the broader community, will feature professor Paul Kingsbury speaking on *Investigating Paranormal Investigators* in Surrey March 15<sup>th</sup> and professor Anne Chinnery speaking on *Rendered Responsible by the Fragile* at Harbour Center on April 5th.

The Chair reported that we launched SFU's Strategic Vision about five years ago, and will now be instituting a process to re-engage the community on the vision. The goal is not to revise the vision, but to check on how the vision is impacting people, where we're getting it right, where we're getting it wrong and what more we need to do, by asking the community to provide some feedback and guidance on where we go next with the vision.

A question was asked regarding if any students have taken advantage of SFU's offer to waive application fees and application deadlines from the seven countries affected by the recent announcement of the United States travel ban. Senate was informed that there have been some applications, but the exact numbers are unknown.

## 6. Question Period

Senator Andersen asked the following question regarding the proposed tank farm expansion on Burnaby Mountain:

*My question is essentially asking for some concrete details on what the plan is and how it is being implemented. Continuing to raise concerns is a good step, but many concerns have been raised already, noted, and left aside in NEB approving this expansion. More details on what specifically is involved in 'raising concerns' and how we expect those raised concerns to translate into action or change would be helpful. What kind of human resources are being devoted to this? What kind of short or intermediate term goals is SFU working towards in terms of effecting change to prevent this risk level? What is SFU bringing to the table in terms of leverage to negotiate real changes to this plan? As an agenda-setter in community engagement, SFU has a chance to demonstrate some great leadership in terms of protecting people from this astonishing increase in risk and a role to play in standing with the Coast Salish peoples in protecting this unceded territory on which the campus sits.*

To read the full question and view a map of the tank farm location, please click on the following link: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-30298/Document-1263510>

The Chair, in his role as President, responded to this question. Senate was informed that the decision to allow the expansion of the tank farm, which is a tripling of current capacity, is part of the decision by both the federal and provincial governments to approve the Kinder Morgan Pipeline expansion project. SFU has taken a public stand against the expansion on the basis that it would significantly increase the risks to the university given the tank farm's proximity to the one intersection that provides access to the university. SFU communicated officially to both the federal and provincial governments our position and our opposition prior to the decision being made. Regrettably the decision that was made was one that contemplates the tank farm expansion taking place. There are conditions built into the National Energy Board approval that

require Kinder Morgan to undertake health and safety plans for the tank farm, and undertake or support the development of a health and safety plan for Simon Fraser University as well. Given the approval, SFU will continue to reassert our position that we think the expansion of the tank farm is ill-advised, and that we do not support it. Ultimately this is a government decision and our ability to overturn a government decision is not great, except through advocacy. SFU will do its best to hold Kinder Morgan accountable on the development of the two plants. Mark LaLonde, our Chief Safety Officer, is already working to develop a university based health and safety plan against the backdrop of the increased risks of the expansion.

A question was asked if Kinder Morgan would be paying for any costs incurred by the university. Senate was informed that if there are significant costs associated with health and safety, SFU would certainly want to raise them with Kinder Morgan and the government. It was noted that we are looking to exhaust every avenue to avoid this expansion before seeking compensation.

A question was asked about SFU's communication strategy regarding risk mitigation. Senate was informed that as we develop health and safety plans, and press Kinder Morgan to do so, we would look to share our plans and engage with the community over our shared concerns.

A comment was made that students have undertaken a letter writing campaign addressed to Prime Minister Trudeau demanding plans to ensure that our students and community are safe throughout the expansion process. Thus far, approximately four hundred letters have been written, with the aim to gather more support by making students aware of just how close this expansion is to the Burnaby campus. Also, Embark SFU350 is planning upcoming events.

## **7. Invited Presenter**

Kris Magnusson, Dean of Education, presented an overview of the Faculty of Education, following which he took questions.

A question was asked how to distinguish between the EdD and the PhD, and if a thesis is involved. Senate was informed that in the PhD one becomes an expert practitioner of research by making original contributions to knowledge, while in the EdD one becomes a research informed practitioner by using knowledge to make original contributions to the practice of education. It was noted that though EdD theses are starting to resemble Phd theses, all must contain documented impact on practice.

A question was asked if the PDP program can respond to the sudden need for two thousand new teachers in British Columbia. Senate was informed that a letter has been drafted to send to the Ministry of Education stating that the Association of BC Deans of Education would like to offer consultation on how to help solve this sudden crisis. Because of our complementary staffing and because of the term of the program, SFU is extremely well positioned to respond to this challenge.

A question was asked about the Faculty of Education being non-departmentalized and how it differs from other faculties. Senate was informed that Education is organized according to four program areas: undergraduate programs, professional programs, field programs and graduate programs. Each of those has a director, and all faculty members can and often do contribute to all areas. Thus, Education doesn't have the vertical structure you'd find in a department, but rather a horizontal one. Given the relatively small size of the faculty, it allows for a broader

perspective on how to design and deliver programs, keeping the focus on improving learning in each area.

## 8. Reports of Committees

### A) Senate Committee on Enrollment Management and Planning (SCEMP)

#### i) Enrollment Plan 2017/2018; Undergraduate Admissions Targets for 2017/2018 (S.17-31)

##### **Motion 1:**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by K. Wiese

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2017/2018 Enrollment Plan attached as Appendix A to document titled For SENATE March 6. 2017.”

A question was asked regarding why the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences continues to have admissions targets much higher than the number they can actually admit. Senate was informed that the faculty has managed to maintain its academic standard for admittance, but this may result in the Faculty becoming smaller. It was noted that the university does have some latitude for allowing such a discrepancy because our targets are in excess of the targets for which we've been funded by government.

A question was asked about reducing graduate FTE numbers while increasing research productivity. Senate was informed that in terms of graduate enrollment, there is always concern over financial support for students in research based programs. The FTE numbers have remained fairly constant over the last five years, with the faculties wanting to increase by 66 the number of students in research based programs. Funding the university brings in for research should help, as should a commitment by the Vice-President, Academic and Provost to provide additional funding to the graduate scholarship budget on an ongoing basis. It was noted that in terms of research productivity, more students doesn't necessarily mean more productivity.

Noting that Arts and Social Science, Environment and Science accept different GPA's for transfers from colleges versus universities, a question was asked if this would extend to all faculties and if we might start to accept differing grades for differing institutions. Senate was informed that we do set a different average for university versus college transfers, and this has proven successful in terms of outcomes. However, there is no intention of differentiating by institution.

A question was asked if the increasing number of international students should be cause for concern, noting that the drop in domestic students seems demographics based. Senate was informed that domestic demographics have been and will continue to be a challenge due to a declining high school population in our catchment area. Also, because many teaching colleges are now awarding degrees we are seeing fewer college transfers. We have responded by admitting more secondary school students and working collaboratively on issues of recruitment and retention. It was noted that unlike many BC universities and colleges who are below their funded target level, and have had to adjust their FTEs or change their recruitment strategies, we have been able to maintain our GPA's without pursuing extraordinary recruitment efforts. Also, because of significant population growth in the South Fraser region, we have experienced less demographic challenges than those outside the lower mainland.

A suggestion was offered for future reports to include the acceptable range for achieving our targets. Senate was informed that less than 10% above target is okay, while less than 5% below target is okay.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 2:**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2017/2018 DOMESTIC undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty, by semester and basis of admission category as indicated in Table C1 in Appendix C.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 3:**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by J. Johnson

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2017/2018 INTERNATIONAL undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty, by semester and basis of admission category as indicated in Table C2 in Appendix C.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Co-operative Education Program Changes (S.17-32)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by K. Wiese

“That Senate approve the change to the SFU Co-operative Education program decreasing from four (4) to three (3) work terms for four year undergraduate academic degree programs in order to receive a Co-operative Education Designation, effective Fall 2017.”

A question was asked if consultation occurred with the School of Engineering Science, as it was not listed having taken part in the consultation process. Senate was informed that Engineering Science was consulted during this process.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Course Changes (For Information) (S.17-33)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made course changes in the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Economics, English, First Nations Studies, French, Gerontology, Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, Hellenic Studies, History, Humanities, School for International Studies, Language Training Institute, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology, World Literature Program), and the Faculty of Science (Physics).

Clarification was asked for regarding course modifications in the Department of Physics and credit for PHYS 131. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

**iii) New Course Proposals (For Information) (S.17-34)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, proposed new courses in the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Chemistry).

**iv) Program Changes (For Information) (S.17-35)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Beedie School of Business and the Faculty of Science (Statistics and Actuarial Science, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**

**i) Course Changes (For Information) (S.17-36)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Political Science), the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences).

**ii) New Course Proposals (For Information) (S.17-37)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, proposed new courses in the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Earth Sciences).

**iii) Program Changes (For Information) (S.17-38)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Program of Urban Studies), the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences).

**D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Revised Terms of Reference (S.17-39)**

Moved by C. Percival, seconded by G. Chapman

“That Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the Senate Nominations Committee, effective April 2017.”

After an objection was raised to the language contained in Item 1 of the Terms of Reference, a motion to defer S.17-39 back to the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules was proposed. Having found no seconder, the motion did not go forward.

A friendly amendment was offered so that the words of Item 1 of the Terms of Reference be replaced with *to present Senate with the names of candidates to fill vacancies on all Senate Committees or Sub Committees, to which an election or appointment is required. It is the responsibility of the Committee Secretary to inform the Chair of a nominating committee as early as possible of existing and imminent vacancies.*

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED



**E) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB)****i) 2015-2016 Annual Report Revised (For Information) (S.17-13 Revised)**

Senate received the revised 2015-2016 Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries Annual Report for information.

A question was asked why the credit requirement for undergraduate entrance awards is being reduced from 12 to 9 units per term as an eligibility requirement, whereas undergraduate scholarships are being increased from 9 to 12. Senate was informed that since scholarships are based on scholastic merit, students should be taking a minimum of 12 units, whereas awards, which are given for a multitude of reasons, should have a 9 unit requirement.

A question was asked why students with disabilities may be enrolled in less than 9 units but no fewer than 6 units. Senate was informed that a student with a disability is eligible to receive financial aid if the student is enrolled in less than 9 units, but no less than 6. This is in addition to all the other criteria, which normally states that students must take at least 9 units. Thus, in addition to students who have 9 or more units being eligible for awards, students with disabilities who are unable to take the full course load have that requirement actually reduced to 6 units.

A question was asked why for open undergraduate scholarships a student with a disability approved by the institution to study a reduced course load must complete their 30 units of standard graded courses over the last five terms, whereas students without a disability must complete 30 units over the last three terms. This suggests that it might be up to 5 terms until they're eligible, so why not maintain the last three terms for students without disabilities and adjust the number of units that must be completed instead of spreading it over time. Senate was informed that if the number of units is reduced the GPA is then taken from a relatively small number of courses, thus it makes sense to compare the same number of units over a longer time period. Also, if a student has completed 30 units within three terms, they are then eligible and wouldn't need to wait until they've completed five terms.

**9. Other Business****10. Information****i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, April 3, 2017.**

It was noted that remote access with both the Surrey and Vancouver campuses will be piloted for the April 3, 2017 Senate meeting.

Open session adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani  
Registrar