

## SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF OCTOBER 2, 2017

### 1. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported on recent research news:

- More than 50 SFU researchers will benefit from over \$9 million in research funding from NSERC. Nearly \$2 million is also going towards scholarships and fellowships at SFU. The funds come from the \$515 million NSERC is investing in Discovery grants, scholarships and fellowships to support fundamental research, and another \$36 million it has allocated to support national researchers through its *Research Tools and Instruments (RTI)* program.
- Brian Owen, Associate Dean of Libraries and Managing Director of the *Public Knowledge Project*, has been named recipient of the 2017 *Ron MacDonald Distinguished Service Award*.
- SFU has submitted six applications to the *Canada 150 Research Chairs Program*, which supports the recruitment of outstanding international researchers and Canadian expatriates. The highly competitive program is intended to fund 15-35 Chairs nationwide, with results expected in December.

The Chair reported that SFU participated in *Vancouver Startup Week*. The event brought together entrepreneurs, investors, community leaders and friends for a week-long celebration of Metro Vancouver's innovation and technology communities.

The Chair reported that SFU students Hassan Murad and Vivek Vyas won the *NextAI Outstanding Venture Award*. They will receive \$150,000 in seed funding, which they intend to invest in the development of a garbage bin powered by artificial intelligence.

The Chair reported that *KEY*, SFU's Big Data initiative, continues to empower students, staff and researchers to put data into action. This past month *KEY* held another *Week of Workshops* which included new offerings such as *Big Data for the worried, the perplexed and the curious: How you can benefit from data*. The next *Week of Workshops* will be in November and are open to the entire SFU community. *KEY* also kicked off a *Data Visionaries Series* this fall. The series brings together leading thinkers from SFU and beyond to critically examine the possibilities and challenges of data in our future. The series continues in October with talks at our Burnaby and Surrey campuses.

The Chair reported that the *President's Dream Colloquium on Women in Technology: Attracting, Retaining and Promoting Diverse Talent* has gotten off to

a strong start with three outstanding speakers: Juliette Powell, Maria Klawe and Shari Graydon.

The Chair reported that Ken Steele, President of *Eduvation* and one of Canada's foremost advanced education strategists, speakers and facilitators, recently visited all three SFU campuses to learn more about *SFU Innovates* and our Vision as an Engaged University.

The Chair reported that SFU recently hosted a successful Outstanding Alumni Awards ceremony at the Four Seasons Hotel at which we honored four alumni:

- Gary Cristall – co-founder of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival;
- Nathan Nunn – Harvard professor and one of the International Monetary Fund's 25 economists under 45;
- Frode Strand-Nielsen – founder of one of Europe's fastest growing private equity firms and a leader in responsible investments;
- Yohana Yembise – professor and first Papuan woman to gain a seat in the Indonesian government where she serves as the Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Protection.

The Chair reported that, in his role as President, he recently travelled to Australia, visiting institutions in Brisbane (Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology), Canberra (Australian National University), and Melbourne (RMIT, Deakin University and the University of Melbourne). The trip included a *Global University Engagement Summit* at the University of Melbourne, focusing on the benefits of engagement. Also, many of the meetings involved discussion on the role of universities in supporting reconciliation processes.

The Chair reported that the SFU Harbour Centre campus recently unveiled a Musqueam house post as a welcoming figure to the campus and an affirmation of our commitment to reconciliation. It was carved by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow, and responds to the *SFU Aboriginal Reconciliation Council's* calls to action, which speaks about the need for the University to ensure a strong presence of indigenous art and culture on our campuses. Another of SFU-ARC's calls to action is for the University to consider establishing an Institute for Indigenous Dialogue, Governance and Empowerment that would both build upon and add to our existing strengths in this area. Representatives from First Nations, SFU and other post-secondary institutions participated in a workshop convened by Mark Selmen of the Beedie School of Business to discuss this proposal. The workshop was held in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the launch of SFU's ground-breaking Executive MBA in Aboriginal Business and Leadership program.

The Chair reported that SFU-ARC's report *Walk This Path With Us* will be presented to the University at a ceremony at Convocation Mall on October 16th. It's a significant moment for this University to talk about our responsibility to recognize the contribution of indigenous peoples and to recognize that we are on indigenous land.

The Chair expressed thanks to those who organized, volunteered and participated in this year's *Terry Fox Run/Walk*. Activities included events at all three campuses and raised over \$27,000. Also, SFU student Luke Galvani was awarded the *Terry Fox Gold Medal* for his courage in adversity, and for his giving back to society in the spirit of Terry Fox.

The Chair noted the upcoming convocation ceremonies, in which SFU will surpass 150,000 graduates, and will confer Honorary Degrees on Ivan Coyote, David Gilanders and Robert Williams.

**2. Suspension of Admission and Dissolution of the Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology MSc (Course Option) (S.17-92)**

**Motion 1:**

Senate approved the suspension of admission to the Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Master of Science (Course Option) in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2018.

**Motion 2:**

Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Master of Science (Course Option) in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2018.

**3. Graduate Course Changes (S.17-93)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2017:

**i) Faculty of Health Sciences**

- Course (description, prerequisite): HSCI 821
- Course (temporary withdrawal): HSCI 858

**4. Graduate New Course Proposals (S.17-94)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Summer 2018:

**i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

- Course (new): PLCY 830

**ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**

- Course (new): IAT 890

**iii) Faculty of Science**

- Course (new): STAT 604, 605

**5. Graduate Program Changes (S.17-95)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2018:

**i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

- Program: Public Policy MPP

**ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**

- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology PhD
- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology MA
- Program: Interactive Arts and Technology MSc

**6. Election Report to Senate (S.17-96)**

Senate received for information a summary of the results of the student election to Senate and the Board of Governors, the convocation election to Senate, and the faculty election to Senate.

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the November Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the October 2017 Senate documents <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-31748>

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Steven Noel, Senate Assistant, at 778-782-3168 or senate@sfu.ca.