



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, September 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Andersen, Holly  
Baharmand, Iman  
Bains, Raman  
Bird, Gwen  
Brennand, Tracy  
Bubela, Tania  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chen, Larissa  
Christians, Julian  
Christie, Claire  
Derksen, Jeff  
Fiume, Eugene  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Garcha, Raajan  
Gray, Bonnie  
Johnson, Joy  
Keliipio, Kau'i  
Keller, Peter  
Khehra, Alam  
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leacock, Tracey  
Luelfesmann, Christoph  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah  
MacAlister, David  
Mac Namara, Aoife  
Magnusson, Kris  
Moens, Alexander  
Ng, Dorothy  
O'Neill, Susan  
Parent, Michael  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Percival, Colin

Percival, Paul  
Peters, Joseph  
Pulkingham, Jane  
Ruben, Peter  
Smith, Judy  
Stefanovic, Ingrid  
Tingling, Peter  
Wang, Christine  
Wiese, Kay  
Zanette, Amanda

**Absent:**

Bartram, Lyn  
Chisty, Mohammad  
Cupples, Claire  
Dastmalchian, Ali  
Giardini, Anne  
Hedley, Nick  
Khalili, Sina  
Mongrain, Steeve  
Poitras, Geoffrey  
Randhawa, Jaskarn  
Shaw, Chris  
Singh, Amar  
Williams, Tony

**In Attendance:**

Guthrie, Larry  
Hinchliffe, Jo  
O'Neil, John  
Zaqui, Zareen  
Pochurko, Martin

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on May 15, 2017**

The minutes of the open session on May 15, 2017 were approved as distributed, with one correction.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on June 5, 2017**

The minutes of the open session on June 5, 2017 were approved as distributed.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on July 10, 2017**

The minutes of the open session on July 10, 2017 were approved as distributed.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

At both the May and June Senate meetings a question was asked about the proliferation of equivalency courses and who is responsible for its oversight. Senate was informed that a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) is looking at the issue of course equivalency.

**6. Report of the Chair**

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed the following new Senators:

- Wade Parkhouse, Associate Vice-President, Academic
- Judy Smith, Dean of Lifelong Learning, pro tem
- Tania Bubela, Dean of Health Sciences
- Susan O'Neill, Senator – Education
- Michael Parent, Senator – Business

Given the failure to reach quorum in July, the Chair noted that a websurvey would be sent out to better track future Senate attendance and requested Senators to send their regrets should they be unable to attend a scheduled meeting.

The Chair reported on recent research news:

- SFU has submitted two applications to the *Canada Excellent Research Chairs Program* to establish a Chair in Big Data Access and Curation and a Chair in Clean Energy Systems. This highly competitive program will fund 11 Chairs across Canada valued at about \$10M each, with at 1:1 matching requirement. The applications were developed with extensive input from two interdisciplinary Steering Committees, with membership from multiple Faculties. Competition results will be announced in November 2017.
- *Weatherhaven*, a company that provides re-deployable shelter systems, has committed \$500,000 to SFU's scientific expertise and resources, providing students with the opportunity for hands on experience in developing next-generation technologies in engineering and materials sciences.
- Adam Vaughan, a PhD candidate in SFU's School of Criminology, is one of two researchers awarded a Health Policy Fellowship by *Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research*.

The Chair reported on recent research grant successes:

- Three SFU proposals collectively secured over \$300,000 from *CFI* as part of the *John R. Evan's Leaders Fund (JELF)*. It's expected these awards will be matched by the *BC Knowledge Development Fund*. The proposals are: the *Robotic Platform for Accelerated Chemical Biology* by David Voadlo and Roger Linington from Chemistry; *Facility for Advanced Power Conversion and Energy Applications Research* by Jason Wang from Mechatronics System Engineering ; and *Building the Language Learning and Development Lab* by Henny Yeung from Linguistics.
- Three Canada Research Chairs-affiliated *JELF* applications were also successful, to the total of \$370,000.
- SFU was successful in 5 of 6 applications in the *2017 CFI Innovation Fund* competition, which provides major funding for research infrastructure. The total value of the successful applications is \$21.7 million. SFU also partnered on three other successful applications led by collaborating institutions. The details are still under embargo, but will be shared as soon as they become available.
- SFU will be submitting six applications to the *Canada 150 Research Chairs Program*, which provides an opportunity to recruit outstanding international researchers, as well as Canadian expatriates. This highly competitive program expects to fund between 15-35 Chairs nationwide, with results expected in December.

The Chair reported on recent research awards and honours:

- Computing Science Professor Fred Popowich received a *Distinguished Service Award* from the *Canadian Artificial Intelligence Association*.
- Emeritus Computing Science professor Tom Calvert received the *Canadian Digital Media Pioneer Award* from the *Canadian Human-Computer Communications Society* for his significant contributions to the development of digital media in Canada.
- Former Computing Science professor Kori Inkpen, now at *Microsoft Research*, was also recognized with an achievement award from the same Society.
- Two SFU faculty members will be inducted as members of the *Royal Society of Canada* on November 24 at the RSC's annual general meeting in Winnipeg. They are Nicholas Blomley, Department of Geography, in the Faculty of Environment, who's recognized as a leading founder of the interdisciplinary field of legal geography, and John Harriss, School of International Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, who is a global authority on the politics of development, particularly on the politics, society and economics of India.
- Nathalie Sinclair of the Faculty of Education has been elected to the RSC's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Nathalie, a Canadian Research Chair in Tangible Mathematics Learning, has been researching the potential of technology to bring mathematics to life and transform how teachers and learners approach the subject.
- Computing Science Professor Jian Pei received the *2017 Innovation Award* from the *Association for Computing Machinery*, the highest award for technical excellence in the field of Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining.

The Chair reported that in June Governor General of Canada David Johnston visited *SFU VentureLabs* in Vancouver, where he took part in a dynamic round table discussion with local innovators and entrepreneurs, focusing on ways we can improve Canada's culture of innovation.

He also toured the *VentureLab* facility and saw a range of demonstrations by SFU-linked innovators.

The Chair reported that SFU's leadership in social entrepreneurship and innovation has been recognized by our designation as an *Ashoka U Changemaker Campus*, one of just over 40 global institutions to pass this rigorous process, and the first university in British Columbia to be so designated.

The Chair reported that *KEY*, our Big Data Initiative, is creating invaluable opportunities for students to create hands-on experiences with data. The *KEY Graduate Scholarship* enables Masters and PhD students to incorporate Big Data approaches, tools and analysis into their research. *KEY* launched the inaugural scholarship competition this past summer. Of 120 applications, 16 were awarded scholarships valued at \$6500 each. The majority of these were students in non-traditional fields to Big Data, including English, Psychology, and Business students. *KEY* is also engaging undergraduate students in big data. This year, it is funding 20 *Undergraduate Student Research Awards* valued at \$4500. These awards enable students from across all disciplines to engage in a major data-intensive research project with a faculty member. Also, this fall, *Key* is launching a *Data Visionaries Series* featuring conversations with data visionaries from SFU and beyond. September's line-up includes leaders from across disciplines, including Juliette Powell, Constance Crompton and John Dill.

The Chair reported that Board of Governors Chair Julia Kim, Vice-President, External Relations Joanne Curry and the President welcomed new Advanced Education Minister Melanie Mark to SFU Burnaby a few weeks ago. Aside from being an SFU alumna, Melanie Mark is the first indigenous woman MLA in the legislature. She was provided an overview of all three campuses and was given a tour of Burnaby ending with an informal meet-and-greet reception that included students and other representatives.

The Chair noted a number of recent and upcoming events:

- In June SFU hosted alumni receptions in Victoria and San Francisco.
- In July the President's Employee Appreciate Barbeque in Burnaby drew record turn-out.
- On September 6<sup>th</sup> the installation of a new Musqueam Welcome Figure by leading Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow was unveiled at SFU Harbor Centre.
- The Outstanding Alumni Awards are taking place on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The annual Terry Fox Run takes place on September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The SFU-Aboriginal Reconciliation Council Report will be formally presented at a ceremony on October 16<sup>th</sup> in Convocation Mall.

**i) Annual Financial Report (For Information) (S.17-83)**

Martin Pochurko, Vice-President Finance & Administration and Larry Guthrie, Director - Financial Services, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made to highlight that under *2017 Revenue by Type* tuition, at 36%, is the largest contributor to University revenue, while the Province of British Columbia contributes 31%. It was noted that tuition from international students has been a major contributor to overall tuition revenue, but it is correct to point out that the share of revenue generated from tuition has risen significantly, while the share of revenue from government has decreased.

A question was asked if the Provincial Government has shown indications of lessening its influence over the university given its decreasing revenue contributions. Senate was informed the trend has been for Government to be more prescriptive through mandate letters, but that those mandates cannot and should not overstep in terms of being overly prescriptive. It is recognized that autonomy and academic freedoms are integral, coupled with the Senate and Board of Governors committed to overseeing the effective governance of the University.

A question was asked about the status of the Canadian Universities Reciprocal Insurance Exchange (CURIE), given our commitment stated in the document to this insurance arrangement is until December 31, 2017. Senate was informed that at the time of the report an analysis was being done to determine whether to stay with CURIE or adopt the Provincial Government's insurance program. After significant review it was decided to renew our CURIE arrangement for another 5 year period.

## 7. **Question Period**

Senator Keliipio asked the following question:

*Are there protocols used in Senate to acknowledge the unceded territories that Simon Fraser University's three campuses are situated?*

Senate was informed that SFU has adopted the practice of acknowledging the traditional and unceded territories on which our three campuses are situated. This is done largely in the context of public or ceremonial matters within the University.

After hearing arguments both for and against acknowledging SFU's location on traditional First Nations lands at each Senate meeting, the Chair suggested that debate be halted until the issue could be studied and we determine the practice of other institutions. Whether acknowledgement at Senate should take place or not, it was noted it is increasingly important to attend to the responsibilities we have to indigenous peoples, and acknowledge the value of their culture and their contribution and their territories.

## 8. **Reports of Committees**

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

#### **i) Membership Revision to Senate Graduate Studies Committee (S.17-73)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded C. Percival

“That Senate approve the attached proposed revision to the membership on the Senate Graduate Studies Committee.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

### **B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

#### **i) Full Program Proposal for the Certificate in Biological Anthropology (S.17-74)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by D. Burley

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the Certificate in Biological Anthropology in the Department of Archaeology within the Faculty of Environment, effective Spring 2018.”

A concern was raised that the requirements of this certificate can essentially be met by taking courses within the Department of Archaeology, thereby allowing Archaeology students to receive two separate credentials for a single amount of work. Senate was informed there will be students within Archaeology who will take this certificate program, thereby gaining recognition for a concentration that is considered a completely separate discipline at many universities. However, this certificate is also intended for students in Biology with an interest in evolution and human development in Health Sciences. The idea is to have a broader framework within which students get recognized for their coursework in biological anthropology.

A question was asked if the Department of Biology was consulted on this proposal, and if so, why it was not listed. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED,  
with four opposed.

**ii) Establishment of the Centre for Collaborative Action on Indigenous Health Governance (S.17-84)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by S. Gajdics

“That Senate approve the establishment of the Centre for Collaborative Action on Indigenous Health Governance as a research centre for a five-year term.”

John O’Neil, Professor – Faculty of Health Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A concern was raised over the use of the word *action* in the name of this centre, feeling it denotes activism. Senate was informed that this topic garnered considerable discussion with First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) leadership. It was important that this Centre be meaningful at the institutional level as a partnership between the FNHA and SFU as a post-secondary institution. It was also important to FNHA leadership that their communities buy into the concept of the Centre offering value at the community level. The name for the Centre emerged from those discussions and one of the first tasks of the Centre is to engage in a community consultation process to determine an indigenous name that reflects that sense of collaborative action involving a partnership between First Nations communities and the University.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Course Changes (For Information) (effective Spring 2018) (S.17-75)**

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 Environment (Geography), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics).

**ii) New Course Proposals (For Information) (effective Spring 2018) (S.17-76)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**iii) Program Changes (For Information) (effective Spring 2018) (S.17-77)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**iv) Course Changes (For Information) (S.17-85)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made course revisions in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology, Publishing), and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**v) New Course Proposals (For Information) (S.17-86)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Mathematics).

A question was asked if it was an oversight to allow students majoring in Mathematics to take MATH 301, 302, 303, and 304, given these courses are designed to appeal to Mathematics minor or non-major students. Senate was informed that this was not an oversight and these courses should not be considered *mathematics-lite* courses.

A question was asked about how special topics courses with an actual title would appear on a transcript. Senate was informed that on a transcript such a course would feature both the topic and the specific title.

**vi) Program Changes (For Information) (S.17-87)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology, Publishing, School of Communication), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Physics, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

**vii) Course Changes (For Information) (S.17-88)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made course revisions in the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Earth Sciences, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

**viii) Program Changes (For Information) (S.17-89)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science, School of Engineering Science), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences).

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

**i) New Course Proposals (For Information) (effective Spring 2018) (S.17-78)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made course revisions in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (History), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Science (Statistics and Actuarial Sciences, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology), and Special Arrangements.

**ii) New Course Proposals (For Information) (effective Spring 2018) (S.17-79)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Environment (Ecological Restoration), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology).

**iii) Program Changes (For Information) (effective Spring 2018) (S.17-80)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Engineering Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (History, School for International Studies), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Environment (Ecological Restoration), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Interdisciplinary Oncology Graduate Specialization).

**iv) Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions (effective Spring 2018) (S.17-81)**

**Motion 1**

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.4.3 (Continuity of Enrollment).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 2**

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.4.6 (Course Audit).”

A question was asked about the intent and ambiguity of the wording *end of the second week of classes* in the calendar entry. Senate was informed that the intent is the second week of the semester, to align with the time to withdraw from courses.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 3**

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.4.9 (Readmission).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 4**

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.5.1 (Normal Grading System).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 5**

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.5.6 (FD Notation).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 6**

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.5.8 (Student's Record after Awarding Degree).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (For Information) (S.17-82 Revised)**

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

**ii) Senate Committee Elections (For Information) (S.17-90)**

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

**9. Other Business**

**i) Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Reports (For Information) (S.17-91)**

Senate received for information the 2016/17 Grades Report, and the 2016 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report.

Zareen Naqvi, Director - Institutional Research and Planning, was in attendance to respond to Questions

**10. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, October 2, 2017.**

Open session adjourned at 8:10 p.m.