



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, January 8, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Andersen, Holly  
Baharmand, Iman  
Bartram, Lyn  
Bird, Gwen  
Brennand, Tracy  
Bubela, Tania  
Budd, Thomas  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chen, Larissa  
Christians, Julian  
Christie, Claire  
Cupples, Claire  
Derksen, Jeff  
Fiume, Eugene  
Forde, Nancy  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Gray, Bonnie (via Vancouver videoconference)  
Johnson, Joy  
Keller, Peter  
Laitsch, Dan (via Surrey videoconference)  
Leacock, Tracey  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah  
Luelfesmann, Christoph  
MacAlister, David  
Mac Namara, Aoife  
Magnusson, Kris  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo  
Ng, Dorothy (via Surrey videoconference)  
O'Neill, Susan  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Peters, Joseph  
Pulkingham, Jane  
Randhawa, Jaskarn

Ruben, Peter  
Scott, Jamie  
Shaw, Chris (via Surrey videoconference)  
Singh, Amar  
Smith, Judy  
Somers, Julian  
Stefanovic, Ingrid  
Tingling, Peter  
Wang, Christine  
Wiese, Kay  
Zanette, Amanda

**Absent:**

Bains, Raman  
Chisty, Mohammad  
Dastmalchian, Ali  
Garcha, Raajan  
Giardini, Anne  
Hedley, Nick  
Keliipio, Kau'i  
Khehra, Alam  
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine  
Leung, Jeffrey  
Memon, Abdul Ahad  
Moens, Alexander  
Mongrain, Steeve  
Parent, Michael  
Poitras, Geoffrey  
Williams, Tony

**In Attendance:**

Geisler, Cheryl  
Kawasaki, Tsuyoshi  
Legris, Louise  
Spector, Stephen

The Chair acknowledged that SFU is privileged to be situated on the traditional territories of the Tsleil–Waututh, Squamish, Kwikwetlem, and Musqueam nations.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on December 4, 2017**

The minutes of the open session on December 4, 2017 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 reported that Mathematician Caroline Colijn, from London's Imperial College, will join SFU this year as a *Canada 150 Research Chair*. Professor Colijn will hold the Chair in Mathematics for *Infection, Evolution and Public Health*.

The Chair reported on recent research awards and honours:

- Robert Hogg, Health Sciences, has been appointed to the *Order of Canada* for his advancements in HIV/AIDS research, notably his contributions to understanding the impact of socio-demographic factors on marginalized populations living with HIV/AIDS.
- Doug Stead, who holds the *Forest Renewal BC Chair* in Earth Sciences, received the 2017 *R.F. Legget Medal* from the *Canadian Geotechnical Society*. This is the Society's most senior and prestigious award, given in recognition of Professor Stead's lifelong contribution to the field.
- Gerhard Gries, who holds the *NSERC-Industrial Research Chair in Multimodal Animal Communication Ecology* in Biological Sciences, has received the 2017 Gold Medal from the *Entomological Society of Canada* for his outstanding contributions to the field.
- Paul Garfinkel of History has received the *Helen and Howard R. Marraro Prize* from the *American Historical Association* for his book *Criminal Law in Liberal and Fascist Italy*.
- David Chariandy, Department of English, has received a \$50,000 *Rogers Fiction Prize* from the *Writer's Trust of Canada* for his second novel *Brother*. *Brother* also made the *Giller Prize* long list.

The Chair reported on recent *SFU Innovates* updates:

- The *Industry Engagement Office* filed 17 patents in the months of November and December, covering a range of disciplines from Mechatronics to Chemistry.
- For the third consecutive year, SFU will be an Innovation Partner for the *BCTECH Summit*, which will be held in May. The *SFU Innovates* display will also include a component on *KEY*, SFU's Big Data Initiative.
- *KEY* successfully concluded the Fall 2017 *Data Visionaries Series*, a series that critically examined the possibilities and impact of data on our future. It featured 12 speakers, and engaged over 550 attendees at across all three campuses. There will be a Spring 2018 series with a new set of speakers addressing the power and potential of Big Data.

The Chair reported that SFU was successful in its bid to host the *Asia-Pacific Association for International Education 2020* conference in Vancouver. This marks the first time the conference will be held outside of Asia.

The Chair reported on a number of upcoming events:

- The first *President's Faculty Lecture* of 2018 will be delivered at Harbour Centre on Wednesday, January 31st by Professor Yuezhi Zhao of Communications. The topic of her lecture is *China's Belt and Road Initiative: A Critical Communication Perspective*.
- The *Jack Blaney Award for Dialogue* will be presented at the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue on Tuesday, February 20th to Alice Nderitu in recognition of her international leadership in the use of dialogue to advance peacebuilding and human rights.
- The SFU *Public Square Community Summit* will be offered late in February/early March around the subject *The Future of Work*.

## 5. Question Period

- i) Senator Baharmand submitted the following question:

*It was announced at the November Senate Meeting that the degree parchments awarded to students graduating from June 2018 onwards will read the major or the highest degree completed by students. As student senators, we had the pleasure to inform the student audience this update and we did exactly that. The following questions were raised by the students that we interact with. During the meeting of this announcement, I, Iman Baharmand, asked if the degree could be adjusted retroactively and was told they could not because of the possibility of multiple degrees existing. Several students stated that they would be more than willing to bring in their old degrees and pay a fee to get a new one that indicated their major or highest degree conferred. Understanding that this is challenging to make everyone happy with a change like this, and that such a process would be logistically demanding, I would still like to ask if the appropriate committee would be willing to explore the possibility of such processes being put into place.*

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that SFU can accommodate requests for replacement parchments, in the same manner as currently in place. Students will be required to pay a fee for a replacement parchment featuring the most recent degree template, which will include the highest level of study starting in June 2018.

- ii) Senator Baharmand submitted the following question:

*It was stated at this meeting that the degree parchment would only display the highest degree conferred. According to my understanding, this is due to concerns with how much text that can fit on the page. However, several questions have been brought to my attention. For example, what would a degree state for joint majors and double majors? It is also clear that a joint major in Molecular Biology Biochemistry and Business Administration will take up more space than a major in Chemistry and Minor in Linguistics. And so several students had questions about these special case scenarios.*

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that minors will display on the new parchment. Space is a concern in implementing these changes, but consultations with the academic units indicated that minors should appear on the parchment. Also, concentrations integral to the degree will appear, whereas optional concentrations, specializations, and streams will not.

A question was asked to clarify how joint majors would appear on the parchment. Senate was informed that for joint majors the student must still choose which degree is being conferred, but that both major programs would appear on the parchment.

## 6. **Invited Presenter**

Eugene Fiume, Dean of Applied Sciences, presented an overview of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, following which he took questions.

A question was asked if Applied Sciences experiences attrition of its female students after having recruited them into the program. Senate was informed that though female attrition within Applied Sciences is a concern, possibly the larger concern is with first year attrition amongst international students. It was noted there is a need to create more realistic expectations of workload and the nature of the programs themselves so students are not overwhelmed entering their first year.

A question was asked to identify the percentage of domestic female students. Senate was informed that the exact numbers were unknown, but that there are a slightly higher percentage of international female students than domestic.

A question was asked to expand on the idea of harmonization mentioned in the presentation, especially in regards to operating on all three campuses. Senate was informed there is a tendency to want to harmonize each of the units onto a single campus, thereby allowing for a more efficient delivery of programs. The goal, however, is to see distinctive programs with students going to Surrey or Vancouver for reasons differentiated from the Burnaby campus. It was noted that work is being done, in consultation with other Faculty Deans, to create greater differentiation across Faculties so that certain joint programs are available only at a particular campus.

## 7. **Reports of Committees**

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

#### i) **Program Name Change of the Asia-Canada Program (S.18-1)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by T. Leacock

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program name change from Asia-Canada to Global Asia within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2018.”

Tsuyoshi Kawasaki, Associate Professor – Department of Political Science, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ii) 2016/17 Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications (For Information) (S.18-2)**

Senate received the 2016/17 Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications for information.

Joy Johnson, Vice-President - Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

**iii) Centre and Institute Report 2016/17 (For Information) (S.18-3)**

Senate received the Centre and Institute Report 2016/17 for information.

Joy Johnson, Vice-President - Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

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

**i) Course Changes (For Information) (S.18-4)**

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 Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**ii) New Course Proposals (For Information) (S.18-5)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Environment (Resource and Environmental Management).

**iii) Program Changes (For Information) (S.18-6)**

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 Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Environment (Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**iv) Global Asia Program (For Information) (S.18-7)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made curriculum changes to the Global Asia Program.

**v) Annual Report 2016-2017 (For Information) (S.18-8)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies Annual Report 2016-2017 for information.

**vi) BC High School Admission Requirements (S.18-9)**

Moved by. D. Leznoff, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approves the attached changes to the undergraduate admission requirements for BC high school applicants.”

Cheryl Geisler, Professor - School of Interactive Arts and Technology, Louise Legris, Director - Undergraduate Admissions, and Stephen Spector, Post Retirement Faculty - Beedie School of Business, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked as to why Physics 12 was selected as a required course for Computing Science. Senate was informed that faculty undergraduate curriculum committees made decisions

about courses to be included. In the case of Computing Science the decision went through their faculty level curriculum committee, the Associate Dean, and through SCUS for approval. Also, the decision was based on course data from previous applicant groups which indicated it was an important preparatory course for Computing Science.

A question was asked if statistics were available on how many high schools do not offer enough of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) required courses, thereby capping admissions from those high schools into FASS. Senate was informed that specific numbers were unknown but that exceptions were made for students coming from high schools not offering certain courses. Also, based on data of students actually admitted into FASS over the last three years, enough courses are included on the list to forgo potential problems.

A comment was made that the motion in S.18-9 delegates authority to SCUS to create the Faculty Course Lists documented in S.18-10.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED,  
with one abstention noted.

**vii) BC High School Applicants – Faculty Course Lists (For Information) (S.18-10)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the Grade 11 and 12 List A and B courses for each Faculty to come into effect in two stages, Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.

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

**i) Course Changes (For Information) (S.18-11)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made course revisions in the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**ii) New Course Proposals (For Information) (S.18-12)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Beedie School of Business.

**iii) Program Changes (For Information) (S.17-116)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a program change in the Beedie School of Business.

A question was asked to explain the statement found in the *Fee Increase Rationale* that *we have not increased the required credits for MBA since 2013* and if they anticipate further credit requirement increases. Senate was informed that there would not be further credit increases.

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

**i) Senate Committee Elections (For Information) (S.18-15)**

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

**8. Other Business**

**i) Senate-Board of Governors Retreat**

Senate was informed that a joint Senate-Board of Governors Retreat would be held on Saturday March 10th, likely at the Goldcorp Centre for the Arts. Senators were asked to save the date, noting that communication would follow once more details became available.

**9. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, February 5, 2018.**

Open session adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani  
Registrar