

SENATE SUMMARY

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

1. Report of the Chair

The reported that SFU recently welcomed over 5000 undergraduate students and 1600 graduate students, along with 60 new faculty members.

The Chair welcomed Owen Underhill, Dean of Communications, Art and Technology pro tem, Deanna Reder, Dean of Libraries pro tem, and Susan O'Neill, Dean of Education, to Senate. The Chair also welcomed back Jon Driver to Senate, in his capacity as Vice-President, Academic and Provost pro tem. The Chair thanked Dr. Peter Keller for his hard work and many accomplishments in his time as Vice-President, Academic and Provost. It was noted that the search for a new Vice-President, Academic and Provost will commence later this academic year, and be timed so as to allow SFU's President-Elect to be actively involved in the process.

The Chair reported on recent research awards and honours:

- Five faculty-lead research projects have been awarded a total of \$3.9 million from the *Canadian Institutes of Health Research*. That represents a success rate of 28%, significantly above the national success rate of 17%.
- Five research projects lead by SFU faculty have been awarded \$840,000 from the *Canadian Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Fund*.
- Professor Zuo-Ghang Ye of Chemistry has received an *IEEE Robert E. Newnham Ferro-electrics Award* for his contributions to understanding and applying crystal chemical fundamentals in Pb-based piezo crystals.

The Chair reported that the federal government recently announced that SFU is one of seventeen post-secondary institutions to have been awarded the opportunity to participate in its Dimensions pilot program. The program is intended to publicly recognize post-secondary institutions seeking to increase their commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion in their environments. The program objective is to foster transformational change at Canadian post-secondary institutions. Participation in the program is being coordinated on behalf of the Executive by Vice-President, Research and International, Dr. Joy Johnson, and more information will be shared with the university community soon.

The Chair reported on innovation updates:

- *Western Economic Diversification* has provided over \$1 million dollars to help the School of Sustainable Energy Engineering create a new research facility to prototype clean technology solutions for the aerospace industry.

- Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection, SFU's university-wide student business incubator, received over \$1.9 million from *Western Economic Diversification* to expand its entrepreneurship program in relation to under-represented disciplines. The funding will enable student innovators to address challenges in areas such as health, sustainability and creative technologies.
- SFU VentureLabs, BC's most successful science technology accelerator, has received \$3 million from *Western Economic Diversification* to establish a scale-up and soft-landing center that will provide science and technology entrepreneurs and companies with support they need to thrive.
- SFU's Next Big Question Fund has awarded \$25,000 to each of seven projects bringing researchers together from diverse faculties. These projects will use big data to research areas ranging from improving clinical decision-making and health care delivery to access for immigrant and refugee women to predicting violence escalation using social media.

The Chair reported that SFU is partnering with *Mitacs* on a student research mobility program to advance international engagement. The program consists of 60 inbound and 40 outbound internships valued at \$6,000 each for senior undergraduate and graduate students. This program builds on the success of an SFU-Mitacs pilot which supports student research mobility between SFU and the network of *Indian Institutes of Technology*.

The Chair reported that Lifelong Learning's Plain Language Certificate program and its instructor Katherine McManus have been awarded the *Cheryl Stephens Innovation Award*. Also, the BC government recently announced \$300,000 to support a pilot program pathway for mid-career learners. Learners who complete a non-credit certificate through Lifelong Learning can gain admission to the Beedie School Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.

The Chair reported that as part of the 30th anniversary of SFU's Vancouver campus, President Emeritus Jack Blaney was honoured for his visionary leadership in helping to bring SFU into downtown Vancouver with the renaming of the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue's Asia Pacific Hall to the Jack P. Blaney Asia Pacific Hall.

The Chair reported on upcoming events:

- On September 19th, this semester's President's Dream Colloquium on Creative Ecologies gets underway with guest speaker Professor Elizabeth Povinelli of Columbia University. This interdisciplinary colloquium will bring leading thinkers to SFU during the fall semester, with the focus on the intersection of art, culture and environment.
- Outstanding Alumni Awards will be taking place on September 20th.
- On September 27th, the annual Terry Fox Run takes place at all three campuses. Everyone at SFU is welcome to participate by running, walking, volunteering and/or donating to support cancer research.

The Chair reported that Chancellor Anne Giardini's term comes to an end in June 2020, and having served for six consecutive years, is not eligible to serve another term. As set out in section 11 of the University Act, the Chancellor is appointed by the Board of Governors on nomination by the Alumni Association after consultation with the Senate. In accordance with Board Policy B 10.12, the Chair, in his role as President, is initiating the process to appoint the next Chancellor. As a first step, the Board of Governors, in consultation with Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Senate Committee on University Honours, will be asked to review and revise, if necessary, the terms of reference and criteria for selection of the Chancellor. After consultation on the terms of reference and criteria is complete, a joint committee of the Board of Governors, the Alumni Association and the Senate will be struck to decide the final terms of reference and selection criteria, seek nominations, and recommend the appointment. It is expected that the committee will be struck early next year so as to allow the new President-Elect to participate in the process.

2. Annual Financial Report (S.19-88)

Senate received the Annual Financial Report for information.

3. Membership Revision to Senate Committee on International Activities (S.19-89)

Senate approved the revision to the membership of the Senate Committee on International Activities.

4. Undergraduate Program Changes (S.19-90)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2020:

i) Beedie School of Business

- Program: Mechatronic Systems Engineering and Business Double Degree Major
- Program: Business, Philosophy and the Law Joint Major

ii) Faculty of Science

a) *Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology*

- Program: Biomedical Physiology Major
- Program: Biomedical Physiology Honours

- 5. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.19-91)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposal, effective Spring 2020:
- i) Faculty of Science**
 - a) Biological Sciences**
 - Course (new): BISC 428
- 6. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.19-92)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2020:
- i) Faculty of Applied Sciences**
 - a) School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering**
 - Course (prerequisite): MSE 312 (effective Spring 2020)
 - ii) Beedie School of Business**
 - Course (equivalency): BUS 254
 - iii) Faculty of Environment**
 - a) School of Environmental Science**
 - Course (W designation): EVSC 490 (effective Spring 2020)
- 7. Proposed Addition to List A/B Courses and IB (S.19-93)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the Proposed Addition to List A/B Courses and IB, effective Summer 2020.
- 8. Graduate Program Changes (S.19-94)**
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program change, effective Spring 2020:
- i) Faculty of Applied Sciences**
 - a) School of Computing Science**
 - Program: Master of Science in Computer Science

- 9. Senate Committee Elections (S.19-95)**
Senate received a summary of the nominations, positions elected by acclamation, positions requiring an online vote, and outstanding vacancies for Senate committees.
- 10. Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2018/19 Grades Report (S.19-96)**
Senate received the 2018/19 Grades Report for information.
- 11. Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2018 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report**
Senate received the 2018 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report for information.

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the October Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the September 2019 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-33808>

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