



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 4, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Aistov, Nikita
Andreoiu, Corina
Bartram, Lyn (via Surrey videoconference)
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Chenier, Elise
Chou, Jennifer
Collard, Mark
Denholm, Julia (via Vancouver videoconference)
Derksen, Jeff
Driver, Jon
Elle, Elizabeth
Fiume, Eugene
Fowler, Colin
Gajdics, Sylvia
Hall, Peter
Hendrigan, Holly
Heng Hartse, Joel
Hoffer, Andy
HoSang, Giovanni
Johnson, Joy
Kench, Paul
Krauth, Brian
Krogman, Naomi
Laitsch, Dan (via Surrey videoconference)
Leacock, Tracey
Lord Ferguson, Sarah (via Vancouver videoconference)
Luelfesmann, Christoph
Luu, Susan
Mirhady, David
Parent, Michael (via Vancouver videoconference)
Parmar, Abhishek
Percival, Colin
Poitras, Geoffrey
Pulkingham, Jane (via Vancouver videoconference)
Raza, Samad
Reder, Deanna
Stockie, John

Tingling, Peter
Underhill, Owen
Walsby, Charles
Weldon, Steve

Absent:

Brennand, Tracy
Bubela, Tania
Dastmalchian, Ali
Dunsford, Russell
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Forde, Nancy
Giardini, Anne
Gray, Bonnie
Gunn, Alexandra
Hillman, Sterling
Ho, Shuna
Hogg, Robert
Keliipio, Kau'i
Kim, Woo Soo
Kimathi, Natasha
Myers, Gord
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
O'Neill, Susan
Parkhouse, Wade
Planchenault, Gaelle
Plettner, Erika
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Tavakoli, Kimia
Taykandy, Mason
Zanette, Amanda

In Attendance:

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session of October 7, 2019 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on December 2, 2019**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that on November 1st, the Province announced \$73 million financing for the construction of the Phase 2 of the SFU Residence expansion plan. Phase 2, a \$104 million project, will include a new residence with units for 369 undergraduate students and an addition to the dining commons that will expand the current 256 seat facility to one that can accommodate up to 800 students. Phase 2, when combined with Phase 1, will provide accommodation for 850 undergraduate students. Not only will this provide much-needed student housing, but it will also relieve pressure on the regions housing market for the benefit of renters.

The Chair reported that over the last year research income has risen from \$142 million in 2018 to \$161 million in 2019. It was noted that research income stood at \$103 million in 2014, meaning there has been an approximately 60% increase in research income over a five year period.

The Chair reported on recent research successes:

- BMO recently pledged \$2 million to further the work of the *First Nations Health Authority Chair in Heart Health and Wellness*, which is an initiative of the health authority, St. Paul's Hospital, and SFU. Jeff Reading of Health Sciences is the chair holder, and funds will support research and design features to promote and embed Indigenous health and wellness in the new St. Paul's Hospital.
- Three SFU projects have received funding totaling \$475,000 from *NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) Collaborative Research and Development Grants*. The projects are led by Applied Sciences researchers Erik Kjeang, Woo Soo Kim, and Kamal Gupta.
- Travis Salway of Health Sciences has received a *Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Career Award* of \$450,000 for his project *Adapting B.C's Healthcare System for Equitable and Tailored Service Provision to Sexual and Gender Minorities*.

The Chair reported that the *Public Knowledge Project (PKP)*, directed by John Willinsky of SFU's Publishing Program, received an *Open Publishing Lifetime Contribution* award from the US-based *Coko Foundation*. Also, Marianne Ignace of Linguistics and First Nations Studies has won one of five *SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) Impact Awards*, which celebrate the best ideas and research about people, thought, behavior and culture. The *Partnership Award*, which she will receive at a ceremony in the *National Arts Centre* later this year, recognizes her intellectual leadership and community co-operation, and the impact she has had beyond the social sciences research community.

The Chair reported on research initiatives:

- The *Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute*, located at SFU after having moved from the University of Toronto, in partnership with SFU's Big Data Initiative and *Stats Canada*, held a national datathon competition that attracted students from SFU, Carlton, Concordia, MacEwan, and the University of New Brunswick.
- SFU Big Data Initiative representatives also attended *Connect 2019*, a data and digital transformation that engaged over 700 provincial public servants.
- SFU's Big Data Visionaries series explored the opportunities and risks of big data in the healthcare industry and its impact on health care providers and user's privacy.

The Chair reported that he, in his role as President, led a delegation to Mexico and Colombia to attend the *Conference of the Americas on International Education (CAIE)*, which brought together higher education institutions, educational organizations and government representatives from throughout the Americas. Along with giving a presentation as part of a plenary panel on *Engaged Universities: Innovation and Development*, meetings were held with diplomatic and university partners to advance existing partnerships and to explore new areas for collaboration. The mission also provided an opportunity to promote *APAIE 2020*, the annual *Asia Pacific Association for International Education* conference that SFU will host in March of 2020.

The Chair reported that SFU recently welcomed two new scholars under the *Scholars at Risk* program. That program offers temporary academic positions to scholars facing threats such as imprisonment or censorship in their home countries. The scholars have asked not to be identified publicly as scholars at risk for personal safety reasons.

5. Question Period

i) Senator Chenier submitted the following question:

This past weekend there was an event to be held on SFU's Harbour Centre campus which featured speakers who claim that trans women are not women, but are men. These claims are without foundation, and are widely considered hate speech, yet the university's official position was to defend the event as an expression of academic freedom (Letter from Andrew Petter to Hannah McGregor, 24 October 2019). Although the organizer of the event decided to move it to another location, the result has been significant damage to the SFU community, particularly some of its most vulnerable people: trans women.

What measures is SFU planning to take in the short and long term to protect the rights of those community members and ensure their emotional and physical safety, as well as their long term personal welfare within the SFU community?

Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the nature of this event, the way in which SFU responded to it, the decision by the organization to cancel the event and subsequent decisions by other people to move the event away from SFU have all been subjects of considerable debate and communication. SFU has in place numerous processes and services that protect the safety and rights of community members. As an employer, SFU has a legal and regulatory responsibility to

ensure a safe workplace, including provisions to prevent discrimination, bullying and harassment. These are re-enforced by the collective agreements with various unions and associations. Any employee who believes that their human rights and safety have been violated has a number of avenues for reporting. In order to reduce the events of unwanted behaviors, SFU provides education and training to employees in faculty positions and some of the responsible offices include Faculty Relations, Human Resources, Human Rights Office, Campus Public Safety and Security and Sexual Violence Support and Prevention Office. In addition, all continuing employees have access to an Employee and Family Assistance Program run on a completely confidential basis that can help with emotional and mental health issues. In terms of students, SFU has a responsibility to provide a safe environment free from unwanted behaviors directed at them, and procedures are in place to prevent and to respond to incidents, as well as provide educational programs to students. In addition, SFU has processes whereby students who experience unwanted behaviors in the classroom or believe they have been discriminated against in their academic work, can report to an academic administration such as the Faculty Chair or the Dean of Graduate Studies. The responsible units on campus include the Human Rights Office, Campus Public Safety and Security, Student Services, the Dean of Graduate Studies, Sexual Violence Support and Prevention Office and Ombudsperson. Students also have access to services and support through their student societies and other student groups. Though SFU has a wide range of resources to support and protect faculty, staff and students, it is recognized that more can be done to ensure a safe and inclusive campus. That is why the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative is working to ensure that resources and support materials are available to the transgender community. Also, work is underway to ensure that people are recognized in University systems by the names and pronouns of their choice. Finally, the University is looking to support positive and productive discussions about how to address barriers to inclusion.

Addressing Senator Driver's response, Senator Chenier noted her dissent to the response from the University and felt that those harmed by this decision are being offered reactive therapeutic assistance rather than proactive measures to ensure a work environment free from such harms and that the University needs to do better in the future.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications 2018/19 (S.19-104)

Senate received the Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications 2018/19 for information.

ii) Centres and Institutes Annual Report 2018/19 (S.19-105)

Senate received that Centres and Institutes Annual Report 2018/19 for information.

A comment was made to note that the Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies is actually in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, not in Communication, Art and Technology, and that the Director is Rudy Reimer and not Bryan Myles. Senate was informed that these corrections would be made in the report.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.19-106)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.19-107)

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

iii) Course Changes (S.19-108)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology, Publishing Program).

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Program Changes (S.19-109)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

ii) Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions: GGR 1.8.2 (S.19-110)

Moved by J. Derksen, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.8.2 (Review of Unsatisfactory Progress).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.19-111 Revised)

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

E) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB)

i) Honour Roll Program – Revised Terms of Reference (S.19-112)

Senate received the Honour Roll Program – Revised Terms of Reference for information.

7. Other Business

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – December 2, 2019

Open session adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Kris Nordgren
Senate Secretary pro tem