

SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2019

1. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that last week, the BC government announced an investment of \$17 million over the next five years to establish a Quantum Algorithms Institute at SFU's Surrey Campus. The institute will bring universities, industry and government together to help position BC as a world leader in the field of quantum computing technology. It will also support research and provide opportunities for students to pursue graduate studies in quantum computing.

The Chair reported that the BC government announced its commitment to establishing Surrey City Centre as the second downtown for Metro Vancouver, and to promoting the development of an innovation corridor to create jobs and opportunities in Surrey and the Fraser Valley. This announcement is also encouraging in relation to expansion plans for SFU Surrey, which envisions the creation of over 2000 additional funded student spaces in areas such as health innovation and creation technologies in addition to general studies.

The Chair reported that SFU has again been named Canada's top comprehensive university, and 9th in reputation amongst all universities, in the *Maclean's* annual ranking. This is the sixth year in a row that SFU has been named the country's top comprehensive university, a category that includes post-secondary institutions that have significant research impact, a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as professional degrees.

The chair reported that on September 16th SFU launched the Data for Good initiative. This initiative will enable SFU data experts across diverse disciplines to work with governments and mission-driven organizations to address pressing social and challenges facing Canada. The announcement was attended by Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research, and Senator Kim Pate.

The Chair reported that eight SFU faculty members are being honoured by the *Royal Society of Canada (RSC)* – seven as fellows of the Society and one as a member of the *College of New Scholars, Scientists and Artists*. Membership in the *RSC* is Canada's highest academic honour. The seven Fellows are Tania Bubela (Dean of Health Sciences), Martin Ester (School of Computing Science), Joy Johnson (Vice-President, Research and International), Jian Pei (School of Computing Science), Philip Winne (Education), Zuo-Guang Ye (Chemistry), and Yuezhi Zhao (School of Communication). The New College Member is Anne Solomon (Environment).

The Chair reported the first SFU Distinguished Professors have been named in recognition of their outstanding performance, achievements and international pre-eminence. The eight Distinguished Professors are Lara Aknin (Psychology),

Fiona Brinkman (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry), Mike Hayden (Physics), Robert Hogg (Health Sciences), Mark Jaccard (Resource and Environmental Management), Dal Yong Jin (School of Communication), Daniele Moore (Education), and Laurel Weldon (Political Science). Distinguished Professors will share their work with the public through lectures, panels and presentations.

The Chair reported that work is well underway on the Phase 1 student residence project on Burnaby Mountain, with an expectation to soon be able to announce Provincial approval for Phase 2. Combined, the two phases will create over 850 units of undergraduate student housing, plus a new dining hall. Also, the SFU Community Trust Board has approved construction of a rental project on Parcel 21, which will provide 90 units of housing for graduate students and students with families.

The Chair reported that Fall Convocation takes place on October 10th and 11th, with honorary degrees to be bestowed upon author and professor Timothy Caulfield, entrepreneur and philanthropist Lorne Trottier, and surgeon and Indigenous health advocate Nadine Caron. During convocation week, the Chancellor will also be honoring Bill Cunningham with the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his extensive service and commitment to the University.

The Chair reported that the President's Dream Colloquium on *Creative Ecologies* has gotten underway with lectures from Elizabeth Povinelli, Franz Boas Professor of Anthropology and Gender Studies at Columbia University, and Timothy Ingold, Emeritus professor of Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen.

The Chair reported that the Terry Fox Walk/Run event took place on Friday, September 27th at all three campuses. It is estimated that over 1,000 people participated, raising over \$20,000.

2. Establishment of the Department of World Languages and Literatures (S.19-98)

Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Department of World Languages and Literatures within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

3. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.19-99)

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 Communication, Art and Technology

a) School of Interactive Arts and Technology

- Course (prerequisite): IAT 395 (effective Fall 2020)

ii) Faculty of Environment

a) Geography

- Course (temporarily withdrawn): GEOG 323, 383 (effective Spring 2020)
- Course (B-Hum designation): GEOG 100
- Course (B-Soc Designation): GEOG 386
- Course (description): GEOG 213 (effective Fall 2020)
- Course (description, prerequisite, equivalency): GEOG 312 (effective Fall 2020)

iii) Faculty of Science

a) Mathematics

- Course (description): MATH 190

4. Graduate Program Changes (S.19-100)

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

i) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) School for the Contemporary Arts

- Program: Fine Arts MFA

ii) Faculty of Health Sciences

- Program: Health Sciences MPH

5. Graduate New Course Proposals (S.19-101)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposal, effective Summer 2020:

i) Faculty of Environment

a) School of Resource and Environmental Management

- Course (new): REM 627

6. Graduate Course Changes (S.19-102)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2020:

i) Faculty of Health Sciences

- Course (units): HSCI 801, 802, 803
- Course (description, prerequisite): HSCI 880

7. Senate Committee Elections (S.19-103 Revised)

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

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the December Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the October 2019 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-33833>

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