



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, October 7, 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 Vancouver videoconference)
Brennand, Tracy
Bubela, Tania
Burley, David
Chou, Jennifer
Collard, Mark
Dastmalchian, Ali (via Vancouver videoconference)
Derksen, Jeff
Driver, Jon
Dunsford, Russell
Fiume, Eugene
Forde, Nancy
Fowler, Colin
Hall, Peter
Hendrigan, Holly
Heng Hartse, Joel
Hoffer, Andy
Hogg, Robert
HoSang, Giovanni
Johnson, Joy
Keliipio, Kau'i
Kench, Paul
Kim, Woo Soo
Krauth, Brian
Krogman, Naomi
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Lord Ferguson, Sarah (via Vancouver videoconference)
Luelfesmann, Christoph
Luu, Susan
Mirhady, David
Myers, Gord
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
O'Neill, Susan
Parent, Michael (via Vancouver videoconference)
Parkhouse, Wade

Parmar, Abhishek
Percival, Colin
Plettner, Erika
Poitras, Geoffrey
Pulkingham, Jane
Raza, Samad
Reder, Deanna
Stockie, John
Underhill, Owen
Walsby, Charles
Zanette, Amanda

Absent:

Chapman, Glenn
Chenier, Elise
Denholm, Julia
Elle, Elizabeth
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Gajdics, Sylvia
Giardini, Anne
Gray, Bonnie
Gunn, Alexandra
Hillman, Sterling
Ho, Shuna
Kimathi, Natasha
Planchenault, Gaelle
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Tavakoli, Kimia
Taykandy, Mason
Tingling, Peter
Weldon, Steve

In Attendance:

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of September 9, 2019

The minutes of the open session on September 9, 2019 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- i) At the September meeting Senator Myers asked a question concerning student:faculty ratios and faculty hiring plans. Referencing data that was distributed to Senators ahead of the meeting, Senate was informed that SFU has had a relatively stable student:faculty ratio from 2018 to present. Data shows that the number of people hired into faculty or other instruction positions at the university has gradually risen over the last ten years, which is to be expected given that student numbers have also gone up over that period. Of note is that the rate of increase in the hiring of continuing lecturers has been greater than the rate of increase in the hiring of tenure-track faculty members, which has implications for research productivity. With regards to the planning for future hires, a faculty renewal program is in place for identifying new faculty hires within departments and faculties. This is then presented to the Board of Governors as a series of target numbers of faculty members at the University. Consultation occurs with the Deans to match faculty complements both across the University and across different units to match the demand for courses by students.

As a follow-up to his original question, Senator Myers outlined how he constructed the student:faculty ratio and thereby reached the conclusion that SFU needs to appoint 101 new faculty members to return to 2008-09 levels. By using the ratio of AFTE to CFL going back to 2008-09, AFTE's have increased by 13.5% while CFL's have increased by 2.75%. Given that the CFL in 2018-19 was 966.6, the hiring of an additional 100 CFL would be required to get back to the numbers of a decade ago.

Senate was informed that SFU is currently searching for 108 faculty members. On top of that, a request has been made to the Board of Governors to increase the faculty complement by 20 in the next year, with the intention to increase it significantly more over the next four years. It has been recognized that the University needs to increase the number of faculty members and steps are being taken to address that.

4. 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.

A comment was made to clarify that though it is being housed at SFU, the Quantum Algorithms Institute is not an SFU institute. SFU will be the lead institution in terms overseeing the establishment of the institute, but that governance of the institute will involve representation from other universities and from government and industry. It was added that the institute will support graduate students in quantum studies, but the decision of whether there is to be a separate graduate program here or at any other university is something that has not been determined and could not be determined without Senate's approval.

5. Question Period

i) Senator Mirhady submitted the following question:

Why and by whom was the decision made to phase out CODE courses in favor of the flex model? What steps are being taken to ensure student course access since thousands of course spots have seem to have been eliminated in the process?

Wade Parkhouse, Associate Vice-President, Academic, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the decision to transition the instruction of CODE courses to faculty, with more faculty and departmental oversight, stems from the work of the Online Education Working Group Report of March 2018 and the Task Force on Flexible Education Report of August 2015. The Online Education Working Group identified a number of concerns with the current process of delivering of CODE courses, including the observation that CODE is funded through a limited and inappropriate budget model, noting the base budget is not able to respond to enrollment demands and early adopters have limited the expansion into other academic units and/or high demand courses. Faculty members, and much of the academic leadership, view the CODE model as educationally flawed and have been reluctant to participate, and the concern over quality control and the CODE model have limited faculty involvement. The key recommendation of the Report is directing the institution to develop a new model in which SFU will support the creation, design and delivery of a variety of forms of online learning and to make recommendations about the implementation of the model. In this regard, campus consultations were conducted between July and November 2017, including all Faculty Deans and individuals from 18 academic departments making up 94 percent of the units delivering courses. Following this, the decision was made by the Provost to change the way that CODE is currently delivered.

In terms of what steps are being taken to ensure student course access, Senate was informed that the CODE transition is progressing slowly, and is planned over a 4 year period to ensure that students can continue to access these seats and actually grow the numbers of seats available. This fall, despite transitioning over the past year, enrollments in CODE are up by 3 percent. Another step that has been taken is to cull low demand and rarely offered CODE courses to create spaces for new high demand courses in a wider array of programs. One-time and ongoing resources are being shifted to the faculties to ensure that these courses are taught by faculty and thus revenues from teaching these courses can be planned to the relative instructional costs. The benefit of these changes is a greater diversity of courses and better choice for students going forward. There will not be thousands of seats be eliminated, as ultimately there will be more seats and greater options for students because faculty and departments who had no room to add courses can now do so.

ii) Senator Forde asked the following question:

My question pertains the sudden dismissal last week of the talented personal at SFU's Industry Engagement Office. This is very concerning to a number of my colleagues who worked closely with these professionals in developing their intellectual property and engaging with discussions with potential licensing partners and so on. An email was sent around on Wednesday afternoon that said that there is a new structure planned to launch in February, but that's four months. Now it's just a long timeline when you are in the midst of IP. So, I'm wondering if it's possible to get any more specifics than the date messaged that went out last week.

Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the Industry Engagement Office is in the midst of a restructuring and that plans are in place to ensure that faculty members are supported in the interim. It was acknowledged that the communication around this restructuring did not come out in a timely manner, but that efforts are being made to quickly hire staff and thereby be in a strong position going forward.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

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

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Pulkingham

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Department of World Languages and Literatures within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.”

A comment was made to encourage the Chair of this new department to be mindful of maintaining grading consistency across language programs.

A concern was raised that certain language courses, notably Italian and Greek, would not currently fall under this new department. Senate was informed that conversations are actively underway to move both the Greek and Italian language courses into the new Department of World Languages and Literatures.

A question was asked if someone with a teaching appointment might be considered for Chair of this new department. Senate was informed that there would be no specific opposition to this, but that the matter of governance will be taken up with the members of that unit.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED,
with one opposed.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Course Changes (S.19-99)

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), the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics).

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Program Changes (S.19-100)

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 for the Contemporary Arts), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

ii) New Course Proposals (S.19-101)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management).

iii) Course Changes (S.19-102)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) 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.

7. Other Business

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, November 4, 2019

Open session adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Kris Nordgren
Senate Secretary pro tem