



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 5:30 pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Andreoiu, Corina  
Bartram, Lyn  
Bird, Gwen  
Brennand, Tracy  
Bubela, Tania  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chenier, Elise  
Chou, Jennifer  
Collard, Mark  
Dastmalchian, Ali  
Denholm, Julia  
Derksen, Jeff  
Driver, Jon  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Favere-Marchesi, Michael  
Fiume, Eugene  
Forde, Nancy  
Fowler, Colin  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Gray, Bonnie  
Gunn, Alexandra  
Hall, Peter  
Hendrigan, Holly  
Heng Hartse, Joel  
Hillman, Sterling  
Hoffer, Andy  
HoSang, Giovanni  
Johnson, Joy  
Keliipio, Kau'i  
Kench, Paul  
Kim, Woo Soo  
Krauth, Brian  
Krogman, Naomi  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leacock, Tracey  
Luu, Susan  
Mirhady, David  
Myers, Gord  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo

O'Neill, Susan  
Parent, Michael  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Parmar, Abhishek  
Percival, Colin  
Plettner, Erika  
Pulkingham, Jane  
Raza, Samad  
Stockie, John  
Somers, Julian  
Tingling, Peter  
Underhill, Owen  
Walsby, Charles  
Weldon, Steve  
Zanette, Amanda

**Absent:**

Aistov, Nikita  
Dunsford, Russell  
Giardini, Anne  
Ho, Shuna  
Hogg, Robert  
Kimathi, Natasha  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah  
Luelfesmann, Christoph  
Planchenault, Gaelle  
Poitras, Geoffrey  
Shaw, Chris  
Tavakoli, Kimia  
Taykandy, Mason

**In Attendance:**

Friskin, Barbara  
Gemino, Andrew  
Hedberg, Nancy  
Khan Hemani, Rummana  
Lauzan, Claudette

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Senate of March 30, 2020**

The minutes of the Special Meeting of Senate on March 30, 2020 were approved as distributed.

**3. The Minutes of the Open Session of April 6, 2020 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on June 8, 2020****4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that efforts to address challenges resulting from COVID-19 and its consequences are ongoing. The health and safety of the university community remains the priority, and SFU will continue to be guided in this regard by the advice and direction provided by health authorities and by the Province. The University has been working closely with other BC research universities to compare and coordinate responses. With these considerations in mind, the Provost announced last week that most Fall classes will be delivered remotely, except for courses where learning outcomes cannot easily be replicated remotely, and where health and safety requirements can be maintained. Examples might include certain labs, field courses and graduate classes where in-person instruction is essential. Meanwhile, support will be provided to instructors to enhance the quality of remote teaching to ensure that the student experience and educational standards are maintained to the highest extent possible. Work is being done to ensure that students are able to access the full range of support services required to effectively participate in and benefit from remote learning. Work is also underway to ensure safe ways for select in-person research to take place. Decisions will be made in collaboration with faculties and will strictly adhere to the health and safety protocols offered by health authorities and the Province.

The Chair reported that during this time, faculty, staff and students have displayed tremendous dedication and resiliency, however, concerns remain for the well-being of the university community, and especially for students. Ottawa's announcement of \$9 billion in funding to support post-secondary students and recent graduates was welcome news and there was a remarkable response to the COVID-19 Student Support Fund, including major gifts from the SFFSS (\$150,000), SFU Alumni Association (\$55,000), the First National Student Association (\$40,000) and more than 200 individual gifts from faculty and staff. The \$335,000 raised thus far has increased the University's capacity to help students adversely affected by the crisis. Drawing on these and other University funds, Student Services has distributed \$3 million to support students. SFU has launched SFU CAN (COVID Action Now), a university-wide initiative to harness and support all of the efforts and resources directed at pandemic response and recovery. A key component is a Response and Recovery Network to help people across SFU to connect, share resources, and enhance their impact. To date, over 240 people have joined the Network. SFU CAN will also help keep the broader community informed of programs and initiatives designed to promote social connection, foster dialogue and support community recovery, such as those being offered by SFU Public Square, the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue, and SFU Woodward's.

The Chair reported that SFU faculty members continue to combat COVID-19, through research and other activities:

- Health Sciences Professor Kelley Lee has received funding from the *New Frontiers in Research Fund* to lead a project supporting the global coordination of the COVID-19 outbreak response.
- Dr. Caroline Colijn, Canada 150 Research Chair in Mathematics for Evolution, Infection and Public Health, has been appointed to the federal government's COVID-19 expert panel. She's also working with The BC Centre for Disease Control, where her research and modelling methods have been helping to inform B.C.'s health policy.
- Andy Hoffer, professor of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology has received FDA approval for *LungPacer* – his invention that helps wean COVID-19 patients from ventilators.
- A team led by SFU molecular biology and biochemistry professors Drs. Lena Dolgosheina and Peter Unrau is using RNA imaging technology to develop advanced coronavirus testing kits.

The Chair reported on recent grant successes:

- SFU researchers were awarded over \$1 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for four projects as part of the *Operating Grant: Canadian 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rapid Research Funding Opportunity Program*.
- In the latest Canada Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund competition, SFU researchers received over \$3.3 million for 19 projects.
- The Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada awarded SFU researchers over \$2.5 million for three projects as part of the Partnership Grant Program.
- In the latest Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada's Insight Grants competition, 13 SFU researchers received over \$2.1 million, marking a 69.7 percent success rate (compared to a national success rate of 40.7%).

The Chair reported that in-person June Convocation ceremonies will be replaced by a vibrant online celebration to honour Spring 2020 graduates. Graduates will also be given the opportunity to participate in a future in-person Convocation ceremony. The Virtual celebration will take place on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:00 pm, and will include a full social media plan – before, during and after the event – to engage graduates and their families. The celebration will be hosted by the Chancellor and the President, and include the granting of degrees and messages from Spring honorary degree recipients. This summer, graduates will be mailed a commemorative box which includes their degree parchment, SFU mortarboard, alumni pin and a printed program listing their name. In addition to the Virtual Convocation Celebration, other planned events include faculty and departmental virtual grad celebrations and an Indigenous Honouring Feast virtual celebration on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm.

The Chair reported June 12<sup>th</sup> will be Chancellor Giardini's last day with SFU. A commemorative book and tribute video is in the works. A new chancellor should be announced later this month.

The Chair reported that in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings last month, SFU placed 19<sup>th</sup> overall in the world out of 766 institutions, and first in the world for its impact on sustainable cities and communities. SFU fares well in traditional university rankings, such as

topping the Maclean's Comprehensive University category for 10 of the past 11 years, however, traditional rankings do not capturing the full value of what SFU, as an engaged university, contributes to the communities it serves. The THE Impact Rankings are the first global measurement of universities' impact on society, assessing performance against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. SFU's top standing globally for Sustainable Cities and Communities is evidence of an extraordinary commitment to provide a sustainable environment for those who work and live in the university community, and SFU's increasing efforts to minimize its environmental footprint. SFU ranked fourth in the world for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, reflecting strength in university-community engagement, collaborations with national and local governments, and international partnerships. SFU also ranked seventh for supporting aquatic ecosystems and ninth for Climate Action, an area in which the University is determined to make further progress through a new five-year Strategic Sustainability Plan.

## 6. Question Period

i) Senator Fowler submitted the following question:

*It's very obvious that COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on University operations. However, we also have an opportunity through this to examine SFU's actions post-mortem and determine what was done well and what other considerations should have been made, as well as areas to improve. Will SFU commit today to a thorough, independent and unbiased survey of all students and faculty members to create a blueprint for future emergency response, and make these results public and easy to access in a timely manner?*

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

Senate was informed that due to the time commitment of responding to the COVID-19 crisis, and also to the still evolving nature of the crisis, it would be more pragmatic to examine SFU's response once things have reached a more stable point. It is highly likely that a survey of employees and students would be part of any process that examines the University's response to COVID-19, but it would actually necessitate a detailed examination of a large amount of evidence to produce a report containing useful recommendations on how to respond to emergencies and to rapidly changing social and environmental conditions.

ii) Senator Chou submitted the following questions, which were answered by Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic:

1. *When will Summer 2020 emergency funding requests be open? What percentage of Summer 2020 emergency funding will be allocated to international students? All full-time students enrolled in the Summer term who have financial needs are encouraged to apply to SFU's bursary program, which is open to domestic and international undergraduate and graduate students, provided they meet eligibility requirements. The emergency funding initiated in the Spring term was intended as one-time funding to deal with the COVID-19 emergency and was not intended to be ongoing. The deadline for Summer bursary applications is May 22nd and once they have been processed a review will be done to determine if additional funding is needed. The allocation to international students is not fixed by a percentage, but rather on demonstrated need. Any student currently experiencing an emergency in*

terms of being able to access basic necessities can contact student support to meet with a case manager to access their individual case.

2. *What funding and services are available for international students, and what is SFU's long-term support plan for these students? Is SFU actively lobbying the government for support for international students? How will these efforts be effectively reported and communicated to students?* International Student Services (ISS) has dedicated web resources that are regularly updated about international student supports around issues such as immigration, medical insurance and financial support. Student Services sends out a regular bulletin which includes an international student section with the latest updates and ISS also communicates directly with individual international students. With regard to financial support, in addition to the bursary funding already mentioned, international students are also eligible to apply for almost all of the scholarships and awards that are funded through the University. In terms of federal funding, it was announced in early April that some international students are eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. It's also been made clear that the BC Temporary Rent Supplement Program will be available to some international students meeting eligibility requirements. Student Services also has a dedicated website for students seeking work this summer, including a separate website for students seeking co-op work. Mental health support is available to all international students, as is true for all students at SFU, most notably through the My SSP app. Residence remains open and interfaith activities are continuing and there is also spiritual support for students. In terms of learning support, the Student Learning Commons is providing workshops and virtual supports for students. New international students have been invited to the online welcome day and to participate in SFU 101. With regard to advocacy, the University usually functions as a member of more comprehensive organizations such as Universities Canada or the Research Universities Council of BC, but advocacy has been taking place both at the provincial level and at the federal level with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. Some accommodations provided to international students include:
  - Exemptions to travel restrictions for international students holding study permits.
  - Assurances that students who do have study permits starting in the Summer or Fall but can't get to Canada will still be eligible for the Post-Graduate Work Permit and that they may begin their classes remotely and complete up to 50% of their program while outside Canada.
  - Removal of the restriction on international students working a maximum 20 hours a week provided that work is in such areas as health care or critical infrastructure.
  - Flexibility around things like renewal of study visas.
  
3. *Why are students still being charged late fees for tuition? What are SFU's plans for students who cannot afford the extra 2% late penalty, especially if these students are not eligible for emergency funding (from the government or SFU)?* Late fees are charged to provide an incentive for students to pay tuition and without student tuition the University would not be able to pay its employees. For the Summer term, the deadline for the receipt of fees has been extended and if a student joins a

payment plan and cannot pay their fees by the deadline, they will be allowed to register for Fall courses while still owing fees for the Summer term.

4. *What will SFU do to address these students' concerns about lab courses? Can additional support be offered for students taking lab courses?* It is possible that in-person lab courses may proceed in the Fall, but only if safe protocols can be implemented. Consideration will be given to removing mandatory supplementary fees from any course where the fee cannot be justified. For example, if a fee is normally charged to cover the cost of lab supplies, and that lab moves to a virtual environment where the supplies are no longer needed then steps would be taken to remove the mandatory fee. Such consideration would be done on a case by case basis and not across the system.
5. *Will SFU consider implementing a P/F grading system for Summer 2020, and if not, why?* The optional Pass/Fail system was implemented in the Spring as an emergency measure because the COVID-19 response required the University to make changes to assessment practices that differed from what students had been lead to expect in their course outlines. For the Summer term, students will have adequate time to understand what assessment practices will be used and can therefore determine whether or not they wish to take a course.
6. *How is SFU going to accommodate students in different time zones, and students who may not be able to attend "live" lectures due to work schedules/other time conflicts?* An email was recently sent to all instructors encouraging them to adopt asynchronous teaching methods where that is consistent with the learning outcomes of the course. Under normal circumstances students have to manage their educational commitments against their other time commitments so it's likely that international students would be most affected by time differences. Though instructors are being encouraged to use asynchronous teaching methods, they are not being required to adopt them due to the diversity of learning methods and teaching methods across the University.

## 7. Reports of Committees

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

#### i) Annual Report 2019-2020 (S.20-52)

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) Annual Report 2019-2020 for information.

#### ii) Full Program Proposal for a Geographic Information Science Minor (S.20-53)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by L. Bartram

"That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Geographic Information Science Minor in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Spring 2021."

Noting that this program seems to focus solely on spatial data analytics, a question was asked if consideration was given to requiring at least some cross-over to non-spatial analytics and how

they are used within the respective geo-spatial data. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Full Program Proposal for Graduate Diploma in Management (S.20-54)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Tingling

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the Graduate Diploma in Management in the Beedie School of Business, effective Fall 2021.”

Andrew Gemino, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs – Beedie School of Business, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Full Program Proposal for Master in Management (S.20-55)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Tingling

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the Master in Management in the Beedie School of Business, effective Fall 2021.”

Andrew Gemino, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs – Beedie School of Business, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Full Program Proposal for a Minor in Indigenous Languages (S.20-56)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by T. Leacock

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Minor in Indigenous Languages in the Department of Linguistics and the First Nations Languages Program within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2021.”

Nancy Hedberg, Professor and Department Chair – Department of Linguistics, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**vi) Name Change of Art, Performance, and Cinema Studies Minor (S.20-57)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program name change from Art, Performance, and Cinema Studies Minor to Art and Performance Studies Minor in the School for the Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology.”

Claudette Lauzon, Assistant Professor – School for the Contemporary Arts, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**vii) Name Change of Film and Video Studies Minor (S.20-58)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program name change from Film and Video Studies Minor to Cinema Studies Minor in the School for the Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology.”

Claudette Lauzon, Assistant Professor – School for the Contemporary Arts, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**viii) Senate Guidelines for External Reviews of Academic Units (S.20-59)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by B. Krauth

“That Senate approve the revised Senate Guidelines for External Reviews of Academic Units.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ix) Suspension of Admission and Dissolution of the Modelling of Complex Social Systems Graduate Certificate (S.20-60)**

**Motion 1:**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by E. Fiume

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission of the Modelling of Complex Social Systems Graduate Certificate within the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Arts and Social Sciences, Environment, Health Sciences, and Science, effective Fall 2020.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 2:**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by E. Fiume

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Modelling of Complex Social Systems Graduate Certificate within the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Arts and Social Sciences, Environment, Health Sciences, and Science, effective Fall 2020.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**x) Suspension of Admission to the Latin American Studies Graduate Certificate (S.20-61)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Latin American Studies Graduate Certificate in the School for International Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2020.”

A comment was made that in the future, when consideration is given to suspending admission to a program, consultation should be sought from students who may have intended to enroll, particularly at the undergraduate level where students take a can take a couple of years before officially signing up for their intended major.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Program Changes (S.20-62)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Engineering Science, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), and the Faculty of Environment (School of Environmental Science; Geography).

A comment was made to note an error in the wording for the School of Engineering Science which states that *we expect the ERGPA to be as high as 2.8*.

**ii) New Course Proposals (S.20-63)**

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

**iii) Course Changes (S.20-64)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science, School of Engineering Science, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Environment (Archeology, School of Environmental Science, Geography), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**C) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning**

**i) Implementation of the SETCwg and TAWG Reports on Teaching Assessment (S.20-65)**

Moved by E. Elle, seconded by J. Stockie

“That Senate approve the implementation plan for teaching assessment, including four explicit actions, as recommended by the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning.”

Barbara Frisken, Professor and Undergraduate Chair - Department of Physics, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Senate was informed that back in 2013 Senate passed a motion to endorse recommendations of the TCEP (Teaching and Course Evaluation Project), which stated the need to focus on best practices for the interpretation and use of evaluation data. The two working groups featured in this report were primarily made up of faculty members. SETCwg was co-chaired by Kevin

O'Neill and Panos Pappas and provided guidance on the limitations of using course evaluation data alone and made the case that multiple sources of data need to be considered. The follow-up group, the Teaching Assessment Working Group (TAWG), was chaired by Barbara Frisken and included faculty reps and SFUFA and reaffirmed those principles, but also found that faculty felt that these principles were not being applied. The working group then made further recommendations to improve the recognition of teaching and training support available to faculty, which culminate in the four action items from SCUTL.

A concern was raised noting that many instructors are not trained in educational assessment methods and simply providing them with more assessment options will not solve the problem of adequately assessing performance. The option of providing more assistance in the form of courses or seminars also fails to address this given that time and resources are already strained for most faculty members. A more significant concern raised was the failure of the report to address the significant body of literature stating that student course evaluations are only good for measuring student bias. In addition, the report makes no reference to gender bias despite evaluations for women, especially in STEM, being notoriously lower. Senate was informed that the action plan outlined in this report should not be viewed as a final step, but as an acknowledgement that works needs to be done, especially in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion, to change the culture and to consider other metrics and assessment tools to establish a more formative way of thinking about teaching and assessment.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) New Course Proposals (S.20-66)**

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

**ii) Course Changes (S.20-67)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.20-68)**

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

**8. Other Business**

**i) Election Report to Senate (S.20-69)**

Senate received for information a summary of the results of the student election to Senate and the Board of Governors, the convocation election to Senate, and the faculty election to Senate.

**9. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, June 8, 2020**

Open session adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Kris Nordgren  
Senate Secretary pro tem