



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Tuesday, July 5, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Joy Johnson, Chair

Agnes, Georges (for Jeff Derksen)  
Bains, Serena  
Bhalloo, Shafik  
Bird, Gwen  
Brennand, Tracy  
Bubela, Tania  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chessel, Patrick  
Coleman, Gordon  
Daniel, Bryan  
Dauvergne, Catherine  
Denholm, Julia  
Dhesa, Priyanka  
Egri, Carolyn  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Fiume, Eugene  
Gardinetti, R. Georges  
Gray, Bonnie  
Hendrigan, Holly  
Hoffer, Andy  
Kandikova, Alisa  
Krauth, Brian  
Krogman, Naomi  
Kumpulainen, Kristiina  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Liosis, Gabe  
Liu, Connie  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah  
Lu, Joseph  
Malott, Brianna  
Martell, Matt  
Mastri, Kamal  
McTavish, Rob  
Mirhady, David  
Murphy, David

Myers, Gord  
Nagy, Judit  
Neustaedter, Carman  
O'Neil, Dugan  
O'Neill, Susan  
Pahou, Helen  
Parent, Micheal  
Parmar, Abhishek  
Percival, Colin  
Phangura, Almas  
Shapiro, Lisa  
Shinkar, Igor  
Spector, Stephen  
Stockie, John  
Walsby, Charles

**Absent:**

Andreoiu, Corina  
Chenier, Ele  
Chowdury, Saima  
Collard, Mark  
Derksen, Jeff  
Everton, Mike  
Hall, Peter  
Hogg, Robert  
Kench, Paul  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo  
Pantophlet, Ralph  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Pulkingham, Jane  
Vrooman, Tamara

**In Attendance:**

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of May 25, 2021**

The minutes of the open session on May 25, 2021 were approved as distributed.

Noting plans for a return to campus aiming for 70-80% in-person teaching, research and engagement activities, a question was asked as to what that target means. Senate was informed that such a target will be slightly different in each faculty and in each program because the University is trying to ensure that enough courses are offered remotely so that students who are unable to return are not impeded in their studies. As such, deans and chairs have been making assessments on a program by program and course by course basis as to which courses have a predominance of international students.

**3. The Minutes of the Open Session of June 7, 2021 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on September 13, 2021**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Chair acknowledged that SFU is privileged to be situated on the traditional territories of the səliłwətaʔl (Tsleil-Waututh), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.

The Chair reported that in light of the horrific discoveries of mass graves at former Indian residential schools across the country, SFU has lowered its flags to honor the lives and memories of children found in these mass graves and to stand in solidarity with indigenous communities to remember the tragic loss of innocent lives. Emails have been sent out with information on the supports available for Indigenous students, staff and faculty.

The Chair reported that as a University, SFU has been working toward reconciliation and while it is recognized that more work needs to be done, steps are being taken such as establishing a new Indigenous leadership position at the University. A working group has been struck, co-chaired by Chris Lewis, Squamish Councillor and spokesperson and SFU alumnus, and Catherine Dauvergne, SFU Provost. This group will provide advice on the position and the portfolio for this new leadership position. SFU is also working towards supporting the actions called for in *Looking Forward...Indigenous Pathways To and Through Simon Fraser University*. Further, SFU has been working on entering into memorandum of understandings with host nations and is working on an MOU with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and renewing an agreement with the Squamish Nation. The University is also examining ways to financially support Indigenous students more fully and a commitment has been made to strike a working group to work to look at Indigenous naming of spaces and places across SFU campuses.

The Chair thanked all those who participated in the June Convocation ceremonies. Nine honorary degrees were conferred, with recipients ranging from world renowned climate and

human rights activists and public health champions to an Emmy winning television and movie star from Burnaby. Eight virtual graduation ceremonies were held, with 5228 graduates receiving their degrees. Also, an honouring feast was held on June 24<sup>th</sup> for 144 indigenous graduates and their families.

On the topic of returning to campus, the Chair reported that on June 10<sup>th</sup> a townhall was hosted for faculty and staff to answer questions and solicit feedback to help guide the safe return to campus. Also, on June 8<sup>th</sup> SFU launched an eight-week COVID-19 rapid testing screening pilot project on Burnaby campus.

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed SFU's new Registrar and Senate Secretary, Tom Nault. Tom is coming from Memorial University of Newfoundland, where he was the Registrar.

## 6. Question Period

i) Senator Shapiro submitted the following question:

*The current Conflict of Interest policy (GP 37) in the Policy Gazette dates from May 31, 2007. In December 2019, there was a consultation meeting regarding the revision of GP 37 Conflict of Interest. In March 2020 draft revised policies were circulated to some people, with comments due April 1, 2020. It does not appear that any revisions to the existing policy have been approved. Could we please receive an update about the very important revisions to the existing policy?*

Dugan O'Neil, Vice-President, Research, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the last stakeholder consultation happened just before the pandemic hit, so there was some delay from that point forward. However, that process did restart in Spring 2021 and the expectation is to have a new draft of the policy ready for consultation with stakeholders, and for consultation with the general public, before the end of the summer, and then move through the approval process this fall.

ii) Senator Shapiro submitted the following question:

*Per A13.05, the process for reviewing and ratifying incumbents is inconsistent with other ratification thresholds. Incumbent Deans need a 60% of actual vote for ratification, whereas a non-incumbent internal Dean needs only a 50% actual vote for ratification. External Deans do not require ratification of the faculty as a whole.*

*Per policy 13.07.3, for an incumbent Dean to be recalled, a motion to recall must receive votes "equal to or greater than a majority of the faculty eligible to vote."*

*Thus, it is possible for a minority of eligible voters can displace an incumbent Dean through the process of reappointment ratification, while a recall of an incumbent Dean requires a majority of eligible voters.*

*It is not clear what the justification for these discrepancies are, nor if they are desirable.*

*There are additional problems with the existing policy, which I could detail. If policy is not revised in a timely manner, the defects of the current policy may well disincentivize the next generation of administrators, who will not want to submit themselves to a process of re-appointment skewed against them.*

*I ask: What plans are there to revise the policies for appointment and reappointment of Faculty Deans? What is the timeline for these revisions to ensure that appointments for these critical administrative positions?*

Catherine Dauvergne, Vice President, Academic, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that there are anomalies related to policies A 13.05 - Search Committees for Deans, and A 13.07 - Terms of Appointment of Deans of Faculties. This has been noted by the Board of Governors and senior administration has been asked to undertake a review of policies related to the hiring of senior administrators. This will also include A 13.08 - Terms of Appointment and Remuneration for Associate Deans of Libraries, B 10.06 - Presidential Search Committee, and GP 29 - Search Committees for Vice-Presidents and Associate Vice-Presidents. Many of these have not been updated in 10 to 15 years, and though the ultimate approval of these policies rest with the Board of Governors, Senate will also play an important part in approving these revised policies.

The University Act stipulates in section 27 that the board has the responsibility for the management, administration, and control of the property, revenue, business and affairs of the university. However, the University Act goes on to explicitly state in section 27 that the board has the power, with the approval of a Senate, to establish procedures for the recommendation and selection of candidates for president, deans, librarians, registrar and other senior academic administrators as the board may designate. As such, the Board has asked for this review and the University is in the midst of making plans for policy revisions. The University will review the policies of other universities and will be articulating a set of principles to guide hiring and renewal practices. A revised set of policies will require in-depth consultation and will be brought to Senate for approval. It is hoped that progress will be made on this over the summer, so that consultations can begin in the fall and then bring them to Senate later this year.

iii) Senator Mirhady submitted the following question:

*When will SFU commit to running its field schools in summer 2022? Planning depends on such a commitment.*

Catherine Dauvergne, Vice President, Academic, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that a small group of staff who support international student exchanges have been working on recommendations about field schools for 2022. The next step will be to consult the deans and then reach out to the faculties and departments that are principally involved in running field schools. Given the range of field school locations around the world, it

is unlikely a one-size-fits-all solution will be found. As such, the University will likely be following the Government of Canada travel advisories as its interim travel policy. This would mean that students would not be sent to countries with a level 3 or level 4 travel warning. It is hoped that the planning stage will finalize within the next month and an announcement can be made about field schools for Summer 2022.

iv) Senator Hendrigan submitted the following question:

*Bennett Library has been open for limited hours for student study space since last September. However, on Monday June 28th, the main library (which does not have air conditioning) was closed due to the extreme heat. Students were given a list of other buildings on the Burnaby campus they could work in. They were also directed to the Surrey and Vancouver campuses, which are air conditioned. I was at the Surrey campus on June 28th, finding relief in my air-conditioned office within the Fraser Library. Outside the Library, all of the seats in SFU Surrey's hallway furniture were taken up by students (Surrey's team rooms and computer labs remain closed.)*

*But even during an extreme heat wave, students were prohibited from entering the Fraser and Belzberg libraries at the branch campuses. These spaces, with a collective seating capacity of 475, are currently open only to library staff. I am aware of the plan to reopen the Fraser and Belzberg libraries at the end of the summer. I am also aware that SFU Library has signed a contract with an e-book provider that restricts the SFU community from browsing our print collections in exchange for access to their digital collection. But I was wondering if, should any more heat waves occur in July and August, the University would consider allowing students to enter the air-conditioned branch libraries ahead of schedule, while of course maintaining safe indoor occupancy guidelines. Thank you.*

Gwen Bird, Dean of Libraries, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that this response would specifically address the Fraser Library at SFU Surrey since the Belzberg Library at SFU Vancouver is currently under renovation. It was added that the e-book provider referenced in the question is the Emergency Temporary Access Service provided by HathiTrust Digital Library, a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries to which SFU is a member. During emergency conditions, when a library must close down, as a member of HathiTrust the Library is able to provide access to digital surrogates of the print materials that are not otherwise accessible. As such, the Library is not restricting access to its print collections in order to provide access to HathiTrust digital copies. Rather, the Library has been unable to allow access to its print collections because of the need to follow public health orders and have therefore turned to this digital access to about 400,000 books. The Library plans to turn off this service towards the end of August when libraries reopen to full in-person access, including browsing the collections.

The Library has developed a detailed plan for reopening libraries to support the return to campus, including restoring regular pre-pandemic hours at all library locations. This plan has been shared with staff members and was supported by the Senate Library Committee at its June meeting. Due to the need to hire student workers and provide the required notice to CUPE workers whose shift

or location may be changing, the Library is not able to adjust opening dates more rapidly in response to weather events. Conversations have been held with the executive directors of the Surrey and Vancouver campuses, and they have confirmed that discussions are currently underway about when and how students can be welcomed back to campus and if additional study spaces can be made available in the event of another heat wave this summer.

## 7. Reports of Committees

### A) Calendar Committee (CC)

#### i) Spring 2022 and Summer 2022 - Delayed Start of Classes (S.21-78)

##### **Motion 1:**

Moved by S. Spector, seconded by J. Stockie

“The Calendar Committee approves and recommends to Senate the revised Spring 2022 calendar which moves the first day of classes from Wednesday, January 5th, 2022 to Monday, January 10th, 2022, extends the exam period to April 26th, and reduces instructional days from 63 to 61.”

A question was asked if the University should begin moving towards a 12-week semester. Senate was informed that it would be outside the purview of this motion to debate between a 12-week or 13-week semester, but that the topic could be referred to the committee for consideration. It was added that the Calendar Committee does have this topic on its radar.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

##### **Motion 2:**

Moved by S. Spector, seconded by C. Percival

“The Calendar Committee approves and recommends to Senate the revised Summer 2022 calendar which moves the first day of classes from Monday, May 9th, 2022 to Tuesday, May 10th, 2022, and reduces instructional days from 63 to 62.”

A question was asked as to how this change will impact the Fall 2022 term and if this change will be necessary every year going forward and has the Calendar Committee reviewed the academic year for 2023. Senate was informed that the Calendar Committee is aware of the impact on the Fall 2022 and potentially Spring 2023 terms. When these motions were prepared, it was felt to be more efficient to deal with the Spring 2022 and Summer 2022 terms given the immediate importance to scheduling and exams. It was added that once Christmas moved off a weekend, the Committee will have more flexibility and that this is part of the long-range planning that the Calendar Committee will undertake when it deals with the 2023, 2024, and 2025 academic cycles.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

**i) Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics (S.21-79)**

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics within Beedie School of Business, effective Spring 2022.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Digital Innovation (S.21-80)**

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by G. Liosis

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Digital Innovation within Beedie School of Business, effective Spring 2022.”

Noting that one of the required courses is listed as a special topics course, a question was asked if this course is a placeholder until a permanent course is put in place. Senate was informed that a special topics course is included to allow for flexibility and to address current topics in a fast-moving discipline.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Termination of the Multimedia Computing Specialist Major (S.21-81)**

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program termination of the Multimedia Computing Specialist Major in the Faculty of Applied Sciences effective Spring 2022.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Elective Grading System Extension to Spring 2022 Term (S.21-82)**

Moved by E. Elle, seconded by B. Daniel

“That Senate approve the extension of the pilot elective grading system (P/CR/NC) to the Spring 2022 term.”

Noting that an extension of the pilot period by one term would provide a more complete set of data to inform a full analysis of the pilot program, a question was asked as to what type of data the Registrar’s Office will be collecting to do this analysis. Senate was informed that the Registrar’s Office has not yet fully fleshed out what the data analysis will look like but that it would be looking at things like how many students opted into the program, from which faculties and departments were students coming from and what impact did the program have on academic

performance. Such data will allow the Registrar's Office to determine if the program was successful enough to make it permanent.

A question was asked if the extension would still allow faculties or departments to extend the program to required courses. Senate was informed that such an allowance would be available and that SCUS would take up this discussion should there be a recommendation to make the program permanent.

A question was asked if criteria have been established for making this program permanent. Senate was informed that such criteria has not yet been determined, but that a discussion would be held at SCUS in the fall to do so.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Program Changes (S.21-83)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (General Applied Sciences Program, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), and the Beedie School of Business.

**iii) Course Changes (S.21-84)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts), and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics).

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

**i) Master of Science in Professional Computer Science Specializations (S.21-85)**

Senate received a report about the Master of Science in Professional Computer Science Specializations. As per a decision by the Ministry Advanced Education and Skills Training (AVEST) and effective Fall 2021, the academic calendar program entry for the MSc in Professional Computer Science was modified to remove the Visual Computing and Cybersecurity specializations and all references to specializations.

**ii) Program Changes (S.21-86)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering), and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Public Policy).

**iii) New Course Proposals (S.21-87)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering).



**iv) Course Changes (S.21-88)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Psychology, School of Public Policy).

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

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.20-89 Revised)**

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**

**9. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021**

Open session adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Kathryn Verkerk on behalf of Tom Nault  
Senate Secretary