

SENATE SUMMARY

MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2021

1. Report of the Chair

The Chair welcomed Senators back to in-person meetings and noted that in September the University welcomed over 5400 new undergraduate students and 1500 graduate students, along with 63 new faculty members.

The Chair invited the Vice-President, Academic to provide an update on the return to campus:

- SFU is expecting to receive about 30,000 vaccine declarations based on participation numbers for the fall term. As of today, there have been 22,498 completed declarations, of which 21,373 respondents reported being fully vaccinated, 712 reported being partially vaccinated, 185 preferred not to say, and 228 people reported not being vaccinated.
- Efforts are being made to finalize plans for rapid screening, which should be available by September 20th on all campuses.
- With vaccine declarations now open, the anonymous survey about vaccination status has been closed. Roughly 70% of faculty and staff and 60% of students responded to that survey and the data provided maps closely with the data being reported in the vaccine declarations.
- Today marked the implementation of the BC Vaccine Card on campus, which was also the day the University received the official public health order about BC vaccine cards. Some adjustments may be required to match the public health order up to the protocols that a team in Student Services and a team in MECS recently worked on.
- Last week SFU received from the Ministry of Advanced Education Skills and Training updated return to campus guidelines with some changes to bring them in line with the more recent information from the government and this information is available on the SFU website.
- An HVAC audit has been done for all major public rooms on all three campuses. In total more than 1000 spaces were assessed for the ventilation and only a handful of spaces in Burnaby and Vancouver were taken offline due to confidence in the ventilation being less than 100%.
- Over the summer considerable effort was put into improving technological services in various classrooms so that classes can be recorded and streamed in support of students in who cannot physically come to campus.
- The University is in the process of finalizing plans for 8 in-person convocation ceremonies, which will take place the first week of October. The size of each ceremony has been reduced and each ceremony will be a ticketed event in which the size of the audience will be limited and vaccine status checked.
- To date, SFU has had six days of pop-up immunization clinics, with three days in Convocation Mall, two days in residence, one day in Surry and Vancouver Coastal

health is offering a pop-up clinic at the Vancouver campus next week. So far, about 500 people have received their first vaccination on an SFU campus.

The Chair reported that Dr. June Francis has been appointed a Special Adviser to the President on Anti-Racism, effective June 1 to December 31st. Dr. Francis will be providing guidance and advice on matters of anti-racism and institutional change, with the focus on anti-Black racism, as well as equity, diversity and inclusion.

The Chair reported that the National Dialogues and Action for Inclusive Education and Communities is a series of national forums focused on addressing equity and inclusion in Canadian postsecondary education. The first in the series was a national dialogue that took place in 2020 and focused on anti-Black racism and Black inclusion in higher education. The outcome of the first dialogue was the co-creation of the *Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education*. This document, which has been circulated to Senators, includes principles, actions and accountabilities. Several members of the SFU Community took part in the dialogue and provided input on drafts of the Charter. With the support of SFU's executive team, the University has indicated that it will be endorsing the Charter. The Charter includes a detailed set of recommendations and institutions are asked to prepare a contextually appropriate best-efforts based individual action plan. As such, over the next month, the Chair, in her role as President, will work with the EDI Advisory Council and with Dr. June Francis to develop an action plan. This is part of SFU's larger EDI strategy and it's recognized that many of the proposed actions will need to be vetted through the University's existing governance structure.

The Chair reported that the Quantum Algorithms Institute housed at SFU received \$2.2 million in federal funding from Western Economic Diversification Canada to help it accelerate the innovation and commercialization of quantum technology.

The Chair reported that a new partnership between SFU and Mitacs will accelerate the development of new Canadian wearables and gear over the next five years. The agreement provides \$5.1 million in funding for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to work with the industry to develop new technologies that will benefit societal health and wellbeing.

The Chair reported that professor Ujwal Kayande has been named as the new Dean of the Beedie School of Business. Dr. Kayande is currently an associate dean and professor of marketing at Melbourne Business School in Australia and will join SFU in mid-January 2022.

The Chair reported that 11 SFU scholars have been named to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) - nine of them as fellows of the society and two as members of the society's College of New Scholars, Scientists and Artists. This marks the highest number of SFU faculty elected to the RSC in any year, bringing the total number of active members to 65.

The Chair reported that Times Higher Education recently reported that SFU is tied for 8th among top ranked universities in Canada for 2022, moving up from the 11th position in 2021. SFU also jumped to the top 201 to 250 slot in the world university rankings, up from the 251 to 300 slot.

The Chair reported that the President's Faculty Lectures are returning, with the theme for the year being equity and justice. The first lecture, on September 28th, will feature professor Wendy Chun from the School of Communication speaking about *Discriminating Data*.

The Chair reported that plans are moving forward for the development of a medical program at SFU, in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority and the Fraser Health Authority. The University will be conducting both internal and external consultations in the coming months and any academic decisions related to the program will be brought to Senate in due course.

The Chair reported that a virtual Terry Fox Run will be held from September 20 – 24 to celebrate the 41st anniversary of Terry's Marathon of Hope.

2. **Annual Financial Report (S.21-91)**
Senate received the Annual Financial Report for information.
3. **Dissolution of the Centre for Policy Research on Science and Technology (S.21-92)**
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Centre for Policy Research on Science and Technology within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Summer 2022.
4. **Full Program Proposal for an Honours Program in Sustainable Energy Engineering (S.21-93)**
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Energy Engineering (Honours) in the School of Sustainable Energy Engineering within the Faculty of Applied Sciences, effective Summer 2022.
5. **Withdrawal of the Full Program Proposal for a Master of Arts in Terrorism, Risk and Security Studies (S.21-94)**
Senate received the Withdrawal of the Full Program Proposal for a Master of Arts in Terrorism, Risk and Security Studies for information.
6. **Undergraduate Program Changes (S.21-95)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2022:
 - i) **Faculty of Environment**
 - a) **School of Environmental Science**
 - Program: Environmental Science Major
 - Program: Environmental Science Honours

7. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.21-96)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Summer 2022:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Sustainable Energy Engineering

- Course (new): SEE 498, 499

8. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.21-97)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2022:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Mechatronics Systems Engineering

- Course (description, prerequisite): MSE 300
- Course (equivalency): MSE 411
- Course (prerequisite): MSE 498

ii) Faculty of Environment

a) School of Environmental Science

- Course (units): EVSC 201W
- Course (prerequisite): EVSC 305

b) School of Resource and Environmental Management

- Course (prerequisite): SD 381, 481
- Course (prerequisite): PLAN 300, 302, 400, 406, 408, 443

iii) Faculty of Science

a) Biological Sciences

- Course (prerequisite): BISC 435 (effective Fall 2022)

b) Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology

- Course (title, description): BPK 303

9. Graduate Program Changes (S.21-98)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program change, effective Summer 2022:

i) Beedie School of Business

- Program: Executive MBA

- ii) **Faculty of Environment**
 - a) ***Resource and Environmental Management***
 - Program: Resource and Environmental Management MRM (Planning)

- 10. **Graduate New Course Proposals (S.21-99)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Summer 2022:

 - i) **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**
 - a) ***School for International Studies***
 - Course (new): IS 822, 825, 842, 844

- 11. **Graduate Course Changes (S.21-100)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course change, effective Summer 2022:

 - i) **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**
 - a) ***Urban Studies***
 - Course (prerequisite): URB 696

- 12. **Senate Committee Elections (S.21-101)**

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

- 13. **Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2020/21 Grades Report (S.21-102)**

Senate received the Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2020/21 Grades Report for information.

- 14. **Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2020 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report (S.21-103)**

Senate received the Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Report: 2020 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report for information.

- 15. **Motion in Support of Black Folks at SFU (S.21-104)**

Senate approved the following motion:

“Be it resolved that the Senate recognizes and supports Black History Month moving forward, as well as recognize the International Decade for People of African Descent, and the historical and continuing contributions for Black Faculty staff and students at SFU, including those who have served in the Senate.

Be it further resolved that the Senate supports and recommends that the University funds and implements an initiative to support the hiring of at least 15 tenure-track Black faculty across the faculties and disciplines with an onboarding programme for the Black community

members hired under such a programme, and that this hiring be coordinated under the SFU VP Academic's Office.

Be it further resolved that the Senate recognize harm and trauma that Black faculty and staff have faced due to the systemic and institutional racism that has existed at SFU, and to support and recommend implementation of programmes and recommend to the Board of Governors that said supports have financial supports, for current Black faculty, students and staff to redress the inequities that currently exist.

Be it further resolved that the Senate consult the SFU Black Community groups such as the SFU Black Caucus on in what ways to make the onboarding of such a programme be beneficial to Black faculty, and any relevant equity support groups for Black faculty, staff and students.”

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 September 2021 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-35027>.

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