



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, July 10, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Abhishek Parmar, Vice-Chair

Abu-Samhan, Mishael  
Agnes, George  
Bhalloo, Shafik  
Bird, Gwen  
Brooks-Wilson, Angela  
Chapman, Glenn  
Denholm, Julia  
Dhesa, Priyanka  
Eftenaru, Cristina  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Everton, Mike  
Faris, Reema  
Fisher, Brian  
Fung, Aaron  
Gray, Bonnie  
Hendrigan, Holly  
Hodaly, Alexander  
Hogg, Robert (for Tania Bubela)  
Kerr, Jeannie  
Kessler, Anke  
Kingsbury, Paul (for Naomi Krogman)  
Laitsch, Dan  
Lautsch, Brenda (for Ujwal Kayande)  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Liu, Connie  
Lysova, Alexandra  
Magnusson, Kris  
Manzer, Mussaab  
Martell, Matt  
Masri, Kamal  
McKenzie, Janis  
Muntean, Reese  
Myers, Gord  
Nahmiash, Amanda  
Nelson, Todd  
Neustaedter, Carman  
O'Neil, Dugan  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Pratt, Elspeth  
Rincon, Laura

Saeedi, Parvaneh (for Eugene Fiume)  
Schiphorst, Thecla  
Schmidt, Michèle  
Singh Walia, Harkirat  
Sutherland, Jill  
Thornton, Allen  
Traversa, Marissa  
Tucker, Rochelle  
Vuong, Quang  
Weldon, Laurel  
Whitehurst, David  
Williams, JF

**Absent:**

Barlow, Leanne  
Brennand, Tracy  
Bubela, Tania  
Collard, Mark  
D'Silva, Tyler  
Fiume, Eugene  
Herrenbrueck, Lucas  
Johnson, Joy  
Karaivanov, Alexander  
Kayande, Ujwal  
Krogman, Naomi  
Pantophlet, Ralph  
Parent, Michael  
Percival, Colin  
Sawan, Amani  
Shinkar, Igor  
Stockie, John  
Szymczyk, Barbara  
Vrooman, Tamara  
Williams, Vance  
Zuluaga, Natalia

**In Attendance:**

Copeland, Colin  
Park, Ed  
Spector, Stephen

Tom Nault, Senate Secretary  
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of May 15, 2023**

The minutes of the open session on May 15, 2023 were approved as distributed.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of June 5, 2023**

The minutes of the open session on June 5, 2023 were approved as distributed.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Vice-Chair had nothing to report.

**i) Report of the Provost**

The Provost reported the following achievements by SFU community members:

- Health Sciences professors Donald MacPherson and Jeff Reading are among those being honoured with appointments as members of the Order of Canada. Donald is being recognized for his long-time advocacy of harm reduction and evidence-based approaches to drug policy reform. Jeff is being recognized for his contributions over the past two decades for advancing Indigenous health nationally and globally.
- Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology PhD student Stephanie Ross was named the 2022 recipient of the CAGS-ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award in the field of Engineering, Medical Sciences, and Natural Sciences for her research on muscle mass.
- Sarah Johnson, University Lecturer and Associate Dean – Faculty of Science, was awarded the 3M National Teaching Fellowship.
- The Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) has awarded the 2023 CAHR - CANFAR Excellence in Research Award (Basic Sciences category) to Dr. Zabrina Brumme, Faculty of Health Sciences professor and laboratory director for the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.
- Dr. Angela Kaida, Faculty of Health Sciences professor, has been appointed Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health, effective January 1, 2023.
- Dr. Jonathan Moore, Faculty of Environment professor, received the Paz Buttedahl Career Achievement Award from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC.
- Dr. Dan Laitsch has been named the new Dean of Education, effective September 1, 2023.
- The Community Capacity Building Certificate has been recognized by the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) for program excellence. It received the 2023 award in the category of *Non-Credit Programming Over 48 Hours*, given annually by CAUCE to one university continuing education program in Canada.

The Provost outlined how SFU works with the government to secure funding and get program approval:

- The University currently works with Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (aka Advanced Education).
- As a publicly funded institution, the Ministry provides funding for specific programs and essentially a block grant for a certain number of students. All programs offered by SFU must receive ministerial approval following a review by the Degree Quality Assessment Board, after it is approved by Senate.
- New or substantially different programs that do not require additional funding from government go through SFU's Senate processes and are submitted for approval without prior discussion with the ministry.
- Programs that are being considered for new funding are discussed at a high level with the Ministry and a business case is submitted for consideration by the Minister, or in the case of the tech seats, a request for seats is submitted.
- Sometimes the Ministry has additional funding and assigns SFU a limited number of extra seats, as was the case in the past few years with French teacher preparation.
- In limited cases, the Ministry will ask the University to develop a high-level business case for a substantial new program, which is submitted to the Minister, to the Caucus, and ultimately to Treasury Board. This is the case for the SFU medical school.
- The Ministry and Treasury Board need enough detail to determine the costing and whether the scope of the program meets their needs, is feasible, and whether it can be allocated funding by the Treasury Board.
- If the likelihood for funding looks positive, the normal steps of developing a detailed curriculum begins through the normal SFU processes, and once approved is submitted to DQAB, and then on to the Minister for final approval.
- SFU is at the initial stage, having been asked to develop the medical program and having scoped out what it would look like. Two features that made making the business case more challenging are the partnerships with First Nations Health Authority and Fraser Health.
- SFU also has to work with Advanced Education and the Ministry of Health for the medical school.

The Provost reported that the special program application to hire 15 tenure-track Black faculty has been approved by the Human Rights Commissioner in tandem with approving at least 15 Black staff special program designations. Appreciation was expressed to the organizers who brought this request forward to Senate, notably Gabe Liosis, Osob Mohammed, Balqees Jama, Giovanni HoSang, and Marie Haddad.

A question was asked regarding if hiring a founding dean is required for the business case and for the planning of curriculum, or could, for example, the interim dean do that planning. Senate was informed that a unique aspect of medical schools is that they have to achieve accreditation one year in advance of the first cohort of students. As such, accreditation documents are due to the Ministry by September 2024 and it's important that the founding dean and some of the faculty members that are going to be hired are the ones that are developing the curriculum for the program. It was added that the founding dean would not be hired until funding has been

established for the medical school and they would not be appointed until after Senate has approved the creation of the new school.

A follow-up question was asked to confirm that funding would be in place before Senate approves the medical school. Senate was informed that SFU will have assurances from the government as to the funding for the medical program. It is anticipated to be announced next March, if successful, and at that point the required information will be brought forward to Senate for the creation of a new medical school.

## **ii) Medical School Presentation**

Kris Magnusson, Dean of Education pro tem, provided Senate with an update on the medical school, following which he answered questions.

A question was asked regarding if SFU still intends to run the medical without a deficit, and if so, why can't the business plan be provided in the closed session of Senate. Senate was informed that it is the plan to operate without a deficit and that once the Ministry gives approval, the University will be able to make the business plan available, likely in September.

A question was asked regarding if challenges are anticipated in appealing to prospective students due to the medical schools focus on family medicine. Senate was informed that such challenges are not anticipated. UBC received roughly 2000 applications and it is expected that SFU will see a cascade effect and receive a comparable number of applicants. It was noted that the Ministry of Health is changing the compensation schedule for family practice to improve the ability of those in family practice to sustain their practice.

A question was asked regarding contingency plans should construction timelines of new buildings extend longer than expected. Senate was informed that admissions to the program could be slowed down in the third year if permanent facilities are not yet available. Also, SFU is currently negotiating to create interim space with a flexible end date. The original plan of being into the new building by 2028 can be extended into 2029. From the budget announcement in March 2024, this would allow five years for a building cycle to take place.

A question was asked to explain the high staffing compliment as compared to that of student cohort. Senate was informed that when doing a comparator analysis against all medical schools in Canada for staff to student ratio, SFU falls below the median. One of the main comparators will be the new school at Toronto Metropolitan University and their staffing numbers are comparable to that of SFU. It was added that staffing numbers would be higher at beginning stages of the establishment of the medical school.

A question was asked regarding if there was consultation with host nations given that the medical school will be built on Indigenous land. Senate was informed that there was Indigenous representation on each of the working groups, including the Facilities Working Group. Over the course of the next year the University will be actively reaching out and engaging with both external and internal communities to ensure that they have a say in this process. Work is being done with Fraser Health Authority and First Nations Health Authority to explore how a community clinic might be established to serve the specific needs of the Central Surrey region.

Noting that the medical school intends to have a focus on underserved populations, a question was asked regarding if this program will impact the downtown lower eastside. Senate was informed that the program will not directly impact the downtown lower eastside given that its initial mandate is to work with the Fraser Health Authority, which does not include Vancouver. The goal is to demonstrate how a collaborative and community focused program can work within the initial community and then overtime start expanding to other regions.

## 6. Question Period

i) Senator Traversa submitted the following questions:

- *There have been some concerns over potential examinations for blended and online courses compared to in-person courses. During Covid, testing was qualitatively different than testing pre-Covid when the same courses were offered in-person only. For example, where a class pre-Covid would be expected to write a 2-hour exam in a supervised room, Covid classes saw more "take-home" exams done without supervision and within 24 or 48 hours. Thus, will there be a consideration of the differences between examinations and exam protocol for blended, online, and in-person courses. Further, did the pilot find any differences in grades between blended courses and in-person courses? If so, what are the speculated causes for this? If this was not analyzed, I recommend including this in the next pilot.*
- *How would invigilation work for blended courses? We are hearing from students that oversurveillance has impacted them negatively and has increased work for teaching teams. Is this something that has been considered for the pilot and implementation of blended courses?*
- *Is there cap on the size of these blended classes? Will compensation for the teaching team be relative to class size?*

Elizabeth Elle, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Learning & Teaching, responded to these questions.

Senate was informed that during the pandemic SFU ran a pilot of Proctorio, a product that locks down web browsers and also uses the camera and artificial intelligence to detect possible integrity violations. The University, however, did not transition from pilot to implementation because it did not prevent cheating and because of concerns about student privacy. Regarding academic integrity, the University does not tell instructors how they must assess students in any teaching modality. It is believed that faculty members are expert in how to assess learning in their sub discipline and when they would like tips, they are encouraged to work with the Center for Educational Excellence, whose mandate is to support instructors. Because most instructors are concerned about academic integrity when exams are part of their assessment plan, instructors often do these during the in-person component of blended courses, however this is not mandated for fully online courses. The option remains to have exams in-person if that is the instructor's choice.

On the question of caps on the size for blended courses, Senate was informed that class size is a decision of the academic unit offering of course and therefore is not centrally mandated. Regarding compensation relating to class size, it was noted that compensation is a matter for collective bargaining, which is currently ongoing and will not be commented upon.

ii) Senator Traversa submitted the following question:

*In terms of the current TSSU strike, many undergraduates are unclear on potential penalties if they choose not to cross picket lines and the policy is unclear. So, what exactly are the academic penalties for undergraduate who choose not to cross pickets?*

Elizabeth Elle, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Learning & Teaching, responded to these questions.

Senate was informed that all faculty, staff and students have the right to choose to respect a picket line or to choose to cross it. Though there is no specific policy addressing this, SFU does have guidelines and procedures to apply for any absence from class. Students are responsible for missed work and should they miss graded work like an exam, the normal procedures for academic concessions apply. Academic concessions are granted at the discretion of instructors, as they have always been.

iii) Senator Percival submitted the following question:

*At the September 2021 Open meeting of Senate,*

*Referring to the hiring of 15 Black faculty members, a question was asked if there is data supporting 15 as the stated goal rather than a potentially higher or lower number of hires. Senate was informed that work is being done to obtain that data, but at this time SFU does not have data about the social categories of faculty, staff and students.*

*(Senate Minutes, page 13.)*

*Is this data now available -- either for Black Faculty or for those from other ethnic or national backgrounds? If yes, can Senate be provided with a comparison of SFU Faculty vs. BC Census data?*

Yabome Gilpin-Jackson, Vice-President, People, Equity and Inclusion, responded to these questions.

Senate was informed that at this time SFU does not yet have centralized institutional equity data. It was noted, however, that Goal #5 of the Equity Compass is focused on equity data and that an equity taskforce has been formed to draft equity data surveys, which will be utilized over the coming year to collect equity data from across the SFU Community.

Noting that SFU is a globally engaged institution and would thus recruit faculty members from a global pool, a question was directed back to Senator Percival (not in attendance) by Senator Weldon asking why he wishes to know how faculty demographics compare to those of students.

**7. Reports of Committees**

**A) Calendar Committee (CC)**

**i) Revisions to Academic Dates – Spring 2024 Term (S.23-85)**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by A. Fung

“That Senate approve the revised the Spring 2024 term calendar, moving the first day of classes for the Spring 2024 term from Wednesday, January 3 to Monday, January 8; doing so will move the last day of class from Tuesday, April 9 to Friday, April 12, and the exam period from April 11-22 to April 13-24.”

Stephen Spector, CC Chair, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Academic Dates 2024-2025 (S.23-86)**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by Q. Vuong

“That Senate approve the schedule of academic dates for the Fall 2024, Spring 2025 and Summer 2025 terms.”

Stephen Spector, CC Chair, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Citing Principle 3 which states that *Exams should be avoided on the Saturday and Sunday of the Easter weekend*, a suggestion was made that the committee should consider expanding its list of holidays to include other faiths in future calendars given SFU’s diverse population.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Welcome Day (S.23-87)**

**Motion 1:**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by H. Singh Walia

“That Senate approve the permanent move of Fall term Welcome Day to the day after Labour Day, prior to the first day of class, effective Fall 2023.”

Stephen Spector, CC Chair, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 2:**

Moved by D. Leznoff, seconded by A. Brooks-Wilson

“That Senate approve the modification to Summer term Welcome Day to May 6th in years where Welcome Day would fall on May 5th, the National MMIWG2S Awareness Day.”

Stephen Spector, CC Chair, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**B) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)**

**i) Special Joint Committee Policy R 20.01 and Procedures (Ethics Review of Research Involving Human Participants) (S.23-88)**

Moved by D. Laitsch, seconded by D. Whitehurst

“That the proposed changes to Policy R20.01 and v3 of the Standard Operating Procedures numbers 201, 202, and 302 issued by the N2/CAREB be approved effective from July 11, 2023 to January 30, 2024.”

Stephen Spector, SJC member, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Based on feedback from SFUFA, the following amendments were made to paragraph 5.1.3 of SOP 201 and paragraph 5.5.4 of SOP 202:

Motion:

Moved by L. Weldon, seconded by R. Faris

“That paragraph 5.1.3 of SOP 201 read as follows: The REB membership will not consist entirely of members of one profession and will include members with diverse methodological and disciplinary expertise. To ensure the independence of REB decision making, institutional senior administrators shall not serve on the REB.

and

That paragraph 5.5.4 of SOP 202 read as follows: An REB member must resign immediately upon a substantiated and final determination of a breach of SFU Policy R60.01 as per the process set out by SFU Policy R60.01.”

A comment was made that the changes to paragraph 5.5.4 of SOP 202 could create a situation where an REB member would not be removed until all avenues have been exhausted that they breached policy, thereby placing consideration of the individual ahead of the functioning of the REB. Senate was informed that due to confidentiality requirements, it would not be known if a member is under investigation for a policy breach. As such, there is no basis to force that individual to resign while under investigation. It was added, however, that it is hoped that a person facing investigation would step aside while the process plays out, but they cannot be forced to resign.

The question was called and a vote taken.

AMENDMENTS CARRIED

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Program Beedie School of Business Accreditation Action Plan (S.23-89)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by K. Masri

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Beedie School of Business that resulted from its accreditation processes with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD).

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Full Program Proposal for the Engineering Science, Biomedical Engineering Option Major (S.23-90)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by G. Chapman

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for the Engineering Science, Biomedical Engineering Option Major in the School of Engineering Science within the Faculty of Applied Sciences.”

Edward Park, Professor - School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Full Program Proposal for a Master of Engineering in Sustainable Energy Engineering (S.23-91)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by C. Liu

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for a Master of Engineering in Sustainable Energy Engineering from the Faculty of Applied Sciences effective Fall 2024.”

Colin Copeland, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Chair - School of Sustainable Engineering, was in attendance to respond to questions.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Revised Terms of Reference for the Ebco Eppich Chair in Computing Science (S.23-92)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by JF Williams

“That Senate approve the amended number of Chair appointments in the 2020 terms of reference for the Ebco Eppich Chair in Computing Science Endowment.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Request for Renewal Extension for the Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement (S.23-93)**

Senate received Request for Renewal Extension for the Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement for information.

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

**i) Academic Concession (S.23-94)**

Moved by E. Elle, seconded by J. McKenzie

“That Senate approve the proposed calendar entry for Academic Concessions, effective Fall 2023.”

Noting the recommendation that SFU develop an online system for students to complete the self-declaration and that the results be monitored to identify trends and potential misuse of the system, a comment was made that for this to be successful the online monitoring system needs to be in place as quickly as possible. Senate was informed that work is being done on defining the requirements for that system and once completed it will be put through the IT governance process. Given that IT resources are limited and that the request would have to go through the prioritization process, a specific timeline cannot be provided but the goal is to have the system in place as soon as possible.

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) End of the Pilot of the Elective Grading System (S.23-95)**

Senate received End of the Pilot of the Elective Grading System for information.

Noting the overall benefits of the pilot to students both during the pandemic and after, a question was asked as to why this pilot is ending now instead of allowing it to continue while a replacement is being considered. Senate was informed that SCUS agrees that students should have the opportunity to take selective courses without fear of negatively impacting their GPA, but that this pilot was not allowing for this and was in fact doing harm to students. As such, the committee felt it was better to not do further harm, with the intention to bringing a more robust elective grading system to Senate in the future.

A question was asked regarding when a more permanent program may be implemented. Senate was informed that the intention is to have a new program designed sometime in the coming academic year, followed by the necessary implementation phase by IT.

**iii) Program Changes (S.23-96)**

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 Computing Science), the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology, Dean’s Office, School of Environmental Science, Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences).

**iv) New Course Proposals (S.23-97)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science).

**v) Course Changes (S.23-98)**

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 Sustainable Energy Engineering), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Global Humanities), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts), the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology), and the Faculty of Science (Earth Sciences).

**E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)****i) Graduate General Regulation Changes - 1.4.5 Leave of Absence and 1.10.2 Classification of the Thesis (S.23-99)****Motion 1:**

Moved by G. Agnes, seconded by Q. Vuong

“That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.4.5 Leave of Absence.”

A concern was raised with graduate students no longer being required to provide medical documentation for a medical leave. Senate was informed that the committee, which has graduate student representation, looked at a number of cross-country surveys and determined that asking for formal documentation not be required. It was added, however, that students will have to self-disclose their ailment on the approval form for their leave of absence.

A concern was raised with the proposed change to personal leave which replaced the maximum number of three terms with an unlimited time period that will no longer be counted towards the maximum time allowed for program completion. Senate was informed that the rationale for this change is based on the wellness of the individual and that if a student is not well enough to return, they can either remain on leave or discontinue their program.

With the removal of the requirement for graduate students to provide documentation for medical leaves, a concern was raised that this would no longer align with what undergraduate students are required to provide when applying for Withdrawals Under Extenuating Circumstances (WE). Senate was informed that this was taken into consideration by the committee but it was felt that the burden of securing documentation not be required. Graduate students work in a close relationship with their supervisor and given that good communication is encouraged throughout their program, widespread abuse is not anticipated.

A number of concerns were raised around SFU’s obligations to a student on leave, including issues around funding, benefits, access to educational resources, the relevance of research after a prolonged absence, and if a student can apply for or continue to be a TA or RA while on leave.

Based on the concerns and questions raised, the mover of the motion agreed to withdraw the motion for Graduate General Regulation 1.4.5 Leave of Absence, allowing for the committee to address the concerns raised at Senate.

**Motion 2:**

Moved by G. Agnes, seconded by JF Williams

“That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.10.2 Classification of Thesis.”

The question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Program Changes (S.23-100)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Engineering Science), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Physics).

**iii) New Course Proposals (S.23-101)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Science (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences).

**iv) Course Changes (S.23-102)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Engineering Science), and the Beedie School of Business.

**F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.23-103)**

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) Presidential Re-Appointment Review Committee (S.23-104)**

Senate received Presidential Re-Appointment Review Committee for information.

**9. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023**

Open session adjourned at 7:41 p.m.