

## SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF MAY 20, 2014

### 1. **Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that SFU moved slightly higher in the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking of top universities under 50 years of age, improving to 24th in the world and 2nd in Canada. In the 2014 Leiden rankings, SFU ranked 267<sup>th</sup> in the world, 116<sup>th</sup> in North America and 10<sup>th</sup> in Canada. The Leiden rankings were expanded in 2014 to measure the performance of 750 universities worldwide, based solely on citation impact and scientific collaboration. SFU particularly stood out for collaboration, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in Canada and 61<sup>st</sup> in the world for its proportion of long distance collaborative publications, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Canada and 22<sup>nd</sup> in the world for its proportion of international collaborative publications. SFU was in the top 10 in Canada, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> for mean citation score and 10<sup>th</sup> for the proportion of its publications in the top 10% most frequently cited.

The Chair reported on the April launch of SFU's Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement that was approved by Senate in 2013. The event was well attended and confirmed the high level of interest in the community for promoting a greater awareness of diaspora-related issues and research.

The Chair noted that IRMACS celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April, dedicating its 2014 thematic year to the pan-Canadian research initiative AGE-WELL, Aging Gracefully across Environments using technology to support Wellness, Engagement and Long Life. Andrew Sexsmith of Gerontology is one of 23 co-investigators of AGE-WELL, which brings together 10 academic and health institutions.

The Chair reported on recent research funding announcements. Bingyun Sun of Chemistry will use her \$300,000 grant from the CFI's John R. Evans Leaders Fund to obtain the most sensitive system currently available for studying cell surface proteins. Erik Kjeang of Mechatronic Systems Engineering will use his \$120,000 CFI grant to equip the fuel cell and battery testing facility at the SFU Surrey campus. Cenk Sahinalp of Computing Science is co-investigator in the Cancer Genome collaborator project led by the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research that received the second-ever NSERC Discovery Frontiers in Big Data grant. He will lead the module on computation methods for sequencing for which SFU will receive close to \$1 million of the total \$6 million project funding.

The Chair reported on recent research awards and honours. Eleven SFU women, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni, have been nominated for the 2014 YWCA Women of Distinction awards. Nominees include Diana Allen of Earth Sciences for her research in environmental sustainability and her contribution to public policy and mentorship, and retired staff member Justine Bizzochi, founder

of SFU Venture Connections. English professor emirata Sandra Djwa received the Canada Prize in the Humanities from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences for her biography of Canadian poet P.K. Page, *Journey with No Maps: A Life of P.K Page*. The book was previously recognized with the Governor General's Literary Award and was shortlisted for the Charles Taylor Prize.

On the innovation front, the Chair reported that SFU was named runner-up for BC's most entrepreneurial post-secondary institution of the year award from Startup Canada. Five young SFU entrepreneurs and SFU Venture Connection clients received Top 30 Under 30 awards from *BC Business Magazine*.

The Chair reported on the major reengineering initiative recently announced by the Government of British Columbia. The impact on post-secondary institutions is not entirely clear at this time; however, it is apparent that the government is tying operating grants to educational programs that correlate to high-demand jobs. The Chair noted that this initiative will have to be factored into academic planning over the next few years and that there is a suggestion that student financial assistance programs will also be refocused to align with labour market priorities.

The Chair reported on upcoming events in the community. The SFU Vancouver campus is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 21. The SFU Alumni annual general meeting will be taking place on May 22. On May 23, SFU is participating with other groups to commemorate the centenary of the Komagata Maru incident. SFU recently undertook a major digitization project to capture important archival information around the Komagata Maru that is accessible through the SFU Library website.

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, expressed appreciation to the following senators whose terms of office expire on May 31, 2014: Lynne Bell, Kitty Corbett, June Francis, Farid Golnaraghi, Christopher Pavsek, Tom Perry, Kyle Acierno, Harvey Jawanda, Humza Khan, Moe Kopahi, Caleb Kwon, Japreet Lehal, Yoko Lu, Yasmine Norouzi, Catherine Shaffer, Karanvir Singh Thiara, Tesicca Truong, Forrest Wakarchuk, and D'Arcy Warner.

Outgoing convocation senator, D'Arcy Warner, noted that he worked for Dr. Gordon Shrum, the first chancellor of SFU, and had asked Dr. Shrum about his vision for the University. Dr. Shrum told him that the most important reason for the existence of Simon Fraser is to provide the best educate possible for the students. Senator Warner congratulated the University for doing just that.

## **2. Proposed Changes to the Committee to Review University Admissions (CRUA) and the Senate Appeals Board (SAB) (S.14-68)**

Senate approved the elimination of the Committee to Review University Admissions and the revised terms of reference for the Senate Appeals Board, effective June 2014.

3. **Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Annual Report 2013-2014 (S.14-69)**  
Senate received for information the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Annual Report for 2013-2014.
  
4. **Suspension of Admission and Dissolution of the Early Learning Specialization Program (S.14-70)**  
Senate approved the suspension of admission to the Early Learning Specialization Program within the Faculty of Education, effective Spring 2015.  
  
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Early Learning Specialization Program within the Faculty of Education, effective Spring 2015.
  
5. **Full Program Proposal for a Joint Major in English and History (S.14-71)**  
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Joint Major in English and History in the Department of English and the Department of History within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2015.
  
6. **City of Surrey-Powertech-NSERC Executive Industrial Research Chair in Energy Systems for Smart Cities (S.14-72)**  
Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the City of Surrey-Powertech-NSERC Executive Industrial Research Chair in Energy Systems for Smart Cities.
  
7. **New Ethicists for SFU Research Ethics Board (S.14-73)**  
Senate approved the list of individuals with ethics qualifications to serve on the Research Ethics Board.
  
8. **Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) Annual Report 2013-2014 (S.14-74)**  
Senate received for information the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) Annual Report for 2013-2014.
  
9. **Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-75)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Spring 2015:
  - a) *School of Communication*
    - Courses (description): CMNS 310, 324, 410
    - Course (title/prerequisite): CMNS 331
    - Course (title/description/prerequisite): CMNS 333
    - Course (prerequisite): CMNS 431
    - Course (title/description): CMNS 432
    - Course (description/prerequisite): CMNS 445

- b) School for the Contemporary Arts**
- Program: Film Honours
  - Program: Visual Art Major
  - Course (description/prerequisite): FPA 210
  - Course (number/description): FPA 184
- 10. Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.14-76)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Spring 2015:
- Course (new): HSCI 458
- 11. Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.14-77)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Spring 2015:
- a) Biological Sciences**
- Course (new): BISC 113
  - Courses (prerequisite): BISC 100, 101, 102
- b) Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology**
- Program: Behavioural Neuroscience Major
  - Program: Behavioural Neuroscience Honours
  - Program: Biomedical Physiology Major
  - Program: Biomedical Physiology Honours
  - Course (new): BPK 458
  - Course (title/description): BPK 304W
  - Courses (prerequisite): BPK 496, 498
  - Course (description/prerequisite): BPK 497
- c) Chemistry**
- Course (description): CHEM 482
- d) Mathematics**
- Program: Mathematics Major
  - Program: Mathematics Honours
  - Courses (description/prerequisite): MACM 203, 204
- 13. Annual Strategic Review 2014 (S.14-78)**  
Senate received for information the annual strategic review for 2014.
- 14. Election Report (S.14-79)**  
Senate received for information a report on the results of elections to Senate and the Board of Governors.

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the next Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the May Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-23514>

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Kris Nordgren, Senate Assistant, at 778-782-3168 or [senate@sfu.ca](mailto:senate@sfu.ca).