



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, January 5, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Bird, Gwen  
Budra, Paul  
Bueckert, Chardaye  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Brandon  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chapman, Nicholas  
Chong, Dion  
Clapp, Alex (for I. Stefanovic)  
Craig, John  
Cupples, Claire  
Easton, Stephen  
Eikerling, Michael  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Fatoba, Kayode  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Glässer, Uwe (for N. Rajapakse)  
Hedley, Nick  
Johnson, Joy  
Jozaghi, Ehsan  
Kelm, Mary-Ellen (for W. Parkhouse)  
Leacock, Tracey  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Magnusson, Kris  
McTavish, Rob  
Myers, Gordon  
Pappas, Panayiotis  
Paterson, David  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Quarmby, Lynne  
Ruben, Peter  
Schellenberg, Betty  
Shapiro, Lisa  
Shaw, Chris  
Somers, Julian  
Spector, Stephen  
Szymczyk, Barbara

Tingling, Peter  
Underhill, Owen  
Wallace, Brady  
Wussow, Helen  
Yoon, Paul

**Absent:**

Abramson, Neil  
Antle, Alissa  
Arzanpour, Siamak  
Birmingham, Elina  
Brennand, Tracy  
Chu, Colin  
Delgrande, Jim  
Driver, Jon  
Escarcha, Shirin  
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia  
Giardini, Anne  
Guttman, Julian  
Kessler, Anke  
Laitsch, Dan  
Liu, Ting (Emma)  
O'Neil, John  
Ossinsky, Dimitri  
Pilarinos, Athina  
Reich, Blaize  
Simpkin, Madelaine  
Wiese, Kay

**In Attendance:**

Burns, Dan  
Cox, Sean  
Hinchliffe, Jo  
Kopahi, Moe

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on December 1, 2014**

The minutes of the open session on December 1, 2014 were approved as distributed.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair conveyed regrets from Senator Driver who was delayed by weather.

The Chair reported that the AGE-WELL initiative - Aging Gracefully across Environments using Technology to Support Wellness, Engagement, and Long Life – has been selected to receive funding under the Networks of Centres of Excellence program. Andrew Sixsmith, SFU professor and director of the Gerontology Research Centre, is the co-scientific director of AGE-WELL, with SFU alumnus Alex Mihailidis of the University Health Network's Toronto Rehabilitation Institute.

The Chair reported that VentureLabs was named BC's top accelerator for job creation and capital formation according to the performance report released by the BC Acceleration Network. VentureLabs is the incubator/accelerator led by SFU in partnership with UVIC, BCIT, Emily Carr University of Art & Design, the BC Innovation Council, government, and industry partners.

The Chair reported on the upcoming President's Dream Colloquia lecture series. The first in the series is Protecting Indigenous Cultural Heritage: Emergent Policy and Practice, beginning with a lecture by Catherine Bell of the University of Alberta on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The second series of lectures will focus on Obedience and Disobedience: Taking Action on Climate Change, beginning with a lecture by Professor Kimberley Brownlee of the University of Warwick on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair reported that the President's Faculty Lecture Series will continue this month on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> with Professor Sasha Colby, director of the Graduate Liberal Studies program at SFU, speaking on Literary Pages, Public Stages: Tales in Dramatizing Research at the Fletcher Challenge Theatre at Harbour Centre.

The Chair reported that Bill Krane, SFU professor and former Associate Vice-President Academic and Provost, has been appointed as the new Vice-President Academic and Provost at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC).

**5. Question Period**

There were no questions submitted for question period.

**6. Reports of Committees****A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)****i) Full Program Proposal for a Joint Major in English and Communication (S.15-1)**

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Easton.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Joint Major in English and Communication in the Department of English and the School of Communication within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Fall 2015.”

A question was asked how a student would apply to enter a joint major program. Senate was informed that a student would first apply for admission to one department or faculty program and then apply to the second department or faculty program following admission to the University.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Full Program Proposal for a Minor in Resource and Environmental Management (S.15-2)**

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Spector.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Minor in Resource and Environmental Management in the School of Resource and Environmental Management within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2015.”

Sean Cox, Undergraduate Chair in the School of Resource and Environmental Management, and Dan Burns, Manager, Curriculum and Planning in the Faculty of Environment, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Full Program Proposal for a Minor in Italian Studies (S.15-3)**

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by J. Craig.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Minor in Italian Studies in the Department of French within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2015.”

Stephen Steele, Chair in the Department of French, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) External Review of the Department of French (S.15-4)**

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Easton.

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of French that resulted from its External Review.”

Stephen Steele, Chair in the Department of French, and Senator John Craig, Dean of Arts & Social Sciences, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Consolidated 2013-2018 Academic Plan Progress Report (S.15-5)**

Senate received for information the Consolidated 2013-2018 Academic Plan Progress Report.

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

**i) Program/Credential Language (S.15-6)**

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Easton

“That Senate approve the changes to the Credential Definitions language in the Academic Calendar effective Fall 2015.”

Jo Hinchliffe, Associate Registrar, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.15-7)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science).

**iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.15-8)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Cognitive Science Program; School of Criminology; Economics; English; Explorations Program; First Nations Studies; French; Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; Gerontology; Centre for Hellenic Studies; History; Humanities; Language Training Institute; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology and Anthropology).

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.15-9)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Beedie School of Business.

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.15-10)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Education.

**vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.15-11)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology; Geography).

**vii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.15-12)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added new courses and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences; Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology; Chemistry; Mathematics; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Semester in Dialogue Program).

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

**i) Graduate General Regulation 1.3.8a Admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's Program (S.15-13)**

Moved by M. Kelm, seconded by T. Leacock.

“That Senate approve the proposed revision to GGR 1.3.8a Admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's Program.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Graduate General Regulation 1.7 Residence and Course Requirements, and Graduate General Regulation 1.3.13 Certificate Program (S.15-14)**

Moved by M. Kelm, seconded by J. Somers.

“That Senate approve the proposed revisions to GGR 1.7 (Residence and Course Requirements) and GGR 1.3.13 (Certificate Programs).”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Graduate General Regulation 1.9.5 The Role of the External Examiner (S.15-15)**

Moved by M. Kelm, seconded by S. Spector.

“That Senate approve the proposed revision to GGR 1.9.5 The Role of the External Examiner.”

A question was asked regarding what supervisory experience is expected and how that would be judged. Senate was informed that the revision to GGR 1.9.5 is codifying the current practice, which is to verify that the external examiner has supervised the degree that they are being asked to examine.

A question was asked whether the University would assist departments to purchase the equipment required to enable remote video conferencing capabilities for graduate defences. Senate was informed that the SFU Library room 2020 has video conferencing equipment. The limited availability of rooms with video conferencing for graduate defences was noted.

A question was asked whether a lawyer or medical doctor would meet the requirement of an external examiner. Senate was informed that the external examiner should be fully capable, fully versed and able to examine the dissertation.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.15-16)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing program in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering).

A question was asked whether the mandatory technical writing course for a PhD in Mechatronics is also mandatory for other departments and faculties. Senate was informed that technical writing courses are mandatory for the majority of graduate programs in the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.15-17)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, added a new course and made revisions to an existing program in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication).

**F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)****i) Senate Committee Elections (S.15-18)**

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

**7. Other Business****i) Academic Amnesty Motion (S.15-19)**

Moved by B. Wallace, seconded by C. Bueckert.

“In recognition of the Simon Fraser Student Society’s commitment to ensuring that all members of the Society are able to attend and participate fully in the upcoming Special General Meeting taking place on January 21st from 1:30-3:30, Senate encourages all instructors to accommodate, without academic penalty, any students who wish to participate in the Special General Meeting.”

Moe Kopahi, Vice-President University Relations of the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) was in attendance to respond to questions.

A lengthy discussion ensued with arguments for and against the motion, with the following key questions and concerns: the SFSS scheduled the meeting at the busiest day and time when many students would be in class; classes which include group work and laboratory work would be significantly impacted by student absence; the message communicated by the SFSS to students must be clear that they are not being given permission to miss class where attendance is required (laboratory classes, etc.); students coming from the Vancouver and Surrey campuses would have a significant commute to attend the meeting and whether there was an option to conduct the vote by online ballot; would information regarding the debenture motion be placed online for students to read in advance; would students be held accountable for their time away from class; and does the motion remove the obligation of the students to inform their instructors of their absence.

Several student and faculty Senators expressed positive support for the motion. The following comments were made: SFU’s Burnaby campus is not located in the most accessible location and accommodations should be made to enable attendance; many students work or have obligations off campus and would have difficulty attending a meeting outside of regular class hours; students have ranked their connection to the University low in the recent MacLean’s magazine report, so this motion would support students by encouraging instructors to be accommodating; and the SFSS was commended for the unprecedented and unusual steps they have taken to fund the building of a new student centre.

The concerns were addressed as follows:

- Most students leave the Burnaby campus after 4:00 p.m. and the SFSS has struggled with meeting quorum in the past. The time was selected in order to engage as many students as possible.
- The SFSS is working on a system to ensure student accountability, so that instructors can confirm whether a student registered at the Special General Meeting (SGM).
- The *Societies Act of British Columbia* states that a debenture be approved by a special resolution that requires students’ physical presence to vote at the meeting; therefore, an online ballot would not be allowed. The SFSS explored video conferencing options to

enable remote participation at the Vancouver and Surrey campuses; however, the technological capacity does not currently exist.

A comment was made that the motion should require the student to inform their instructor prior to attending the SGM. An amendment was moved by Senator C. Percival that the words ‘any students who **wish** to participate in the SGM’ be changed to ‘Any students who **communicate in advance their intention** to participate in the SGM’.

Question was called and a vote taken on the amendment.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Question was called and a vote taken on the motion as amended

MOTION CARRIED

**8. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, February 2, 2015.**

Open session adjourned at 6:26 p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Mark Walker  
Registrar and Executive Director, Student Enrolment