

## SENATE SUMMARY

### MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2015

#### 1. Report of the Chair

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed the following new Senators:

*Faculty Senators:* Carlo Menon; Joseph Peters; Tony Williams

The Chair reported that Maclean's has again ranked SFU as Canada's top comprehensive university. Success with faculty and student awards, along with research performance were noted as contributing factors. Also, Research Infosource ranked SFU first in the comprehensive university category for our research impact, third in publication output, and first among comprehensive universities for partnerships and non-profit organizations.

The Chair noted that the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education released its 2015 Sustainable Campus index, with SFU being one of four Canadian institutions featured as Rising Stars – meaning they increased by more than 15 points over last year. Also, SFU was one of ten Canadian universities to get a gold rating in respect of our commitment to sustainability.

The Chair reported that Chancellor Anne Giardini received a Lifetime Achievement award that will be presented to her by the Western Canada General Counsel Awards. Also, The Chair reported the winning of the Governor General's Literary Award for non-fiction by Mark Winston, for his book "Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive." The jury statement read: "In his exquisite Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive, Mark L. Winston distills a life's devotion to the study of bees into a powerful and lyrical meditation on humanity. This compelling book inspires us to reevaluate our own relationships both with each other and the natural world. Vital reading for our time."

The Chair noted that SFU VentureLabs is again listed as BC's top-performing accelerator in capital formation. In the latest quarterly report from the BC Acceleration Network, VentureLabs attracted \$9 million in new private investment in the first quarter of 2015/2016.

As part of SFU's 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Chair reported that the VP Research has created a website showcasing how discovery, collaboration, and innovation can drive SFU research.

The Chair noted the success of the Fall Convocation ceremonies, featuring Charter Alumni and notable honorary degree recipients Sut Jhally, Bill Nye,

Harry Gray, and Nancy Turner. Each recipient expressed how special it was to be part of SFU's 50th Anniversary Convocation.

The Chair reported that, on behalf of the university, he appeared before the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, speaking in support of the Research Universities' Council of BC presentation, which called for a major reinvestment of the \$50 million that has been cut by the province over the last three years. Focus was placed on deferred maintenance needs on the Burnaby campus, and on our aspirations for expansion of the Surrey campus. The Chair congratulated the GSS and the SFSS who also made powerful presentations from a student perspective to many of the same needs.

The Chair reported news of a settlement process that has brought the TSSU strike to an end. Grades are now in the process of being returned and Senate will no longer have to deal with figuring out what to do with incomplete transcripts resulting from job action. Bargaining is not over but because there is now a process to bring outstanding issues to a final conclusion through final offer selection, both sides have agreed to treat this as a settlement, which means job action will cease.

The Chair informed Senate that the Vice President, External Relations search process has begun, and an open forum will be held to get the input of the community on the kinds of qualifications that people would like to see in a new Vice President, External Relations. The forum takes place Thursday, November 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

The Chair noted that if you walk through the AQ you will see Bill Reid's Black Eagle canoe - a replica produced under the oversight of Bill Reid. The Chair thanked Facilities, and Rob Gordon, for their work in bringing the canoe to SFU, making it a wonderful addition to the Bill Reid Gallery and Collection.

The Chair reported on some recent events: our first President's Faculty lecture with Krishna Pendakur took place at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby; Jack P. Blaney Award for Dialogue winner Tim Flannery gave a lecture hosted by the Centre for Dialogue; the Vancouver Campus held a well-attended open house; the Surrey campus held its annual Gala Dinner, attended by Surrey mayor Linda Hepner; and Health Sciences held its 10th anniversary dinner event.

The Chair highlighted SFU Public Square's 2015 Community Summit on City-Building entitled "We The City", consisting of a range of activities. The signature event is called "An Evening at the Centre", featuring Buffy Sainte-Marie. She, along with Teju Cole, will be speaking about the role of arts in city-building.

**2. Dissolution of the Centre for Workplace Health and Safety (S.15-124)**

Senate approved the dissolution of the Centre for Workplace Health and Safety as a Research Centre.

3. **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: External Review Update for the Department of English (S.15-125)**  
Senate received for information the External Review Update Report for the Department of English within the Faculty of Arts and Social Science.
4. **Renaming of the Dena Wosk Professor of Arts & Culture in the School for Contemporary Arts (S.15-126)**  
Senate received for information the proposal for renaming the Dena Wosk Professor of Arts & Culture in the School for the Contemporary Arts to the Grant Strate Professor of Arts & Culture in the School for the Contemporary Arts.
5. **Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.15-127)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Summer 2016:
  - a) *School of Computing Science*
    - Program: Information Systems in Business Administration and Computing Science Joint Major
    - Course (prerequisite): CMPT 295, 376W
6. **Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.15-128)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Summer 2016:
  - Program: Business and Communication Joint Major
  - Program: Business and Economics Joint Major
  - Program: Business and Geography Joint Major
  - Program: Business and Psychology Joint Major
  - Program: Business and IAT Joint Major – BSc
  - Program: Business and IAT Joint Major – BBA or BA
  - Program: Business and MBB Joint Major
  - Program: Business and Economics Joint Honours
  - Program: Business and MBB Joint Honours
  - Course (description): BUEC 232
7. **Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.15-129)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Summer 2016:
  - a) *School of Communication*
    - Course (designation): CMNS 258, 259
8. **Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.15-130)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Summer 2016:

**a) *Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology***

- Program: Biomedical Physiology Major
- Course (description/prerequisite): BPK 457, 459

**b) *Physics***

- Course (deletion): PHYS 131

**9. Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.15-131)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Summer 2016:

**a) *School of Computing Science***

- Program: Master of Science in Big Data

**b) *School of Engineering Science***

- Program: Master of Engineering

**10. Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.15-132)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Summer 2016:

**a) *School of Interactive Arts and Technology***

- Program: Master of Arts
- Program: Master of Science
- Program: Doctor of Philosophy

**12. Election Report (S.15-133)**

Senate received for information a report on the results of the faculty election to Senate.

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 November 2015 Senate documents <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-28098>

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