



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, February 1, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present:

Baharmand, Iman
Bartram, Lyn
Bird, Gwen
Birmingham, Elina
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Chen, Larissa
Cupples, Claire
Curry, Joanne
Dastmalchian, Ali
Eikerling, Michael
Glässer, Uwe
Hans, Prabhpal
Haunerland, Norbert (for Joy Johnson)
Kessler, Anke
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Lewthwaite, Jayme
MacAlister, David
Mac Namara, Aoife
Magnusson, Kris
Marks, Laura
McTavish, Rob
Menon, Carlo
Myers, Gordon
Nanjundappa, Abhishek
Pappas, Panayiotis
Parkhouse, Wade
Paterson, David
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pulkingham, Jane
Shaw, Chris
Spector, Stephen

Stefanovic, Ingrid
Szymczyk, Barbara
Tingling, Peter
Weng, Enoch
Yang, Kathleen
Yano, Brady

Absent:

Petter, Andrew
Abramson, Neil
Brennand, Tracy
Budra, Paul
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Gajdics, Sylvia
Giardini, Anne
Hedley, Nick
Jermias, Johnny
Johnson, Joy
Kirkpatrick, Ted
Mundy, Arjan
Nabbali, Essya Mabrouka
Najaf, Ali
Ng, Dorothy
O'Neil, John
Somers, Julian
Williams, Tony
Zaranyika, Rudo

In Attendance:

Hinchliffe, Jo

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on December 7, 2015

The minutes of the open session on December 7, 2015 were approved as distributed, with one correction.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on January 4, 2016

The minutes of the open session on January 4, 2016 were approved as distributed, with three corrections.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

At the December meeting of Senate a question was asked if new course POL 200 will be considered a Q course. Senator Myers informed Senate that POL 200 is a qualitative course as opposed to a quantitative course, and that POL 201 is the matching quantitative course.

At the January meeting of Senate a question was asked about STATS 240 and whether the required establishment of a database has been met and where this is documented. Senator Myers informed Senate that the department does not require additional resources. Under the new budget model many of the expenses are covered within the faculty. The documentation goes from the department, to the faculty, to SCUS, to Senate so when speaking about resources it is a conversation between the department and the faculty and once the course is approved the faculty covers the resource cost.

At the January meeting of Senate a question was asked concerning BISC 313 where the rationale had been cut off in the papers presented to Senate. Senator Myers informed Senate that the documents have been amended.

5. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that SFU is embarking on a university-wide Big Data initiative. It will seek to extend our Big Data capacities across the university, and make them accessible to all disciplines and all members of the SFU community. The purpose is to help generate knowledge, support teaching and learning, drive innovation, create social and economic opportunities, and engage communities.

The Chair announced a number of new research chairs: Dr. Jeff Reading has been appointed the inaugural First Nations Health Authority Chair in Heart Health and Wellness. His research will be co-located at SFU (FHS), the FNHA, and St. Paul's Hospital. The \$2.5 million chair takes a holistic approach to First Nation and Aboriginal Peoples' cardiac health; Dr. Pascal Haegeli is the Faculty of Environment's new Research Chair in Avalanche Risk Management, established through collaboration between SFU and partners from the Canadian avalanche community. Over one million dollars in funding over the next five years will be available for Dr. Haegeli to conduct his avalanche research; a new SFU chair in Technology Innovations for Youth Addiction-Recovery and Mental Health has been created as a result of a partnership amongst SFU, the John Volken Academy, the City of Surrey, and the Surrey Fire Fighters Association. These partners are supporting the chair with \$1.25 million in funding. The new chair will link the City of Surrey's Youth Mental Health initiative to Innovation Boulevard.

The Chair reported that SFU and our new innovation strategy “SFU Innovates” were highly visible at the inaugural #BCTech Summit, co-presented by the Government of BC and the BC Innovation Council on January 18-19 at the Vancouver Convention Center. VP Research Joy Johnson hosted an “SFU Innovates” Tech Lounge-themed booth featuring displays by companies launched by SFU entrepreneurs including: Shield-X Technologies (Brian Shield functional helmet decal), Acceleration Innovations (Birth Alert contraction-monitoring device), H+ Technologies (Hulus tabletop holographic display), and OraScents (App-enabled customized scent diffuser). Over 2500 people attended the event, including members of the SFU research community who met and shared ideas with entrepreneurs, investors, industry, buyers, media, and government officials.

The Chair noted a number of Alumni achievements: former SFSS president and SFU alumni Chardaye Bueckert has been selected from among 3,000 applicants to receive the prestigious Schwarzman scholarship to study in Tsinghua University in Beijing. Chardaye plans to pursue the Master’s program in geopolitics; the names of the 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients were released with Margaret Trudeau (BA’69, Sociology and Anthropology), Dr. David Mark (BA’71, PhD’77, Geography), Zabeen Hirji (MBA’94), Dr. Jennifer Gardy (PhD’06, MBB), and David Fong (BA’80, Economics and Commerce) receiving awards. The awards will be presented on Thursday, March 3 at a special 50th Anniversary ceremony at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre.

6. Question Period

Senator Marks asked the following question:

What progress has SFU's Working Group made on tuition and housing for refugees? Can FIC provide funding for EAL courses for refugees? What progress has been made on expanding the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) student program?

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar, read an answer provided by Tim Rahilly, Associate Vice-President of Students. The university has a desire to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis and had previously mentioned at Senate the intention of forming a working group. The formation of that group was delayed, but will be formed within the next two weeks. It will be chaired by Tim Rahilly, Steve Dooley, Executive Director of SFU Surrey campus, and Shaheen Nanji, Director of International Development. It is meant to be a working group and be somewhat fluid in terms of who will be participating at various points, with representation from the Faculties being sought.

7. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)

i) Revised Membership and Terms of Reference (S.16-16)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the revised membership for the Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA) and the revised Terms of Reference to include the designation of a Vice-Chair, effective immediately.”

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

A comment was made that normally the documentation contains the entire old and new terms of reference, rather than just the changes.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) N Grades (S.15-141 Revised)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approves the following Calendar language changes effective Fall 2016:

From:

N Grades

The letter grade N [incomplete] is given when a student has enrolled for a course, but did not write the final examination or otherwise failed to complete the course work, and did not withdraw before the deadline date. An N is considered an F for purposes of scholastic standing.

A student receiving a grade of N must re-enrol for the course and participate in the course again, completing course requirements approved by the instructor, to achieve a different evaluation.

To:

Letter grade N [incomplete] is given when a student has enrolled for a course, but did not write the final examination or otherwise failed to complete the course work, and did not withdraw before the deadline date. An N is considered an F for purposes of scholastic standing.

To achieve a different evaluation, and subject to the repeat policy, a student who receives a grade of N must normally repeat the course for credit.”

A concern was raised regarding if students on an extended thesis or project would be allowed to have an N grade, that had been a DE, changed back to a DE grade. Senate was informed that students should not be sitting with an N grade. Those with an N grade should be going to their instructor and getting it changed to the appropriate grade, and in the case of a thesis, they should be sitting with a DE and not an N or F as both count as zeros for GPA. Assurance was given that use of the word “normally” means it is possible to change an N grade.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.16-17)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.16-18)

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

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.16-19)

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

A comment was made regarding an inconsistency in the documentation for ARCH 480. In the description it states that the course is open to students from other departments, while in the rationale it states that it is restricted to Archaeology students. Senate was informed that there is an inconsistency in the language and that it would be reviewed and corrected.

C) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Elections by Senate (S.16-20)

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

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, March 7, 2016.

Open session adjourned at 6:13 p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar (pro tem)