



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, January 9, 2017 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Andersen, Holly  
Baharmand, Iman  
Bartram, Lyn  
Bird, Gwen  
Birmingham, Elina  
Budra, Paul  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chen, Larissa  
Christians, Julian  
Cupples, Claire  
Dale, Nadia  
Fiume, Eugene  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Giardini, Anne  
Gray, Bonnie  
Han, Richard  
Hans, Paul  
Hedley, Nick  
Ige, Adebola Abayomi  
Johnson, Joy  
Keller, Peter  
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leacock, Tracey  
Leznoff, Daniel  
MacAlister, David  
Magnusson, Kris  
McTavish, Rob  
Moens, Alexander  
Myers, Gordon  
O'Neil, John  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Paterson, David  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Peters, Joseph  
Pooghkay, Curtis  
Poyntz, Stuart (for Aoife Mac Namara)

Pulkingham, Jane  
Ruben, Peter  
Shaw, Chris  
Spector, Stephen  
Stefanovic, Ingrid  
Szymczyk, Barbara  
Tabin, Yvonne  
Tingling, Peter  
Wiese, Kay

**Absent:**

Abramson, Neil  
Arzanpour, Siamak  
Bassi, Prab  
Binotto, Jordan  
Brennand, Tracy  
Dastmalchian, Ali  
Farah, Arr  
Haywood, Weldon  
Lewthwaite, Jayme  
Mac Namara, Aoife  
Malhan, Blossom  
Mongrain, Steeve  
Scott, Jamie  
Sekhon, Gurbir  
Williams, Tony

**In Attendance:**

Driver, Jon  
Haunerland, Norbert  
Hedberg, Nancy  
Heide, Dai  
McArthur, Doug  
Murray, Catherine  
Popowich, Fred

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of November 7, 2016**

The minutes of the open session on November 7, 2016 were approved as distributed, with a note to add the question and response as to why the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 REB Annual Reports were submitted simultaneously.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of December 13, 2016**

The minutes of the open session on December 13, 2016 were approved as distributed.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- i) At the July Senate meeting Senator Leacock asked a question regarding Business proposals for new courses that are shorter than the norm. Senate Spector, on behalf of Senator Dastmalchain, informed Senate that graduate courses often don't have a fixed schedule the same way undergraduate courses do. They may have sessions that run on weekends, for example, so that the number of hours assigned to a course may not be the best indicator. Graduate programs tend to assign hours based on expected need, availability of instructors and students demands and for that reason they don't always follow the standard pattern of 3 hours per week for 13 weeks.
- ii) At the November Senate meeting Senator Tingling asked if the faculty contract applies retroactively, in particular to those holding academic administrative appointments. Quoting articles 51.33 and 51.34 of the Collective Agreement, Senator Keller informed Senate that for academic administrators within the bargaining unit the rule remains that if the administrator receives a reduced teaching load as part of the administrative requirement then they will accumulate study leave credit at half the rate of the person teaching a normal load.
- iii) At the November Senate meeting Senator Leacock asked a question regarding the updating of university policy, notably GP 35. Senator Keller informed Senate that Ian Forsyth, University Secretary, is planning a policy revision of GP 35, but in the interim is working on clarifying procedures for named proposals for the benefit of SCUP, Advancement and Senate.
- iv) At the November Senate meeting Senator Bartram asked a question regarding the percentage of upper division undergraduate courses taught being taught by PhD students. Senator Keller informed Senate that approximately 8% of all upper division courses are taught by doctoral students, with Arts and Social Sciences, Education, FCAT and Business leading the way.

A question was asked about what the percentage of PhD students is among sessional instructors teaching upper division undergraduate courses. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and reported at a future Senate meeting.

## 5. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that on November 24, 2016 the SFU Board of Governors committed to decreasing the carbon footprint of SFU's investment portfolio by at least 30% by 2030. We join the University of Ottawa as one of only two universities in Canada to put conditions of this kind on our investment policy and set targets to reduce our carbon foot print.

The Chair reported that on November 25, 2016 the federal government approved the Kinder Morgan Pipeline, which includes a proposal to triple the capacity of the tank farm on Burnaby Mountain. Approval was given despite SFU publically raising concerns, including submitting a report to the federal government cataloguing those concerns.

The Chair noted the recent closures of the university due to snow. He thanked the team of people across the university who worked hard to deal with difficult situations and make the best out of a situation that has caused considerable disruption. It was noted that on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 57 final examinations needed to be cancelled or rescheduled, which translated to 4600 individual examinations being rescheduled. The majority of these exams were rescheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, with a small number switching to take home exams or other arrangements, such as rescheduling the class to write their exam at the start of the next term. As of January 9<sup>th</sup>, approximately 850 deferred grades from 2016 are set to be handled, with the vast majority of these due to rescheduled exams. It is expected that almost all of these arrangements will be concluded by January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair noted that the Fall 2016 President's Dream Colloquium *Returning to the Teachings: Justice, Identity & Belonging* involved some amazing speakers on Indigenous issues and thanked the faculty members and first nation elders that participated in putting the program together. The Chair also noted the appreciation breakfast held in November for the people who volunteered to put together the Spring and Fall convocation ceremonies.

The Chair reported on a number of research innovations and awards:

- Drug research at SFU is going to receive a boost thanks to a \$13 million infusion of provincial funding for the Centre of Drug Research and Development (CDRD). Funding will support impact orientated research and innovation and fits within our SFU Innovates strategy.
- SFU Engineering professor Bernhard Rabus was appointed to a new \$2.25 million NSERC chair in Synthetic Aperture Radar was announced prior to the holiday break. This chair is supported by MDA and the Canadian Space Agency and will further position SFU as a leader in space based technology.
- Ryan Morin (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry) has been awarded \$757,000 from the Terry Fox Research Institute and Foundation for his "Tumor evolution and the biology of treatment failure in DLBCL" project.
- Corina Andreoiu (Chemistry) has been granted \$500,000 for SFU's portion of the CFI Innovation Fund grant that was awarded through the Guelph University *GRIFFIN Compton and background suppression shields project*, and is being matched by the BC Knowledge Development Fund.
- Bernd Stelzer (Physics) has been awarded \$425,000 from CFI's John R. Evan's Leaders Fund for his "Modern Particle physics detector development infrastructure for Large Hadron Collider era" project. The award has been matched by TRIUMF, Canada's National Laboratory for Particle Nuclear Physics.

- SFU is in the process of seeking change maker designation as part of the Ashoka Changemaker Campus network. This is one of the world's leading social entrepreneurship organizations, with 38 universities worldwide having been designated since 2008. A site visit is planned for early 2017.
- Professor John Willinsky of SFU's Publishing Program, that headed a public knowledge project, received the 2016 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Impact Award. This is a major national award in the connection category and comes with a \$50,000 award recognizing the SSHRC-funded initiative to facilitate the flow and exchange of research knowledge within the academic community.
- Fred Popowich has been appointed to serve as the inaugural Executive Chair of the Big Data Initiative, known as SFU Key. He will be engaging with the community to position SFU as a leader in big data. The official launch of SFU Key is planned for late February.

The Chair noted the Surrey Expansion announcement at the end of 2016, with both the Prime Minister and the Premier on hand to announce \$90 million in federal and provincial funding for a new Energy Systems and Environmental Engineering Building at our Surrey campus. That building will be home to our current Mechatronic Systems Engineering Program, and proposed new programs in energy and environmental engineering.

The Chair noted some upcoming events: the President's Dream Colloquium starts on January 26<sup>th</sup>, focusing on understanding medical marijuana; The SFU Public Square Community Summit will take place the last week of February, focusing on Canada's role in the world; a joint Senate-Board of Governors Retreat is being planned for March; and SFU is hosting an international biannual conference on university community engagement called CU2Expo, to be held the first week of May and will be a chance to explore ways in which universities across Canada and around the world are using their strengths to engage and build communities.

## 6. Question Period

There were no questions submitted by the deadline. Senator Andersen submitted a question after the deadline, with a response coming to the February meeting.

## 7. Reports of Committees

### A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

#### i) Dissolution of the Centre for Studies in Global Asset and Wealth Management (S.16-131)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the dissolution of the Centre for Studies in Global Asset and Wealth Management as a Research Centre.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

#### ii) External Review of the Department of Linguistics (S.16-132)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by T. Leacock

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of Linguistics that resulted from its

External Review.”

Nancy Hedberg, Professor and Chair – Department of Linguistics, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) External Review of the School of Criminology (S.16-133)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by T. Leacock

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

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) External Review of the School for International Studies (S.16-134)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the School for International Studies that resulted from its External Review.”

A question was asked about a potential discrepancy between the School’s need of three continuing position faculty renewals, while the Dean has committed two limited term appointments. Senate was informed that within the faculty budget, the faculty is not in a position to make that number of appointments. The intention is to prioritize within the faculty and develop a plan for continued growth. In the interim, a commitment for some existing limited term appointments has been made.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) External Review of the School of Public Policy (S.16-135)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the School of Public Policy that resulted from its External Review.”

Doug McArthur, Director – School of Public Policy, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**vi) 2015/16 Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications (For Information) (S.16-136)**

Senate received the 2015/16 Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications for information.

Norbert Haunerland, Associate Vice-President, Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

**vii) Centre and Institute Report 2015/16 (For Information) (S.16-137)**

Senate received the Centre and Institute Report for 2015/16 for information.

Norbert Haunerland, Associate Vice-President, Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

**viii) Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Philosophy and Methodology of Science  
(S.17-1)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for a Certificate in Philosophy and Methodology of Science in the Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2017.”

Dai Heide, Undergraduate Chair – Department of Philosophy, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked why a certificate targeting students majoring in the sciences lists a number of entry level linguistics and psychology courses. Senate was informed that though linguistics and psychology are not universally considered to be sciences, they do have a historical connection to philosophy such that it was appropriate to include them. Ultimately they would benefit students, even those within the Faculty of Science.

A question was asked about students having to complete at least one course from a variety of Calculus I or Calculus II courses listed. Since it is unlikely that students would complete Calculus II without having completed Calculus I, why not state that students must complete Calculus I. Senate was informed that the intention when putting together that list was to be inclusive as possible by listing any course a standard science major would complete within their degree requirements. Also, it was noted there are some students who have gotten credit for Calculus I at another institution, but would take Calculus II at SFU.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ix) Full Program Proposal for a Professional Master of Science in Computer Science  
(S.17-2)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by W. Parkhouse

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for a Professional Master of Science in Computer Science in the School of Computing Science within the Faculty of Applied Sciences, effective Fall 2017.”

Fred Popowich, Director – SFU Professional Master’s Program in Big Data, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A concern was raised that this program, which has been in place for a number of years as a special arrangements graduate program, is coming to Senate for approval with the intention of adding future specializations in addition to Big Data that do not require Senate approval. Senate was informed that topics are not treated as specializations unless there’s minimally 50% overlap with the existing credential. It was noted that special arrangement programs allow trying out new programs and putting new models in place. Even though Big Data is its current specialization, this degree will be in Computing Science, because students will be taking other Computing Science courses.

A question was asked about the role of limited term instructors in the admissions process. Senate was informed that research associates do have a teaching and service aspect, but the majority of their work is involved in research. Teaching responsibilities cover two courses per year, while the admissions process was included as part of their committee work so they would be responsible for understanding which students are being brought into the program.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**x) Suspension of Admission to the Asia Canada Studies Minor and Extended Minor Program (S.17-3)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by A. Moens

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Asia Canada Studies Minor and Extended Minor Programs within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Summer 2017.”

Catherine Murray, Associate Dean – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked as to why admission is being suspended based on a decline in enrolment from 29 to 24, when many minor programs would be happy to have such numbers. Senate was informed that suspension is based on ever declining enrolment numbers, with only 10 students currently registered in the minor and 3 in the extended minor. A curriculum review is planned on how best to proceed.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**xi) Suspension of Admission to the Humanities Honours Program (S.17-4)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by P. Budra

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Humanities Honours Program in the Department of Humanities within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Summer 2017.”

Catherine Murray, Associate Dean – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked if consideration was given to reducing the required units to 120, noting the difficulty in attracting students to the honours program. Senate was informed that it had been considered, and may be part of a larger undertaking upon completion of a curriculum review.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**xii) Suspension of Admission and Dissolution of the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma Program (S.17-5)**

**Motion 1:**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by C. Cupples

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma Program in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2017.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 2:**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by P. Ruben

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma Program in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2017.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**xiii) Suspension of Admission to the Spanish Language Certificate in the Language Training Institute (S.17-6)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Spanish Language Certificate Program in the Language Training Institute within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Summer 2017.”

Catherine Murray, Associate Dean – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked if students enrolled in this program between Fall 2013 and Fall 2014 are they still able to complete the certificate. Senate was informed that courses are being continued to allow the five existing registrants to complete the certificate, and this will be guaranteed.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**xiv) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Faculty of Health Sciences (For Information) (S.17-7)**

Senate received the External Mid-Cycle Report for the Faculty of Health Sciences for information.

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

**i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information) (S.16-138)**

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 Engineering Science).

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information) (S.16-139)**

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



Social Sciences (Economics, English, First Nations Studies, French, History, Humanities, School for International Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology).

A question was asked why there would be a need for a selected topics course at the first year level, adding that ECON 182 lacks descriptive detail in its proposal. Senate was informed that selected topics courses often contain little supporting documentation, but may be accompanied by an illustrative course. It was noted that this would be looked into further with information coming back to Senate.

**iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (For Information) (S.16-140)**

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

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (For Information) (S.16-141)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing programs and courses in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication, School for the Contemporary Arts, School of Interactive Art and Technology).

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (For Information) (S.16-142)**

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

**vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information) (S.16-143)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to courses in the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences).

**vii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information) (S.17-8)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing programs and courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science, School of Mechatronics Systems Engineering, School of Engineering Science).

**viii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information) (S.17-9)**

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

**ix) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information) (S.17-10)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing programs and courses in the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Statistics and Actuarial Science, Earth Sciences, Biological Sciences).

**x) Minor Course Changes, Course Suspensions and Deletions (For Information) (S.17-11)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made minor course changes, course suspensions and deletions in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science, School of Engineering Science, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering), Beedie School of Business, Faculty of Science (Physics, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Earth Sciences, Biological Sciences, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

**C) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL)**

**i) Terms of Reference Changes (S.16-144)**

Moved by J. Christians, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) as set out in the attached document.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Graduate General Regulation 1.3.8a Revision (S.16-145)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by P. Ruben

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

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information) (S.16-146)**

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

**iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information) (S.16-147)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made a revision to an existing programs in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (History, School of Criminology).

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (For Information) (S.16-148)**

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

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (For Information) (S.16-149)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing program in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Centre for Digital Media).

**vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information) (S.16-150)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Education.

**vii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (For Information) (S.16-151)**

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

**viii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information) (S.16-152)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing programs and courses in the Faculty of Science (Molecular biology and Biochemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

**ix) Curriculum Revisions – Special Arrangements Program (For Information) (S.16-153)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Special Arrangements Program.

**E) Senate Library Committee (SLC)****i) Open Access Policy (S.16-129 Revised)**

Moved by G. Bird, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate endorse the Open Access Policy effective January 1, 2017.”

A concern was raised that this policy does not include staff members in its definition of university authors, noting that many staff members are in roles that require them to publish scholarly literature and thus the definition should be expanded to include them. After some discussion as to whether or not Senate having purview over staff members should exclude them from this policy, a modification to the motion was agreed upon to expand the definition of authors to include staff members, but not have the policy apply in terms of its open access requirements to staff at this time.

A comment was made that if the university is going to commit to an Open Access Policy, then the need for increased funding should be acknowledged, given the often high costs associated with publishing and the right to be Open Access. Senate was informed that there are two ways of initiating Open Access. The first is by publishing in a Gold Open Access journal, which may charge article processing fees. The second, referred to exclusively by this policy, is by placing a finalized article in an institutional repository within the university, for which there are no associated charges or fees of any kind.

A concern was raised over referring to this document as an SFU *Policy*, noting that it will not be in the Policy Gazette. Senate was informed that the University Secretary believes it is appropriate to refer to this as a policy. Academic policies approved by the Senate are included in the calendar because they relate to the management of academic programs, curriculum, and students. Since there isn't an equivalent policy gazette for Senate and because it's a policy that governs the university library, the proposal to post it on the VP Research website and link it from the university library site makes sense, as does referring to it as a *Policy*.

A question was asked if this policy is encouraging authors to change from depositing their work in field-specific open access sites to an SFU site, or is it in addition to what is already being done. Senate was informed it's intended to be in addition to, in part to corral the output of university authors, which we can't currently do at SFU. Having one central place with a copy of each research article allows the university to determine the output of university authors at any given point.

A question was asked about the uptake in library funding available to cover access fees, and if that uptake is university wide. Senate was informed that the fund has been around for five years with an uptake of about \$200,000 a year across all disciplines.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Annual Report 2015-2016 (For Information) (S.16-154)**

Senate received the Senate Library Committee Annual Report for information.

**iii) Library Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (For Information) (S.16-155)**

Senate received the Library Strategic Plan 2017-2021 for information.

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

**i) Senate Committee Elections (For Information) (S.16-130)**

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

**G) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB)**

**i) Annual Report 2015-2016 (For Information) (S.17-13)**

Senate received the 2015-2016 Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries Annual report for information.

A number of questions were asked about changes in eligibility criteria. Senate was informed that answers would be sought and brought back to Senate.

A concern was raised regarding university bursary spending on international undergraduates being more than the spending on domestic undergraduates. Last year we had \$2.1 million spent on domestic undergraduates and \$1.6 million on international undergraduates. This year we had just under \$2.0 million on domestic and almost \$2.4 million on international undergraduates. If we are going keep increasing international undergraduate tuition fees and then compensating them for the increases, we should inform international students how much their tuition fees will be for the duration of their degree. Senate was informed that the budget model adopted by the university in the last 5 years states that when we have made significant increases in undergraduate international tuition, we have set aside 25% of the increment that has been placed upon students to provide bursary support, so that we are able to accommodate international students with more limited means. Therefore it's not surprising that as the cost for international undergraduate students has gone up, there would be an increase in bursary support associated with that. Also, in the budget proposal for the current year there is a requirement that would limit the amount of further increase for students that are already here.

A question was asked if the committee is considering alternate ways of distributing open scholarships, given the wide discrepancy in GPA across faculties. Senate was informed that

different options are being studied, but none are perfect. Allocating by faculty or by head count causes certain faculties, like Business, to suffer disproportionately as it is much harder to be in the 95th percentile in Business than it is to be in the 95th percentile anywhere else in the university. Also, it does not solve the problem of grading differentials for students taking classes across faculties, or even within a large and disparate one like Arts and Social Sciences.

## **8. Other Business**

### **i) Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy (For Information) (S.17-14)**

Jon Driver, former Vice-President, Academic, and Tim Rahilly, Associate Vice-President, Students and International, were in attendance to provide background on the draft policy and respond to questions.

Senate was informed that the University went through an extensive six month process of research, consultation, discussion and policy drafting, with the draft policy being released on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Input is now being sought on the policy itself with the intention of getting a final version approved by the Board of Governors at its March meeting. In terms of consulting with Senate, there will be some areas of the policy that impact the academic activities of the university, notably that we will provide accommodation for survivors of sexual violence. Accommodation means some provision allowing for alteration of academic requirements. Though there are some aspects of the policy and procedures that will impact the academic life of the university, this is a policy about supporting students and employees, and creating a healthier campus community. The main focus of the policy is on prevention of sexual misconduct and violence through education and awareness programs with the intention of creating a healthier campus community. The policy distinguishes between survivors who wish to disclose, in other words they want to tell somebody about an incident that occurred, versus somebody who wishes to report, with a report triggering an investigation by the university. This distinction is important because anybody can disclose to the university that they have suffered incidents of sexual misconduct and they can seek support of various kinds from the university. That support will be offered regardless of where or when sexual misconduct occurred and the circumstances under which it occurred. On the other hand, to investigate a report of sexual misconduct and to impose discipline on somebody after the report has been investigated will be undertaken by the university under a more restrictive set of circumstances that reflects the jurisdiction the university has. The policy recommends the establishment of a Central Resource Office with fairly broad responsibilities for coordinating the activities across campus with regard to prevention, awareness, education of sexual misconduct. It will coordinate provisional services and be responsible for effective communication, data gathering and reporting. The Central Resource Office would also refer reports to appropriate people in the University for investigation.

A question was asked as to when resourcing details of the Central Resource Office would be made available and would there be community input on its creation. Senate was informed that policies typically don't go into details of budget and staffing, and much would depend on the final nature of the policy and the amount of time it takes to organize staffing. Input was provided, for example, on the need for expert staff and for an advisory panel. It was noted that the Vice-President, Academic and Provost will be overseeing the implementation side.

A question was asked if this policy covered former students and employees, citing the policy refers to enrolled students, and if there is a timeline in which someone must report. Senate was

informed that it will not be possible for a former member of the university to be investigated if they're alleged to have undertaken various kinds of misconduct or violence. In a case of criminal matters, they would be turned over to the police. A student, who leaves at the end of a semester because of a negative experience or incident, would still be covered by the policy if they wanted to seek support or initiate an investigation because they would be eligible to enroll. This policy is primarily focused on students, who typically only stay at the university a limited number of years, but if experience demonstrates that we need to put some timelines on this, we would consider that.

A concern was raised that the investigation process relies a great deal on the tradition of natural justice, but there is no mention of who would be performing the investigation, which is a key part of natural justice. Senate was informed that we do have some legal opinions about the wording used in the policy regarding natural justice. It was noted that a function of the rules and laws around natural justice and fairness is that they become implied by virtue of law, and don't have to be explicitly replicated in policy. We do need to ensure that investigations are independent, and because we may be dealing with a wide range of circumstances, the nature of the situation may affect the way in which the investigations are carried out.

A concern was raised over the terms sexual misconduct and sexual violence being used as equal synonyms. Senate was informed that the use of terminology like violence and misconduct garnered much consideration. The first consideration is that the legislation concerns sexual violence and misconduct, but then never uses again uses the term *violence*. The definition of sexual misconduct used in the policy mirrors the definition of sexual misconduct used in the legislation. The second consideration is that in the literature on sexual violence and misconduct, it's not uncommon to find the phrase sexual violence used to encompass the same range of behaviors defined as sexual misconduct, thus you could use either term as long as you define them broadly enough. It was decided that the simplest way was to use the words interchangeably.

A question was asked if the Central Resource Office will be involved in the investigation once an incident is reported. Senate was informed that the Central Resource Office will not have a role in conducting investigations and they would turn that over to the people who have the authority to conduct investigations.

A question was asked if the University could initiate an investigation without a report being filed if a member of the community was at risk. Senate was informed the university has an obligation to protect the safety of its members, and while we want to respect the wishes of the survivor, there may be situations that emerge in which the university's responsibility to community safety would override the wishes of the individual person. It's also possible that we could have situations in which the university receives a report from someone outside the university requiring an investigation.

A question was asked about section 2.3 of Scope and Jurisdiction, and if incidents off campus, but using SFU technology, are considered to be on property controlled by the University. Senate was informed that we already have a policy on inappropriate or appropriate use of electronic resources and GP 24 would cover a situation where people were using university technology.

A concern was raised over the use of the word *survivor*, in that a person who discloses or reports then becomes a *survivor* without distinguishing between an allegation and an act. Senate was informed there has been much discussion over use of the word *survivor*, and though there are

cases of false allegations, the vast majority of people have a solid base for considering themselves to be survivors. The term was seen as appropriate in that its widely used in these discussions and offers an important note of support. It should be remembered that the policy covers everything that happens up to the inception of investigation, so once the incident is being investigated, a more neutral language would be used.

Thanks were offered to Jon Driver, and all those involved in this process, noting the scale and importance of creating an effective policy.

**9. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, February 6, 2017.**

Open session adjourned at 8:17 p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Rummana Khan Hemani  
Registrar