



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, November 6, 2017 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

### Present: Peter Tingling, Vice-Chair

Andersen, Holly  
Baharmand, Iman  
Bartram, Lyn  
Brennand, Tracy  
Bubela, Tania  
Budd, Thomas  
Burley, David  
Chisty, Mohammad  
Christians, Julian  
Christie, Claire  
Dastmalchian, Ali\*\*  
Forde, Nancy  
Gajdics, Sylvia\*  
Gallilee, Patty (for Gwen Bird)  
Garcha, Raajan  
Keliipio, Kau'i  
Keller, Peter  
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine  
Laitsch, Dan\*  
Leacock, Tracey  
Leung, Jeffrey  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah  
Luelfesmann, Christoph  
MacAlister, David  
Magnusson, Kris  
Memon, Abdul Ahad\*\*  
Moens, Alexander  
Mongrain, Steeve  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo  
Ng, Dorothy\*  
O'Neill, Susan  
Parent, Michael\*\*  
Park, Ed (for Jeff Derksen)  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Percival, Colin

\* via Surrey campus videoconference

\*\* via Vancouver videoconference

Percival, Paul  
Poitras, Geoffrey  
Pulkingham, Jane  
Randhawa, Jaskarn  
Ruben, Peter  
Scott, Jamie  
Shaw, Chris\*  
Singh, Amar  
Smith, Judy  
Somers, Julian  
Stefanovic, Ingrid  
Wang, Christine  
Wiese, Kay  
Williams, Tony  
Zanette, Amanda

### Absent:

Bains, Raman  
Bird, Gwen  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chen, Larissa  
Cupples, Claire  
Derksen, Jeff  
Fiume, Eugene  
Giardini, Anne  
Gray, Bonnie  
Hedley, Nick  
Johnson, Joy  
Khehra, Alam  
Mac Namara, Aoife  
Peters, Joseph  
Petter, Andrew

### In Attendance:

Cox, Sean  
Hinchliffe, Jo\*\*  
Toward, Jeff

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar  
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed, with one addition.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on September 11, 2017**

The minutes of the open session on September 11, 2017 were approved as distributed.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on October 2, 2017**

The minutes of the open session on October 2, 2017 were approved as distributed, with one correction.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- i) Responding to previous questions at Senate about the adding of majors to the parchment, Registrar Rummana Khan Hemani announced that a decision has been made to add the highest level of academic study to the parchment, starting in June 2018.

A question was asked if the applying of the highest level of academic study to the parchment could be done retroactively. Senate was informed that this addition to the parchment would only be done for parchments going forward.

- ii) Senator Leznoff asked a question about the removal of overhead projector rolls from lecture theatres with no readily available alternative being made available. Senator Keller informed Senate that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

**5. Report of the Chair**

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

**New Faculty Senators:** Jamie Scott; Pablo Nepomnaschy; Julian Somers; Nancy Forde.

**New Student Senators:** Jeffrey Leung; Abdul Ahad Memon; Thomas Budd

The Vice-Chair noted the regrets of the Chair, who is leading an SFU mission to Asia and will provide an update of the mission at the December Senate meeting.

The Vice-Chair reported that SFU graduated its 150,000 student and bestowed honorary degrees on three outstanding honorary degree recipients at the Fall Convocation ceremonies.

The Vice-Chair reported that the SFU Aboriginal Reconciliation Council presented its final report, *Walk This Path With Us*, to President Petter at a traditional witnessing ceremony in Convocation Mall attended by First Nations and Metis peoples, students, faculty, staff, and the broader community. The University has committed to consider and act upon the report's 33 calls to action.

The Vice-Chair reported that *Maclean's* magazine confirmed SFU's ranking as Canada's top comprehensive university, a position held by SFU for 9 of the past 10 years. SFU also climbed from the 10th to the 9th spot in *Maclean's* reputational ranking of all Canadian Universities.

The Vice-Chair reported on recent research grant successes:

- Five SFU research projects will benefit from infrastructure funding totalling \$21.7M from the *Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)*. The federal contribution is expected to more than double through provincial and partner contributions. The *CFI*-funded projects led by SFU are:
  - *Centre for Wearable Biomedical Technologies*. Project leader: Carlo Menon, School of Engineering Science.
  - *High-Momentum and High-Luminosity Muon Beam Lines for Molecular and Materials Science and Fundamental Muon Physics*. Project leader: Jeff Sonier, Department of Physics.
  - *The Silicon Quantum Leap: Tools for Building a Universal Quantum Computer*. Project leader: Michael Thewalt, Department of Physics.
  - *Multi-scale Remote Sensing: From Imaging to Immersive Communications*. Project leader: Rodney Vaughan, School of Engineering Science.
  - *ATLAS Tier-1 Data Centre*. Project leader: Michel Vetterli, Department of Physics.
- SFU is collaborating on three *CFI Innovation Fund* projects led by other Canadian institutions. The projects, and collaborating SFU researchers, are:
  - *National Facility of Seismic Imaging*. SFU project lead: Andy Calvert, Department of Earth Sciences. (Lead institution: Dalhousie University.)
  - *The CRDCN Transition to High Performance Computing: Liberating Data for Research and Policy*. SFU project lead: Jane Friesen, Department of Economics. (Lead institution: McMaster University.)
  - *Upgrades to the ATLAS Detector at the Large Hadron Collider*. SFU project lead: Bernd Stelzer, Department of Physics. (Lead institution: University of Toronto.)

The Vice-Chair reported that SFU Innovates ecosystem has been focusing on community engagement. Highlights included:

- *Vancouver Startup Week*, at which SFU VentureLabs hosted *Demo Day*, showcasing ventures from VentureLabs, Venture Connection and other accelerators, as well as a networking event that attracted 400 participants.
- SFU Innovates was a sponsor of the *Innovates Now Canada* conference hosted by the *Rideau Hall Foundation* and *CityAge* at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Sarah Lubik, SFU's Director of Entrepreneurship was MC, while Elicia Maine, Academic Director of SFU's Graduate Certificate in Science and Technology Commercialization, and SFU alumnus and entrepreneur Charles Chang were panel speakers.

The Vice-Chair reported that *KEY*, SFU's Big Data Initiative, is launching a seed fund to support interdisciplinary collaborations that transform the use of data to accelerate discoveries. *The Next Big Question in Big Data Fund* will provide awards of up to \$25,000 per project.

The Vice-Chair reported that SFU International has become a member of *Scholars at Risk*, a network of 450 institutions worldwide that places scholars who face persecution for their academic work. An academic advisory committee and process have been established to select, receive and support scholars.

The Vice-Chair reported that Madhu and Hari Varshney Visiting Scholar, Dr. Kanika Bhal, will deliver a public lecture at the Segal Graduate School of Business on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> on

*Belief Systems and Business: Indian Cultural Values and Their Interpretation in the Contemporary Business Context.* Dr. Bhal is a professor at IIT Delhi and is currently working with the Jack Austin Centre for Asia Pacific Business Studies at the Beedie School of Business.

## 6. Question Period

There were no questions submitted for question period.

## 7. Invited Presenter

Jane Pulkingham, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, presented an overview of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, following which she took questions.

A question was asked about the number of international students in FASS and if enough is being done to support them. Senate was informed the number of international students in FASS is proportional to that of other faculties, but within FASS itself distribution is unequal across programs. Though more can be done, programs such as FASS First and FASS Forward, along with a pilot by the Department of Economics, are helping international students.

## 8. Reports of Committees

### A) Research Ethics Board (REB)

#### i) Annual Report 2016-2017 (For Information) (S.17-97)

Senate received for information the Research Ethics Board annual report for 2016-2017.

Jeff Toward, Director – Office of Research Ethics, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A request was made to include biographical information on the REB website for members not affiliated with the University. Senate was informed that such information could be provided, assuming the members are comfortable with the level of detail provided.

A concern was raised about the intention to increase research conducted with indigenous communities. Senate was informed the intention is not solely to increase research but to build partnerships with indigenous groups, thereby increasing trust and establishing a healthy dialogue, leading to increased research led by indigenous groups.

### B) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS) Annual Report 2016-2017 (S.17-98)

Senate received for information the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies annual report for 2016-2017.

A comment was made about the Evaluation for Social Change and Transformational Learning Certificate (originally proposed as the Advanced Evaluation Certificate), expressing concern that it covers topics antithetical to a university such as non-evidence based ways of knowing. Senate was informed that this certificate includes indigenous perspectives and approaches to methodology and evaluation. Reference was made not to non-evidence based ways of knowing but to indigenous ways of knows, aiming to teach other forms of methodology to apply to evidence based evaluation.

A question was asked about the structure and academic oversight of the Philosophers' Café program. Senate was informed an answer would be provided at a future Senate meeting.

**C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

**i) External Review of the School of Resource and Environmental Management (S.17-99)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by T. Budd

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the School of Resource and Environmental Management that resulted from its External Review.”

Sean Cox, Director – Resource and Environmental Management, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked if there are plans to include diversity and equity in the Senate Guidelines for External Reviews. Senate was informed that this is currently being worked on.

A question was called and a vote taken.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**i) Faculty of Applied Sciences – Course and Program Changes (For Information) (S.17-100)**

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

**ii) Revisions to the English Language Admission Requirement (For Information) (S.17-101)**

Senate received for information revisions to the English Language Admission Requirement.

A suggestion was made to report back to Senate in approximately five years on the academic success of the students taking the various English language proficiency tests so as to compare the tests with each other.

**E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (For Information) (S.17-102)**

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

**9. Other Business**

**10. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, December 4, 2017.**

Open session adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani  
Registrar