



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, June 11, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Batsih, Harman  
Bhalla, Srishti  
Bird, Gwen  
Brennand, Tracy  
Buttar, Sumrit Singh  
Chandhok, Vikramaditya  
Chapman, Glenn  
Christians, Julian  
Collard, Mark  
Cupples, Claire  
Dastmalchian, Ali (via Vancouver videoconference)  
Fiume, Eugene  
Forde, Nancy  
Freedman, Jackson  
Gray, Bonnie (via Vancouver videoconference)  
Ho, Shuna  
Johal, Rumneek  
Johnson, Joy  
Kalra, Mehak  
Keliipio, Kau'i  
Keller, Peter  
Kim, Woo Soo (via Surrey videoconference)  
Laitsch, Dan (via Surrey videoconference)  
Leacock, Tracey  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah (via Vancouver videoconference)  
Luu, Susan  
McTavish, Rob (for Judy Smith)  
Mongrain, Steeve  
O'Neill, Susan  
Park, Ed (for Jeff Derksen)  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Percival, Colin  
Planchenault, Gaelle  
Plettner, Erika  
Pulkingham, Jane

Randhawa, Jaskarn  
Sanghera, Simran  
Somers, Julian  
Stockie, John  
Tavakoli, Camelia  
Tingling, Peter  
Wang, Christine  
Wiese, Kay  
Zanetta, Amanda

**Absent:**

Andersen, Holly  
Bartram, Lyn  
Bubela, Tania  
Dangi, Ridhi  
Derksen, Jeff  
Favere-Marchesi, Michael  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Giardini, Anne  
Luelfesmann, Christoph  
Mac Namara, Aoife  
Magnusson, Kris  
Moens, Alexander  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo  
Parent, Michael  
Poitras, Geoffrey  
Scott, Jamie  
Shaw, Chris  
Smith, Judy  
Stefanovic, Ingrid

**In Attendance:**

Driver, Jon  
Venditti, Jeremy

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Minutes of the Open Session of May 22, 2018 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on July 9, 2018****3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed the following new and re-elected Senators:

**New Faculty Senators:** Mark Collard; Michael Favere-Marchesi; Woo Soo Kim; Gaelle Planchenault; Erika Plettner; John Stockie

**Re-elected Faculty Senators:** Lyn Bartram; Chris Shaw; Peter Tingling

**New Student Senators:** Harman Batish; Srishti Bhalla; Sumrit Singh Buttar; Vikram Chandhok; Ridhi Dangi; Jackson Freedman; Shuna Ho; Mehak Kalra; Susan Luu; Johal Rumneek; Simran Sangera; Camelia Tavakoli

**Re-elected Student Senators:** Kau'i Keliipio; Sarah Lord Ferguson; Jaskarn Randhawa; Christine Wang

The Chair reported on recent research grant successes:

- Nosyk Bohdan of Health Sciences received \$486,000 from *Health Canada* for a three year project on the development of a comprehensive performance measurement system for opioid use disorder in British Columbia.
- 21 SFU researchers were awarded a total of \$216,000 from *Mitacs' Accelerate*, *Accelerate Graduate Research Partnership* and *Globalink Research Award* programs.
- 6 SFU researchers were successful in the latest round of *NSERC Engage Grants* and have collectively garnered \$146,000 in funding. These grants allow researchers to undertake short-term research and development projects in collaboration with industry partners.
- Peter Ruben of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology received \$130,000 from *Akseera Pharma Corporation* for a collaborative project to determine the effects of CBD (cannabidiol) and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) on the growth and proliferation of prostate cancer cells.

The Chair reported on recent research awards and honours:

- Arthur Robson of Economics has been appointed a *Fellow of the Canadian Economics Association* in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the discipline.
- Isabelle Cote of Biological Sciences has won the *Murray A. Newman Award for Aquatic Research* from the *Coastal Ocean Research Institute* of the *Vancouver Aquarium*. The award celebrates those who've made a significant contribution to advancing conservation and research in BC and beyond.

The Chair reported that the 2018 *BCTECH Summit* came to a successful close. The three-day summit broke attendance records, drawing over 9,000 participants. As an Innovation Partner, SFU was well represented by means of exhibits, research projects and presentations.

The Chair reported that *KEY*, SFU's Big Data Initiative, is a sponsor of *CANHEIT-TECC* 2018, the largest gathering of Canadian higher education IT leaders. Nearly 600 experts, thought-leaders and changemakers will converge on the Burnaby campus, with *KEY* hosting *CANHEIT* attendees at the Big Data Hub for presentations, breakout meetings, and tours.

The Chair reported SFU's Sustainable Energy Engineering Program received provincial support and approval in May. The 80 student program is set to launch in the fall of 2019, with Kevin Oldknow, professor of Mechatronics Systems Engineering and Associate Dean of FASS, as program director.

The Chair reported that SFU is hosting the 2018 *CAUBO (Canadian Association of University Business Officers)* conference. In lieu of speaker gifts, a donation is being made to the *Pat Hibbits Memorial Bursary/Endowment*, who served as SFU's VP, Finance and Administration, for over 14 years.

The Chair reported on recent and upcoming events:

- The Beedie School of Business hosted former Prime Minister Paul Martin at a public event entitled *Advancing Education with Reconciliation*.
- SFU hosted a sold-out AGM of the Alumni Association and elected a new Alumni Board.
- The *Bill Reid Gallery* reopened on June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Convocation runs from June 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. Question Period

No questions were submitted.

## 6. Reports of Committees

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

#### i) Establishment of the School of Environmental Science (S.18-70)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by C. Percival

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the School of Environmental Science within the Faculty of Environment.”

Jon Driver, Dean's Special Projects Advisor, and Jeremy Venditti, Program Director – Faculty of Environment, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A number of Senators, notably from the Faculty of Science and including the Dean of Science, voiced opposition to the establishment of the School of Environmental Science in its proposed form. The concerns raised are as follows:

- The formation of the School will negatively impact departments in the Faculty of Science, particularly the Department of Biological Sciences, by drawing away both students and faculty.

- Despite the statements in the document, discussions between the Faculty of Environment and the Faculty of Science, have only just started, and should have been occurring at a greater depth before the establishment of the School and not after.
- The proposal contains support letters from the Faculty of Environment, but does not include a support letter from the Dean of Science, which is concerning given how important the Faculty of Science is to the Environmental Science Program.
- Consideration should be given to setting up the School jointly between the Faculty of Environment and the Faculty of Science.
- Given the interdisciplinary nature of the Program and the reliance on cross-faculty appointments, the proposal does not discuss how cross-faculty appointments will be handled so as to avoid potential conflicts.
- The Faculty of Science appears to have not been involved in any significant way in the drafting of the administrative structure being implemented to support the students in the Program.

In response to these concerns the following points were made:

- There are currently 300 undergraduate students and 50 graduate students in the Environmental Science Program without a faculty, and with no allocated resources. Consultation has been on-going for a number of years with the Faculty of Environment and the Faculty of Science and a number of modifications have been made to address concerns. Given that consultation could continue in perpetuity it is unfair to those students to further delay the establishment of this School.
- Given that the Environmental Science Program has already existed successfully within the Faculty of Environment for a number of years, the establishment of a School of Environmental Science will not increase the impact on the Faculty of Science.
- Though the Environmental Science Program is interdisciplinary, it should be recognized that disciplines evolve and change over time. Environmental Science has evolved from being highly interdisciplinary into being a discipline defined on its own terms.
- One cannot argue that interdisciplinary programs shouldn't be placed into a single faculty given that both the School of Criminology and the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology were founded as interdisciplinary departments.

A concern was raised that the issues brought up at Senate regarding this proposal were not brought up at SCUP. It was added that if there are points of contention to be considered it is better to consider them at the committee level before coming to Senate.

Moved by J. Johnson, seconded by C. Cupples

“That S.18-70 be tabled.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED

**B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)****i) Program Changes (S.18-71)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology, School of Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, General Science Program).

**ii) New Course Proposals (S.18-72)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Environment (Archaeology, Geography).

**iii) Course Changes (S.18-73)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Chemistry).

A question was asked about BPK 326 only being offered to students doing BPK majors due to limited resources, and if it is possible to offer a less resource intensive version of this for non-majors given the demand. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

**C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)****i) Program Changes (S.18-74)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a program change in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)****i) Senate Committee Elections (S.18-75 Revised)**

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****8. Information****i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, July 9, 2018.**

Open session adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani  
Registrar