



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, April 1, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Andersen, Holly
Bartram, Lyn (via Surrey videoconference)
Bubela, Tania
Chandhok, Vikramaditya
Chapman, Glenn
Christians, Julian
Collard, Mark
Dastmalchian, Ali (via Vancouver videoconference)
Denholm, Julia
Derksen, Jeff
Elle, Elizabeth
Fiume, Eugene
Forde, Nancy
Gray, Bonnie (via Vancouver videoconference)
Hendrigan, Holly
Johnson, Joy
Keliipio, Kau'i
Keller, Peter
Kench, Paul
Kim, Woo Soo
Leacock, Tracey
Leznoff, Daniel
Lord Ferguson, Sarah (via Vancouver videoconference)
Magnusson, Kris
Myers, Gord
Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Peters, Joseph
Planchenault, Gaelle
Poitras, Geoffrey
Pulkingham, Jane
Sheikh, Daanyaal
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Stockie, John
Tingling, Peter
Wiese, Kay
Zanette, Amanda

Absent:

Ali, Mohammed
Bhalla, Srishti
Bird, Gwen
Brennan, Tracy
Buttar, Sumrit Singh
Dangi, Ridhi
Elmi, Parham
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Freedman, Jackson
Gajdics, Sylvia
Giardini, Anne
Ho, Shuna
Kalra, Mehak
Laitsch, Dan
Luelfsmann, Christoph
Luu, Susan
Mac Namara, Aoife
Moens, Alexander
Mohar, Amrita
Mongrain, Steeve
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
Parent, Michael
Plettner, Erika
Randhawa, Jaskarn
Sanghera, Simran
Scott, Jamie
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Tavakoli, Camelia
Walsby, Charles

In Attendance:

Cupples, Will
Davis, Trevor
Heidi, Dai
Oldknow, Kevin (via Vancouver videoconference)
Spector, Stephen
Toward, Jeff

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session of March 4, 2019 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on May 21, 2019**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

At the March 4, 2019 Senate meeting a motion was passed regarding SFU joining the *Magna Charta Universitatum*. The motion was brought forward on the understanding that Board of Governors approval would also be required to seek membership in the *Magna Charta*. The reason this motion was proposed was both to make a statement concerning the importance of academic freedom and university autonomy at a time when these values are under attack in many parts of the world, and to enable SFU to participate in the process underway to revise the document. The hope was that we could play a positive and progressive role in amending and strengthening the document by rectifying its Eurocentric assumptions and gendered language and by including commitments to respect the rights and traditions of Indigenous peoples. It became apparent, based on input received from a number of members of the university community, that a decision to sign the document would be misconstrued by some as an endorsement of the very assumptions and language in need of revision. This point became moot, however, with the Board meeting being cut short over protests around tuition and therefore having no opportunity to address this issue.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair thanked all who attended the Senate – Board of Governors Retreat and noted that a summary report will be produced for the benefit of both bodies.

The Chair reported on research updates:

- The Honorable Kristy Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport, was at SFU on March 15th and used the occasion to announce that \$746,300 from the *Canadian Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund* will be used to improve SFU labs and to purchase equipment to help SFU researchers advance their research goals.
- 5 out of 10 project proposals put forth by SFU to the *Canadian Defense Department's IDEaS (Innovation for Defense Excellence and Security)* program have received funding totaling over \$900,000. The projects address science and technology challenges faced by the Department.

The Chair reported that SFU participated in the fourth-annual *BC TECH Summit* from March 11-13. SFU experts in artificial intelligence, big data, materials research, computational linguistics, sustainable engineering and entrepreneurship engaged with summit attendees to share their knowledge and to initiate partnerships.

The Chair reported that he, along with the Vice-President, Research and International, headed a SFU delegation at the *Asia Pacific Association for International Education's (APAIE)* annual conference and exhibition held in Kuala Lumpur. SFU will be hosting next year's conference and exhibition – *APAIE 2020* – in Vancouver from March 22-26, which marks the first time the conference will be held in the Americas, with over 2400 expected attendees. While SFU will be the lead host for the conference, we will be assisted by co-hosts the University of British

Columbia, University of Victoria, University of Northern British Columbia, Royal Roads University, and Thompson Rivers University.

The Chair reported that SFU recently broke ground on a new stadium on Terry Fox Field. The 1800 seat facility is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

The Chair reported that the official opening of the building that will house SFU's Sustainable Energy Engineering (SEE) Program will be held on April 25th. Designed by the late Bing Thom, the state-of-the-art structure is built around a grand, forested atrium, and will feature 14 fully connected teaching labs, a machine shop, six classrooms and two theatres, including one that seats 400 people. In addition to housing the new program, the facility will provide much-needed space for a variety of disciplines, as well as for the broader community. The SEE Program, which commences this September, will help establish BC as a clean-tech and sustainable energy leader.

The Chair reported that the new pub restaurant, *The Study*, officially opened on April 1st. Operated by *Joseph Richard Group* under a contract with SFU, the refurbished facility will be open Monday to Saturday from 11:00 am to 1:00 am and on Sunday from 11:00 am to 12:00 midnight. *The Study* is a 19+ venue that can seat over 300 patrons, with more accommodated outdoors on the patio overlooking the city. Families can bring their children into the venue until 10:00 pm.

5. Question Period

i) Senator Sheikh submitted the following questions:

1. *SFU's snow policy of announcing as to whether classes would be held at 6:30 am has turned out to be a little redundant as many students have had to come up the hill despite horrible road conditions, which has led to several accidents this semester alone. How is SFU working towards a better snow policy which would ensure that students and staff do not have to endanger their lives just to get to class? Would SFU be able to announce the plan for the next day a day in advance to ensure that students do not have to wake up at 6:30 just to check SFU's twitter account? Is SFU working on a better means of communication to ensure every student gets the update without having to go to social media/the SFU website?*

Peter Keller, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the relevant policy for the unscheduled cancellations of classes is GP 4. The decision to cancel classes or examinations is never done lightly, and ultimately comes down to an issue of safety. It can be very difficult to accurately predict the weather, and this is especially the case with the Burnaby campus given its location on Burnaby Mountain. If poor weather is anticipated, the monitoring of forecasts, road conditions, bus services and campus safety is done. Once a decision to close the campus has been made, that decision is communicated to the SFU community by 6:00 am using the SFU website and social media. Relating to this topic, Senate was informed that work is being done in terms of a proposal to install a gondola connection between SkyTrain's Production Way-University Station and the Burnaby campus. Though many steps have to

be taken, the hope is that Burnaby City Council will request that *Translink* do a public consultation, and then request funding from the province.

Noting that there are times when students may face safety concerns in reaching campus even if classes are not officially cancelled, a question was asked if consideration would be given to not imposing penalties on students under these circumstances. Senate was informed that the University would be willing to consider not penalizing students under such circumstances.

2. *Buying new textbooks every semester causes an immense financial strain on the students. Is SFU working towards making textbooks cheaper and more accessible for the students? Would SFU be able to implement a policy that ensures that professors cannot/do not need to change textbooks every semester which forces students to buy new textbooks and renders used textbooks useless? Will SFU be able to use BC OpenEd to make textbooks more accessible?*

Peter Keller, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that though the choice of textbook is up to the instructor, it is generally publishers who decide when a textbook needs a new edition and sets the price. It was noted that the library supports free or low-cost ways of making textbooks available to students, when asked by the instructor, by having them on reserve. Further, the library, along with the Teaching and Learning Centre, offer *Open Educational Research (OER) Grants* which provide funding of up to \$5000 to adopt or adapt open textbooks or other OER as their primary course material. Also, the Bookstore has a buyback program where students can sell back their textbooks for cash. It was added that the promotion of Open Access and Open-Education resources has been identified as a priority in SFU's Academic Plan 2019-2024, and a working group has been formed to work towards that goal.

A comment was made that faculty should make a conscious effort to know how much the textbooks they choose cost students each semester.

A question was asked about the Bookstore's financial model, and if they could do anything to reduce the mark-up on textbooks. Senate was informed that the bookstore is run on a break-even model and that textbooks are generally competitively priced, but this could be looked into further.

3. *The Back on Track program causes extreme mental and financial strain on non-local students due to its 3 semester system which forces students to be unable to take classes in the 1st semester of Back on Track (BoT). For an international student or a non-local Canadian student, this leads to massive financial strain which leads to high levels of mental stress along with the fact that many of SFU's facilities are taken away from you, for example, access to the Fitness centre etc. and the fact that you cannot seek work while you are in the 1st semester of BoT. How is SFU working on making this program better and more accommodating? Would it be possible to modify this program to the needs of non-local students only? Would it be possible to grant access to all the facilities to the students despite being on BoT if they are willing to pay for it?*

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that when Back on Track was piloted in 2007 it did not feature a non-credit semester. It was found, however, that students struggled when moving directly from being required to withdraw into a credited two-semester program. As a result, a non-credit semester was introduced and has been found to be successful. Student Services works closely with International Student Services (ISS), and International and non-local students are encouraged to work with ISS, especially in terms of visa or employment issues. There is a process where if the student would like to continue access to the recreation facilities, they can pay a fee which is refunded when they come back into full-time studies. In addition, arrangements have been made with Residence and Housing allowing students to continue living in Residence while in BoT.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Student Discipline Matters

i) Annual Report 2017-2018 (S.19-48)

Senate received the Student Discipline Matters Annual Report 2017-2018 for information.

A question was asked about international students making up 55% of reported cases while only making up 19% of the overall student population. Senate was informed that Student Services will be working with the Student Learning Commons to offer enhanced online tutorials and modules. Also, more work needs to be done to better prepare incoming students, especially international students, on what is expected in terms of academic integrity policies and what supports are available to them.

Noting the college admissions scandal to hit the United States recently, a question was asked if SFU has any concerns over its admission process. Senate was informed that the Canadian system is very different than the U.S. system and does not rely on standardized admission tests. It was noted that Admissions is paying careful attention to the documents it's receiving and efforts are being made to convert to receiving electronic transcripts directly from all institutions in the future.

A question was asked about using athletics as a backdoor to admissions and if this is a concern for SFU. Senate was informed that Division 2 NCAA places a high priority on academics and academic integrity over athletics, in contrast to the culture of Division 1. It was noted that Athletics has no direct involvement in decisions around admissions, and there are checks in place on both sides to ensure the integrity of student athletes.

A question was asked if there is a way to determine a student's history of academic dishonesty. Senate was informed that such information would not be provided while an investigation of an incident is ongoing. Once a report is submitted, the Registrar's Office would determine if there have been previous incidents and if there are any issues to be addressed.

A question was asked about the threshold for recommending an FD grade. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

A question was asked about the spike in the number of cases of students cheating on exams or assignments, which jumped from 112 in 2016-2017 to 265 in 2017-2018. Senate was informed

that the spike related to two courses that experienced mass cheating involving hundreds of students.

B) Senate Appeals Board (SAB)

i) Annual Report 2018 (S.1949)

Senate received the Senate Appeals Board Annual Report 2018 for information.

A question was asked if the high success rates of SAB appeals, 32 approved out of 40 cases, suggests a problem with the original decision making process. Senate was informed that students often submit Withdrawal Under Extenuating Circumstances (WE) applications without proper supporting documentation, and that an appeal may be initiated if new evidence is provided that would likely have affected the original decision.

A suggestion was made to include the total number of WE applications in the report to provide context for the appeal numbers. Senate was informed that this would be included in future reports.

C) Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)

i) Annual Report 2018 (S.19-50)

Senate received the Senate Committee on International Activities Annual report 2018 for information.

D) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Establishment of the School of Sustainable Energy Engineering (S.19-51)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by G. Chapman

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the School of Sustainable Energy Engineering within the Faculty of Applied Sciences.”

Kevin Oldknow, Associate Dean - Faculty of Applied Sciences was in attendance via Surrey teleconference to respond to questions.

Noting overlap with the Faculty of Science, especially with Chemistry and Physics, a question was asked if any consideration has been given to involving these departments in hiring decisions. Senate was informed that there is a strong connection between Sustainable Energy Engineering and other faculties and that collaboration with departments like Chemistry and Physics will be central to the success of the program. Though members from other faculties have not been included directly in the hiring process, they have been included in the dialogue in the establishment of the program.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Full Program Proposal for the Joint Major in Business, Philosophy, and the Law (S.19-52)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by P. Tingling

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the Joint Major in Business, Philosophy and the Law in the Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Beedie School of Business, effective Fall 2019.”

Dai Heidi, Undergraduate Chair – Department of Philosophy, and Stephen Spector – Beedie School of Business, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made encourage those involved in this program, notably academic advisors, to be clear with students about what this program is actually preparing them for. Senate was informed that efforts are being made to not present this as a pre-Law program or to give students the impression that the courses taken in this program would be similar to the ones they would take in Law School. The aim of this program is to expose students to certain foundational questions related not only to the study of law, but to other fields as well.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Name Change of MA in Comparative Media Arts (S.19-53)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by J. Derksen

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change from the Master of Arts in Comparative Media Arts to Master of Arts in Contemporary Arts in the School for the Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Fall 2019.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Revisions to Policy R20.01 (S.19-54)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by J. Johnson

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the revised Policy R20.01 (Ethics Review of Research Involving Human Participants).”

Trevor Davis, Executive Director, Research Operations - Office of VP Research, and Jeff Toward, Director – Office of Research Ethics, were in attendance to respond to questions

A comment was made to caution against reviews of research involving human participants being overly burdensome and time consuming to students and researchers. Senate was informed that effort is made to apply proportional review to research. It was noted that the *Tri-Council Policy Statement* for ethics does state that ethics reviews are required for all research involving human subjects. It was added that the time required for ethics reviews has decreased considerably in recent years.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

E) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.19-55)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Economics, First nations Studies, Global Asia Program, Centre for Hellenic Studies, History, School for International Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for

the Contemporary Arts), the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.19-56)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Economics, First Nations Studies, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Centre for Hellenic Studies, School for International Studies, Language Training Institute, Philosophy), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Environment (Geography), and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

iii) Course Changes (S.19-57)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Economics, English, Global Asia Program, Centre for Hellenic Studies, History, Humanities, School for International Studies, Labour Studies Program, Linguistics, Language Training Institute, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program, School for the Contemporary Arts, School of Communication), and the Faculty of Science (Chemistry, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Physics, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

F) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Program Changes (S.19-58)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Liberal Studies, Psychology), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Biological Sciences, Mathematics).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.19-59)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology).

iii) Course Changes (S.19-60)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies), the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Physics).

iv) Course Changes (S.19-61)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (History).

A concern was raised about reinstating certain courses in the Calendar, even if they have not been offered in recent years, in order to recruit and serve prospective students. Senate was informed that one of the rationales for the reinstatement of these courses is to appeal to students enrolling in a new Graduate Certificate in History.

7. Other Business

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

Senate was informed that Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar and Secretary of Senate, will be the acting Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Students & International pro-tem with the departure of Tim Rahilly. Though Rummana will be retaining her role as Registrar, Kris Nordgren, Assistant Registrar, Senate & Academic Services, has been appointed Secretary of Senate pro tem.

Open session adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar