



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Agnes, George (for Jeff Derksen)  
Ali, Mohammed (via Vancouver videoconference)  
Andersen, Holly  
Bartram, Lyn  
Brennand, Tracy  
Collard, Mark  
Dangi, Ridhi (via Surrey videoconference)  
Dastmalchian, Ali (via Vancouver videoconference)  
Denholm, Julia  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Elmi, Parham  
Fiume, Eugene  
Forde, Nancy  
Hendrigan, Holly  
Johnson, Joy  
Kalra, Mehak (via Surrey videoconference)  
Keller, Peter  
Kench, Paul  
Kim, Woo Soo  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leacock, Tracey  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Luelfesmann, Christoph  
Magnusson, Kris  
Munro, Karen (For Gwen Bird)  
Murray, Catherine (for Jane Pulkingham)  
Myers, Gord  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Percival, Colin  
Peters, Joseph  
Planchenault, Gaelle  
Plettner, Erika  
Poitras, Geoffrey  
Poyntz, Stuart  
Stockie, John  
Tavakoli, Camelia  
Tingling, Peter  
Wiese, Kay

**Absent:**

Bhalla, Srishti  
Bird, Gwen  
Bubela, Tania  
Buttar, Sumrit Singh  
Chandhok, Vikramaditya  
Chapman, Glenn  
Christians, Julian  
Derksen, Jeff  
Favere-Marchesi, Michael  
Freedman, Jackson  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Giardini, Anne  
Gray, Bonnie  
Ho, Shuna  
Keliipio, Kau'i  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah  
Luu, Susan  
Moens, Alexander  
Mohar, Amrita  
Mongrain, Steeve  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo  
Parent, Michael  
Pulkingham, Jane  
Randhawa, Jaskarn  
Sanghera, Simran  
Scott, Jamie  
Shaw, Chris  
Sheikh, Daanyaal  
Somers, Julian  
Stefanovic, Ingrid  
Walsby, Charles  
Zanette, Amanda

**In Attendance:**

Kelm, Mary-Ellen

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on March 4, 2019**

The minutes of the open session on March 4, 2019 were approved as distributed.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on April 1, 2019**

The minutes of the open session on April 1, 2019 were approved as distributed.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- i) At the April meeting a question was asked about the financial model of the bookstore and if anything could be done to lower the mark-ups on textbooks. Senate was informed that the SFU Bookstore would match the price of new textbooks if found more cheaply online.
- ii) At the April meeting a question was asked the threshold for assigning an FD grade. Senate was informed that between five and ten FD grades are assigned each year, and are typically assigned for egregious incidents of academic dishonesty. Questions on whether or not an FD grade should be considered by the Chair can be referred to the Registrar's Office, to the Academic Integrity Coordinator, or to a departmental or faculty Academic Integrity Advisor.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported on research updates:

- SFU Linguistics professor Marianne Ignace and her husband Ronald Ignace have been recognized with a *Governor General's Award for Innovation* for their decades of work with BC's Indigenous communities.
- Communications Professor Ellen Balka (FCAT Associate Dean, Research) received the 2019 *Paz Buttedahl Career Achievement Award* from the *Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC* for her outstanding community contribution to enable women's organizations and NGOs across Canada to harness the power of technology to advance equity, diversity and social change.
- Education Professor Rina Zazkis has been named the 2019 *Jonathan Borwein Mathematics Ambassador* by *Partners in Research Canada* for her outreach and leadership in improving the quality of mathematics education in Canada, and inspiring her students to pursue research and careers in mathematics and mathematics education.

The Chair reported that the *New Frontiers in Research Fund Awards* were recently announced, with five SFU faculty members winning awards of a quarter of a million dollars each:

- Stephanie Simmons of Physics for *Building the Quantum Internet*.
- Michael Adachi of Engineering Science for *Detection of cytokines using monolayer transition metal dichalcogenides for diagnostic sensing applications*.
- Caterina Ramogida of Chemistry for *Novel radio-pharmaceuticals to cure cancer*.
- Tammara Soma of Resource and Environmental Management for *Our Home, Our Food, Our Resilience: A Citizen Science Approach to Food Asset Mapping and New Frontiers in Ecological Heritage Planning in Canada*.

- Ian Tietjen of Health Sciences for *Molecular, Chemical and Community-Based Exploration of Indigenous Medicinal Plants*.

The Chair reported that SFU hosted a panel discussion in Ottawa on *Data for Good: How Trusted Partners Can Advance Canada's Digital Transformation*. This event was hosted by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and SFU Deputy Minister Champion Marta Morgan, and was moderated by Vice-President, Research Joy Johnson.

The Chair reported that SFU recently delivered two data visualization workshops to the *BC Ministry of Citizens' Services* to help public sector staff improve their data science and decision-making skills to serve citizen's needs.

The Chair reported that SFU is partnered with *Avcorp, D-Wave* and *Solid State AI* on one of the first projects to be funded by *Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster*. The project will help develop a process to improve the data pipeline while providing research and training opportunities for SFU faculty and students.

The Chair reported that he, in his role as President, led a delegation in Ottawa earlier in May for a series of meetings with government representatives, granting agencies and other partners. A reception was also hosted for SFU Alumni and friends.

The Chair reported that SFU's Vancouver campus celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May. Events included the Builder's Dinner at the *Bill Reid Gallery* and a reception at Harbour Centre for the SFU Community.

The Chair reported that the SFU Public Square Community Summit took place a few weeks ago on the theme of *Confronting the Disinformation Age* and consisted of 14 events that drew 4,300 participants. The keynote event was a sold out community forum at Queen Elizabeth Theatre including thought leaders David Frum, Sue Gardner, and Christopher Wylie in conversation with the CBC's Ian Hanomansing.

The Chair reported that the 2019 President's Distinguished Community Leadership Award was presented to former BC Premier and SFU Honorary Degree recipient Mike Harcourt.

The Chair reported on the grand opening of SFU's new Surry building, which featured representatives from all levels of government, including federal Treasury Board President Joyce Murray, BC Premier John Horgan, and Surry mayor Doug McCallum.

The Chair reported that Convocation takes place from June 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, with an Indigenous Honouring Feast on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Honorary Degrees will be awarded to Dava Sobel, Joseph Schwarcz, Chief Robert Joseph, Ruby Peter, Jennifer Wade and Norman Armour.

## 6. Question Period

No questions were submitted.

## 7. Reports of Committees

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

#### i) Annual Report 2018-2019 (S.19-62)

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Priorities Annual Report 2018-2019 for information.

#### ii) External Reviews for 2019-2020 (S.19-63)

Senate received the External Reviews for 2019-2020 for information.

#### iii) Full Program Proposal for the Certificate in Creative Technologies in Digital Journalism (S.19-64)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the Certificate in Creative Technologies in Digital journalism within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Spring 2020.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

#### iv) Full Program Proposal for the Certificate in International Studies (S.19-65)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the Certificate in International Studies in the School for International Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2020.”

A concern was raised that despite being promoted as an interdisciplinary certificate, the majority of students completing this certificate will be either History or International Studies students meeting the certificate requirements by taking courses they would already be taking for their programs, thus creating a situation of being awarded two credentials for the price of one. Also, a suggestion was made to consider placing limits on the number of courses students can apply towards a certificate and also a major or minor. Senate was informed that there are clear objectives set out behind this certificate, and that FASS would be in favour of reviewing this certificate in two to three years to determine how it's performing.

A question was asked as to the proportion of students currently doing an International Studies major who would, by virtue of completing their program, be eligible to receive this certificate. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

#### v) Full Program Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in History (S.19-66)

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the Graduate Certificate in History in the Department of History within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2020.”

Mary-Ellen Kelm, Professor – Department of History, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made that whereas FASS has been excellent in consultation and collaboration with other academic areas in the past, it was surprising that such consultation was not sought from the Faculty of Education for this program, which is aimed specifically at teachers. Had such consultation been sought, a number of suggestions could have been offered to strengthen the proposal both on a conceptual level and on the probability of attracting students beyond their first year of study.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Program Changes (S.19-67)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics).

**ii) New Course Proposals (S.19-68)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management).

**iii) Course Changes (S.19-69)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology), the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource and Environmental Management), and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

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

**i) Grading of Capstone Courses (S.19-70)**

Senate received the Grading of Capstone Courses for information

**ii) Revisions to Graduate Tuition Refunds (S.19-71)**

Senate received Revisions to Graduate Tuition Refunds for information.

**iii) Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions (S.19-72)**

**Motion 1:**

Moved by G. Agnes, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.2 (Administration of Graduate Studies).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 2:**

Moved by G. Agnes, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.6.3 (Senior Supervisor).”

A question was asked to explain the rationale for removing the word *Senior* from GGR 1.6.3, and to also explain why professor emeriti are now explicitly included in the list of who can be a supervisor. Senate was informed that the decision to remove the word *Senior* was based on the observation by Graduate Studies that the term *Senior Supervisor* was unique to SFU and often led to confusion for external examiners. The policy for professor emeriti has long stated that they are eligible to supervise graduate students. Their explicit inclusion in GGR 1.6.3 was done with the intention of capturing this allowance in the GGR.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 3:**

Moved by G. Agnes, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.6.4 (Supervisory Committee).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 4:**

Moved by G. Agnes, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.6.5 (Co-supervision).”

A question was asked about the ability of limited-term research faculty and visiting faculty to act as co-supervisors. Senate was informed that the inclusion of limited-term research faculty and visiting faculty as potential co-supervisors is driven by a campus wide acknowledgement that they are qualified to act in this role and this change in policy will allow them to do so.

A concern was raised about having limited-term research faculty and visiting faculty acting as co-supervisors and thereby enforcing program standards they are unassociated with by the nature of their appointment. Senate was informed that the concern was noted. A number of comments in support of allowing limited-term research faculty and visiting faculty acting to act as co-supervisors were offered, noting that quality control still resides within the supervisory committee.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion 5:**

Moved by G. Agnes, seconded by C. Murray

“That Senate approve the revisions to GGR 1.10.2 (Classification of the Thesis).”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**8. Other Business**

**9. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Tuesday, June 10, 2019.**

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, expressed appreciation to the following Senators whose terms of office expire on May 31, 2019: Mohammed Ali, Holly Andersen, Srishti Bhalla, Sumrit Singh Buttar, Vikram Chandhok, Julian Christians, Parham Elmi, Jackson Freedman, Shuna Ho, Mehak Kalra, Kau'i Keliipio, Alexander Moens, Amrita Mohar, Steeve Mongrain, Joseph Peters, Simran Sanghera, Jamie Scott, Camelia Tavakoli and Kay Wiese.

Open session adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Kris Nordgren  
Secretary of Senate pro tem