

SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF JULY 6, 2020

1. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that efforts to address challenges resulting from COVID-19 and its consequences are ongoing:

- The administration, aided by a number of working groups, continues to implement measures to enhance safety, provide guidance to faculty, staff and supervisors, and plan for recovery.
- The University continues to be guided by health authorities, the Province and Worksafe BC.
- Most staff and faculty continue to work remotely – with the exception of those required to work on campus to support essential services and on-campus research.
- Steps are underway to allow more on-campus research, and decisions have been made to allow a limited number of in-person classes in the fall, where in-person instruction is essential and can be safely delivered (e.g. labs requiring the use of equipment).
- The Centre for Educational Excellence continues to provide guidance and resources to instructors and students engaged in remote instruction. Such efforts have improved the quality of remote instruction as faculty and students have become more familiar with the technology and its potential.
- Students Services continues to provide information, counselling and financial support to students using predominantly virtual means.
- In terms of financial support, SFU's COVID-19 Student Urgent Response Fund has grown to over \$350,000. Drawing upon this fund, along with SFU's own resources, over \$3 million in financial aid has been provided to students in need.
- The University has developed a COVID-19 impact scale which identifies four distinct recovery phases. The scale will aid in the recovery planning and implementation as the university responds to the external decisions and indicators to either loosen or tighten the operations in an orderly and coordinated way.
- Maintaining good communications has been crucial in this environment, and SFU's communications team has done an excellent job of keeping the university community informed about COVID-19 and other developments.
- With respect to COVID-19, in addition to daily communications via the website, social media and email, the University have held two virtual town hall forums: one for students and one for staff and faculty.
- In terms of advocacy with government, the Research Universities Council of BC recently presented four urgent recommendations to the legislative committee advising the Province on its budget:
 - an increase in targeted needs-based emergency financial assistance for students with limited resources;
 - increased provincial funding to address the health needs of students, including mental-health supports;

- additional resources to help students succeed in an online learning environment; and
- increased and ongoing graduate student scholarship funding.
- The Chair, in his role as President, has written op-eds and given interviews urging the federal and provincial governments to pursue economic recovery strategies that harness the capacities of post-secondary institutions to develop human capital, increase social equity and advance climate goals.

The Chair, in his role as President, reported that in the wake of racist incidents in United States and Canada, issued strong statements condemning discrimination and violence directed against Asian, Black and Indigenous peoples, and calling upon the university community to support our continuing efforts to counter systemic discrimination and to promote Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

The Chair reported that due to health and safety requirements associated with COVID-19, SFU has hosted a variety of virtual events, the most ambitious of which was the virtual Convocation celebration which was well attended and well received, and included a watch party for special guests at which tribute was paid to the outgoing chancellor. Other virtual events have included an Honouring Ceremony for Indigenous Graduates, the Alumni AGM, and an event for foreign diplomats. The only in-person events held were the announcement on June 19th by Advanced Education Minister Melanie Mark of \$6.4 million in funding for the First People's Gathering House and a Ground-breaking Ceremony on July 3rd hosted by members of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation for an Indigenous Garden and Outdoor Classroom beside the Education Building

The Chair reported that SFU has been ranked 34th most innovative university in the world, and seventh in the world for entrepreneurial spirit, in the World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) ranking. The WURI is a new ranking system developed by the Institute for Policy and Strategy on National Competitiveness to evaluate universities based on their *real contributions to society*. While SFU consistently fares well in traditional academic rankings, the University has demonstrated even greater strengths in rankings which measure universities' impacts on society.

The Chair congratulated the following individuals:

- Dugan O'Neil, who assumed the position of Vice-President Research and International (pro tem) on July 1st.
- Angela Brooks-Wilson, who assumed the position of Associate Vice-President Research (pro tem) on July 1st.
- Rummana Khan-Hemani, who has been appointed Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Students & International, effective September 1st.
- Catherine Dauvergne, Dean of Law at UBC, who has been appointed Provost and Vice-President Academic, effective November 23rd.
- Jon Driver, who agreed to continue in his capacity as Provost and Vice-President Academic (pro tem) until Professor Dauvergne's appointment begins.

2. **External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the School of Criminology (S.20-78)**
Senate received the External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the School of Criminology for information.
3. **Full Program Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Contemporary Arts (S.20-79)**
Senate approved and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Contemporary Arts in the School of Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, effective Fall 2021.
 - Course (new): CA 890, 891, 892, 895, 899
4. **Name Change of Certificate in First Nations Languages Proficiency (S.20-80)**
Senate approved and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change from Certificate in First Nations Languages Proficiency to Certificate in Indigenous Languages Proficiency, in the Department of Linguistics within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
5. **Name Change of First Nations Languages Proficiency Diploma (S.20-81)**
Senate approved and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change from First Nations Languages Proficiency Diploma to Indigenous Languages Proficiency Diploma, in the Department of Linguistics within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
6. **Name Change of First Nations Languages Program (S.20-82)**
Senate approved and recommend to the Board of Governors the program name change from First Nations Languages Program to Indigenous Languages Program, in the Department of Linguistics within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
7. **Undergraduate Program Changes (S.20-83)**
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Spring 2021:
 - i) **Faculty of Applied Sciences**
 - a) *School of Computing Science*
 - Program: Computing Science and Linguistics Joint Major
 - ii) **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**
 - a) *French*
 - Program: French Honours
 - Program: French Major
 - Program: French Studies Extended Minor
 - Program: French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs French Major with a Political Sciences Extended Minor
 - Program: French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs Political Science Major with a French Extended Minor
 - Program: French, History and Politics Joint Major

- Program: French and Humanities Joint Major
- Program: English and French Literatures Joint Major

iii) Faculty of Environment

a) Geography

- Program: Physical Geography Major
- Program: Physical Geography Honours

iv) Faculty of Health Sciences

- Program: Health Sciences Major BA
- Program: Health Sciences Major BSc
- Program: Health Sciences Honours BA
- Program: Health Sciences Honours BSc
- Program: Philosophy and Health Sciences Joint Major
- Program: Health Sciences Minor

v) Faculty of Science

a) *Biological Sciences*

- Program: Biological Sciences Major
- Program: Biological Sciences Honours
- Program: Biological Sciences Minor
- Program: Environmental Toxicology Minor

8. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.20-84)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Spring 2021:

i) Faculty of Environment

a) *Geography*

- Course (new): GEOG 118 (effective Fall 2021)
- Course (new): GOEG 418

ii) Faculty of Science

a) *Biological Sciences*

- Course (new): BISC 205

b) *Physics*

- Course (new): PHYS 391

9. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.20-85)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Spring 2021:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering

- Course (title, prerequisite): MSE 250
- Course (prerequisite): MSE 251

ii) Faculty of Environment

a) School of Environmental Science

- Course (units): EVSC 334

b) School of Resource and Environmental Management

- Course (units): REM 334
- Course (B-Soc designation): REM 207
- Course (B-Sci designation): REM 211
- Course (Q designation): REM 225 (effective Fall 2020)

iii) Faculty of Health Sciences

- Course (number, description, prerequisite, equivalency): HSCI 304
- Course (title): HSCI 310
- Course (deletion): HSCI 329, 430, 479
- Course (prerequisite): HSCI 483

iv) Faculty of Science

a) Biological Sciences

- Course (prerequisite): BISC 305, 366, 445, 455
- Course (description, prerequisite): BISC 405

b) Chemistry

- Course (description): CHEM 120 (effective Fall 2020)
- Course (equivalency): CHEM 121 (effective Fall 2020)
- Course (title, equivalency): CHEM 215, 281 (effective Fall 2020)

c) Physics

- Course (title, description, prerequisite): PHYS 285
- Course (title, description, prerequisite): PHYS 385, 415 (effective Fall 2021)

10. Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Annual Report 2019-2020 (S.20-86)

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Annual Report 2019-2020 for information.

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-34306>

11. Graduate Program Changes (S.20-87)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program change, effective Spring 2021:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) *School of Computing Science*

- Program: Professional Computer Science MSc

12. Graduate New Course Proposals (S.20-88)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposal, effective Spring 2021:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) *School of Computing Science*

- Course (new): CMPT 863

13. Graduate Course Changes (S.20-89)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course change, effective Spring 2021:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) *School of Computing Science*

- Course (title, description, prerequisite, equivalency): CMPT 756
- Course (description, prerequisite): CMPT 767

14. Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Revisions (S.20-90)

Senate approved the deletion of GGR 1.3.15 (Cohort Special Arrangements).

15. Senate Committee Elections (S.20-91 Revised)

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

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the September Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the July 2020 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-34306>.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Steven Noel, Senate Assistant, at 778-782-3168 or senate@sfu.ca.

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-34306>