



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

Open Session

Present: Joy Johnson, Chair

Andreoiu, Corina
Bartram, Lyn
Bird, Gwen
Bubela, Tania
Chapman, Glenn
Coleman, Gordon
Daniel, Bryan
Dauvergne, Catherine
Denholm, Julia
Derksen, Jeff
Egri, Carolyn
Elle, Elizabeth
Everton, Mike
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Fiume, Eugene
Gildersleve, Corbett
Gray, Bonnie
Hall, Peter
Hendrigan, Holly
Hoffer, Andy
Kench, Paul
Kim, Woo Soo
Krogman, Naomi
Kumpulainen, Kristiina
Laitsch, Dan
Lam, Allan
Lam, Daniel
Leznoff, Daniel
Liosis, Gabe
McTavish, Rob
Mirhady, David
Mohamed, Osob
Murphy, David
Myers, Gord
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
Neustaedter, Carman
O'Neil, Dugan
O'Neill, Susan
Pantophlet, Ralph
Parkhouse, Wade

Parmar, Abhishek
Percival, Colin
Spector, Stephen
Stockie, John
Strauss, Kendra
Tingling, Peter
Walsby, Charles
Weldon, Steve
Wong, Alan
Zandvliet, David

Absent:

Brennand, Tracy
Burley, David
Chenier, Ele
Collard, Mark
Gedajlovic, Eric
Gunn, Alexandra
Hogg, Robert
Krauth, Brian
Lord Ferguson, Sarah
Luu, Susan
Martell, Matt
Masri, Kamal
Modi, Nafoni
Pulkingham, Jane
Raza, Samad
Shaw, Chris
Singh, Harry Preet
Singh, Tanishvir
Vrooman, Tamara

In Attendance:

Campbell, Lara
Khan Hemani, Rummana
Mason-Innes, Tracey
Pappas, Panayiotis
Zwagerman, Sean

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of April 12, 2021

The minutes of the open session on April 12, 2021 were approved as distributed, with two minor edits.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that the new Bullying and Harassment Policy was recently approved by the Board of Governors, as was the amended Human Rights Policy. In addition to the approval, there is now an opportunity to take online training in relation to bullying and harassment.

The Chair reported that SFU has named Tom Nault as its next Registrar, effective July 5, 2021. Tom is currently the Registrar and Secretary to Senate at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Chair reported that Chantelle Gibson, a university lecturer in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology, has earned a 2021 3M National Teaching Fellowship Award.

The Chair reported that on May 11th, as part of the President's Faculty Lectures, Professor of Chemistry Steven Holdcroft spoke on the topic of plastics. The series will continue on June 1st with Kelly Lee, a professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, speaking on the topic of *Pandemics and Borders: How to Manage Travel Restrictions More Effectively*.

On the topic of a return to campus for the Fall 2021 term, the Vice-President, Academic reported that the Executive Committee of the University has made the decision to follow the Plan A route in September, which aims for a 70-80% return to in-person teaching, research and engagement activities. An announcement to this effect will be sent to all SFU Community members on May 26th.

A question was asked about a return to work for faculty and staff who are immunocompromised, or have immunocompromised family members, when the University cannot guarantee a safe workplace. Senate was informed that SFU will not have a vaccine requirement for those returning to campus, but that the best way to protect yourself and your family is to get vaccinated. It was added that the University has a legal requirement to ensure there is appropriate accommodation in place for those seeking accommodation for health reasons.

5. Question Period

i) Senator Tingling submitted the following question:

Thank you, Madame Chair. As I look at our beautiful campus, ready for our return in the fall, and we today at the closed session approve the graduands for what I hope will be our last purely

virtual convocation, I would like to re-ask and revisit a question I first asked about five years ago.

In our \$600 million budget is there a way to eliminate the graduation fees for students and by doing so not make one of their last communications with our university a request for more fees?

Wade Parkhouse, Associate Vice-President, Academic, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that though this topic does have implications for the student experience, based on the University Act, which outlines the powers of Senate, this matter does not fall under the purview of Senate, as it does not affect academic matters, graduation requirements or the awarding of degrees. In contrast, this matter is covered by the University Act under the powers of the Board of Governors, where the Board has the authority to set, determine and collect fees to aid in instruction, research and University activities. This question is ultimately a student fee and budget allocation decision, which is why this topic was not previously addressed at Senate. It was added that the point being raised is a legitimate one and worthy of consideration through the appropriate channels. As such, the Provost Office will work with the Registrar and the Associate Vice-President, Students and International, to examine the question and make a determination as to the most appropriate action.

ii) Senator Mirhady submitted the following question:

Can the President comment on the appropriateness of the decision of the VPA " to pause the faculty renewal process for FASS until a new permanent dean is in place"? Will FASS not be penalized in this way?

Catherine Dauvergne, Vice President, Academic, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the question of faculty renewal is among the most important strategic areas of decanal responsibility. A decision was made to pause the faculty renewal process in order to respect the democratic will expressed by members of FASS in rejecting the ratification of a second term for Dean Pulkingham. This decision was in no way directed at punishing faculty members, nor was it intended to affect the number of appointments in the faculty. Instead, it was intended to pause and delay this work until a dean with the full confidence of the faculty is put in place. A meeting was held last week with the chairs and directors of FASS to discuss this matter and answer questions in a closed setting. In that meeting, considerable support was offered for Dean Pulkingham with regard to the faculty renewal process, and as such, reconsideration is being given to the decision based on the strong and united support expressed for the outgoing Dean.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Appeals Board (SCAR)

i) Student Conduct Policy (S10.05) Revisions (S.21-54)

Senate received the Student Conduct Policy (S10.05) Revisions for consultation.

Rummana Khan Hemani, Associate Vice-President, Students & International, and Tracey Mason-Innes, Executive Director - Student Affairs, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Noting three areas of concern with the phrasing used in the policy, the following comments were offered:

- Article 5.3 Voluntary Resolution states *The University may, where appropriate, facilitate a voluntary resolution process to address the Complaint*. Raising a concern over the criteria for determining the appropriateness for voluntary resolutions, it was suggested that the words *where appropriate* be removed.
- Appendix A raises the issue of balance of probability as a standard of proof, meaning more likely than not. Noting that the phrase *balance of probabilities* is a legal term, it was suggested that caution should be exercised for use in this context, as there are a number of issues regarding jurisprudence.
- The phrase *Voluntary Resolution* is capitalized in the second line of Article 3.6.1, and it was suggested that in the context it is being used, it should not be capitalized.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Full Program Proposal for a Master of Arts in Indigenous Languages and Linguistics (S.21-55)

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Master of Arts in Indigenous Languages and Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2022 or later.”

Panayiotis Pappas, Department Chair – Linguistics, and Sean Zwagerman, Associate Dean - Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, FASS, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Name Change for the Linguistics of a First Nations Language Graduate Certificate (S.21-56)

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program name change from Linguistics of a First Nations Language Graduate Certificate to Indigenous Languages and Linguistics Graduate Certificate in the Department of Linguistics within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2022.”

Panayiotis Pappas, Department Chair – Linguistics, and Sean Zwagerman, Associate Dean - Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, FASS, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked if students who have previously graduated with this certificate are able to apply to have their credential issued under its new name. Senate was informed that students who have previously graduated are not able to receive their credential under its new name.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Suspension of Admission: Certificate in Creative Writing (S.21-57)

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the suspension of admission to the Certificate in Creative Writing in the Department of English within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2021.”

Lara Campbell, Dean (acting) – FASS, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Termination of the Asia-Canada Extended Minor (S.21-58)

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by B. Daniel

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program termination of the Asia-Canada Extended Minor in the Global Asia Program within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Spring 2022.”

Lara Campbell, Dean (acting) – FASS, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) External Reviews for 2021-2022 (S.21-59)

Senate received External Reviews for 2021-2022 for information.

Noting the planned return to campus for the Fall term, a question was asked if departments scheduled to undergo external reviews will have an opportunity to revisit the scheduling in order to maximize the benefit that they would get from these external reviews. Senate was informed that external reviews usually take place between the end of January and early April. There are currently seven scheduled for this time period but dates have not been finalized because the external reviewers have not yet been identified. As such, there is some flexibility in terms of the dates and work will be done with the departments to find the most appropriate dates within those three months.

vi) Annual Report 2020/2021 (S.21-60)

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) Annual Report 2020/2021 for information.

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) English Language Requirement Change (ELC) (S.21-61)

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve that completion of SFU’s English Language and Culture (ELC) Low Advanced Level satisfies the English language competency requirement for undergraduate

admission to SFU starting Fall 2021.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Program Changes (S.21-62)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

iii) New Course Proposals (S.21-63)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

iv) Course Changes (S.21-64)

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 Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication, School of Interactive Art and Technology), and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

v) Summer and Fall 2021 Elective Grade System and Withdrawal Deadlines (S.21-65)

Senate received the Summer and Fall 2021 Elective Grade System and Withdrawal Deadlines for information.

A question was asked about concerns over changes to the withdrawal deadline resulting in students taking up spaces in classes for longer and exacerbating course access issues. Senate was informed that prior to the pandemic, SFU initiated a pilot of moving the withdrawal deadline from Week 5 to Week 8 and has found that the move has had no differential impact on students' ability to access courses. The Week 5 deadline created problems for students understanding how they were performing and forced them to make course decisions prematurely. It was added that the move to Week 8 aligns with the deadlines of UBC and UVic.

D) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL)

i) Annual Report 2020/2021 (S.21-66)

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL) Annual Report 2020/2021 for information.

E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Program Changes (S.21-67)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a program change in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.21-68)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program).

iii) Course Changes (S.21-69)

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

F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.20-70)

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

7. Other Business

i) Election Report to Senate (S.21-71)

Senate received the Election Report to Senate for information.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, June 7, 2021

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, expressed appreciation to the following Senators, whose terms of office expire on May 31, 2021: Lyn Bartram; David Burley; Michael Favere-Marchesi; Eric Gedajlovic; Corbett Gildersleve; Alexandra Gunn; Woo Soo Kim; Allan Lam; Daniel Lam; Susan Luu; Nafoni Modi; Osob Mohamed; Samad Raza; Chris Shaw; Harry Preet Singh; Tanishvir Singh; Kendra Strauss; Peter Tingling; Alan Wong; David Zandvliet.

Open session adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Kathryn Verkerk
Senate Secretary pro tem