

SENATE SUMMARY

MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2023

1. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that after the previous Senate meeting, she, in her role as President, flew to East Africa to meet with partners at Aga Khan University (AKU) and at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology. Thanks was extended to Naomi Krogman, Dean of the Faculty of Environment, who also joined the trip. SFU is a founding partner of the Arusha Climate and Environmental Research Centre with AKU, and more than 1500 hectares in Tanzania that have been allocated for this facility. The Chair also met with SFU students participating in the inaugural field school at the reserve, studying the impacts of climate change as they relate to a rural setting.

The Chair reported that on the way back from Africa, she stopped in Waterloo to attend the Royal Society of Canada's annual Celebration of Excellence and Engagement, to celebrate SFU researchers who have been named to the Royal Society and also to announce that SFU will be hosting this event in 2024 - themed around community-centered climate innovation.

The Chair reported that SFU continues to face budget challenges, and as result, has initiated a hiring freeze. The University is facing immediate budget pressure in the current year and it is expected that this pressure will rise to approximately \$50 million over the next year. Next year's budget issues are a continuation of some of the current year's pressures, namely lower-than-expected international enrollment, inflationary and unfunded cost pressures, and unanticipated pension plan expense. Thanks was extended to Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, who has stepped into a role as Chief Budget Officer to ensure all decisions are being made through an academic lens.

2. Report of the Provost

The Provost reported the following updates on SFU's budget challenges:

- For the current fiscal year, SFU is facing about a \$12.5 million shortfall on international student enrollment revenue.
- As a result, a hiring freeze has been put in place and cuts have been imposed on some portfolios.
- For the upcoming fiscal year, SFU is expected to have a negative variance of about \$36 million.
- When combined, that approximates a net estimated deficit of about \$50 million.
- One of the main causes of this variance, besides lower international enrollment, is due to the divestment of about \$20 million of investments, notably in oil companies. That deficit is unrealized, meaning it could potentially be reversed depending on the market, but a loss of about \$20 million is predicted.
- Another factor for the variance is the need to contribute about \$9 million to the staff pension plan, which was not budgeted for in previous years.

- A further factor is SFU's commitment to be a living-wage employer. The budget line for that has increased more than predicted over the past few years, creating an extra budget pressure of about \$4 million.

3. External Review for the Department of Psychology (S.23-139)

Senate approved the Action Plan for the Department of Psychology that resulted from its external review.

4. External Review for the School of Interactive Arts and Technology (S.23-140)

Senate approved the Action Plan for the School of Interactive Arts and Technology that resulted from its external review.

5. Suspension of Admission to the Geographic Information Systems Major and Honours (S.23-141)

Senate received Suspension of Admission to the Geographic Information Systems Major and Honours for information.

6. Centres and Institutes Annual Reports (S.23-142)

Senate received Centres and Institutes Annual Reports for information.

7. Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications (S.23-143)

Senate received Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications for information.

8. Undergraduate Program Changes (S.23-144)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2024:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) Global Asia Program

- Program: Global Asia Minor

b) Global Humanities

- Program: Global Humanities Major

c) Labour Studies Program

- Program: Labour Studies Major
- Program: Labour Studies Certificate in Workplace Rights

d) Philosophy

- Program: Philosophy Major (effective Fall 2024)
- Program: Philosophy Honours (effective Fall 2024)
- Program: Business, Philosophy and the Law Joint Major (effective Fall 2024)
- Program: Philosophy and Health Sciences Joint Major (effective Fall 2024)
- Program: Philosophy and Global Humanities Joint Major (effective Fall 2024)

- e) ***World Languages and Literatures***
 - Program: German Studies Certificate
 - Program: Spanish Studies Certificate

9. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.23-145)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Summer 2024:

i) Faculty of Applied Sciences

a) *School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering*

- Course (new): MSE 112, 152, 212, 252, 281 (effective Fall 2024)

ii) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies*

- Course (new): GSWS 332, 416

b) *History*

- Course (new): HIST 435

c) *School for International Studies*

- Course (new): IS 318, 385

d) *Labour Studies Program*

- Course (new): LBST 490

e) *World Languages and Literatures*

- Course (new): CHIN 460

10. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.23-146)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2024:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *Economics*

- Course (prerequisite): ECON 437

b) *Global Asia Program*

- Course (deletion): GA 300
- Course (title, description, equivalency): GA 301
- Course (title, description, prerequisite): GA 302, 303

c) *Humanities*

- Course (description): HUM 321W

d) Linguistics

- Course (title, description, prerequisite): LING 430

e) Philosophy

- Course (prerequisite): PHIL 421W (effective Fall 2024)
- Course (description, prerequisite): PHIL 451W (effective Fall 2024)
- Course (title, description, prerequisite): PHIL 455W, 467W (effective Fall 2024)
- Course (description): PHIL 479 (effective Fall 2024)

f) Sociology and Anthropology

- Course (prerequisite): SA 301

ii) Faculty of Science

a) Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

- Course (equivalency): MBB 229

b) Physics

- Course (description): PHYS 125, 126

11. New Graduate General Regulation (GGR) 1.17 - Minimum Funding (S.23-147 Revised)
Senate approved new Graduate General Regulation 1.17 - Minimum Funding, effective Fall 2024.

12. Graduate General Regulation (GGR) Changes 1.3.3 - English Language Competence (S.23-148)
Senate approved revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.3.3 - English Language Competence, effective Summer 2024.

13. Graduate Program Changes (S.23-149)
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Summer 2024:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) English

- Program: English Master of Arts

b) Psychology

- Program: Psychology Doctor of Philosophy

14. Graduate New Course Proposals (S.23-150)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Summer 2024:

i) Faculty of Science

a) *Mathematics*

- Course (new): MATH 768, 769

15. Graduate Course Changes (S.23-151)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Summer 2024:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *Psychology*

- Course (prerequisite): PSYC 880

b) *School of Public Policy*

- Course (prerequisite): PLCY 818

ii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

a) *Centre for Digital Media*

- Course (title, description): DMED 503

iii) Faculty of Science

a) *Physics*

- Course (prerequisite): PHYS 846

16. Graduate Course Deletions (S.23-152)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course deletions, effective Summer 2024:

i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

a) *School of Public Policy*

- Course (deletion): PLCY 804

ii) Faculty of Science

a) *Chemistry*

- Course (deletion): CHEM 864

17. Senate Committee Elections (S.23-153)

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 February Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the December 2023 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-36417>.

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