

## SENATE SUMMARY MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2016

### 1. **Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that to date, in fiscal 2015/16, SFU researchers have been awarded over \$5.5 million from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) from 116 proposals, including 3 SFU led partnership grants and one recently announced SFU led development grant. Philosophy professor Lisa Shapiro is the principal investigator for the development grant, which is a three year development partnership project titled *New Narratives in the History of Philosophy*, and is designed to create activities and tools, including an open access website, to raise the profile of women and non-canonical philosophers in the narrative of our philosophical past.

The Chair noted that he, along with Vice-President of Research Joy Johnson and Vice-President of Advancement and Alumni Engagement Cathy Daminato, participated in a productive mission to China and Hong Kong. Meetings were held with university and industry partners, potential donors, and SFU hosted three well attended alumni receptions in celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, drawing more than 300 alumni and guests at events in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.

On the academic side, we signed two particularly significant agreements. The first is a memorandum of agreement with Hanhai Zihye Investment Management Group to create the Hanhai-SFU China-Canada Commercialization and Acceleration Network (C2-CAN). This will establish a relationship with Hanhai, one of the leading enterprises in China trying to support innovation and entrepreneurship, and it will enable us to bring Hanhai into a partnership with our innovation initiatives, particularly our Venture Labs and will mean the ability to attract venture capital from China and elsewhere to build relationships between our students, our faculty, entrepreneurs and our partners in China.

The second agreement we signed was a letter of intent with Zhejiang University to establish a Joint Center on Big Data (JCBD). This agreement comes out of the relationship we forged educationally, and the dual degree program that we have with Zhejiang which has won a number of awards, and which has been extended from undergraduate to graduate programming. As a result of that program and the relationships formed among faculty, research interest has begun to grow, so the development of a centre for big data is significant.

The Chair reported that he, and Vice-President Research Joy Johnson, travelled to Ottawa to meet with representatives of the research councils, government and Universities Canada to gain better understanding of the newly elected government's plans and policies and determine where SFU might be able to take advantage of its strengths and have voice in Ottawa. Importance is being placed by government on science, research, and innovation, and on other key areas to

increase educational support and other kinds of support for Indigenous peoples. The fiscal situation is more challenging and is proving to be even more challenging than the government had at first appreciated, so how and when this will translate into meaningful initiatives and commitments is not yet clear. In terms of advocacy, SFU weighed in on a number of issues with the granting counsels and representatives from Industry Canada. For research funding, we argued for the need to increase research funding and unrestricted tri-counsel funding. With respect to innovation, SFU maintained there should be a significant role for universities in the government's innovation agenda, given their role in driving innovation, in mobilizing research, and in terms of entrepreneurship. We are hopeful that the ten million dollar grant that we received will be renewed and that we may extend it from areas like digital technology into areas like clean tech and health technologies, such as we are doing at Surrey Innovation Boulevard.

The Chair noted that the Research Universities Council of BC published its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual report *Putting Degrees to Work*, which featured a study of university student outcomes from 2008 to 2012. It found that university graduates are finding well-paying jobs and they are finding jobs in which the educational discipline they studied is relevant.

The Chair reported on some positive trends in engaged learning, student demand and student success. In terms of engaged learning, our co-op placements have risen from 2330 in 2010/11 to 2948 in 2014/15, which represents an increase of twenty-seven percent in co-op placement in four years. This is an important component of our commitment as a university to engage students through co-op, as well as to engage them in the classroom in terms of their academic studies. For student demand, our average new student admission grade for BC new admits, which is our largest base for admission, has risen from 80.6% in 2008/9 to 87.4% in 2014/15. On student success, our year one to year two retention rates went from 80% retention in 2010/11 to 87% retention in 2014/15.

The Chair highlighted some upcoming events: the President's Dream Colloquium starts on January 12<sup>th</sup>, with the topic being *Engaging Big Data*; it was announced that the Vice President Academic Provost Search Committee has come forward with Peter Keller as the preferred candidate for the VPA Provost position. Peter has served two terms as the Dean for FASS at the University of Victoria, and is a professor in the department of Geography. His full CV is available on the VPA search website, and an open forum will take place at the IRMAX theatre on Burnaby Campus with interactive webcasting at both the Surrey and Vancouver campuses. He will make a presentation on his academic and administrative career but then turn to the key opportunities and challenges facing SFU and specifically the VPA. There will be a question and answer section and then an opportunity for people to provide feedback which the committee will take into consideration when finalizing its decision and will be taken into consideration in the recommendation taken to the board.

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed two new Deans:

Ali Dastmalchian – Beedie School of Business

Jane Pulkingham – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

2. **External Review of the Environmental Science Program (S.16-1)**  
Senate approved the Action Plan for the Environmental Science Program that resulted from its External Review.
3. **Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (S.16-2)**  
Senate approved the establishment of the Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research (ITCR) as an institute for a five-year term.
4. **External Review Update for the Department of Archaeology (S.16-3)**  
Senate received the External Review Update for the Department of Archaeology for information.
5. **SFU Strategic Review 2015 (S.16-4)**  
Senate received the SFU Strategic Review 2015 for information.
6. **International Services for Students – New Course Proposal (S.16-5)**  
Senate received the International Services for Students – New Course Proposal for information.
7. **Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.16-6)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Fall 2016:
  - Program: Business Minor
  - Course (new): BUS 200, 216
  - Course (B-SOC designation): BUS 200
  - Course (description, prerequisite): BUS 311, 340, 341
8. **Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.16-7)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Fall 2016:
  - a) *School for the Contemporary Arts*
    - Program: Art, Performance and Cinema Studies Major
    - Program: Dance Major
    - Program: Dance with National Ballet School Teachers' Training Major
    - Program: Film Major
    - Program: Music Major
    - Program: Theatre (Performance Stream) Major
    - Program: Theatre (Performance and Design Stream) Major

- Program: Visual Art Major
- Course (prerequisite): FPA 232, 305, 326, 405
- Course (description): FPA 324
- Course (description, prerequisite): 308, 309, 408

**b) School of Interactive Arts and Technology**

- Course (new): IAT 499

**9. Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.16-8)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Fall 2016:

**a) Department of Earth Sciences**

- Course (prerequisite): EASC 405

**b) Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science**

- Course (new): STAT 180
- Course (new): STAT 240, 440 (effective Spring 2017)

**c) Department of Physics**

- Course (co-requisite): PHYS 125, 126
- Course (description, prerequisite): PHYS 365
- Course (prerequisite): PHYS 384

**d) Department of Biological Sciences**

- Program: Environmental Toxicology Minor
- Course (new): BISC 308
- Course (title, description, prerequisite): BISC 313

**e) Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry**

- Program: Major
- Program: Honours
- Program: Chemistry and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Joint Major
- Program: Chemistry and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Joint Honours
- Program: Genomics Certificate
- Course (prerequisite): MBB 308
- Course (title, description, prerequisite): MBB 428

**f) Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology**

- Program: Biomedical Physiology Honours
- Program: Kinesiology Honours
- Course (new): BPK 495
- Course (course number, description): BPK 497
- Course (credit, title, description, prerequisite): BPK 499

- 10. Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.16-9)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Fall 2016:
- a) School for the Contemporary Arts*
- Course (prerequisite): FPA 829
  -
- 11. Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.16-10)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Summer 2016:
- Program: MA in Counselling Psychology
  - Program: M.Ed. in Counselling Psychology
  - Course (units): EDUC 801, 802
  - Course (new): EDUC 895
  -
- 12. Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.16-11)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Spring 2016:
- Course (reinstatement): REM 655
- 13. Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.16-12)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following curriculum revisions effective Fall 2016:
- a) Department of earth Science*
- Course (reinstatement): EASC 606 (effective Spring 2016)
  - Course (new): EASC 626
- 14. Temporary Withdrawal of Courses (S.16-13)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following list of courses to be temporarily withdrawn effective Fall 2016:
- a) Faculty of Applied Sciences*
- CMPT 701, 767
- b) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*
- ECON 825, 843, 856, 859, 865, 867, 889
  - HIST 900
  - POL 838, 847

- PSYC 915
- SA 855, 886

c) ***Beedie School of Business***  
- BUS 701, 717, 781, 820

d) ***Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology***  
- CMNS 845  
- DMED 523

e) ***Faculty of Education***  
- EDUC 897

f) ***Faculty of Health Sciences***  
- HSCI 865, 866

g) ***Faculty of Science***  
- BPK 809  
- CHEM 863  
- MATH 892, 896  
- MBB 566, 744  
- PHYS 846

15. **Senate Nominating Committee (S.16-14)**  
SNC had nothing to report.

16. **NWCCU Accreditation: Comprehensive Self Evaluation Report (S.16-15)**  
Senate received the NWCCU Accreditation: Comprehensive Self Evaluation Report for information.

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 January 2016 Senate documents <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-28398>

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