



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, March 7, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present:

Petter, Andrew
Baharmand, Iman
Bird, Gwen
Birmingham, Elina
Budra, Paul
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Cupples, Claire
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Gajdics, Sylvia
Glässer, Uwe
Hans, Paul
Hauerland, Norbert (for Joy Johnson)
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Lewthwaite, Jayme
MacAlister, David
Mac Namara, Aoife
Magnusson, Kris
Marks, Laura
McTavish, Rob
Menon, Carlo
Myers, Gordon
Nabbali, Essya Mabrouka
Nanjundappa, Abhishek
Ng, Dorothy
O'Neil, John
Pappas, Panayiotis
Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pulkingham, Jane
Spector, Stephen
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Szymczyk, Barbara

Tabin, Yvonne
Tingling, Peter
Weng, Enoch
Yang, Kathleen

Absent:

Abramson, Neil
Bartram, Lyn
Brennand, Tracy
Chen, Larissa
Dastmalchian, Ali
Eikerling, Michael
Giardini, Anne
Hedley, Nick
Jermias, Johnny
Johnson, Joy
Kessler, Anke
Kirkpatrick, Ted
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine
Mundy, Arjan
Najaf, Ali
Paterson, David
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Williams, Tony
Yano, Brady
Zaranyika, Rudo

In Attendance:

Diamond, Dean
Hinchliffe, Jo
Naqvi, Zareen
Rose, Gordon

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar (pro tem)
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on February 1, 2016

The minutes of the open session on February 1, 2016 were approved as distributed, with one correction.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed new Dean pro tem of Life Long Learning Yvonne Tabin.

The Chair reported that SFU has seven new Canada Research Chairs (CRC), bringing the total number of chairs to thirty-five, and representing a total investment of 6.2 million dollars per year. The new Chairs are:

- Three Tier 1 chairs: Dr. Kelley Lee in the Faculty of Health Science, and Dr. John McDonald and Dr. Marlene Moretti in Psychology.
- Four Tier 2 chairs: Dr. Jiguo Cao in Statistics, Dr. Roger Linington in Chemistry, Dr. Stephanie Simmons in Physics, and Dr. David Sivak in Physics.

The Chair, along with Dr. Maryam Sedeghi from Computer Science, participated in the *Innovators to Know – Celebrating Canada’s Research Excellence* event organized by Universities Canada in Ottawa. Dr. Sedeghi is the founder of *MetaOptima*, which is a former SFU Venture Connection client, and she participated in an event which involved the Minister of Science as well as an evening event which involved several MPs and members of granting councils.

The Chair reported that the student venture *Ionomr* received the top prize at the 5th annual Coast Capital Savings Venture Prize competition, recognizing entrepreneurial excellence at SFU. The company’s president and CEO is Benjamin Britton, a PhD student in the lab of Dr. Steven Holdcroft in Chemistry.

The Chair noted that three SFU faculty members have been recognized by the international scientific community for their contributions to their fields: Dr. Jian Pei from Computing Science has been named a 2015 Association for Computing Machinery Fellow in recognition of his “contributions to the foundation, methodology, and application of data mining”; Dr. Bozena Kaminska of Computing Science has been elected to the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows for his “outstanding technology leadership in microelectronics and nanoscale optics for human benefit in healthcare, security, commerce, and art”; and Dr. Leonid Chindelvitch in Computing Science has received a 2016 Sloan Research Fellowship worth \$55,000 in early career support to further his research program in computational and evolutionary molecular biology.

The Chair reported that he, along with Vice-President Research Joy Johnson, participated in a mission to Hong Kong and India to strengthen existing research, innovation and educational relationships, and open doors to new collaborations. It included visits to: the Bombay Stock

Exchange Institute (BSEI) where we expanded the space that we share with Ryerson and the BSEI in a digital technology accelerator called Zone Start Ups; the IIT, one of the leading institutes of technology in India, where we resolved to strengthen our student exchange and academic partnerships and to facilitate further collaboration between the two institutions; the Tata Institute for Social Sciences, where we discussed land use planning and access to justice as prospective areas for faculty collaboration; and the research park at the Indian Oil Corporation, with whom we are partnered in an initiative to help them look at non-fossil fuel research specifically in the area of fuel cell and they in turn have supported two graduate students a year to come to SFU. The Chair noted that he had the opportunity to speak at an international seminar in New Delhi on *Social Responsibility in Higher Education*, while in Hong Kong he visited two major universities with which we are partnered: the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Hong Kong Baptist University.

The Chair highlighted the President's Dream Colloquium, with its focus this term on Big Data, and the upcoming event with Edward Snowden at Queen Elizabeth Theatre on April 5th. This event will be an exploration of the positive and negative sides of big data.

The Chair reported on some recent events: the President's Faculty Lecture by Elicia Maine on *Turning Invention into Innovation: Strategies for Scientist-Entrepreneurs*; Renaissance Coffee celebrated twenty years in business and is looking to raise a million dollars towards the Parminder Parhar Endowment; Robert Lepage's presentation 887 which was part of the Woodward's cultural participation in our 50th Anniversary; an Alumni reception in Seattle; and the Outstanding Alumni Awards, which included Margaret Trudeau, and saw Prime Minister Trudeau make an appearance.

The Chair noted that in April, as part of the Virtual Campus Initiative, Senate will pilot holding its meeting remotely at the Surrey campus. Should the pilot prove effective it could also be extended to include the Vancouver campus.

5. Question Period

Senator Pappas asked the following question:

"It has recently come to my attention that the Office of Research Services has only one full-time staff person.

Given that there had been already concerns about the ability of this office to respond to faculty needs with respect to grant application processing when it had four full-time employees, can you inform us of the steps that are being taken to address the staffing issues that ORS is facing?"

Norbert Haunerland, Associate Vice-President, Research, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that the Office of Research Service has a complement of ten staff members, with seven full time employees, one part time position, and two vacancies. Grants management is normally handled by four people, however there is currently a vacancy in the process of being filled. Given the vacancy, the contract division has helped out, with the office using this as an opportunity for cross training. The Office of Research Services has met all grants deadlines, including all CHR operating grants. There is no plan to have shrinking services and given the need for greater attention to certain issues, a process of restructuring will be completed later this year.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Student Discipline Matters

i) Annual Report (S.16-21)

Gordon Rose, University Board on Student Discipline Co-ordinator, Jo Hinchliffe, Associate Registrar, and Dean Diamond, Academic Integrity & Good Conduct Office, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked to elaborate on Figure 2, which has a graph consisting of six segments but only identifies five of those segments in the legend. Senate was informed that an edit was made to correct this error, and that the missing segment represents community service.

A question was asked to provide a breakdown of discipline cases by international and domestic students relative to their population. Senate was informed that such statistics were not tallied. It was noted that international students comprise seventeen percent of the student population yet represent almost half of the reported discipline cases.

A question was asked about the eight repeat cases brought to the attention of the Academic Integrity and Good Conduct Office (AIGCO). On one hand we have eight repeat cases in which no misconduct was found, yet on the other we have five of eight of these cases where some type of case management was provided. Senate was informed that in the past year there were eight students that came to the attention of the AIGCO more than once, but in each case no misconduct was proven. This provides an opportunity to outreach to the people who are reporting in terms of other resources and referrals that are available other than reporting to the Student Conduct Office. Another arm of the AIGCO is case management, which is when the student is presenting in distress or with concerning behaviors that are not breaches of the student code of conduct. There are additional services to this report including brief case management that will provide them with accessing services like health and counselling and the Center for Students with Disabilities.

A concern was raised that fifty out of seventy reports of misconduct to the AIGCO were found to involve no misconduct, yet students were put through the process of responding to this alleged misconduct. Senate was informed that this is one of the reasons for an increase in consultations and training and that the number of reported cases has decreased from the previous year, potentially because of such outreach. Also, a determination of no misconduct may occur before the student has ever been brought in for a meeting.

A question was asked if any of the cases of misconduct were a result of sexual assault. Senate was informed that the answer to that question was not at hand, but sexual assault is included in the report under dangerous and disruptive behavior.

A question was asked about a case where a student was caught cheating on an exam and had been expelled from the university.

A question was asked about a case that was dismissed due to an impermissible delegation of power. Senate was informed that in this case, the powers designated to the Registrar had been granted to another official ineligible to wield those powers. It was noted that this policy will be amended but had not been done so at the time of this case.

A concern was raised that details involving specific cases from the University Board on Student Discipline and the Senate Committee on Disciplinary should be restricted to the closed session of Senate. It was noted that there is benefit in these reports coming to the open session of Senate so that the greater community is aware that there are real outcomes of breaches of regulations. It was agreed that caution should be maintained to ensure privacy and that it may be necessary to have some questions addressed in the closed session.

B) Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning (SCEMP)

**i) Enrolment Plan 2016/2017; Undergraduate Admission Targets for 2016/2017
(S.16-22)**

Motion:

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2016/2017 Enrollment Plan attached as Appendix A to document titled *For SENATE March 7, 2016.*”

Zareen Naqvi, Director of Institutional Research and Planning, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked concerning table D1 which lists the new intake targets by faculty, term, and basis of admission and also the predicted number of students who will arrive at the university based on certain GPA and high school grade cut offs. Based on the numbers provided, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) would fall twenty percent short of their intake target. Senate was informed that at this time there would be a shortfall, but it should be noted that these numbers are conservative and will likely change as we go forward with updated information in the spring term. It was noted that recruiting behavior, student retention, and course load factor into these numbers and faculties have to work hard to reach these targets. Also, FASS targets have been gradually reduced in the fall and the spring terms, and this may indicate the need to do this again for the coming fall term.

A comment was made that it would advantageous to know the success rates for applicants in each program. Senate was informed that this would be provided in future reports.

A question was asked to address the potential of increasing the number of international undergraduate students to twenty percent of the student population and how this will affect services. Senate was informed that we are looking to keep the number of full time enrolled students taught in the university constant. Since domestic numbers have been reducing slightly each year we have been increasing international students to make up the difference, but this represents a very small percentage.

A question was asked if any thought had been given to increasing the resources available to support international students where they exceed the university averages. Senate was informed we are committed to increasing support for international students and we are currently funding this in a number of ways. Firstly, we have increased international tuition over the last few years and there was a commitment to divert a portion of that increase in support of international students, and this was done both in the areas of financial support and providing more services for international students. Secondly, we have been working to build our capacity in developing

courses for students who are having difficulty with English language. In the Faculty of Business we are developing writing courses that focus on writing in the business disciplines. It is a collaborative effort between the Center for English Language Learning, Teaching and Research and our curriculum developers in the Faculty of Business and we are assuming that we will be doing this with more faculties as that program matures.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2:

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2016/2017 DOMESTIC undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty, by semester and basis of admission category as indicated in Table C1 in Appendix C.”

A question was asked if the grade cutoff would be lowered below 80% in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences should they not meet their intake target. Senate was informed that it is unlikely that the grade cutoff would be lowered due to concerns over the proportion of students who end up on academic probation after their first and second semesters when they come in with low GPAs. Efforts are being made to improve retention and also bring in more high-qualified students in terms of applications.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3:

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the 2016/2017 INTERNATIONAL undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty, by semester and basis of admission category as indicated in Table C2 in Appendix C.”

A question was asked about the Faculty of Health Sciences and if more space should be allocated to non-Fraser International College (FIC) students. Senate was informed that the Beedie School of Business has increased its admission GPA required for transfer from FIC and the Faculty of Applied Science is doing the same starting next year. Should Health Sciences wish to do the same, options are available. There is an ongoing process where faculties can better control the number of admissions from FIC, but it can take some time.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) External Review Update for the School of Communication (S.16-23)

Senate received for information the External Review Update for the School of Communication.

ii) External Review Update for the School for the Contemporary Arts (S.16-24)

Senate received for information the External Review Update for the School for the Contemporary Arts.

iii) External Review Update for the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (S.16-25)

Senate received for information the External Review Update for the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry.

A question was asked about two new faculty members being assigned a mentor and if this would be one mentor each or one person mentoring both. Senate was informed that a mentor would be assigned to each based upon the area of research expertise.

iv) Name Change of the CMA Innovation Centre (S.16-26)

Motion moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the name of the CMA Innovation Centre be changed to the CPA Innovation Centre.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Admission Requirement Changes to the Second Degree Program in the School of Engineering Science (S.16-27)

Motion moved by G. Myers, seconded by S. Spector

“That Senate approve the admission requirement changes to the Second Degree program in the School of Engineering Science within the Faculty of Applied Sciences effective Fall 2016.”

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.16-28)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing program and courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science, School of Engineering Science, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering).

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.16-29)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Beedie School of Business.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.16-30)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.16-31)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Science (Physics; Biological Sciences; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Earth Sciences, Chemistry).

E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.16-32)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course in the Faculty of Science (Physics).

ii) Proposal for Graduate Certificate in Imaginative Education (S.16-33)

Senate received for information the proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Imaginative Education.

iii) Annual Report (S.16-34)

Senate received for information the Senate Graduate Studies Committee 2015 annual report.

F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Elections by Senate (S.16-35)

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

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, April 4, 2016.

Open session adjourned at 6:35 p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar (pro tem)