



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)  
and via Zoom Video Conferencing

## Open Session

**Present:** Stephen Spector, Vice-Chair

Bains, Serena  
Bhalloo, Shafik  
Bird, Gwen  
Brennand, Tracy  
Bubela, Tania  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chowdury, Saima  
Coleman, Gordon  
Collard, Mark  
Dauvergne, Catherine  
Derksen, Jeff  
Dhesa, Priyanka  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Fiume, Eugene  
Gardinetti, R. Georges  
Gray, Bonnie  
Hall, Peter  
Hendrigan, Holly  
Hoffer, Andy  
Kandikova, Alisa  
Kayande, Ujwal  
Krauth, Brian  
Krogman, Naomi  
Kumpulainen, Kristiina  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Liosis, Gabe  
Liu, Connie  
Malott, Brianna  
Martell, Matt  
Masri, Kamal  
McTavish, Rob  
Mirhady, David  
Murphy, David  
Nagy, Judit  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo  
Neustaedter, Carman  
O'Neil, Dugan

Pahou, Helen  
Pantophlet, Ralph  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Parmar, Abhishek  
Percival, Colin  
Shapiro, Lisa  
Stockie, John

**Absent:**

Andreoiu, Corina  
Chenier, Ele  
Chessel, Patrick  
Daniel, Bryan  
Denholm, Julia  
Everton, Mike  
Hogg, Robert  
Johnson, Joy  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah  
Lu, Joseph  
Myers, Gord  
O'Neill, Susan  
Parent, Michael  
Phangura, Almas  
Schiphorst, Thecla  
Shinkar, Igor  
Silverman, Michael  
Vrooman, Tamara  
Walsby, Charles

**In Attendance:**

Davis, Trevor  
Hennigar, Francesca  
LaLonde, Mark  
Pochurko, Martin  
Skura, Melinda

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. The Minutes of the Open Session of March 7, 2022 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on May 16, 2022**

**3. The Minutes of the Special Meeting of Senate on March 17, 2022 will be considered for approval at the Senate meeting on May 16, 2022**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Report of the Chair**

The Vice-Chair reported that on March 22<sup>nd</sup> SFU launched SFU: What's Next? Community consultation began with a series of questions on ThoughtExchange, in which community members were able to share their thoughts anonymously and rate those of others. Feedback from the ThoughtExchange questions and upcoming engagements, which will include roundtables, town halls, and pop-up engagements, will be used to shape SFU's vision, priorities, and commitments for the next five years and beyond. For the next few weeks key questions are focused on what SFU moments make you most proud and on what differences do you think SFU should make in the world? The next set of questions preparing to be launched focus on what does Canada's engaged university mean to you today and on what values or principles should SFU uphold? So far, SFU: What's Next? has seen high participation from students and staff, but not from faculty, so faculty are encouraged to get involved.

The Vice-Chair reported that in February, SFU received a one-time shipment of rapid antigen tests from the Provincial Health Authority. All SFU students, faculty and staff currently attending campus in-person, including all frontline food service, janitorial and secretarial contractors, are eligible for one of the kits, which contains 5 tests.

The Vice-Chair reported that SFU continues to work on implementing recommendations of the *Looking Forward... Indigenous Pathways To and Through Simon Fraser University* report. The Pathways report made several recommendations around transforming SFU's Indigenous University Preparation Program (IUPP) into a key pathway for indigenous high school students. The University continues to work on those recommendations to include sustained institutional support for the program and to address the need for more indigenous faculty and staff engagement in recruitment and admissions. Based on those recommendations, it can be reported that IUPP will have dedicated ongoing funding beginning in fiscal year 2022-23 and a team is at work on key elements of the program design.

The Vice-Chair reported that Susan O'Neill, Dean of Education, will be leaving SFU to take a position as the Head of Learning and Leadership in the Faculty of Education and Society at University College London. Gratitude was expressed for her years of service to SFU. She will step down from SFU as of April 30th, 2022, with former Dean Kris Magnusson acting as Dean pro tem until a new Dean is recruited.

The Vice-Chair reported that Tanya Bubela's term as Dean of Health Sciences has been renewed for another five years, effective September 1, 2022.

The Vice-Chair reported that SFU recently announced the 2021 winners of the Excellence in Teaching Awards. Awards went to Diana Cukierman, university lecturer in the School of Computing Science, Sarah Walshaw, senior lecturer in the Department of History, and Nadine Wicks, senior lecturer, Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology.

## 6. **Question Period**

No questions were submitted.

## 7. **Reports of Committees**

### **A) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR)**

#### **i) Revisions to GP37 - Conflict of Interest (S.22-41)**

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors Revisions to GP37 - Conflict of Interest.”

Trevor Davis, Executive Director - Research Operations, was in attendance to respond to questions.

An amendment was moved by Dan Laitsch and seconded by Gabe Liosis to include the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Prevention, Education and Support policy (GP 44) as item 8.1.12 under section 8 - Related Legal, Policy Authorities and Agreements.

Question was called and a vote taken on amendment.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

A question was called and a vote taken (on the motion, as amended).

MOTION PASSED

#### **ii) Revisions to GP39 - Working Alone or In Isolation (S.22-42)**

Senate received Revisions to GP39 - Working Alone or In Isolation for information.

Martin Pochurko, Vice-President Finance, Mark LaLonde, Chief Safety Officer, and Melinda Skura, Senior Director - Environmental Health & Safety, were in attendance to respond to questions.

### **B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

#### **i) External Reviews for 2022-2023 (S.22-43)**

Senate received External Reviews for 2022-2023 for information.

#### **ii) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology (S.22-44)**

Senate received the External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology for information.

**iii) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Economics (S.22-45)**

Senate received the External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Economics for information.

**iv) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering (S.22-46)**

Senate received the External Review Mid-Cycle Report School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering for information.

**C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)****i) Course Unit Definition (S.22-47)**

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by H. Pahou

“That Senate approve the following interpretation of a unit:

Units (formerly known as credits) should reflect student workload, including both time in classes (or synchronous online activities), and other aspects of academic effort. Each unit would generally comprise 2-3 hours of the combination of in-class and self-study time per week on average, such that a 3-unit course would generally comprise 6-9 hours per week on average, or approximately 78-117 hours over 13 weeks.

Courses with laboratories or a significant experiential learning component may require additional student work and should be expected to require some additional time. It must be recognized that learners vary in the self-study time needed for their courses, effective, Fall 2022.

\*courses that do not follow typical term dates complete the same number of hours in fewer weeks.”

A concern was raised over the potential for credit inflation, in which faculties may feel pressure to increase the number of units assigned to courses that are perceived to carry a high workload. It was argued that such inflation could ultimately lead to students needing to take fewer courses to complete the 120 units required for degree completion. Senate was informed that such concerns were raised at SCUS, however, it was felt that it is unlikely that any undergraduate curriculum committee, comprised of faculty members that are teaching these programs, would invest in deteriorating a degree program. It was added that the implementation of the course unit definition will allow SCUS to ensure that new course proposals fall within a reasonable guideline of the number of credits being proposed.

A question was asked as to how students could be made more aware of the implementation of the course unit definition. Senate was informed that it was a yearlong process to bring this definition before Senate due to a lengthy consultation process with the faculties and departments. It was added that adaptation will be required on both the faculty and on the student side, and that consideration will have to be given as how to best inform the SFU community of these changes.

A question was asked if courses with laboratories or significant experiential learning components may require additional units or does this definition simply acknowledge that such courses may

require additional work and additional time. Senate was informed that faculties and departments should be examining the expectations for their courses and in some cases, a decision may be made to increase the number of units for a lab course. Such decision making has traditionally been done by the undergraduate curriculum committees in departments and then approved by the faculty level undergraduate curriculum committee, who then send it on to SCUS for approval.

A question was asked as to how the number of 6-9 hours per week for a 3-unit course was arrived at. Senate was informed that the definition maintains some remnants of the Carnegie definition, but that consideration was also given to what other institutions do in terms of their definition. Consideration was also given to whether SFU should be expecting students taking a full 15 credit course load to be investing 60 to 70 hours per week to those courses, and it was felt it should not.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION PASSED

**ii) Program Changes (S.22-48)**

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 Computing Science), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Economics, Indigenous Studies, School for International Studies, Philosophy), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Environment, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

**iii) New Course Proposals (S.22-49)**

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 Engineering Science), and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Economics, School for International Studies, Urban Studies Program, World Languages and Literatures).

**iv) Course Changes (S.22-50)**

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 Engineering Science, School of Sustainable Energy Engineering), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology, Economics, Indigenous Studies, School for International Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication), the Faculty of Environment (Geography), the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences).

**D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**

**i) Capstone Unit Standardization (S.21-51)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the standardization of capstone courses within their respective academic units.

**ii) Program Changes (S.22-52)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Gerontology, School of Public Policy), and the Faculty of Environment (School of Resource & Environmental Management).

**iii) New Course Proposals (S.22-53)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course proposal in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (Urban Studies Program).

**iv) Course Changes (S.22-54)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (Gerontology), and the Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Statistics and Actuarial Science).

**E) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.22-55)**

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

**8. Other Business**

**i) Proposed Updates to the Board of Governors Election Rules (S.22-56)**

Moved by C. Dauvergne, seconded by A. Parmar

“That Senate approve the updates to the Board Election Rules attached as Appendix 1.”

Francesca Hennigar, Legal Counsel, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was called and a vote taken.

**MOTION PASSED**

**9. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, May 16, 2022**

Open session adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Kathryn Verkerk  
Senate Secretary pro tem