

## SENATE SUMMARY

### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2023

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

In honour of both Black History Month and the International Decade for People of African Descent, the Chair recognized the contributions of black students, faculty and staff to the SFU community. The Chair also acknowledged groups on campus, including the Black Caucus and SFU SOCA for the work they do in supporting Black members of the community, holding the leadership team accountable, and helping to build a more inclusive and equitable campus.

The Chair reported that students from the Beedie School of Business recently competed in the 17th annual JDC West. At the competition, Beedie was named JDC West School of the Year and JDC West Academic School of the Year. This is the third time SFU has held this honour in the past five years, beating schools like Sauder, Haskayne, Alberta and UVic, among others.

The Chair reported that after being approved by Senate, What's Next: The SFU Strategy was officially approved by the Board of Governors at the January 26th Board meeting. Moving forward, the Chair will organize her report around the four priorities outlined in the plan: Uphold Truth and Reconciliation, Engage in Global Challenges, Make a Difference for BC, and Transform the SFU Experience.

The Chair reported that last week she attended the official opening for the expansion of SFU's Indigenous Student Centre on the Burnaby campus. The expanded space offers new work and study spaces to support student success, including computer stations and a meeting room with web conferencing equipment. It also features a kitchen, drumming room and opportunities for cultural connections through the ISC's programs.

Informed by existing Indigenous naming protocols and processes, the Chair reported that various revitalization projects related to Indigenous naming at SFU are currently active and being steered by the Indigenous Naming Committee (INC). The INC is led by Ron Johnston, Director of the Office for Aboriginal Peoples, alongside Chris Lewis, Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation. The INC is making progress toward creating principles and an institutional approach to guide Indigenous naming at SFU. Phase One projects include three campus names, four Indigenous student space names, the Faculty of Education's Truth and Reconciliation Garden and Outdoor Classroom, and the Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre.

The Chair reported there have been many conversations in the post-secondary sector around the need for processes that affirm Indigenous identity, specifically when it comes to the University granting honours, awards and scholarships based on identity. SFU's approach to date has been to trust individuals who identify as Indigenous, with an aim to avoid reinscribing colonial identity practices. The University is aware that there have been cases of false Indigenous identification, bringing up questions around how people can prove this, but it is also recognized that the development of such a validation needs to be led by Indigenous people and take place in consultation with Indigenous communities. Under the leadership of Chris Lewis, Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation, the Office of the President is convening a working

group that will engage with members of Indigenous communities to establish an Indigenous identity process for the University this year. As this is a national post-secondary institutional issue, SFU has reached out to the President of the First Nations University of Canada to discuss ways SFU can work with them on a planned national dialogue.

The Chair reported that last week, SFU held its first Consular Corps Reception in several years. The reception provided the opportunity to connect with consular officers who represent countries from around the world, and to talk about SFU's efforts to build a more inclusive and sustainable future both internationally and at home.

The Chair reported that in August 2021, SFU submitted a proposal entitled *Community-Centred Climate Innovation (C3I)* to the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). The C3I research program will help local and international partners reduce barriers to cleantech innovation and advance climate resiliency by leveraging funding and expertise with SFU's resources. SFU submitted a \$174M proposal to CFREF, including a \$97M contribution from the federal government. The proposal includes Waterloo as an academic partner and about 60 other organizations in the community. SFU was invited to present in the final stage of the competition in January, and will find out the final results by the end of February.

The Chair reported that in January she attended the opening of the SFU Innovation Plaza at SFU's Surrey campus, which will house the SFU-led B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation and Quantum Algorithms Institute, among others.

The Chair reported that she met with Deputy Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Bobbi Plecas. The meeting provided an opportunity to impress upon the Minister the importance of continuing to consider SFU's operating budget and money for capital, including the Integrated Life Sciences Building.

The Chair reported that in January she wrapped up a "Faculty Tour" that started last fall – meeting with every faculty at SFU to hear directly about how things are going. Feedback focused on ways to transform the faculty and staff experience by getting rid of red tape, enhancing service offerings and making it easier for people to do their jobs.

The Chair reported that the University recently completed a community consultation regarding the change in policy authority for the Human Rights Policy (GP18) and Bullying and Harassment Policy (GP47) and have reviewed the feedback. This topic has been of interest to employee groups and others across the university, and has demonstrated the need to talk more about human rights at SFU. In looking back on the decision to move the Human Rights Office and Bullying and Harassment Hub reporting, it was acknowledged that the change and communication around that change could have been managed better. The intent was to strengthen SFU's commitment and response to human rights and bullying and harassment concerns through this move. Concerns were raised for many years from various community members that the approach to case management was lacking and fragmented. The co-location of these offices was intended to help address that, and to alleviate stress and pressure on complainants. The key piece of feedback received is the perception of independence of the offices. To respond to this feedback, it is being proposed that both the policy authority and office reporting move to the University Secretary, once that position is permanently filled, as the responsible executive. Feedback on these proposed changes will be sought from the community through a formal consultation. That

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-35804>

consultation will be hosted by the General Counsel, will launch within the next few weeks, and will be open for one month. In addition to the formal consultation, members of SFU senior leadership will host dedicated conversations with key stakeholders. A final decision will be made following this consultation.

Noting that the Research Ethics Board (REB) will be addressed later on the agenda, the Chair reported that she did receive a letter signed by over 250 people with respect to the REB.

The Chair reported that the Provost search continues and that the executive recruiter supporting the search is actively assembling a roster of candidates for the search committee's consideration.

The Chair reported that Tamara Vrooman's 3-year term as SFU Chancellor ends in June of this year. As per Policy B10.12 - Selection of a Chancellor, a joint committee of the Board of Governors, Alumni Association and the Senate has been struck. Given that Tamara is willing to stand for reappointment, the committee's job will be considering whether or not she should be reappointed.

## 2. **Report of the Provost**

The Provost provided the following enrollment updates:

- SFU is 4% above target from the government on domestic undergraduate FTEs.
- There have been 29,500 unique students registered for courses at SFU last year and 195,000 seats filled.
- 23,100 AFTEs were delivered.
- For Spring 2023, 6800 new students were registered.
- For 2022, SFU was 0.6% off for funded AFTEs from what was projected. For international enrollment, there was a 6.6% decrease in undergraduate international AFTEs.
- At the graduate level, there were 3550 students in terms of program FTEs, exceeding the Ministry target by 21%.
- Annualized headcount at the graduate level is 4300, roughly a 1% decrease from last year.
- AFTEs were up significantly in Applied Sciences and down in Business, with the remaining faculties being flat. Regular AFTEs were up 2.6%, but specialty AFTEs, those that charge a premium fee, were down 8%.

The Provost reported that the SCUS is currently reviewing elective grading, and is looking at scheduling, micro credentials and general education, and is regularly meeting with Fraser International College.

The Provost reported that the searches for the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Education are progressing well and have received a significant number of applicants, but that it is still early in the process.

## 3. **Academic Dates Fall 2023 (S.23-2 Revised)**

Senate approved the revised schedule of academic dates for the Fall 2023 term, repurposing Tuesday, October 10th 2023 as a "Monday" for scheduling purposes. Classes that would otherwise be held on Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, would be cancelled.

<https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-35804>

4. **Changes to the Policy and Procedures on Granting and Revoking Honorary Degrees (S.23-16)**  
Senate approved the policy and procedures for granting and revoking an SFU Honorary Degree.

5. **Procedure Changes - R20.01 (S.23-17)**  
Senate received Procedure Changes - R20.01 for information. Upon consideration by Senate, this item was referred back to the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR).

6. **Undergraduate Program Changes (S.23-18)**  
Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Fall 2023:

i) **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

a) ***School of Criminology***

- Program: Forensic Studies Certificate
- Program: Correctional Studies Certificate
- Program: Criminology General Certificate
- Program: Legal Studies Certificate
- Program: Police Studies Certificate

b) ***English***

- Program: English Extended Minor

c) ***Global Humanities***

- Program: Global Humanities Major
- Program: Medieval and Renaissance Studies Certificate

d) ***Hellenic Studies Program***

- Program: Hellenic Studies Certificate

e) ***Philosophy***

- Program: Philosophy Honours

f) ***Psychology***

- Program: Psychology Major
- Program: Psychology, Applied Behaviour Analysis Concentration Major
- Program: Psychology Minor
- Program: Psychology Extended Minor
- Program: Business and Psychology Joint Major
- Program: Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and Psychology Joint Major
- Program: Psychology Honours
- Program: Psychology, Applied Behaviour Analysis Concentration Honours

g) ***School of Public Policy***

- Program: Public Policy Minor

**ii) Beedie School of Business**

- Program: Business Major
- Program: Business Honours
- Requirement changes to Course Access Information and Grade Requirements
- Program: Mechatronic Systems Engineering and Business Double Degree Program
- Program: Business, Philosophy, and the Law Joint Major

**iii) Faculty of Education**

- Program: Teacher Education (PDP)
- Program: Teacher Education (PLP)
- Program: Professional Practices Certificate

**iv) Faculty of Environment**

**a) *Archaeology***

- Program: Archaeology Major
- Program: Archaeology Honours

**b) *Geography***

- Program: Human Geography Major
- Program: Human Geography Honours
- Program: Global Environmental Systems Major
- Program: Global Environmental Systems Honours

**v) Faculty of Science**

**a) *Physics***

- Program: Physics Honours

**7. Undergraduate New Course Proposals (S.23-19)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Fall 2023:

**i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

**a) *Philosophy***

- Course (new): PHIL 479

**ii) Faculty of Environment**

**a) *Geography***

- Course (new): GEOG 429

**iii) Faculty of Science**

**a) Biological Sciences**

- Course (new): BISC 106 (effective Fall 2024)

**b) Molecular Biology and Biochemistry**

- Course (new): MBB 478

**8. Undergraduate Course Changes (S.23-20)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Fall 2023:

**i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

**a) History**

- Course (number, prerequisite, title, description, equivalency): HIST 433W
- Course (number, prerequisite, description and equivalency): HIST 445

**b) Humanities**

- Course (title, description): HUM 101W
- Course (deletion): HUM 103
- Course (description): HUM 277
- Course (prerequisite): HUM 349
- Course (title, description): HUM 359, 387
- Course (units, description): HUM 390
- Course (number, description, equivalency): HUM 418

**c) Philosophy**

- Course (deletion): PHIL 477, 478

**d) Political Science**

- Course (equivalency): POL 443

**e) Psychology**

- Course (prerequisite): PSYC 210
- Course (title): PSYC 241
- Course (prerequisite, title): PSYC 402

**ii) Beedie School of Business**

- Course (prerequisite): BUS 393, 411, 473, 474

**iii) Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**

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

- Course (units): IAT 309W, 312, 320, 333, 334, 336, 343, 344, 352, 359, 410, 431, 438, 443, 445

**iv) Faculty of Environment**

**a) Geography**

- Course (prerequisite): GEOG 251, 253, 255 (effective Spring 2024)

**v) Faculty of Science**

**a) Earth Sciences**

- Course (title, description, prerequisite): EASC 420
- Course (prerequisite): EASC 313

**b) Physics**

- Course (prerequisite): PHYS 365

**9. Implementation of the SETCwg and TAWG Reports (S.23-21)**

Senate received Implementation of the SETCwg and TAWG Reports for information.

**10. Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Annual Report 2022 (S.23-22)**

Senate received Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Annual Report 2022 for information.

**11. Graduate Program Changes (S.23-23)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following program changes, effective Fall 2023:

**i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

**a) Liberal Studies**

- Program: Liberal Studies MA

**b) History**

- Program: History MA

**ii) Beedie School of Business**

- Program: Business Administration PhD

**12. Graduate New Course Proposals (S.23-24)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new course proposals, effective Fall 2023:

**i) Faculty of Applied Sciences**

**a) School of Computing Science**

- Course (new): CMPT 839

**ii) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

**a) French**

- Course (new): FREN 840, 855

**b) History**

- Course (new): HIST 800, 853, 869

**iv) Beedie School of Business**

- Course (new): BUS 965, 967, 968, 970, 971, 972, 973

**iii) Faculty of Science**

**a) Molecular Biology and Biochemistry**

- Course (new): MBB 745

**13. Graduate Course Changes (S.23-25)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course changes, effective Fall 2023:

**i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

**a) History**

- Course (title, description): HIST 815

**b) School of Public Policy**

- Course (description): PLCY 803

**ii) Beedie School of Business**

- Course (title): BUS 890
- Course (units): BUS 980, 982, 993
- Course (title, units, description): BUS 990
- Course (units, description): BUS 991

**iii) Faculty of Science**

**a) Earth Sciences**

- Course (title, description, prerequisite): EASC 610



**14. Graduate Course Reinstatement (S.23-26)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following course reinstatement, effective Summer 2023:

**i) Faculty of Applied Sciences**

**a) School of Engineering Science**

- Course (reinstatement): ENSC 832, 890

**15. Senate Committee Elections (S.23-27)**

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

**16. Discontinuation of Automatic College Transfer Scholarships (S.23-28)**

Senate received Discontinuation of Automatic College Transfer Scholarships for information.

**17. President's and Dean's Honour Roll Revised Terms of Reference (S.23-29)**

Senate received President's and Dean's Honour Roll Revised Terms of Reference for information.

The approved Senate minutes will be available online following the April Senate meeting. For more detailed information on each Senate item, please refer to the February 2023 Senate documents: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-35804>.

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