



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, January 6, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Antle, Alissa  
Bell, Lynne  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Glenn  
Corbett, Kitty  
Craig, John  
Cupples, Claire  
Delgrande, Jim  
Driver, Jon  
Easton, Stephen  
Eikerling, Michael  
Elle, Elizabeth  
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia  
Francis, June  
Glaesser, Uwe (for N. Rajapakse)  
Guttman, Julian  
Haunerland, N (for M. Pinto)  
Hedley, Nick  
Jawanda, Harvey  
Jozaghi, Ehsan  
Kessler, Anke  
Kopahi, Moe  
Kwon, Caleb  
Leacock, Tracey  
Lehal, Japreet  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Lu, Yoko  
Magnusson, Kris  
McTavish, Rob  
Myers, Gordon  
O'Neil, John  
Owen, Brian  
Pappas, Panayiotis  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Pierce, John  
Quarmby, Lynne  
Ruben, Peter  
Shaffer, Catherine  
Shapiro, Daniel

Shapiro, Lisa  
Smith, Jon  
Somers, Julian  
Thiara, Karanvir Singh  
Truong, Tesicca  
Wakarchuk, Forrest  
Warner, D'Arcy

**Absent:**

Acierno, Kyle  
Birmingham, Elina  
Brennand, Tracy  
Geisler, Cheryl  
Golnaraghi, Farid  
Jermias, Johnny  
Khan, Humza  
Laitsch, Dan  
Norouzi, Yasmine  
Paterson, David  
Perry, Tom  
Shaw, Chris  
Taylor, Carole  
Tingling, Peter  
Wussow, Helen

**In Attendance:**

Agnes, George  
Bhakthan, Manoj  
Burns, Dan  
Cameron, Rob  
Clapp, Alex  
Daminato, Cathy  
Ester, Martin  
Gemino, Andrew  
Lockhart, Richard  
Pitre-Hayes, Corinne  
Rahilly, Tim  
Rose, Gordon

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Minutes of the Open Session on December 2, 2013**

The minutes of the open session on December 2, 2013 were approved as distributed, with some minor edits.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

The Chair reported a response to a question from the September 2013 Senate meeting regarding an increase of \$4.8 million in community engagement expenses in the 2013 financial statement. Approximately half of the increase was a transfer of costs and income related to the China Council for International Cooperation and Environmental Development (CCICED) and the Goldcorp Endowment. \$1.8 million of the increase was related to the External Relations portfolio, including \$936,000 in salaries and benefits for the creation of the Associate Vice President position, filling of vacant positions, and position transfers from the Vice President, Academic portfolio. There was an increase of \$871,600 in non-salary expenses related to the funding of initiatives, including the launch of the Vision, the SFU Burnaby open house, the launch of the SFU Public Square, and the opening of the Bill Reid Gallery. Approximately \$600,000 was attributed to an increase in Advancement portfolio spending, including a new fundraising and donor management information system, additional capacity to support the launch of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising campaign, and activities such as the Surrey Gala, the Clan Breakfast, and the Distinguished Community Leadership Awards.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported on the successful opening on December 3<sup>rd</sup> of the NeuroTech lab at Surrey Memorial Hospital. The Neurotech Lab, led by SFU professor Ryan D'Arcy, is part of the Surrey Innovation Boulevard, a partnership between SFU, the Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation, and Fraser Health to link health institutions, universities, companies, and people to spark innovation in health care and improve patient outcomes. Related to this news, the Chair reported that Ryan D'Arcy and Norbert Haunerland, Associate Vice President, Research, participated in a trade mission to Israel, led by the Mayor of Surrey, Dianne Watts. The purpose of the trade mission was to establish collaborations and partnerships with research institutions and neuroscience innovators in Israel to support the objectives of the Innovation Boulevard.

The Chair reported that on December 18<sup>th</sup>, Michelle Rempel, the Minister of State for Western Economic Development, announced \$4.3 million in funding to establish the Centre for Soft Materials at SFU's 4D Labs. The project is led by Byron Gates from the Department of Chemistry and has also received \$1.9 million in funding from the Automotive Fuel Cell Cooperation.

The Chair reported on recent research grant and award successes. Angela Kaida and Robert Hogg from Health Sciences are two of four principle investigators on Canada's largest longitudinal research study on Canadian women living with HIV, a project funded by CIHR and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network. Two SFU projects have received funding under NSERC's Strategic Project Grant competition: Farid Golnaraghi from Mechatronic Systems Engineering has received \$374,100 for a new MEMS gyroscope design based on nonlinear coupling and internal resonance; and Daniel Leznoff from Chemistry has received \$335,850 for the development of vapochromic coordination polymer materials as sensors for electrical transformer diagnostics. Yeuzhi Zhao from the School Communication has received two awards

for her research and scholarship: the Edwin C. Baker Award from the International Communication Association for her research into media, market and democracy; and the Dallas Smythe Award from the Union for Democratic Communication for her critical media scholarship.

The Chair reported on the launch in late November of VentureLabs, a technology business accelerator, at Great Northern Way. The open house was attended by over a hundred representatives from government and the technology community, including the Minister of Technology, Innovation, and Citizen Services, Andrew Wilkinson. The Chair highlighted three VentureLabs client company successes: SemiosBIO has been selected as one of five winners of the 2013 Verizon Powerful Answers Award; Squeezease Therapy Inc.'s Snug Vest, which has been shown to reduce the stress hormone cortisol and to reduce tantrums in children with autism, was heralded as a success story by the BC Innovation Council; and Maryam Sadeghi, founder of SFU Venture Connection company MetaOptima and leader of the Digital Health Hub within Surrey's Innovation Boulevard, has been named SFU's 2013 Entrepreneur of the Year.

The Chair reported that on January 14<sup>th</sup>, the preferred candidate for the position of Vice-President, Research, Dr. Joy Johnson, would be presenting and answering questions at an open forum. The Chair encouraged Senate to attend or watch the presentation on webcast.

Finally, the Chair reported that the Dream Colloquium, a series of public lectures on the topic of entrepreneurship, would be held at the Burnaby campus during the spring term. He noted that the Colloquium was very well subscribed for its current location at IRMACs; however, efforts were under way to find a larger location.

## **5. Question Period**

There were no questions submitted for question period.

## **6. Reports of Committees**

### **A) Student Discipline Matters**

#### **i) Annual Report (S.14-1)**

Senate received for information the Student Discipline Matters Annual Report from 2012 - 2013.

Tim Rahilly (Associate VP, Students), Jo Hinchliffe (Associate Registrar), and Gordon Rose (Coordinator, UBSD), were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding the percentage of incident reports for international-visa students. Senate was informed that an error was made in reporting the percentage. The report should be amended as follows: "a decrease in cases involving international-visa students at **46%** compared to 63% over the same period last year".

A question was asked regarding the status of the policy for dealing with mental health issues. Senate was informed that the policy is in its preliminary stages and discussions are focused on benchmarking with other universities at this time.

A question was asked whether the reduction in reported exam cheating was due to increased invigilation or some other factor, and whether this change was an anomaly or a trend over time. Senate was informed that since 2009, when the revised Academic Honesty and Student Conduct

Policy was implemented, the numbers have been consistent across the board; however, in the previous year one specific class had a higher than average number of reports of cheating.

A question was asked whether the Registrar had considered using pictures on exam booklets and equipment for tracking potential external communication during exams. Senate was informed that using pictures on exams was tested; however, the process was cumbersome and the issue is being revisited. The Registrar has looked at monitoring external communications within exams; however, there is a high cost for monitoring equipment that must be factored into the cost of policing these situations.

**B) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL)**

**i) Teaching and Course Evaluation Project (TCEP) (S.14-2)**

Moved by P. Panayiotis, seconded by J. Driver.

“That Senate endorse the recommendations in the Teaching and Course Evaluation Project (TCEP) Final Report and is in favour of adopting the corresponding principles as outlined in the TCEP Best Practices on Interpretation and Use of the Evaluation Data.”

Corinne Pitre-Hayes, Project Leader, Teaching and Course Evaluation Project, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Senator Driver commented that the report was the result of a two year project whose goal was to ensure that SFU has the best practices in all aspects of teaching and learning, including the acquisition and interpretation of student input into teaching. Senator Driver noted that the report included a document on best practices around the interpretation and use of data on teaching evaluations. He recognized SCUTL, former chair Stephen Spector, and current chair Senator Pappas, for overseeing the project; researchers, staff from the Teaching and Learning Centre and Institutional Research and Planning for their work on the project; and project manager, Corinne Pitre-Hayes for organizing the project and putting together the documentation.

A question was asked regarding the intention of the wording of the motion, whether Senate was adopting the principles in the TCEP Final Report or recommending them to some other body. Senate was informed that the intent of the motion was to accept the recommendations and adopt the principles as outlined in the document.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**C) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB)**

**i) Annual Report 2012-2013 (S.14-3)**

Senate received for information the Annual Report of the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB) for the fiscal year 2012-2013.

Stephen Easton (Chair, SPCSAB), Wade Parkhouse (Chair, SGAAC), and Manoj Bhakthan (Director, Financial Aid & Awards, and Secretary, SUAAC), were in attendance to respond to questions.

A comment was made that SPCSAB does not control the overall budget or the breakdown between the different financial aid programs. A further comment was made that SPCSAB no longer sets policy regarding the administration of scholarships and bursaries; however, the

University Act states that Senate has this responsibility. It was suggested that SPCSAB should make these decisions on behalf of Senate, rather than the administration. Senate was informed that there has been an evolution of the committee's responsibilities in recent years and SPCSAB currently has no budgetary responsibility. The Chair of SPCSAB suggested that there needs to be a more sustained discussion within Senate about the committee's responsibilities. The Chair of SGAAC commented that the budget discussions take place at the graduate level at SGAAC and at the undergraduate level at SUAAC, and that SPCSAB receives a budget plan for how the budget would be allocated.

A question was asked whether the increases to international student fees are being used in part to provide additional scholarship support to international students. Senate was informed that, with the increase to undergraduate tuition fees for international students that was approved by the Board of Governors, SFU committed to diverting part of the increase to international student support including scholarships, bursaries, and improving international student services.

A question was asked regarding the number of scholarships awarded to attract international athletes. Senate was informed that the Senior Director of Athletics and Recreation has been delegated responsibility for determining the recipients of athletic awards and scholarships; therefore, the question would be taken away for investigation and response at a future Senate meeting.

A question was asked why one third of open bursaries were disbursed to international students when the percentage of international students was much lower. Senate was informed that international graduate students receive a significant part of the open bursaries because they are not eligible for certain graduate scholarships and are, therefore, more challenged for funding.

A question was asked why scholarship funding has not increased compared with the rate of inflation and the rising cost of tuition. Senate was informed that while the scholarship budget has remained flat over time, the number of graduate students has been declining; therefore, on a per-student basis, scholarship funding is actually up.

**D) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**

**i) Revision to Name of Chair in HIV/AIDS Research at St. Paul's Hospital (S.14-4)**

Senate received for information the proposal to change the name of the existing Chair in HIV/AIDS Research at St. Paul's Hospital to the St. Paul's Hospital CANFAR Chair in HIV/AIDS Research.

Cathy Daminato, Vice President, Advancement and Alumni Engagement, was in attendance to respond to questions.

**ii) Suspension of Admission to the Software Engineering Specialist Program in the School of Computing Science (S.14-5)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by C. Percival.

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Software Engineering Specialist Program in the School of Computing Science within the Faculty of Applied Sciences, effective Summer 2014.”

Rob Cameron, Associate Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iii) Suspension of Admission to the Forestry Geoscience Certificate in the Department of Earth Sciences (S.14-6)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Ruben.

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Forestry Geoscience Certificate in the Department of Earth Sciences within the Faculty of Science, effective Fall 2014.”

George Agnes, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**iv) Dissolution of the Forestry Geoscience Certificate in the Department of Earth Sciences (S.14-7)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by C. Cupples.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Forestry Geoscience Certificate in the Department of Earth Sciences within the Faculty of Science, effective Fall 2014.”

George Agnes, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Bachelor of Environment (S.14-8)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Smith.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Bachelor of Environment within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2014.”

Alex Clapp, Associate Dean, Faculty of Environment, and Dan Burns, Manager, Curriculum and Academic Planning, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**vi) Environmental Resource Management Major (S.14-9)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by K. Thiara.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for an Environmental Resource Management Major within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2014.”

Alex Clapp, Associate Dean, Faculty of Environment, and Dan Burns, Manager, Curriculum and Academic Planning, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**vii) Global Environmental Systems Major (S.14-10)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by D. Leznoff.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for an Environmental Resource Management Major within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2014.”

Alex Clapp, Associate Dean, Faculty of Environment, and Dan Burns, Manager, Curriculum and Academic Planning, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding the number of students expected to enrol in this program and at what level of enrolment would the program be deemed a failure. Senate was informed that the faculties have a minimum enrolment policy and that budget allocations are dependent on student enrolment. Senator Driver stated that it is not in the interest of the faculty Deans to keep running a program which does not generate revenue for the faculty. It was anticipated that enrolment would be higher than forecasted in the documents due to interest in career opportunities in environmental stewardship.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**viii) Bachelor of Business Administration/Bachelor of Environment Joint Major in Sustainable Business (S.14-11)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Francis.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Bachelor of Business Administration/Bachelor of Environment Joint Major in Sustainable Business within the Beedie School of Business and the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2014.”

Alex Clapp, Associate Dean, Faculty of Environment, Dan Burns, Manager, Curriculum and Academic Planning, and Andrew Gemino, Associate Dean, Beedie School of Business, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ix) External Reviews for 2014 – 2015 Academic Year (S.14-12)**

Senate received for information the list of external reviews and external review updates that are scheduled for the 2014-2015 academic year.

**x) External Review of the Faculty of Health Sciences (S.14-13)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by K. Thiara.

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Faculty of Health Sciences that resulted from its External Review.”

John O'Neil, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, and Jon Driver, Vice President, Academic, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED,  
with one abstention noted.

**xi) External Review of the School of Computing Science (S.14-14)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Delgrande.

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the School of Computing Science that resulted from its External Review.”

Martin Ester, Director, School of Computing Science, and Uwe Glaesser, Associate Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, were in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**xii) External Review of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science (S.14-15)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Ruben.

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science that resulted from its External Review.”

Richard Lockhart, Chair, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, and Claire Cupples, Dean, Faculty of Science, were in attendance to respond to questions.

A suggestion was made that the document should have had personal information removed or redacted prior to submission to the open meeting of Senate. Senate was informed that the matter would be reviewed and appropriate action taken to protect the privacy of individuals.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**E) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**

**i) 120-Credit Honours Degree for SFU Credentials (S.14-16)**

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by J. Craig.

“That Senate approve the requirements for an SFU honours degree be modified to reduce the minimum number of required units from 132 to 120 as follows: An honours degree is comprised of a minimum of 120 units in a specified honours program including approximately 48-52 units in specified upper division courses in the honours subject or field. This to take effect in Fall 2014.”

A discussion followed with arguments for and against the motion.

The following concerns were expressed: quantity versus quality of courses; difficulty with differentiating between a regular bachelor degree and honours; the potential for a “race to the bottom” in terms of the minimum requirements or a decrease in standards; and perceived devaluation of degrees held by alumni.



Several Senators, students and faculty, expressed positive support for the motion. The following comments were made: certain honours programs are under-enrolled due to perceived cost and the extra time required versus benefit of extra unit requirements; students are bypassing honours in favour of applying to graduate program; and the flexibility for programs to determine the appropriate unit requirement.

Senate was informed that the motion was a result of feedback from external reviewers and from faculties who pushed for changes to the credential language in the Calendar. The first change was to the language of requirement terms approved by Senate in the fall term. Additional changes to the Calendar language could be brought forward in future, and any changes to specific program requirements would require approval and review by Senate.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.14-17)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added new courses and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (General Studies Program; School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering).

A question was asked regarding the phrase “except as a graduation option for Applied Sciences students”. Senate was informed that a student cannot apply for admission to the Bachelor of General Studies program; however, if an Applied Sciences student has completed the requisite number of units to graduate, but has not met the course requirements for an engineering degree, then the student may apply to graduate with a Bachelor of General Studies.

**iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.14-18)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Humanities; Latin American Studies Program; Linguistics; Political Science; and Sociology and Anthropology).

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.14-19)**

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

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-20)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added new courses and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (Publishing Program; School of Communication; School for the Contemporary Arts; and School of Interactive Art and Technology).

**vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.14-21)**

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

**vii) Annual Report 2011-2012 (S.14-22)**

Senate received for information the 2011-2012 annual report for the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

**viii) Annual Report 2012-2013 (S.14-23)**

Senate received for information the 2012-2013 annual report for the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

A question was asked why there were more than twice as many new courses added as there were deleted. Senate was informed that as new programs are added there would be a corresponding increase in the number of new courses.

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

**i) Graduate Diploma in Financial Engineering under Special Arrangements (S.14-24)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the full program proposal for the Graduate Diploma in Financial Engineering under Special Arrangements, effective Summer 2014.

**G) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.14-25)**

Senate received for information a summary of the nominations, positions elected by acclamation, and outstanding vacancies for the Senate committees.

**7. Other Business**

**i) Revision to the Rules of Senate – Notice of Motion (S.14-26)**

Senate received the notice of motion for minor revisions to the Rules of Senate, to amend the election rules pertaining to faculty members, adding the new rank of teaching professor in order to align with the new Policy A1 1.10, Teaching Professors.

**8. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, February 3, 2014.**

Open session adjourned at 7:15 pm and Senate moved into the closed session.

Jo Hinchliffe

Acting Executive Director, Student Enrolment, and Associate Registrar