



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Abramson, Neil
Bird, Gwen
Birmingham, Elina
Brennand, Tracy
Budra, Paul
Bueckert, Chardaye
Burley, David
Chapman, Brandon
Chapman, Glenn
Chapman, Nicholas
Chong, Dion
Cupples, Claire
Elle, Elizabeth
Escarcha, Shirin
Fatoba, Kayode
Gajdics, Sylvia
Glässer, Uwe (for N. Rajapakse)
Gordon, Robert (for J. Craig)
Guttman, Julian
Hedley, Nick
Johnson, Joy
Jozaghi, Ehsan
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Leznoff, Daniel
Liljedahl, Peter (for M. Kelm)
Liu, Ting (Emma)
Magnusson, Kris
McTavish, Rob
Myers, Gordon
O'Neil, John
Percival, Colin
Quarmby, Lynne
Schellenberg, Betty
Shapiro, Lisa
Shaw, Chris
Simpkin, Madelaine
Spector, Stephen
Stefanovic, Ingrid
Szymczyk, Barbara

Tingling, Peter
Underhill, Owen
Wallace, Brady
Wiese, Kay
Wussow, Helen
Yoon, Paul

Absent:

Antle, Alissa
Arzanpour, Siamak
Chu, Colin
Delgrande, Jim
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eikerling, Michael
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Giardini, Anne
Kessler, Anke
Ossinsky, Dimitri
Pappas, Panayiotis
Paterson, David
Percival, Paul
Pilarinos, Athina
Reich, Blaize
Ruben, Peter
Somers, Julian

In Attendance:

Dickinson, Peter

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on November 3, 2014

The minutes of the open session on November 3, 2014 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes**i) Re: S.14-138**

Senate had requested clarification regarding changes to the Post Baccalaureate Diploma (PBD) in Contemporary Arts to discourage students from applying for the diploma after graduation. Senate was informed that students were accumulating Contemporary Arts course credits during their undergraduate program and then requesting their PBD after graduating. The intent of the change is to enable the School to advise students on course selection, audition and portfolio requirements for the different PBD options prior to completing their undergraduate program.

Clarification was requested by Senate whether registration in the PBD program is permitted by the University prior to students completing a bachelor's degree. Senate was informed that students register in the PBD program after the bachelor's degree is completed; however, the School of Contemporary Arts wants students to apply to the PBD program prior to graduation.

Senate had asked whether the changes to the Academic Continuance Policy in the School for Contemporary Arts programs were unnecessarily harsh on third year students who are given one term to improve their CGPA. Senate was informed that the change to the Academic Continuance Policy applies only to the Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) CGPA, not the general CGPA. By third year, Contemporary Arts students will have accumulated more FPA units; therefore, if they are not meeting the FPA CGPA requirement then they may not be a fit for these programs.

ii) Re: S.14-118

Senate had asked why the new writing (W) course MSE 405 was created instead of making MSE 400 a W-designated course. Senate was informed that MSE 405 differs from MSE 400 in ways beyond the writing component and so the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering created a new course.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported on the 10th anniversary of the Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs (OFFA) on November 13th. OFFA was established in 2004 by SFU and community and government stakeholders to meet the post-secondary needs of BC's francophone and francophile communities. Thanks to OFFA, in 2012 SFU became the first and only BC university to be a member of the Association des Universités de la Francophonie Canadienne. Earlier this year, Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage confirmed continued annual funding of \$2 million for the next five years. The 10th anniversary celebration brought together people outside of the University with people within the University who have helped to build and support the work of OFFA.

The Chair reported on his recent 10-day mission to Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, accompanied by the VP External Affairs, Philip Steenkamp, VP Advancement, Cathy Daminato, and the Dean of Science, Claire Cupples. They visited eight universities, including the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, National Taiwan University, and the National University of Singapore. SFU renewed and updated student

exchange agreements and discussed further educational and research collaborations. The group held well-attended alumni receptions in Hong Kong, Taipei and Singapore and met separately with key alumni. They also held productive meetings with Canadian consular and trade officials, government agencies, and business representatives.

The Chair reported on the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services Report on Budget 2015 Consultations. The standing committee, made up of representatives of the two major parties in the BC Legislature, received oral submissions from the Research Universities' Council of BC and the Simon Fraser Student Society and received a written submission from SFU. The report's key recommendations include: increased operating grants to post-secondary institutions; moving to multi-year allotments for operating grants and deferred maintenance grants to help institutions with financial planning; increased annual capital allowances for building maintenance, minor renovations and upgrade projects; reviewing accounting standards that limit post-secondary institutions' ability to self-finance capital projects; establishing a student grant program that addresses student needs and provides incentives for completion; reducing the interest charges on BC student loans; and creating a graduate fellowship program for master's and doctoral students. The Chair noted that 73% of the respondents in the public online survey ranked education as their top priority. The Chair thanked the student societies and all those who participated in the online survey for helping to push the need for more funding in the areas noted in the report.

The Chair reported on the President's Winter Warm-Up, held in Convocation Mall on November 27th. The Chair thanked Student Services, the volunteers who organized the event and everyone who attended.

The Chair reported on research funding. Canada Research Chairs (CRC) at SFU received \$2.4 million in new funding, including: Jian Pei of Computing Science, the new Tier 1 CRC in Big Data Science; Valorie Crooks of Geography, the new Tier 2 CRC in Health Geographies; and Paul Tupper, renewed as Tier 2 CRC in Applied Mathematics. Some major SFU-led collaborative grants were announced recently: Robert Hogg of Health Sciences received a \$2.7 million grant to establish the Canadian HIV Observational Cohort (CANOC) Collaborative Research Centre; Brain Canada Multi-Investigator Initiative (MIRI) grants were awarded to Faisal Beg of Engineering Science, who leads a \$1.4 million grant with collaborators from UBC to study novel retinal biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease, and to David Vocadlo of Chemistry, who leads a \$1.5 million project with UBC and other partners to develop a preclinical program of research extending from chemistry to biomarkers in human tissue.

The Chair reported that SFU's total research income for this year reached \$103 million, as reported to CAUBO, the Canadian Association of University Business Officers. CAUBO collects data on Canadian universities that is passed on to ranking agencies

The Chair reported on research awards and honours. The Coastal Impact Visualization Environment Tool (CLIVE), co-developed by researchers at the University of Prince Edward Island and SFU's Spatial Interface Lab (Nick Hedley and student Alex Chen of the Faculty of Environment) received the MIT Communicating Coastal Risk and Resilience Competition People's Choice Award. Alex Sixsmith of Gerontology became the president of the International Society of Gerontology. Patricia Brantingham of Criminology received the Freda Adler Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology. Andrew Wister of Gerontology received the Canadian Association of Gerontology Distinguished Member Award.

Elliot Goldner of Health Sciences received the Alex Leighton Award in Psychiatric Epidemiology from the Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology and the Canadian Psychiatric Association. Kelley Lee and Steven Jones of Health Sciences were among 54 new Fellows inducted into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Jian Pei of Computing Science received the IEE ICDM Research Contributions Award, the highest international recognition for research achievements in the field of data mining. Robert Young of Chemistry received the Medal of Honour from the Rx&D Health Research Foundation for the discovery and development of the asthma drug Singulair.

5. Question Period

i) Senator B. Chapman raised a number of questions from the floor:

- 1) Why hasn't SFU taken an official opposition to the Trans Mountain Pipeline project, when it is clear that the project is highly opposed by the SFU community?
- 2) If there is any doubt as to the SFU community's opposition to the project, what is this doubt based on?
- 3) Has there been any communication with the SFU student body and community as a whole regarding whether they want SFU to take a stance in favour or against the project?
- 4) What efforts and resources is SFU contributing towards stopping Kinder Morgan from continuing investigation and/or construction on Burnaby Mountain?

The Chair responded that the question misconstrues the role of a university with respect to issues of public policy. The role of the university is to foster education, research, discussion and debate, and to help equip its faculty, students and the communities it serves to take positions on such matters. In the Chair's view, it is not the role of the University to take positions except where public policy bears on the core functions of the University and its operations.

SFU has obtained intervenor status before the National Energy Board to monitor developments and ensure that the University's operational interests are protected. SFU will do what it can to ensure the safety and security of the University community and to ensure access to the Burnaby campus. The Chair informed Senate that the University supports educational programs and research initiatives that address issues of climate change, including: participation in the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) and the Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT); establishing the Sustainability Office, with the mandate to reduce SFU's carbon footprint; and supporting outreach programs, public lectures, and conferences on these issues.

A question was asked whether Senate could support providing academic amnesty to students who have chosen to demonstrate against the Trans Mountain Pipeline project. Senate was informed that motions brought to Senate must be submitted prior to the Senate meeting.

A question was asked whether funding could be provided for a dialogue to discuss the issues of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Project. Senate was informed that there are many University-funded opportunities to engage in dialogue, including the President's Dream Colloquium on Obedience and Disobedience: Taking Action on Climate Change scheduled for the Spring 2015 term. Senate was informed that a teach-in on the subject of climate change will be held on Tuesday, December 2.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS)

i) Annual Report (S.14-145)

Senate received the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies annual report for information.

Senator Wussow, Chair of the SCCS, was in attendance to respond to questions.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) Establishment of the Institute for Performance Studies (S.14-146)

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by P. Budra

“That Senate approve the proposal for the establishment of the Institute for Performance Studies (IPS) as an Institute for a five-year term.”

Peter Dickinson, faculty member from the Department of English, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) 2013/14 Centres and Institutes Renewal Applications (S.14-147)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on University Priorities, acting under delegated authority, reviewed and approved the renewal of five research centres for a five year term.

Senator Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

iii) Centre and Institute Report 2013/14 (S.14-148)

Senate received the Centre and Institute Report for 2013/14 for information.

Senator Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research, was in attendance to respond to questions.

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (S.14-149)

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 Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science; School of Engineering Science).

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.14-150)

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 Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology; Economics; English; First Nations Studies; French; Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; Centre for Hellenic Studies; History; School for International Studies; Linguistics; Philosophy; Political Science; World Literature; FASS program requirements).

It was noted that the course title for ENGL 436W is incorrectly listed as “Studies in Literature of Translation”. The correct course title is “Topics in Literature of Transition”.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.14-151)

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

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.14-152)

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 Communication, Art and Technology (School of Communication; School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.14-153)

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

vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (S.14-154)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added a new course and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Environment (Geography; Faculty of Environment courses and Bachelor of Environment program).

A question was raised whether the course proposal for ENV 452 could be amended to include that the course would be offered in Hawaii in Summer 2015. Senate was informed that this question would be investigated.

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Graduate General Regulation 1.16.3 (S.14-155)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made a revision to Graduate General Regulation 1.16.3, Admission.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.14-156)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, added a new course and made revisions to existing courses and programs in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (School of Criminology; English; Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; Political Science; Sociology and Anthropology).

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.14-157)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, added new courses in the Beedie School of Business.

A question was asked whether it was normal for SGSC to approve courses for a certificate program long before the certificate has been approved by Senate (re: S.14-130, approved by Senate on December 1, 2014). Senate was informed that the process to develop these courses was extensive. Once the courses were approved by SGSC, the Beedie School of Business was in a position to move forward with the new certificate proposal.

It was noted that a potential instructor, Terry Beech, would be unable to teach BUS 793 because he is a candidate in the upcoming federal election. Senate was informed that Mr. Beech had

indicated his interest in teaching this course when it was developed. The challenge of teaching a course while campaigning was noted.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.14-158)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, added a new course and made revisions to an existing course and existing programs in the Faculty of Education.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.14-159)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology; Mathematics; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

E) Senate Library Committee (SLC)

i) Annual Report (S.14-160)

Senate received the SLC Annual Report for information.

Senator Johnson, Vice-President, Research, and Senator Gwen Bird, University Librarian, were in attendance to respond to questions.

F) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.14-161)

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

Senator Fatoba raised a question regarding students who are unable to complete the Certificate in African Studies program due to the lack of instructors who teach the required courses. The Chair noted the concern and encouraged Senator Fatoba to raise the issue with the academic unit directly or to discuss the matter with the chair of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, January 5, 2015.

Open session adjourned at 7:48 p.m. and Senate moved into the closed session.

Mark Walker
Registrar and Executive Director, Student Enrolment