



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 4, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Acierno, Kyle
Burley, David
Chapman, Glenn
Craig, John
Cupples, Claire
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eckman, Charles
Eikerling, Michael
Elle, Elizabeth
Francis, June
Geisler, Cheryl
Gemino, Andrew (for D. Shapiro)
Guttman, Julian
Hedley, Nick
Jawanda, Harvey
Jozaghi, Ehsan
Kessler, Anke
Leacock, Tracey
Lehal, Japreet
Lu, Yoko
Magnusson, Kris
McTavish, Rob
Myers, Gordon
O'Neil, John
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Perry, Tom
Pierce, John
Pinto, Mario
Quarmby, Lynne
Rajapakse, Nimal
Ruben, Peter
Shaffer, Catherine
Shapiro, Lisa

Smith, Jon
Somers, Julian
Tingling, Peter
Truong, Tesicca
Warner, D'Arcy
Wussow, Helen

Absent:

Antle, Alissa
Bell, Lynne
Birmingham, Elina
Brennand, Tracy
Corbett, Kitty
Delgrande, Jim
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Golnaraghi, Farid
Jermias, Johnny
Khan, Humza
Kopahi, Moe
Kwon, Caleb
Laitsch, Dan
Leznoff, Daniel
Norouzi, Yasmine
Pappas, Panayiotis
Parkhouse, Wade
Paterson, David
Shaw, Chris
Taylor, Carole
Thiara, Karanvir Singh
Wakarchuk, Forrest

In Attendance:

Brandhorst, Bruce
Blomley, Nick
Dill, Ryan
Goldsmith, Charles

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session on October 7, 2013

The minutes of the open session on October 7, 2013 were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

A question was asked regarding a question raised at the September 2013 Senate meeting regarding the community engagement portion of the Annual Financial Report. Senate was informed that a response should be available for the next Senate meeting.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair welcomed a new faculty Senator, Julian Guttman, and a new Convocation Senator, Rob McTavish.

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for Senator Charles Eckman, Dean of Library Services, and thanked the senator for his contributions to Senate.

The Chair reported on the recent rankings of Canadian universities. Simon Fraser University has moved into second place in the Maclean's rankings of comprehensive universities, behind the University of Victoria. SFU remained second in reputational ranking and remained strong in areas relating to faculty and students. SFU was in 20th place in the Research Infosource ranking, based on the 2012 financial year results. The University was generally positive in research income, rising 6% to \$95.6 million. In research output, SFU moved up to 2nd in total number of publications amongst comprehensive universities. SFU remained in first place amongst comprehensive universities in terms of research impact.

The Chair reported on recent research accomplishments. The Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage (IPinCH) project, led by George Nicholas of the Department of Archaeology, received the first SSHRC Partnership Award, valued at \$50,000. IPinCH, which includes nine Canadian and 19 international universities, indigenous communities, and 11 other organizations, examines intellectual property issues and their implications for theory, policy and practice. Automobile Partnerships Canada has invested \$3.4 million toward the \$6.5 million project to establish a fuel cell testing facility with Eric Kjeang of the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering as principal investigator and Ballard Power Systems as an industrial partner.

The Chair reported that he would be leading a delegation to China, visiting Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Hong Kong. The delegation will be attending the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) annual general meeting. Since 1992, SFU has served as the Canadian executing agency and has housed the secretariat international support office for CCICED. The Chair is also visiting the Beijing Institute of Technology, Jilin University, Zhejiang University, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The Chair reported that he will miss the December Senate meeting as he is attending the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) conference on university autonomy. The purpose of the conference is to have a serious discussion about what Canadian universities can do to protect institutional autonomy and to better educate the public and government about the value of universities.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted for question period.

6. Reports of Committees**A) Research Ethics Board (REB)****i) Annual Report (S.13-133)**

Senate received the Research Ethics Board annual report for 2012-2013 for information. Charles Goldsmith, Chair of REB was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding the average length of time devoted to assess a specific project. Senate was informed that most project assessments are completed within a month; however specific data regarding average length of time would be compiled for Senate.

A question was asked whether there was a plan to address the advances in research technology in terms of the requirements of the Research Ethics Board. Senate was informed that the Research Ethics Board was open to hearing innovative ideas that protect the human participants involved in research.

A question was asked regarding a perceived disconnect between the Office of Research Ethics (ORE) and the Office of Research Services (ORS) in facilitating the flow of research, and whether the new Director of Research Ethics would make it a priority to streamline the workflow and requirements of the two offices. Senate was informed that the two offices are co-located and that communication between ORS and ORE is fairly rapid. Clarification was made that speed was not so much of a concern as the processes and requirements of the two offices. Senate was informed that specific examples would be reviewed.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the work of the Research Ethics Board to ensure that ethics reviews are conducted in a way that meets public standards and expectations.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)**i) Suspension of Admission to the Ergonomics and Human Factors Concentration in Kinesiology (S.13-134)**

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton.

“That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Ergonomics and Human Factors Concentration, Kinesiology Major and Honours Program in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2014.”

Ryan Dill, undergraduate chair, Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked regarding the last time a student graduated from the program. Senate was informed that several students have graduated from the program; however, there have been no new applicants in the past three or four years.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Dissolution of the Ergonomics and Human Factors Concentration in Kinesiology (S.13-135)

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

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Ergonomics and Human Factors Concentration, Kinesiology Major and Honours Program in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2014.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Certificate in Genomics in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (S.13-136)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton.

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Genomics in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2014.”

A question was asked regarding the lack of computing science courses in the program, given the generation and analysis of massive quantities of data in the study of genomics. Senate was informed that one of the required courses, MBB 342, has a computing science course prerequisite and that some of the fourth year courses in the program are fairly computer oriented.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) External Review of the Department of Geography (S.13-137)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Pierce.

“that Senate approve the Action Plan for the Department of Geography that resulted from its External Review.”

Nick Blomley, chair of the Department of Geography, was in attendance to answer questions.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) External Review Update for the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (S.13-138)

Senate received the External Review Update Report for the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for information.

A question was asked regarding the possibility of rectifying the apparent understaffing in this department. Senate was informed that the number of new faculty positions is limited by budget and the removal of mandatory retirement. New faculty positions are prioritized by student:faculty ratios and research needs of the department; however, none of the departments have been able to hire as many new faculty as they would have preferred. The Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies was commended for the creative and imaginative way in which they have managed to find some solutions to the issue of understaffing.

A question was asked whether the student:faculty ratios for the departments, faculties and the University could be provided in the updates to Senate. Senate was informed that this information is provided to the department prior to the development of their self-study and to the external reviewers. This information is available on the Institutional Research and Planning website under Department Profiles (<http://www.sfu.ca/irp/departments.html>). This background statistical information about the department could be provided to Senate.

A question was asked if there had been a study showing that faculty members over 65 years of age are teaching less than younger faculty members. Senate was informed that the university student:faculty ratio is on an upward trend, but that new faculty positions are placed where they are most needed.

Clarification was requested regarding a comment made in the past by a former dean to increase the department's teaching per faculty member. Senate was informed that this comment may have been in reference to class sizes, not for additional courses per faculty member.

vi) External Review Update for the Department of Linguistics (S.13-139)

Senate received the External Review Update Report for the Department of Linguistics within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for information.

vii) External Review Update for the Department of Philosophy (S.13-140)

Senate received the External Review Update Report for the Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for information.

A question was asked regarding a statement on page 5 of the action plan in reference to SFU's goal of being a research-intensive university, when the goal became stated and where it is recorded. Senate was informed that SFU has been a research-intensive university based on its record, on its categorization, and based on commitments to research. It was noted that at the April 2010 Senate meeting, Senate received the SFU Strategic Research Plan 2010-2015, which stated "Our goal is to be the most-research intensive comprehensive university in Canada."

A concern was raised regarding the perceived emphasis on research overshadowing teaching. Senate was informed that SFU is within the category of research-intensive universities and, within that category, the degree of emphasis placed on research versus teaching and learning is up to Senate.

A point of clarification was made that the language of concern was that of the external reviewers.

A comment was made that the external reviewers made the statement regarding research faculty under the premise that replacing a lecturer would result in greater research output of the department; however, it was the opinion of the speaker that lecturers take a larger teaching load, which enables research faculty more time for research. Senate was informed that the department had rejected the external reviewers' recommendation and that research faculty also teach large, introductory-level courses.

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)**i) Requirement Term Language for SFU Credentials (S.13-141)**

Moved by G. Myers, seconded by P. Percival.

“That Senate approve the following Calendar language: The requirements that apply to a particular student are generally those in effect at the time of admission, known as the requirement term. The requirement term for university-level requirements is the time of university admission; the requirement term for faculty-level requirements is the time of faculty admission; and the requirement term for a specific subject or concentration is the time of approved declaration of the subject or concentration. However, the ability to use the requirements at the time of admission is not indefinite. University and faculty level requirements apply for at most 8 years, while subject or area of study requirements apply for at most 6 years. If a graduation check determines that a student has not completed requirements within these limits, the term of the graduation application becomes the requirement term. Students may take advantage of new curriculum by changing their requirement term at any time.”

A comment was made that the language of the motion was ambiguous, using the word “term” rather than “semester” or “trimester”. Senate was informed that SFU moved away from using “semester” in favour of “term” three or four years ago and that students know the phrase “requirement term”.

A comment was made that the new Calendar language is more generous to students than the old language and a suggestion was made to ensure that this message is communicated. Senate was informed that this message would be communicated when the change is made.

A question was asked whether the last paragraph meant that students could change their requirement term to be the most recent one or could they change it retroactively. Senate was informed that students would be able to change their requirement term at any time and to one in which the requirements are reduced.

Rob Cameron, the Associate Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, was thanked for his work in originating this Calendar language change.

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.13-142)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, temporarily withdrew a course in the Beedie School of Business.

C) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.13-143)**

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

7. Other Business**i) Election Report to Senate (S.13-144)**

Senate received for information the results of: the faculty, student and convocation election to Senate during the Fall 2013 term; the election for one faculty member of Senate to the

Presidential Re-Appointment Review Committee; and the election for one faculty member and one student member of Senate to the Chancellor Selection Committee.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, December 2, 2013.

Open session adjourned at 6:22 pm and Senate moved into the closed session.

Jo Hinchliffe

Acting Executive Director, Student Enrolment, and Associate Registrar