



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

## Open Session

**Present:** Andrew Petter, Chair

Baharmand, Iman  
Bartram, Lyn (via videoconference)  
Bird, Gwen  
Brennand, Tracy  
Bubela, Tania  
Budd, Thomas  
Chen, Larissa  
Cupples, Claire  
Derksen, Jeff  
Fiume, Eugene  
Garcha, Raajan  
Keller, Peter  
Khehra, Alam  
Laitsch, Dan  
Leacock, Tracey  
Leung, Jeffrey  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Luelfesmann, Christoph  
MacAlister, David  
Mac Namara, Aoife  
Magnusson, Kris  
Nepomnaschy, Pablo  
O'Neil, Dugan (for Joy Johnson)  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Poitras, Geoffrey  
Pulkingham, Jane  
Ruben, Peter  
Singh, Amar  
Tingling, Peter  
Wiese, Kay

**Absent:**

Andersen, Holly  
Bains, Raman  
Burley, David  
Chapman, Glenn  
Chisty, Mohammad  
Christians, Julian  
Christie, Claire  
Dastmalchian, Ali  
Forde, Nancy  
Gajdics, Sylvia  
Giardini, Anne  
Gray, Bonnie  
Hedley, Nick  
Johnson, Joy  
Keliipio, Kau'i  
Kropinski, Mary-Catherine  
Lord Ferguson, Sarah  
Memon, Abdul Ahad  
Moens, Alexander  
Mongrain, Steeve  
Ng, Dorothy  
O'Neill, Susan  
Parent, Michael  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Peters, Joseph  
Randhawa, Jaskarn  
Scott, Jamie  
Shaw, Chris  
Smith, Judy  
Somers, Julian  
Stefanovic, Ingrid  
Wang, Christine  
Williams, Tony  
Zanette, Amanda

**In Attendance:**

Gajdamaschko, Natalia  
Jacobs, Peter  
Murray, Catherine  
Rad, Ahmad

Rummana Khan Hemani, Registrar  
Steven Noel, Recording Secretary

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session on April 9, 2018**

The minutes of the open session on April 9, 2018 were approved as distributed.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- i) At the March meeting Senator Leacock asked a question about the listed rationale for Communications Major and Honours changes. Senate was informed that the changes proposed for the Communication Major and Honours programs have been withdrawn by the School of Communication. The language is currently under review and revisions will be submitted to SCUS and Senate at a later date.

**4. Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported on recent research grant successes:

- In the *NSERC Discovery Grants* competition, SFU was awarded a total of \$1.72M for 57 projects, a success rate of 76%, which is an 11% increase over last year. In addition, seven SFU researchers were awarded *NSERC Accelerator Supplement* grants for a total of \$840,000.
- Nadine Provencal from Health Sciences received a grant of \$150,000 from *CFI's John R. Evans Leaders Fund* for her project *Exposure to Early Life Stress and Glucocorticoids: Mechanisms of System-wide Epigenetic Effects*.
- Glen Tibbits of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology received over \$100,000 for collaborative projects with the *Stem Cell Network*.

The Chair reported on recent research awards and honours:

- Arthur Robson of Economics has been appointed a *Fellow of the Canadian Economics Association* in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the discipline.
- A book summarizing three decades of linguistic and anthropological research involving BC's Secwepemc people, co-authored by Marianne Ignace of First Nations Studies, has received the 2018 *Basil Stuart-Stubbs Books Prize*.
- Brian Fisher of SIAT has been renewed as a member of the governing council of *NSERC*, which is comprised of 18 Canadians from the private and public sectors.
- Judith Marcuse, Artist-in-Residence and adjunct professor in the Faculty of Education, has become a *Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation* mentor. Up to 10 mentors are appointed each year to guide Trudeau scholars in their projects.
- Joy Johnson, Vice-President Research and International, has been honoured by the *Women's Health Research Institute* with its second annual *Career Contribution to Women's Health Research Award*.

The Chair reported that SFU had a substantial presence at the recent *BCTECH Summit*, with numerous displays featuring *SFU Innovates* programs, *KEY*, and a variety of SFU research projects. Vice-President Research Joy Johnson spoke on *Harnessing the Power of Data for Innovation*, and Director of Entrepreneurship Sarah Lubik moderated a panel on *Accelerating Innovation: What University Incubators Can Really Do*.

The Chair reported that SFU recently sent delegations to Victoria in April, and to Ottawa in May. The delegates met with elected representatives, key public officials, along with SFU alumni and supporters. The purpose of the visits was to recognize government's contributions and commitments, to provide updates on our progress and activities, and to discuss future priorities.

The Chair reported that SFU and the City of Burnaby recently hosted the *Burnaby Festival of Learning*, featuring over 90 free events that engaged participants of all ages. This partnership with the City of Burnaby started during our 50th Anniversary Celebration, establishing the goal of hosting educational events throughout the community.

The Chair reported that, in his role as President, he had the opportunity to speak to the *Burnaby Board of Trade* on the role that universities, colleges, and institutes can play as community builders. The Chair noted he will also have the opportunity to speak on the same topic to the *Greater Vancouver Board of Trade*, followed by a conversation with the Honourable Janet Austin, BC's new Lieutenant Governor.

The Chair noted the upcoming 2018 Spring Convocation being held from June 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5. Question Period

No questions were submitted.

#### 6. Reports of Committees

##### A) Calendar Committee (CC)

##### i) Academic Dates 2019-2021 and Revisions to Academic Dates 2018-2019 (S.18-55)

##### **Motion 1:**

Moved by P. Tingling, seconded by A. Mac Namara

"That Senate approve the revised schedule of academic dates for the Fall 2018 term to Summer 2019 term."

A question was asked if plans were made to avoid rescheduling exams during the Easter weekend should any University closures occur during the exam period. Senate was informed that an answer would be sought and brought back to Senate.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

##### **Motion 2:**

Moved by P. Tingling, seconded by A. Mac Namara

"That Senate approve the proposed schedule of academic dates from the Fall 2019 term to Summer 2021 term."

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**B) Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)****i) Annual Report 2017 (S.18-56)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on International Activities Annual Report 2017 for information.

**C) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)****i) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of French (S.18-57)**

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

**ii) Library External Review Report (S.18-58)**

Senate received the Library External Review Report for information.

A question was asked to explain what is meant by *aggressive weeding relocation/removal* of books from the stacks. Senate was informed that weeding is library jargon for removing material from the collection. The Library acknowledges the need to reduce the footprint of physical collections in a thoughtful manner by consulting with users, looking at statistics, and following best practices. There is a limited amount of space in the Library, with many emerging needs requiring space accommodation.

A question was asked to explain how the decision to weed out a book from the collection is made. Senate was informed that there different criteria for books and journals. For books, the Library is working in collaboration with ten other university libraries in Western Canada, compiling usage data and holdings information for SFU collections. For rare or scarcely held books, two copies will be retained across the system. The SFU Library will then be looking at withdrawing volumes that have two or less circulations in the last 20 years.

**iii) Annual Report 2017-2018 (S.18-59)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Priorities Annual Report 2017-2018 for information.

**iv) External Review of the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering (S.18-60)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by E. Fiume

“That Senate approve the Action Plan for the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering that resulted from its External Review.”

Ahmad Rad, Associate Director - School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked about the priority level of increasing the space allocated for the Mechatronic Capstone Lab. Senate was informed that Applied Sciences will be rationalizing and transferring space once the new Sustainable Energy Engineering program goes live in its new building.

A question was asked about new space being provided for the Mechatronics Instructional and Teaching Machine Shop, which was shut down by *WorkSafeBC* and was too small accommodate more than six people. Senate was informed that space will be provided in the basement for the Shop and that the former space will be converted to office space.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

**v) Full Program Proposal for the Undergraduate Diploma in First Nations Language Proficiency (S.18-61)**

Moved by P. Keller, seconded by P. Percival

“That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the undergraduate Diploma in First Nations Language Proficiency (DFNLP) in the Department of Linguistics and the First Nations Languages Centre within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2018.”

Catherine Murray, Associate Dean – FASS, and Peter Jacobs, Associate Director of the new First Nations Language Program, were in attendance to respond to questions.

An amendment was made to the motion to change *First Nations Languages Centre* to *First Nations Languages Program*.

A comment was made to note that implicit in this motion Senate is approving the creation of *undergraduate diploma* as a credential offered by SFU.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

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

**i) Program Changes (S.18-62)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School of Interactive Arts and Technology).

**ii) New Course Proposals (S.18-63)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Linguistics), and the Beedie School of Business.

**iii) Course Changes (S.18-64)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for the Contemporary Arts, Publishing Program), and the Faculty of Science (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry).

**iv) Diploma in First Nations Language Proficiency (S.18-65)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the language in S.18-65 be added to the credential section of the undergraduate calendar effective Fall 2018.

**E) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL)****i) Annual Report 2017-2018 (S.18-66)**

Senate received the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning Annual Report 2017-2018 for information.

**F) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)****i) Course Changes (S.18-67)**

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

**7. Other Business****i) Election Report to Senate (S.18-68)**

Senate received for information a summary of the results of the student election to Senate and the Board of Governors, and the faculty election to Senate, the Board of Governors, and the SFU Community Trust.

**ii) Mental Health at SFU (S.18-69)**

Senate received a report on Mental Health at SFU for information. This item was accompanied by a presentation by Senator Larissa Chen and student Marco Zenone.

Senate expressed its appreciation to the presenters for bringing this important and timely topic to the attention of Senate. Following the presentation a number of comments were offered:

- Measures can be taken to alleviate student stress by more systematically structuring the timing of exams and assignments. It was noted that though faculty are often the first point of contact for students facing mental health issues, faculty should not be in the position acting as councilors.
- Administrators should be mindful of how the use of specific policies may be placing undue stress on students.
- Any initiatives taken to address mental health issues should be made available to students at the Surrey and Vancouver campuses. It was noted that helping faculty understand how to refer students to available resources would be beneficial.
- Scheduling of classes and exams is one of the most common causes of stress identified by students.
- A distinction should be made between mental health issues causing students to struggle academically and student's academic struggles causing them to have mental health issues.
- Senate has a role to play in terms of academic oversight and managing student stress levels.
- Senators were encouraged to consider how can we as individuals can help to alleviate unnecessary stressors and mental problems that students confront without sacrificing academic integrity.

**iii) Certificates of Recognition**

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, expressed appreciation to the following Senators whose terms of office expire on May 31, 2018: Iman Baharmand, Raman Bains, Thomas Budd, David Burley, Larissa Chen, Dedar Chisty, Claire Christie, Raajan Garcha, Nick Hedley, Alam Khehra, Mary-Catherine Kropinski, Jeffrey Leung, David MacAlister, Abdul Ahad Memon, Dorothy Ng, Joseph Peters, Amar Singh, and Tony Williams.

A special thanks was offered to Senator Paul Percival, who is retiring from Senate after 27 years of service, making him the longest serving Senator in SFU history. In addition to his certificate, the Chair presented a small gift to express Senate's deep appreciation for Senator Percival's service to the University.

**8. Information**

**i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, June 11, 2018.**

Open session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Rummana Khan Hemani  
Registrar