



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, February 3, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Colin Percival, Vice-Chair

Andreoiu, Corina
Bubela, Tania
Burley, David
Chou, Jennifer
Collard, Mark
Denholm, Julia
Derksen, Jeff
Driver, Jon
Elle, Elizabeth
Fiume, Eugene
Forde, Nancy
Fowler, Colin
Gajdics, Sylvia
Gallilee, Patty (for Gwen Bird)
Hendrigan, Holly
Heng Hartse, Joel
Hillman, Sterling
Hoffer, Andy
Hogg, Robert
HoSang, Giovanni
Johnson, Joy
Krauth, Brian
Krogman, Naomi
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Luu, Susan
Mirhady, David
Myers, Gord (via Vancouver videoconference)
Nepomnaschy, Pablo
O'Neill, Susan
Parkhouse, Wade
Parmar, Abhishek
Plettner, Erika
Poitras, Geoffrey
Shapiro, Lisa
Stockie, John
Tingling, Peter
Underhill, Owen
Weldon, Steve

Absent:

Aistov, Nikita
Bartram, Lyn
Bird, Gwen
Brennand, Tracy
Chapman, Glenn
Chenier, Elise
Dastmalchian, Ali
Dunsford, Russell
Favere-Marchesi, Michael
Giardini, Anne
Gray, Bonnie
Gunn, Alexandra
Hall, Peter
Ho, Shuna
Keliipio, Kau'i
Kench, Paul
Kim, Woo Soo
Kimathi, Natasha
Lord Ferguson, Sarah
Luelfesmann, Christoph
Parent, Michael
Petter, Andrew
Planchenault, Gaele
Raza, Samad
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Tavakoli, Kimia
Taykandy, Mason
Walsby, Charles
Zanette, Amanda

In Attendance:

Nicolas, George

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of January 6, 2020

The minutes of the open session on January 6, 2020 were approved as distributed, with one amendment.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Vice-Chair noted the regrets of the Chair, who is participating in *Universities Canada's* pre-budget discussions with government officials in Ottawa.

The Vice-Chair, on behalf of Senate, extended congratulations to Senator Joy Johnson on the announcement that she will become SFU's 10th President and Vice-Chancellor on September 1, 2020.

The Vice-Chair reported that President Petter and Dr. Johnson led a ten-day mission to Delhi, Mumbai and Jaipur to develop and strengthen educational, research and cultural relationships with key partners in India. The mission advanced student exchange programs and research initiatives with *IIT Bombay* and the *Tata Institute of Social Sciences*. The SFU delegation also visited the *Indian Council for Cultural Relations*, *Participatory Research in Asia*, the *Jaipur Literature Festival* (which gave birth Vancouver's *India Summer Festival* in which SFU has been partnered for the past 10 years), and the *Bombay Stock Exchange Institute* (with whom SFU and Ryerson University jointly operate *ZoneStartups India*, a leading business accelerator program). In addition, the delegation also held productive discussions with Canada's High Commissioner to India and consular officials in Delhi and Mumbai.

The Vice-Chair reported on news related to public health risks posed by the Coronavirus which originated in China and is spreading to various parts of the world. While as the date of this meeting only one case has been confirmed in British Columbia, SFU is following its infectious disease protocols and pandemic plan and has been engaging with key stakeholders to ensure that SFU's three campuses are prepared and able to respond as needed. Consistent with travel advisories issued last week by the Government of Canada, the University has advised students, faculty and staff not to travel to China for university-related programs and activities at this time.

The Vice-Chair reported that four climate change policy experts have been appointed to a new independent national research organization. Deborah Harford, Executive Director of the *Adaptation to Climate Change Team* (based in the Centre for Dialogue), Nancy Olewiler, Director of the School of Public Policy, and Mark Jaccard, Professor in the School of Resource and Environmental Management, have joined Economics Professor Emeritus Richard Lipsey in the *Canadian Institute for Climate Choices*. This new institute, built as a *collaboration of experts from a diverse range of disciplines and organization across the country*, will undertake research, analysis and engagement to bring clarity to climate challenges and policy in Canada.

The Vice-Chair reported that the SFU Library recently held the official opening of its new Media and Maker Commons, an interdisciplinary learning facility to enhance the student experience and

engagement. Also, SFU recently opened its ninth Vancouver campus location at 312 Main Street, the old police headquarters which is being converted by *Vancity* into a centre for social and economic innovation. The 4500 square foot space that SFU occupies within the building will serve as a hub for a wide range of community focused programs, including the new Community-Engaged Research initiative (CERi), the Vancity Office of Community Engagement, SFU Public Square, Lifelong Learning, and SFU Library's Community Scholars Program.

The Vice-Chair reported that the development of a 90 unit rental building for graduate students and students with families has begun on UniverCity's Lot 21. These units will be in addition to the 850 units of undergraduate student housing, plus dining hall expansion which are currently being constructed on the west side of the Burnaby Campus.

The Vice-Chair reported that the President's Faculty Lecture Series will continue on February 6th at SFU Vancouver with a talk by Deanna Reder on *The Obligations of Stories: Missing Jim Brady and Abbie Halkett*. This event was originally scheduled for January 15th but was rescheduled due to snow on that date. Another lecture in the series will take place at SFU Surrey on February 25th, where Faranak Farzan will present *A Neuroengineering Lens into Treatment of Youth Mental Health and Addiction*. All lectures are free and open to the university community and the public.

The Vice-Chair reported that this year's Senate-Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm at the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue, with breakfast and lunch served.

5. Question Period

i) Senator Fowler submitted the following question:

Student study spaces are a reoccurring issue especially around exams with schools following up with students, many are faced with little to no options. For example, I had a friend study in a bathroom stall and I myself have studied on the concrete floor in an emergency staircase simply because there is nowhere better to go. For many, including those with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders such as myself, this often means difficult choices between struggling to find a place to study on campus or staying home and getting little to nothing done. That said, many of the tutorial rooms are locked or only occupied by one or two students during exams. What if SFU considers these rooms as dedicated study areas during the exam period when they are otherwise not being used. In addition, a great touch would be to include power banks in these rooms for these students to be able to charge their phones and laptops and other electronic devices. Thank you.

Kris Nordgren, Assistant Registrar, responded to this question.

Senate was informed that Meeting and Event Services, Campus Security and the Schedules department are typically involved in coordinating the opening and closing of rooms during the final exam period. It was noted that a tentative plan is in place to pilot some changes for the upcoming Spring exam period. Schedules will set aside space in larger buildings like the AQ, the West Mall Complex, Blusson Hall and the Education building, and the schedule of these openings will be posted on the examination website in advance, identifying quiet study spaces and times of availability. Typically the exam schedule is determined after week four or five of

the term. Once exam rooms have been booked, consideration can be given to room openings and making that space available to students, thereby allowing Security to have a schedule to follow. Efforts will also be made to reach out to faculties and departments, who may have spaces they are able to designate as study spaces. It was added that many common spaces around the Burnaby are not fully utilized and can be identified for those students looking for alternative study spaces.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

i) External Review of the Department of Archaeology (S.20-17)

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by A. Parmar

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

George Nicolas, Chair - Department of Archaeology, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A concern was raised about the lack of support for the Museum identified in the external review. Senate was informed this concern has previously been raised in past external reviews and that work is now being done in collaboration with the Dean of the Faculty of Environment. Earlier this year, a museum planning committee was struck to both address concerns raised in the external review and develop a plan going forward.

A question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) External Review Mid-Cycle Report for the Department of Chemistry (S.20-18)

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

In response to *Educational Goal 6: Be able to use modern library search and retrieval methods to access information about specific chemical topics*, a comment was made that the Library would be supportive of the Department in achieving this goal and can create specific campus modules or provide additional research workshops.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

i) Program Changes (S.20-19)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Physics).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.20-20)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Science (Mathematics).

iii) Course Changes (S.20-21)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science); Arts and Social Sciences (Psychology), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Physics)

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Program Changes (S.20-22)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Beedie school of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics).

ii) New Course Proposals (S.20-23)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new course proposals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Computing Science), the Beedie School of Business, and the Faculty of Science (Mathematics).

iii) Course Changes (S.20-24)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved course changes in the Beedie School of Business.

iv) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Annual Report 2019 (S.20-25)

Senate received the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Annual Report 2019 for information.

D) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**i) Senate Committee Elections (S.20-26 Revised)**

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

7. Other Business**i) Proposed Board Policy on University Policies (S.20-27)**

Senate received the Proposed Board Policy on University Policies for information.

Kimberly Hart, SFU Policy Project, was in attendance to respond to questions.

A question was asked about this policy only referring to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board of Governors and not those of Senate. Senate was informed that this has been brought to the attention to the drafters and will be revisited.

A question was asked about editorial amendments and the need of updating defunct policies. Senate was informed that SFU policies will sometimes reference other policies, and when a policy is sunsetted, removing that reference would be considered an editorial change.

A concern was raised about the Burnaby-centric wording of 2.1.3, which states *Identify whether this is a multi-campus issue that should involve Executive Directors at SFU Surrey and SFU Vancouver*. Senate was thanked for this feedback.

A comment was made that language needs to be added in the *Summary of Procedural Steps* stating the need for review by Senate. Senate was thanked for this feedback.

8. Information

i) **Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, March 2, 2020**

Open session adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Kris Nordgren
Senate Secretary pro tem