



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, October 7, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the West Mall Complex (Room 3210)

Open Session

Present: Andrew Petter, Chair

Acierno, Kyle
Brennand, Tracy
Burley, David
Cameron, Rob (representing N. Rajapakse)
Chapman, Glenn
Craig, John
Cupples, Claire
Delgrande, Jim
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Eikerling, Michael
Fairey, Elaine (representing C. Eckman)
Flodr, Sarah-Sophia
Francis, June
Geisler, Cheryl
Haunerland, Norbert (representing M. Pinto)
Hedley, Nick
Jozaghi, Ehsan
Laitsch, Dan
Leacock, Tracey
Lehal, Japreet
Leznoff, Daniel
Magnusson, Kris
Myers, Gordon
Norouzi, Yasmine
O'Neil, John
Pappas, Panayiotis
Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Perry, Tom
Petter, Andrew
Quarmby, Lynne
Ruben, Peter
Shapiro, Lisa
Smith, Jon
Tingling, Peter
Truong, Tesicca
Wakarchuk, Forrest

Absent:

Antle, Alissa
Birmingham, Elina
Corbett, Kitty
Elle, Elizabeth
Golnaraghi, Farid
Jawanda, Harvey
Jermias, Johnny
Kessler, Anke
Khan, Humza
Kopahi, Moe
Kwon, Caleb
Lu, Yoko
Paterson, David
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Paul
Pierce, John
Shaffer, Catherine
Shapiro, Daniel
Shaw, Chris
Somers, Julian
Taylor, Carole
Thiara, Karanvir Singh
Warner, D'Arcy
Wussow, Helen

In Attendance:

Liljedahl, Peter
White, Nicole

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Minutes of the Open Session on September 9, 2013

The minutes of the open session on September 9, 2013 were approved, with some minor corrections.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that SFU maintained its position in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings in the 226th to 250th bracket and 13th in Canada. In the QS World University Rankings, SFU leapt 38 steps over the previous year to 244th in the world, 67th in North America and 12th in Canada.

The Chair reported on recent research accomplishments. Mark Collard of the Department of Archaeology, along with two SFU post-doctoral fellows, Jessica Munson and Jonathan Scholnick, are co-principal investigators on a three-year, \$829,000 project funded by the National Science Foundation and led by UC-Davis. Dugan O'Neil, Bernd Stelzer, and Michel Vetterli of the Department of Physics, are members of the international team receiving the 2013 European Physics Society prize for High-Energy Particle Physics for their discovery of the Higgs boson at CERN. SFU researchers collectively were awarded more than \$3.5 million in grants from SSHRC in the last Insight and Insight Development grants competition.

The Chair reported that, as President, he tabled his goals and objectives for the coming year with the Board of Governors and they have approved them. The President will focus on the issue of course access for students. The President's goals and objectives are now posted on his website (<http://www.sfu.ca/pres/reports-initiatives/goals13-14.html>).

The Chair reported on recent events including the SFU Public Square and the Truth and Reconciliation week. The Chair acknowledged individuals involved in the coordination of on-campus Week of Reconciliation activities: Clay Gray, a student who led the initiative from the student side; William Lindsay of the Office of Aboriginal Peoples and his staff, Nicole Rogers and Trina Isakson who served as project manager; and elder Margaret George, among many others who participated. The week included a well-attended event at the SFU Theatre, with speaker Karen Joseph and residential school survivors. The Walk for Reconciliation was held the following Sunday with a significant turnout, including the Minister of Advanced Education – an SFU alumnus. The Chair thanked Senate for their decision to encourage faculty members to accommodate students who participated in these initiatives, and noted that the University was able to provide a consciousness-raising, educational experience and the opportunity to participate in off-campus Week of Reconciliation events.

The Chair reported that convocation would be happening later that week and noted that this would be Kate Ross's last convocation and her last Senate meeting at SFU. The Chair expressed his appreciation on behalf of Senate for all that she has done for Senate and for the University.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted for question period.

6. Reports of Committees**A) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)****i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (S.13-121)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (History).

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (S.13-122)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, added a new course in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (School for Interactive Art and Technology).

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.13-123)

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

A question was asked why the courses required that students undergo criminal record checks. Senate was informed that provincial legislation requires that any students who are in courses that require them to be in contact with children or vulnerable adults must have a criminal record check.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.13-124)

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 Science (Biological Sciences; Chemistry; and Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology).

A question was asked why the Special Topics courses included prerequisites that were yet to be announced and whether these courses would have to come back to Senate when they are announced. Senate was informed that the appropriate prerequisite courses are established when the special topic is chosen. The courses do not need to come back to Senate for approval because they are special topics courses.

A question was asked regarding the phrase “not currently offered” in the description of BISC 475. Senate was informed that the phrase “not currently offered” does not refer to the course, but rather to the special topic when there are no current courses offered in the curriculum that cover the topic. The issue will be referred back to the Associate Dean of Science to confirm the intention of the wording.

B) Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**i) Graduate General Regulation 1.10.4 (S.13-125)**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the revision of GGR 1.10.4, Submission of the Thesis to the Library

A concern was raised that having only digital copies of theses would potentially put the documents at risk. Senate was informed that the Library has an institutional repository for theses data storage and the digital theses are submitted to a secondary system for preservation.

A question was asked why the Library would not keep a single print copy for the shelves. Senate was informed that the Library had reviewed the circulation statistics for theses and found that the requests for digital theses far outweighed the access requests for print theses.

A question was asked regarding the security of the digital theses, if it would be possible for someone to alter a thesis and how the Library would know if that was done. Senate was informed that students who submit their theses retain the right to their work and can specify access restrictions such as submitting a read-only copy.

ii) Graduate General Regulation 1.11 (S.13-126)

Motion

Moved by W. Parkhouse, seconded by G. Chapman

“That Senate approve the revision to GGR 1.11, Publication of Thesis.”

Question was called and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Beedie School of Business (S.13-127)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, made revisions to an existing course and existing programs in the Beedie School of Business.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (S.13-128)

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

v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (S.13-129)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (S.13-130)

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 Science.

C) Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

i) Senate Committee Elections (S.13-131)

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

7. Other Business

i) Presidential Re-Appointment Review Committee Election (S.13-132)

Senate was informed that the student member and one faculty Senator member of the Presidential Re-Appointment Review Committee were elected by Senate, and that online voting would take place from October 8 to 10, 2013, to elect the second faculty Senator member.

8. Information

i) Date of the next regular meeting – Monday, November 4, 2013.

Open session adjourned at 5:52 pm and Senate moved into the closed session.

Kate Ross
Registrar & Executive Director Student Enrolment