

Dear SFUFA Members:

Following yesterday's bulletin (available [here](#)) reporting on, among other things, the Research Ethics Board, we are happy today to provide a short update on the events of Senate last night. Following that, please find a list of current vacancies on Senate and its committees for which faculty nominees are sought.

Following the administration's presentation of several motions related to the composition of the REB, the status of the VPRI's proposed procedural changes, and the creation of a joint committee to consider future possible policy and procedural matters, Senators made a number of their own motions to ensure an outcome that would provide for full compliance with Tri-Council guidelines while re-affirming the central principle of REB independence.

The outcome of Senate's decisions are as follows:

- previous members of the REB have been fully restored, including the Chair and Vice Chair. An additional member was appointed by Senate to join the REB.
- the VPRI's previously-proposed policy revisions will not be enacted. The existing procedures will continue to operate until such time as duly-considered changes are brought forward and passed through the required processes.
- a joint committee to review policies and procedures will be established. A member of the REB chosen by the REB will join with two Senators and two representatives of the Board of Governors to make the committee.

The decisions of Senate last night are a testament to the critical importance and continued relevance of robust collegial governance, and the restoration of the REB and re-affirmation of its independence would not have been possible without the direct involvement of many faculty members acting in a range of capacities. Members of the Research Ethics Board – past and current – spent endless hours documenting the importance of independence and articulating the numerous policy implications of the original VPRI proposal. Senators studied multiple versions of policies and proposals to ensure that they were fully aware of details, and brought forward questions and comments in lively debates over both the February and March meetings. And close to 300 faculty members signed an open letter to the University President calling for the outcome that was finally enacted last night by Senate, demonstrating the continued active interest and engagement of the community in issues of academic governance.

Collegial governance is not easy. It is messy, it is complicated, and the time and effort it takes requires a serious commitment. But it matters. Last night Senate's meeting demonstrated that faculty members at SFU take collegial governance seriously. And it demonstrated, too, that when we collectively do that, we can still help to shape the University in powerful and positive ways.

Thank you to all of you – faculty members, Senators, REB members – for all of your dedication over the past two months, and for all you did to raise the profile of this issue, to keep it on the

agenda, and to ensure that both our system of collegial governance and the independence of our Research Ethics Board are protected.

Senate Committees - Call for Nominations

The University is currently seeking members to serve on Senate and Senate Committees. As has been so clearly demonstrated, Senate and its committees are critical to a vibrant system of collegial governance, ensuring faculty voices can be heard in a range of decision-making processes, and every vacant seat is a lost opportunity to keep academic decision making in the hands of faculty members.

With the lack of investment in faculty in recent years, the displacement of faculty members from decision making in key areas, and trends to less transparency and less robust consultation, the protection of collegial governance has been identified by faculty members as a pressing concern. More than ever, we need faculty members to claim and use the seats they have at all levels of university governance.

Please note: while some Senate documents still suggest that nominees must be tenured faculty, Teaching Faculty are indeed eligible to serve.

Nominations for Senate and Senate Committees close **Friday March 17th at 4:00 p.m.** so please don't delay if you are willing to serve. Nomination forms are available at:
<http://www.sfu.ca/students/elections/faculty.html>

The original call from Senate follows, but for your convenience we have included vacancies sorted by committee as well as by faculty below.

Any Faculty:

2 Senators (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2026)

1 Senator (present-May 31, 2024).

Applied Science:

Senator (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2026)

Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2025)

Faculty College (present-August 31, 2024)

2 members of Faculty College (Sept 1, 2023-August 31, 2025)

Arts and Social Science:

Senator (June 1, 2023- May 31, 2026)

Senator (Present-May 31, 2025)

3 members of Faculty College (Sept 1, 2023- August 31, 2025)

Beedie:

Senator (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2026)
2 members of Faculty College (Present-August 31, 2024)
2 members of Faculty College (Sept 1, 2023-August 31, 2025)

FCAT:

Senator (Present- May 31, 2024)
Senator (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2026)
Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2025)
Senate Graduate Awards Adjudication Committee (Present- May 31, 2024)
Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee (June 1, 2023- May 31, 2025)
1 member of Faculty College (Present-August 31, 2024)
2 members of Faculty College (Sept 1, 2023-August 31, 2025)

Education:

1 Senator (Present-May 31, 2024)
1 Senator (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2026)
Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee (June 1, 2023- May 31, 2025)
2 members of Faculty College (Sept 1, 2023-August 31, 2025)

Environment:

2 Senators (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2026)
Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2025)
Senate Graduate Awards Adjudication Committee (Present- May 31, 2024)
Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee (June 1, 2023- May 31, 2025)
1 member of Faculty College (Present-August 31, 2024)
2 members of Faculty College (Sept 1, 2023-August 31, 2025)

Health Science:

2 Senators (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2026)
1 Senator (Present- May 31, 2025)
Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2025)
Senate Graduate Awards Adjudication Committee (Present- May 31, 2024)
Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee (Present- May 31, 2024)
2 members of Faculty College (Sept 1, 2023-August 31, 2025)

Science:

1 Senator (June 1, 2023- May 31, 2026)
Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee (June 1, 2023-May 31, 2025)
2 members of Faculty College (Present-August 31, 2024)
2 members of Faculty College (Sept 1, 2023-August 31, 2025)