

SIMON FRA

REPORT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OPEN SESSION

ADVANCING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

There is work occurring across the university to advance the What's Next strategic priorities. Several key examples are highlighted below.

Uphold Truth & Reconciliation

- The Office of the Indigenous Executive Lead was launched in late 2023, with Chris Lewis appointed to the role of Indigenous Executive Lead in November. Initial priorities for the office include the development of a strategic roadmap for the office and the implementation of the Indigenous governance framework.
- The Indigenous Welcoming Procedure was advanced in the fall, with significant engagement on the procedure taking place with Indigenous community members in November. Key work currently underway on the Indigenous Welcoming Procedure includes the development of an information technology platform to support the administration of the work and securely hold confidential information, while adhering to Indigenous data sovereignty principles.
- We also continue to move forward on the Indigenous naming work, where we are continuing to work with the Host Nations to find names for spaces on Burnaby campus.

Engage in Global Challenges

- Last year, SFU participated in COP28 in Dubai with nine on-site delegates and two virtual delegates. Delegates included Vice-President Research and International Dugan O'Neil and climate scientist Kirsten Zickfeld, as well as faculty, staff and students who

rs0.16 (an)-4ST-10 (FU Tc 0 Tw [hol]-2 (d -s0.16)13 (ndn)-4pon t)-2 (hton-)TJ-0.h02 Tw [c)6 (lima)9.8
x h02 Tw 1.5 0 Td\$mFUSmus(a)6 (nb)2 (a)6 (b)2 ilityn5.4 (eSm)-2 (F)8 (U)4 Sm2.5vCeaer(s)1 itha

science and innovation policy community was an opportunity to showcase SFU's research and innovation excellence to a national audience.

- Working closely with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, SFU was awarded 500 new tech-relevant seats in Data Science, Computing Science, Statistics, Software Systems, Agritech, Social Data Analytics and Business Analytics and Decision Making to meet the demand for technology workers. In addition to the increased funding for the seats, SFU also received capital funding which will enhance access to programs in demand to Make a Difference for B.C. as part of the provincial Stronger BC Future Ready Action Plan.

Transform the SFU Experience

- In SFU's Strategic Research Plan, the university pledged to "set a university-wide minimum funding level for PhD students" by the end of 2023. Senate approved a PhD minimum funding regulation for incoming PhD students starting in fall 2024. Eligible students will be guaranteed minimum funding of \$28,000 per year for the first 12 terms of their PhD program. Compared with faculties of Graduate Studies across Canada, SFU's policy establishes the highest minimum PhD funding level in Canada.
 - We are proud to share that the Marianne and Edward Gibson Art Museum has won a prestigious [Canadian Architectural Award of Merit](#), the highest recognition for excellence in the design stage in the Canadian architectural sector. Congratulations to SFU Galleries director Kimberly Phillips, Hariri Pontarini Architects and Iredale Architecture for this achievement.
 - SFU received provisional certification as a Living Wage Employer on December 4, 2023. Full certification will be achieved when all direct (SFU) employees are brought up to the living wage, which is anticipated by May 1, 2024. The current estimated impact to SFU's operating budget to meet the living wage is \$4.3M. Note that if all listed contractors elected to participate in the tuition waiver program, the total operating budget impact would be reduced to approx. \$3.9M.
 - More SFU students than ever are facing challenges accessing healthy food. Our year-end 2023 annual giving campaign raised funds for the SFU Food Security Program Fund, providing grocery vouchers and gift cards to undergraduate and graduate students in need. As of December 31, our donor community has contributed \$49,563.18 to help alleviate student hunger. This is in addition to a \$40,000 commitment from SFU through the spend account of the President's Priority Fund, which is a donor-funded endowment.
 - At its recent meeting, the SFU Alumni Council endorsed the finalized Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Council. The TOR, along with a website introducing the Alumni Council members, TOR and contact information, will be launched in early 2024. The Alumni Council also met to adjudicate the 2024 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients. A major outcome from this adjudication meeting was a desire to review all processes and procedures with the program, ensuring alignment with SFU's Honorary Degree timeline
-

and a review of award categories to ensure a decolonized, future-focused approach. We look forward to welcoming everyone to the 2024 Outstanding Alumni Awards on April 24.