

## PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR

JANUARY 2025

To the SFU Board of Governors:

It is the beginning of a new year at SFU, and I am excited about the year ahead of us. There is much to look forward to as we mark SFU's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the completion of several milestone projects on the Burnaby campus, including the First Peoples' Gathering House and Marianne and Edward Gibson Art Museum.

The post-secondary sector continues to face strong headwinds and it will be a complex year. I am confident that with determination and collaboration we will successfully navigate these challenges. I am grateful to the executive team who are working hard to ensure the long-term sustainability of the university. We are also extending our advocacy efforts with government to raise awareness about the continued impacts of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) changes to the post-secondary sector and discuss the sustainability of the current post-secondary funding model.

Although this continues to be a difficult time for our university and the sector as a whole, I am thankful for our community of students, faculty and staff at SFU, and I am confident in our ability to be creative, find efficiencies and deliver on our vision and academic mission in 2025.

### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

#### **Leadership renewal**

There are many senior leader searches underway at SFU. Here is a summary of progress towards each:

The search committee for a new Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Students has completed longlist interviews and is finalizing the candidates for in-person visits in January. The aim is to have a replacement hired before Dr. Rummana Khan Hemani's retirement in the spring.

The search committee for the next Dean, Beedie School of Business is reviewing candidate applications. Dr. Carolyn Egri continues to provide *pro tem* leadership while this search is conducted.

The search for a new Dean, Faculty of Environment is underway and the advertisement is currently posted. The intent is to have a replacement hired before Dr. Naomi Krogman's term ends in June.

The search for a new Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences has recently commenced and the committee will be finalizing the candidate profile in January. Dr. Jeremy Snyder is providing *pro tem* leadership in FHS.



## **Budget**

We are anticipating another tight budget cycle

provide a grace period that allows students to continue their studies while their updated study permits are being processed. Federal officials cited SFU's advocacy as a key factor in this decision.

Our efforts will continue—Dilson and I recently led a delegation to Victoria to discuss key priorities, including financial sustainability in the post-secondary sector, and we are planning a mission to Ottawa. We are also working closely with external partners, including the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and Business Council of B.C., and with sector partners, including the Research Universities Council of British Columbia and Universities Canada, to build capacity and align our efforts as we advocate for SFU and the post-secondary sector.

## 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**



VPAAE Erin Morantz and I hosted more than 150 guests at the President's Seasonal Donor Appreciation Reception in downtown Vancouver on December 5. Hosted at the Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre, the program helped us reconnect with donors, share current fundraising priorities and thank them for the positive impact they have on our community. We also recognized SFU alumnus and donor Allan Merrill, who established the [Merrill Family Global Campus Experience](#) at SFU through a generous gift.

VPAAE Erin Morantz and I joined Renaissance Coffee owner Parminder Parhar and his wife Kamaljit as they hosted SFU's annual Coffee Day for Students on Burnaby campus on November 6. In total, more than \$5,200 was raised from proceeds of the morning's purchases to support the [Parhar endowment](#), which enriches students' lives through an