



**Senate Council**  
**Minutes of the Friday, September 22, 2017, Meeting**

**Present:** Katherine Bergman (Chair), Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Darren Becks, Steven Bednarski, Susan Brophy, Andrew Deman, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale, Tessa Femia-Sebben, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Jolanta Komornicka, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Zack MacDonald, Jane Nicholas, Viola Poletes Montgomery, Anna Purkey, John Rempel, Lorna Rourke, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Mark Spielmacher, Sylvia Terzian, Cristina Vanin, Maya Venters, Denise Whitehead, Chad Wriglesworth

**Resource:** Christine Schwendinger

**Recording Secretary:** Laura Charland

**Absent:** Tristanne Connolly\*, Stephanie Gregoire\*, Gabriel Niccoli\*, Awalou Ouedraogo\*, Toni Serafini\*, Myroslaw Tataryn\*, Ryan Touhey\*, Bruno Tremblay\*, Nick Zunic\*

*\*regrets*

**On Leave:** Kieran Bonner, Chris Burris, Whitney Lackenbauer, Caitlin Mulcahy, David Perrin, David Williams

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Open Session

1. **Prayer**

Jolanta Komornicka opened the meeting with a reflection.

2. **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed the members of Senate Council back from the summer break. She also extended a welcome to new senators, Andrew Deman and Jolanta Komornicka, as well as the student senators, Maya Venters and Tessa Femia-Sebben. The Chair congratulated Tristanne Connolly and her colleagues in the department of English for their publication of a collection of poetry.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed. Austen and Seljak. Carried unanimously.

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

Members of Senate Council were asked to declare any conflicts they may have in relation to the items on the agenda. No conflicts were declared.

5. **Approval of the Minutes of May 26, 2017**

- The minutes of May 26, 2017, were approved as distributed with one friendly amendment to the first paragraph on page five. Kolentsis and Klassen. Carried. Eight abstentions.

## 6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## 7. **Reports from Committees**

### a. *Governance Committee*

In addition to the written report submitted by the Governance Committee, the Chair of the Governance Committee announced Maureen Drysdale will be stepping in as the Research Officer.

### b. *Academic Committee*

A member of the Sociology and Legal Studies department spoke to the four new courses that were put forward. Minor changes were recommended to the package by members of Senate Council.

- ***Motion 1:*** *That SJU Senate Council approve the new Sociology courses, to be effective September 1, 2018.* Kline and Desroches. Carried. 1 abstention.

### c. *Committee on Research and Scholarship*

The Vice Chair of Senate Council reminded the members of Senate Council of the Aid to Scholarly Publications Fund deadline on November 1, 2017, and the Faculty Research Grant deadline on January 31, 2018.

### d. *Senate Finance Committee*

The Chair of the Senate Finance Committee announced that the audit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year had been completed and the audited financial statements would be coming to a future meeting of Senate Council.

### e. *Library Committee*

The Chair of the Library Committee provided an update regarding the current work of the Library Committee. The Librarians gave a presentation around the crowd-funding Library Renewal site that will be launched in the near future. The Chair of Senate Council encouraged members of Senate Council to support this initiative by sharing its existence. The SJU Academic Staff Association is the first donor for this funding initiative.

## 8. **Report from the Vice President Academic and Dean**

The VPAD supplemented his written report with a presentation on the 2016-2017 equity numbers. For the year, SJU fell short of the teaching target by 1,504 students. Compared to the previous year, however, SJU's activity resulted in an increase of 300 students. SJU's primary challenge is that we are meeting or exceeding targets for our shared disciplines but we are not keeping pace with the unshared disciplines. Continued strength in the honours arts and business as well as the accounting and financial management programs, along with significantly increased enrolments in the Global Business and Digital Arts program, have put pressure on SJU because

our courses are primarily aligned with the honours arts program, which has experienced enrolment declines the last few years. The VPAD fielded questions about the Arts First initiative; he noted that SJU being under our equity target may create problems for SJU if University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) were to withhold funds intended to support Arts First teaching.

The VPAD highlighted the academic staff who received tenure and/or promotion this past academic year.

**9. Report from the Registrar**

The VPAD provided a brief report on first year enrolments although the final count will not be known until November 1, 2017. Changes to the recruitment strategy are currently being considered.

**10. Report from the Vice President Administration**

The Vice President Administration reported on the completion of the audit for fiscal year ending April 30, 2017. Once approved by the Board, the audited financial statements will be published to the University's website. The Vice President Administration provided a brief update on the current facility renovations which are part of the ongoing renewal of campus.

**11. Report from the Director of Advancement**

The Director of Advancement reminded the members of Senate Council that the Feast of St. Jerome Liturgy and Dinner will be held on Friday, September 29, 2017. The Feast is sold out and there will be an entire afternoon of events that day including an opportunity for students to meet with the Right Honorable Paul Martin. The Director of Advancement thanked the St. Jerome's University Academic Staff Association for their support and also thanked Dr. Steven Bednarski and Dr. Sylvia Terzian for serving as this year's MCs for the event.

She also provide a brief update on the crowd-funding site initiative and requested that the members of Senate Council assist with raising awareness of this site.

**12. Report from the President**

The President thanked the academic staff members for their important contributions to the University. The President also provided an update regarding changes UWaterloo has made which have been submitted to the government. St. Jerome's University will be collecting our own institutional data. For further information on this project please contact the Vice President Administration.

The President announced that the United Way Campaign would be beginning again at UWaterloo and encouraged people to consider donating to United Way through UWaterloo.

The President, Vice President Administration, VPAD, and a member of the academic staff attended a ceremony on September 22, 2017, at Conrad Grebel University College in the Black Walnut Garden where a plaque acknowledging the traditional land on which Conrad Grebel University College is situated was unveiled.

### 13. Reports from Academic Departments

- This year's Reading Series will feature five authors with the first event taking place on October 20, 2017, 4:30 pm in SJ1 3027. An email was sent to the community on September 19, 2017.
- The Coordinator for the Lectures in Catholic Experience announced that the fall lectures will continue celebrating the Year with the Saint John's Bible. The first lecture, "Science and Faith in Harmony: 'The Heavens Declare the Glory of God,'" will take place on October 13, 2017, 7:30 pm in The Vanstone Lecture Theatre (SJ2-1004). Further information will be sent to the community regarding this year's events.
- The Librarian reminded the members of Senate Council of the lecture being held jointly with the Medieval Lecture Series taking place on September 28, 2017, 4:30 pm in SJ2 2002.
- The Medieval Lecture Series will host another event on October 18, 2017. Further information on this event will be sent out at a later date.
- The first 2017-2018 Soirées Ciné will take place on September 25, 2017, 6:00 pm. The featured movie will be *Samba*.
- The Department of History will be hosting a showing of *A Knight's Tale* on September 24, 2017, 8:30 pm. All members of the community are welcome.
- A member of Senate Council commended the University for the bathroom signage and the collaborative process used to develop the wording on the signs.

### 14. Other Business

There was no other business reported.

- ***Motion*** to move into confidential session. Bednarski and MacDonald. Carried unanimously.
- The Chair adjourned Senate Council.

*Approved by SJU Senate Council*  
October 20, 2017