



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council Minutes of the Friday, January 19, 2018, Meeting

Present: Katherine Bergman (Chair), Scott Kline (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Steven Bednarski, Susan Brophy, Andrew Deman, Ryan Devitt, Maureen Drysdale, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis, Jolanta Komornicka, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Zack MacDonald, Gabriel Niccoli, Viola Poletes Montgomery, Anna Purkey, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead, Chad Wriglesworth

Guest: John Arnou

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Veronica Austen*, Darren Becks*, Chris Burris, Tristanne Connolly*, Fred Desroches, Megan Durdle*, Tessa Femia-Sebben*, Stephanie Gregoire*, Jane Nicholas*, David Perrin*, John Rempel, Lorna Rourke*, BJ Rye*, Myroslaw Tataryn*, Ryan Touhey, Nick Zunic, Registrar (vacant)
**regrets*

On Leave: Kieran Bonner, Whitney Lackenbauer, Caitlin Mulcahy, David Williams

Open Session

1. **Prayer**

Katherine Bergman opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone back to a new year.

The two Students' Union representatives on Senate Council this term will be Tessa Femia-Sebben and Megan Durdle.

Scott Keys has been appointed as the new Director of Finance and Accounting beginning January 29, 2018; a formal welcome will be sent out when he arrives on campus. The search is moving forward for a Director of Student Affairs; as part of the interviews, candidates met with a select group of faculty.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed. Drysdale and Kolentsis. 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 November 17, 2017

- Page 1, *Absent*: Toni Serafini had submitted regrets and this will be reflected with an asterisk.
- The minutes of November 17, 2017, were approved as revised. Bednarski and Acton. Carried. Four abstentions.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Reports from Committees

a. Governance Committee

One of Senate Council's standing committees is the Senate Council Finance Committee which has faculty representation. The Finance Committee normally meets twice a year to 1) review the budget before it is submitted to the Board, and 2) meet with the auditors to review the audited financial statements. As a committee that meets more regularly, the Governance Committee, in an effort to decrease service workloads of academic staff, proposes that the tasks of the Finance Committee be transferred to the Governance Committee. Current members would complete their terms and any change would be effective September 1, 2018. Members were asked to consider the proposal and to share their thoughts with the Chair of the Governance Committee.

- **Motion:** That the SJU Senate Council reassign the tasks of the Senate Council Finance Committee to the Governance Committee. Acton and MacDonald. Tabled.

There is a seat on Senate Council for a University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) member, which was filled previously by a Board of Governors member from UWaterloo. That person's term has expired on the Board and therefore on Senate Council. Senate Council members were asked to consider what representation its membership should include (e.g., Board member, member from UWaterloo Arts or another Faculty, both). Most Senates have Board representation on them. Members were asked to send comments to the Chair of the Governance Committee.

On behalf of the *ad hoc* Instructional Technology Working Group, the VPAD provided a response on the classroom technology concerns and the solutions being implemented. IT commits to a quick response (normally within five minutes) during regular business hours; discussion is ongoing about after hours support and the possibility of increasing IT personnel to 2.5. The VPAD confirmed this is a first attempt and support will be ongoing. A comment was heard that we all need to work together to report technology problems.

b. Academic Committee

A new English course proposed by the UWaterloo Department of English (ENGL 332) was presented for information. Two Italian Studies course changes (ITAL 370/ITALST 370) were presented for approval; the changes are necessitated by a program name change at UWaterloo.

- **Motion 1:** That SJU Senate Council approve the ITAL 370/ITALST 370 course changes, to be effective September 1, 2019. Kline and Lappin-Fortin. Carried unanimously.

One of the priorities of the academic plan is on external partnerships. Based on this priority and also driven by the renewal project in Finn, it was recognized that principles are needed for evaluating possible experiential learning partners (including those who may occupy space in Finn) and guidelines on the process. The principles were initially developed by academic planning Working Group #4 and the broader Finn Working Group and were then taken to Academic Committee for feedback and further development.

- **Motion 2:** That SJU Senate Council approve a first reading of the Partnership Principles and Guidelines. Kline and Vanin. Carried. 11 abstentions.

Academic Committee proposed establishing an Experiential Learning Advisory Committee to provide broad oversight on experiential learning partnerships. The VPAD and Vice President Administration would bring forward a potential partner to this Committee to ensure the partner aligns with SJU's mission and academic values of social justice and leadership. The VPAD confirmed the Finn Working Group was *ad hoc* and has been disbanded. The Committee would have faculty representation and the Director of Student Affairs, who will be bringing a portfolio of experiential learning to SJU, would serve as the Vice Chair. The Committee would create a framework to assess actual overall experiential learning (e.g., what are the resources, what are students getting out of the experience). Senate Council preferred having the Committee established as a standing committee of Senate Council and, when established, the Committee's first task will be to finalize terms of reference including duties.

- **Motion 3:** That SJU Senate Council approve the establishment of an Experiential Learning Advisory Committee as a standing committee of Senate Council. Seljak and Bednarski. Carried. Five abstentions.

c. *Committee on Research and Scholarship*

Members were reminded of the 2018-2019 Faculty Research Grant (FRG) competition. The deadline for applications is January 31, 2018. Those who were successful last year need to submit a progress report on their FRG.

Funds were depleted in the fall competition of the Aid to Scholarly Publications Fund and therefore there will be no winter competition.

The Research Officer is happy to answer any questions about grant applications (e.g., budget, suggested reviewers). There are a lot of opportunities, both with the government and agencies and she could guide you in the right direction if you are considering applying. Members should let her know if they feel a question and answer session would be beneficial.

- **Motion** to extend meeting by 30 minutes. Bergman and Seljak. Carried. Three abstentions.

Arnou left the meeting.

- d. *Finance Committee* – no report
- e. *Library Committee*

As part of their ongoing conversations, the Library has formalized their commitment to service to patrons, as is being done by other libraries. "Our Commitment to Service" was included for information.

The library renewal is moving forward and we are now working with architects. We are looking at a lot of interesting, dynamic furniture for the Library. A call will be going out for more input on the development of research space connected to the Library or in Sweeney Hall.

8. Report from the Vice President Academic and Dean

Last term, the UWaterloo Provost's Course Evaluation Project Team came to UWaterloo Senate, which resulted in a lively debate. A steering committee has been struck to look at the course evaluation process over the coming year. It is clear that the Provost has committed resources to a learning and development tool for teaching. The VPAD served as the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) representative on the initial committee but since SJU does not participate in the UWaterloo/Arts course evaluation process, he has stepped down from the next phase; the Academic Dean at Renison University College now serves as the AFIW representative (Renison and the other AFIW do use the UWaterloo/Arts course evaluation process).

Two candidates for the Director of Student Affairs were interviewed this week. Faculty who have had significant experience working with our student services staff were asked to meet with the candidates and the VPAD looks forward to their feedback.

A call will be going out for faculty volunteers on an *ad hoc* working group that will assist with the student awards nomination and adjudication process (similar to the former Student Awards Recognition Committee).

Finn is close to completion and at the end of January we will have English Language for Academic Studies (ELAS) students moving in on short-term stints. We are partnering with Renison University College for a year or so until we have SJU programming in Finn.

The VPAD's report on appointments is something new that will come forward to Senate Council at the beginning of each term. The report will also be submitted to UWaterloo Senate each term.

9. Report from the Registrar – no report

10. Report from the Vice President Administration

On behalf of the Vice President Administration, the President reported at the beginning of the meeting that we have a new Director of Finance and Accounting starting on January 29, 2018.

11. Report from the Director of Advancement

Kate Schmitt has joined the Office of Advancement as of January 15, 2018. One of her first tasks will be to organize students to call and thank donors.

A donor reception will be held on April 13, 2018, prior to that evening's Lectures in Catholic Experience event.

The 2018 Feast of St. Jerome Liturgy and Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2018. The 2017 Feast was very successful and netted over \$50,000 for student scholarships.

12. Report from the President

At the October 2017 meeting, Senate Council agreed that a "Helping Students in Distress" workshop by UWaterloo Counselling Services would be valuable for academic staff and staff. The workshop has been scheduled on Friday, January 26, 2018, 1:30-2:30 pm, at SJU.

Our photos need to be updated and members will be contacted shortly to have new photos taken.

The search for a new UWaterloo Vice-President, Academic and Provost is moving forward. A search will be launched soon for the UWaterloo Dean of Arts. UWaterloo awarded three Canada 150 Research Chairs.

The President is currently a member of the UWaterloo Indigenization Strategy Steering Committee and chair of the UWaterloo Student Experience Working Group. [For more information on the Indigenization strategy, please go to <https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenization-strategy/>.]

13. **Reports from Academic Departments**

The next Soirées Ciné will be held on January 29, 2018, 6:00 pm, featuring the movie *La Famille Bélier*.

The next 2017-2018 Bridges Lecture Series will be held on January 31, 2018, 7:30 pm, Vanstone Lecture Hall, with a talk by our own Whitney Lackenbauer and pure math professor Ruxandra Moraru on “Polar Projections: Conceptualizing and Rendering Arctic Spaces.”

The 2017-2018 Lectures in Catholic Experience continue on January 26, 2018, 7:30 pm, Vanstone Lecture Hall, with a talk by writer, journalist, and commentator Austen Ivereigh on “Communicating the Church in the Age of Francis.”

14. **Other Business**

- The President confirmed that maps and directories will be put up in Sweeney Hall to assist students finding faculty offices. A suggestion was heard to also put a Sweeney Hall map or directory in the Academic Centre.
- The President noted that a computer with specialized software is being set-up on the second floor of Sweeney Hall to do in-house graphic design (e.g., posters, brochures, maps).
- A concern was heard about the snow clearance between SJU and UWaterloo being poor, especially for wheelchair accessibility.

- **Motion to move in camera:** MacDonald and Drysdale. Carried unanimously.
- **Motion to adjourn in camera session:** Acton and Niccoli. Carried unanimously.

- The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Approved by SJU Senate Council
March 16, 2018