



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## **Senate Council** **Minutes of the Friday, March 16, 2018, Meeting**

**Present:** Katherine Bergman (Chair), Scott Kline (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Darren Becks, Steven Bednarski, Susan Brophy, Andrew Deman, Ryan Devitt, Jolanta Komornicka, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Zack MacDonald, Gabriel Niccoli, Jane Nicholas, Anna Purkey, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Sylvia Terzian, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead

**Guests:** Sue Brubacher, Scott Keys, Rebecca Rucurean

**Recording Secretary:** Christine Schwendinger

**Absent:** Chris Burris, Tristanne Connolly, Fred Desroches\*, Maureen Drysdale\*, Megan Durdle\*, Tessa Femia-Sebben, Stephanie Gregoire\*, Norm Klassen, David Perrin\*, Viola Poletes Montgomery\*, John Rempel, Lorna Rourke\*, BJ Rye\*, Mark Spielmacher, Myroslaw Tataryn\*, Ryan Touhey, Bruno Tremblay\*, Chad Wriglesworth, Nick Zunic, Registrar (vacant)

*\*regrets*

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

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### Open Session

#### 1. **Prayer**

Ryan Devitt opened the meeting with a reflection in memory of Stephen Hawking, world-renowned theoretical physicist who passed away on March 14, 2018.

#### 2. **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair congratulated Darren Becks, Vice President Administration (VPA), on his new position at Conestoga College as the Associate Vice President Operations, effective May 15, 2018. On behalf of Senate Council, the Chair formally thanked Becks for his many years of service and dedication to St. Jerome's University (SJU).

The Chair introduced Scott Keys, the new Director of Finance and Accounting.

Scott Keys left the meeting.

The Chair is working with the Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD), VPA, and those who report to the VPA to understand fully the VPA role and how to structure that portfolio and the portfolios of affected staff members going forward. The Chair is also looking at the current infrastructure as a whole (what level decisions should be made, how processes come to the President) to build a structure that will a) serve the leadership well and protect it, and b) support the work for the University effectively. The Chair is gathering information at this point and will be working with the administrative team on how best to proceed. The Chair will keep Senate Council updated.

The Chair sincerely thanked all those who took time to come to the March Break Open House on March 10, 2018. Faculty representation is important and really appreciated by incoming

students and their families. Just under 600 people came through that day. Our Admissions and Recruitment Specialist and her team did a fabulous job.

### 3. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed. Seljak and Acton. 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 January 19, 2018**

- Page 1, *On Leave*: Chris Burris was not on leave and will be recorded under Absent.
- The minutes of January 19, 2018, were approved as revised. Niccoli and Komornicka. Carried. Two abstentions.

Rebecca Rucurean, Admissions and Recruitment Specialist, entered the meeting and was congratulated on a very successful March Break Open House.

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

- Page 2, item 7.a, *Reports from Committees: Governance Committee*: A motion had been tabled regarding reassigning the tasks of the Senate Council Finance Committee to the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee is not in a position to take this off the table and the motion will be introduced at another meeting.

### 7. **Research Presentation: K. Lappin-Fortin, Department of Italian and French Studies**

Kerry Lappin-Fortin gave a presentation on a research study she carried out in France while on sabbatical last year. The goal was to investigate native speakers' reactions to the non-native pronunciation of students learning French as a second language (L2). Current L2 English pedagogy suggests teaching students to speak intelligibly is a more important and realistic goal than that of native-like speech. Many studies have investigated the types of pronunciation errors in English which may prevent students from being easily understood (e.g., misplaced stress). Such research for French is scarce. Lappin-Fortin asked 40 "lay" listeners in France to evaluate recordings of L2 students reading a passage in French and to provide feedback. She compared their assessments to those made by "expert" raters. Her results suggest that some errors (like pronouncing the final consonant in *blanc*) may matter more to the average French person than others (e.g., misplaced stress or liaison errors). Lappin-Fortin talked about how judgements can be affected by subjective reactions to voice quality and ethnic stereotypes; studies have shown that the same person reading in English with an American or an Asian, or an Indian, accent will be judged differently. In response to a question about whether Québécois versus French from France accents was a factor in her study, Lappin-Fortin replied the students were Anglophones with little trace of Québécois accent and that the few characteristics which did differ from European French usage were not judged negatively. Another question concerned the impact grammar mistakes may have on native-speaker judgements, but as this study involved readings and not spontaneous speech, that was not a factor. Lappin-Fortin has written an article reporting some of the results of this study (date of publication April 2018) which she hopes will have practical value for L2 French pronunciation instructors like herself.

## 8. Reports from Committees

- a. *Governance Committee* – no report
- b. *Academic Committee*

Medieval Studies plan changes were presented for approval. After reviewing the approved-list of courses as part of the curricular program review, five courses are being added and one removed. SJU jointly delivers the Medieval Studies program with the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Department of Classical Studies. UWaterloo Classical Studies will be taking forward the proposal to UGAG.

- **Motion 1**: That SJU Senate Council approve the Medieval Studies plan changes, to be effective September 1, 2019. Kline and Bednarski. Carried unanimously.

Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies (SMF) plan changes were presented for approval. To reflect the renaming of the Women's Studies program to Gender and Social Justice, the WS courses listed in the plans are being changed to GSJ.

- **Motion 2**: That SJU Senate Council approve the SMF plan changes, to be effective September 1, 2019. Kline and Whitehead. Carried unanimously.

One SMF course change (SMF 490) was presented for approval. The changes will increase clarity and help facilitate the course. Senate Council saw this course change at a previous meeting, along with three other SMF courses, but approval for this course had been tabled.

- **Motion 3**: That SJU Senate Council approve the SMF 490 course change, to be effective January 1, 2019. Kline and Nicholas. Carried unanimously.

The Partnership Principles and Guidelines relating to experiential learning were presented for a second reading and approval. The work stems from discussions and motions passed at the June 2016 and September 2016 Senate Council meetings regarding experiential learning programs in Finn and for principles and guidelines to be established for partnerships relating to academic programming. In response to comments about some of the language lacking communal understanding (e.g., solidarity, Catholic social teaching), the VPAD replied that particular terms were discussed extensively at Academic Committee and this is what was settled; if there are alternate suggestions, please let the VPAD know. The President and VPAD clarified that no glossary of definitions will be added to this document, but will be done separately to educate the community about such matters. The VPAD clarified that the Finance and Accounting Office would conduct the risk assessments (Guidelines, third bullet).

- **Motion 4**: That SJU Senate Council give the Partnership Principles and Guidelines a second reading and that SJU Senate Council approve the Partnership Principles and Guidelines. Kline and Vanin. Carried. Two abstentions.

The VPAD noted that the Experiential Learning Advisory Committee, established at the last meeting as a standing committee of Senate Council, will be created soon.

- c. *Committee on Research and Scholarship*

The 2018-2019 Faculty Research Grant applications have been sent out for external review. The applications will be adjudicated once all reviews have been received.

The 2017-2018 Additional Professional Development Fund applications will be adjudicated soon.

d. *Finance Committee* – no report

e. *Library Committee*

The Chair of the Library Committee gave the good news that the Board Finance Committee will be recommending to the Board of Governors that it fund a \$1.5 million library renewal project. The library renewal is an important project within the purview of University operations. The project was smaller when it first started, but the scope grew much more (e.g., better support of students, experiential learning, research spaces) and this funding will help us achieve the vision we currently have for the library. Donors and other resources will continue to be sought for additional projects. Members were reminded that the funding is subject to Board of Governors' approval.

The tentative timeline for the renovation was originally May of this year. Because of the change of scope, the construction will be delayed to next year. The additional year will be a benefit and give more time for planning and engaging with trades (the current build was very successful because of extensive planning). Architects have been confirmed.

In response to a question on what materials will be available during the renovation, the Librarian (MacDonald) replied the collection will largely be stored offsite with a small collection available in reserves. A call will be going out for what resources are needed. A suggestion was made for faculty to perhaps sign out required materials to store in their offices.

- **Motion:** Senate Council expressed support of the \$1.5 million library renewal project. Bednarski and Seljak. Carried unanimously.

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

Two staff positions are currently posted. The first is the Service Learning Program Coordinator; a number of strong applications have been received so far. The second is the Director of Student Affairs; the first search was unsuccessful and the ad was reposted to hopefully draw a larger pool (the language in the ad was reshaped slightly after further research on similar positions). The intention for both positions is to draw people who have worked previously in student affairs.

Some issues have arisen related to Arts First, such as how we are staffing and to some degree financing these first-year communications courses. SJU committed to teaching 12 sections (six of ARTS 130 and six of ARTS 140, divided equally in Fall and Winter). We will be posting for contract academic staff to teach two to three of these courses next year. The UWaterloo Faculty of Arts recently posted seven positions as definite term appointments (DTA). They decided that the teaching distribution is going to be 30% full-time, 60% DTA, 10% sessionals.

The VPAD's Office Administrative Manager and coop student are working very hard on a major revision of the academic section of the website. Faculty were thanked for their cooperation.

Our Outreach and Recruitment Manager has taken a position at UWaterloo. A lot of his work in the past year focussed on outreach in the local community. The traditional recruitment became the Admissions and Recruitment Specialist's responsibility. Recruiting has been going well and our co-registration numbers are good relative to the last five years (130 versus 150); we expect to meet or exceed our target. UWaterloo numbers are up 2-4%; Honours Arts is quite strong and there is still a lot of growth in Accounting and Financial Management (AFM) and Global Business and Digital Arts (GBDA).

The Admissions and Recruitment Specialist showed a two-minute video produced for recruitment purposes featuring one of our English professors. The same professor taught a sample lecture at

UWaterloo during the March Break Open House. The Admissions and Recruitment Specialist is looking to make more videos for prospective students and academic staff should let her know if they would like to participate.

10. **Report from the Registrar** – no report

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

The VPA was going to give a report on the Instructional Technology Working Group but he will send out a report instead.

12. **Report from the Director of Advancement** – no report

13. **Report from the President**

The President had no further report than what was said under Chair's Remarks.

14. **Reports from Academic Departments**

The ninth annual SMF Research Symposium will be held on April 6, 2018, 9:00 am-6:30 pm, SJ2 1004 (sessions) and Vanstone Lecture Hall (keynote). The keynote speaker, Mary Gordon, will be speaking on the theme of empathy.

The final Reading Series event will be on March 23, 2018, 4:30 pm, SJ1 3027, with a reading by author Sarah Tolmie.

Translator Nicole Côté will be a guest speaker in FR 400 (*Advanced Translation*) on March 28, 2018, 4:00 pm, SJ1 3027. The presentation will be in French but questions can be asked in English.

The final 2017-2018 Lectures in Catholic Experience will be on April 13, 2018, 7:30 pm, Vanstone Lecture Hall, with a talk by Sr. Helen Prejean on "Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues..."

The final 2017-2018 Bridges Lecture Series will be held on March 21, 2018, 7:30 pm, Vanstone Lecture Hall, with a talk by our own J. Andrew Deman, microbiologist Josh Neufeld, and computer scientist Naomi Nishimura on "Recursion: The Loops that Make the World Go Round."

The SJU donor reception will be held on April 13, 2018, 5:30-7:00 pm, Academic Centre Atrium. Our library renewal project will be profiled at the reception.

15. **Other Business**

- The Chair of the Governance Committee thanked the dedicated members who take time on a Friday afternoon to attend these important Senate Council meetings and raised a challenge for more full-time academic staff to participate and show support to the University.
- All were invited to the faculty and staff social in the Funcken Café following the meeting.
- The SJU Green and Gold Gala awards night is tonight, March 16, 2018, 6:00 pm, Bingemans.

➤ **Motion to move in camera:** Seljak and MacDonald. Carried unanimously.

➤ **Motion to adjourn in camera session:** Seljak and MacDonald. Carried unanimously.

➤ The Chair adjourned the meeting.

*Approved by SJU Senate Council*  
April 20, 2018