



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council Minutes of the Friday, September 27, 2019, Meeting

Present: Scott Kline (Chair), Carol Acton, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Carm De Santis, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale, Stephanie Gregoire, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis, Jolanta Komornicka, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Diana Lobb, Zack MacDonald, Josée-Claire Malenfant, Viola Poletes Montgomery, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay

Resource and Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Guests/Resource: Mike Gourlay, Katrina Kaczala, Jessica Vorsteveld

Absent: Susan Brophy*, Chris Burris, Jane Nicholas, David Perrin*, Registrar (vacant), John Rempel, Lorna Rourke*, Ryan Touhey*, Cristina Vanin*, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth, Nikolaj Zunic
**regrets*

On Sabbatical/Leave: Veronica Austen, BJ Rye, Denise Whitehead

Open Session

1. **Prayer/Reflection**

Andrew Deman opened the meeting with a reflection in honour of today's global climate strike.

2. **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair introduced and welcomed the new members: Honor Brabazon, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Legal Studies as of July 1, 2019; Carm De Santis, Lecturer, two-year definite term appointment (DTA), Department of Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies (SMF) as of May 1, 2019; Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Lecturer, one-year DTA, Department of Italian and French Studies as of September 1, 2019; Diana Lobb, contract academic staff (CAS) representative for 2019-2020.

The Chair introduced Mike Gourlay, our new Executive Director, Finance and Administration, as well as Katrina Kaczala, our new Executive Assistant (the responsibilities for Senate Council will be transitioning over to Kaczala).

The Chair hoped those who attended the climate strike before Senate Council experienced the collective effervescence that can come with an event such as this.

3. **Agenda Review, Declare Conflicts, Additions, Changes**

No conflicts were noted. One addition was made to the agenda: Library Renewal Update was added to New Business (item #17).

- **Motion:** To approve the agenda as amended. Lappin-Fortin and Tremblay. Carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

4. **Approval of the Minutes of June 14, 2019**

- Page 4, item 10.b, *Update on Vice President Academic and Dean's Office*: 4th paragraph: The Interim President recognizes the need for the appointment of an associate dean. This will occur after the interim Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) is appointed.
- Friendly amendment: Page 4, item 10.b, *Update on Vice President Academic and Dean's Office*: 5th paragraph: The last sentence was amended to end at "to assist the interim VPAD."

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 14, 2019, as revised.

5. **Governance Committee Report**

Motion: To receive for information the 2019-2020 committee memberships and notice of the vacant seat on University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Senate.

Motion: To receive the call for nominations for the Governance Committee and Research Officer.

Motion: To dissolve the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Continuing Status Standards.

6. **Acting Dean's Report**

Motion: To receive for information the recent appointments, resignation, and approved sabbaticals.

- **Motion:** To approve and receive for information by consent items 4 to 6 above. Kolentsis and Acton. Carried. Six abstentions.

Regular Agenda

7. **Governance Committee Report**

a. Senate Council Terms of Reference: Membership

The Board of Governors established Senate Council in 2012 to allow a bicameral governance structure at St. Jerome's University (SJU). In an effort to build a bridge between the two bodies, the Governance Committee recommended that Senate Council invite the Board to a conversation on how to improve communications (e.g., a Board member to sit either permanently or occasionally on Senate Council). The Board membership includes two faculty members but they serve as faculty, not Senate Council, representatives. Based on discussions at the Board orientation earlier in September, the Board is also looking for new directions on communication.

- **Motion:** To request that the Board of Governors initiate a conversation with Senate Council about improving communications between the two chambers. Acton and Bednarski. Carried unanimously.

The Governance Committee recommended discussion on three of the ex-officio seats as they currently stand:

- one UWaterloo Faculty Member (non-voting): In the past, the UWaterloo President appointed a faculty member to the SJU Board as a member at large. That member then also served on Senate Council in the UWaterloo faculty member seat; the seat has been vacant since that person's term ended. After some discussion, Senate Council agreed that this seat should remain. Since SJU is federated with UWaterloo and we have representation on UWaterloo bodies, it would be appropriate and important for us to have UWaterloo representation here. The Interim President noted this would likely be an appointment by the UWaterloo Vice-President Academic and Provost. He will follow-up with the UWaterloo Provost regarding Senate Council membership.

- Vice President Administration (non-voting): This position no longer exists and the seat needs to be replaced by one for the new position Executive Director, Finance and Administration.
 - Registrar (non-voting): This position no longer exists and the seat needs to be clarified as the registrarial portfolio has been distributed within other positions at SJU. Senate Council also recognized that committees and academic policies that involve the registrar need to be identified and the appropriate staff position determined for each.
- **Motion:** To request that the Governance Committee identify the committees and academic policies that involve the registrarial role and recommend which staff position would now be appropriate for each. Bonner and Tremblay. Carried unanimously.

The Governance Committee is willing to receive feedback and will bring a recommendation to an upcoming meeting.

8. Academic Committee Report

a. Philosophy New Course

The new course PHIL 262J is being brought back with revisions based on Senate Council's recommendations. The Chair of Philosophy spoke with the instructor and since Philosophy no longer lists authors in course descriptions, the decision was made to remove the examples of philosophers who could be covered. After the initial Senate Council discussion, the Chair of Philosophy received additional feedback on the course from the UWaterloo Department of English and the course title is being changed from "Postmodernism" to "Postmodernist Philosophy." Other minor changes are being made to the course description.

Friendly amendment: *Rationale:* "...today's **contemporary** society. ..."

- **Motion:** To approve the new course PHIL 262J, as revised, to be effective September 1, 2020. Tremblay and Terzian. Carried. Two abstentions.

9. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report – no report

10. Library Advisory Committee Report – no report

11. Experiential Learning Advisory Committee Report

A comment was heard that the process of establishing external partnership guidelines is taking some time to do; the Interim President replied it is important to have the foundations in place. Not having these guidelines was a fundamental problem for a previous partnership that ended in August this year and the express desire is that this does not happen again. External partnerships are a definite priority, especially for new revenue streams. The former Associate Dean, who had chaired the Experiential Learning Advisory Committee, noted that when the Committee began discussing the criteria for establishing relationships, they realized a decision first needed to be made on the types of partnerships and types of learning we want on campus. The Committee took the time to do this process properly. The Committee has done important work and plans to bring a draft document to Senate Council in December.

12. Ad Hoc Committee on Renewal, Tenure, and Promotion Standards for Librarians

There was no discussion on this report.

13. Acting Dean's Report

There was no discussion on this report.

14. **Director of Advancement's Report**

a. Feast of St. Jerome

The Feast of St. Jerome will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2019, and close to 300 people will be attending, including a few major donors. Mary Kuntz, philanthropist, will receive the 2019 Sweeney Award for Catholic Leadership. Kuntz has sponsored a scholarship at SJU as well as a classroom in support of her daughter. Kieran Bonner, Chair of Sociology and Legal Studies, will be the master of ceremonies. The event is in support of student scholarships. Next year will be the Feast's 20th anniversary.

b. SJU Fundraising Appeal

The theme for SJU's upcoming fundraising appeal will again be student scholarships, but will focus on the urgent need for students affected by recent changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Fundraising is slightly down because pledges towards our capital campaign are completing; the Director of Advancement would like to provide donors with a "brag sheet" showing what their donations went towards and then initiate discussion on future projects.

15. **Interim President's Report**

a. New UWaterloo Dean of Arts and UWaterloo Associate Vice President, Academic

The heads and deans of the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) met with Sheila Ager, new UWaterloo Dean of Arts, and David DeVidi, new UWaterloo Associate Vice President, Academic. These were productive meetings and the Interim President looks forward to working with these administrators.

b. UWaterloo Strategic Plan, 2020-2025

UWaterloo is working on developing their next five-year strategic plan, to be launched in 2020. Building on the previous strategic plan, the plan focuses on three themes of action: 1) developing talent for a complex future, 2) advancing research for global impact, and 3) strengthening UWaterloo's diverse communities. Student experience (e.g., residence programming, experiential learning), under the first theme, will be one of the performance indicators in the new provincial funding model.

c. Provincial Government New Funding Model

Every publicly funded Ontario university will go through this funding exercise, directly linked to strategic mandate agreements. We do not yet have any details from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on when the full plan will be implemented. We do know, however, that funding will be attached and measured to 10 indicators: Graduation Rates, Graduate Earnings, Employment Rate, Research Funding, Funding from Industry, Skills Development, Community-Local Impact, Institution-Specific Economic Impact, Percentage of Students in an Area of Institutional Strength, Number/Proportion of Students in Experiential Learning.

In response to a question, the Interim President stated that the former President had requested the creation of an internal planning document that used our Academic Plan and the University's Strategic Plan to map onto UWaterloo's Strategic Mandate Agreement. Moreover, the new funding model highlights the need for useful data on the work SJU does. The Interim President noted the new funding model created competition among the AFIW and UWaterloo, something that the current equity agreement, signed in 1991, intended to avoid.

d. Staff Appointments

The Interim President noted several new staff appointments: Katrina Kaczala, Executive

Assistant; Marilyn Caird, Project Manager, Events and Communications; Tom Slaby, Director of Facilities; Wayne Hergott, Facilities; Sue Brubacher, Director of Enrolment and Upper-Year Transitions.

The Interim President confirmed that a new administrative assistant is being hired for faculty and departmental support. Caird remains as this support person until the new assistant has transitioned into the role; she will then move into her new role of university-level events and communications.

e. Registrar Role

The Interim President noted that typical registrarial activities (e.g., recruiting, admissions [both processing and decisions], scholarships and bursaries, records and registration management, course scheduling, advising, student enrolment data and analysis, academic policy, convocation) have always been shared and distributed at SJU due to our relationship with UWaterloo. The Interim President provided an overview of how these activities have been shared and distributed since 2000. With the establishment of Student Affairs in 2018, some registrarial responsibilities now reside in the VPAD's Office (e.g., academic policy, classroom scheduling), others rest with Student Affairs (e.g., advising), and others with the new appointment of the Director of Enrolment and Upper-Year Transitions (e.g., outreach, recruiting, scholarships and bursaries). Should the UWaterloo Registrar seek to communicate with their counterpart at SJU, they would speak to the Director of Enrolment and Upper-Year Transitions.

The Interim President stated that the appointment of the Director of Enrolment and Upper-Year Transitions met two identifiable needs: 1) developing a recruiting team that complemented the work of Student Affairs, and 2) working with upper-year and recently graduated students as they become alumni. He stated that the person currently appointed to this role is uniquely qualified for this work because she has a demonstrated record of successfully overseeing the recruitment of students to SJU and she has a rapport with many of our recently graduated students.

A concern was raised that this new structure, like some other student support structures on other campuses, seems to weaken the voices of faculty with regard to student services. One reason is because it seems there are more administrators at the table. The Interim President responded that, at SJU, we have brought all student supports, including residence programming, under academic operations. This ensures that Senate Council now has a structured relationship with these services, which should enhance communication between faculty and student support staff.

Senate Council heard the argument that the registrar position is, historically, a staff position, but affects the academics of the university (the Registrar holds a seat on Senate Council and on various committees in the University); this more diffuse structure may not be in the interest of the University. The Interim President responded that, while the structure may seem awkward to faculty, the perspective that had priority in the reshaping of our student support structure was the student perspective. From the student's perspective, Student Affairs provides a seamless experience that includes academic advising, mental wellness, residence life programming, and student leadership development. He mentioned that Senate Council should be able to determine how best to populate our governance bodies with the appropriate staff leadership.

16. **Updates from Academic Departments**

The Department of Italian and French Studies' first Soirée Ciné in Fall 2019 will be held on September 30, 2019, featuring the movie *Les Rois Mongols (Cross My Heart)*. The Department has also initiated the Cineclub italiano@SJU and the first of four movies in Fall 2019 will be held on October 7, 2019, featuring the movie *IL Sorpasso (The Easy Life)*.

The 2019-2020 Reading Series begins on October 25, 2019, 4:30 pm, SJ1 3027, with a reading by Susan Holbrook, poet.

17. **New Business**

a. **Pride Flag**

When asked for an update regarding flying the Pride flag at SJU, the Interim President noted he will be meeting with the Vicar of Education in the near future and this will be one of the topics discussed. He brought to the Vicar's attention that as a diverse campus looking at practical programming for a diverse community, we are trying to balance internal deadlines and other discussions taking place. The Directors of Education for each Catholic school board in the diocese are discussing how they want to engage the Bishop's office on this matter, hopefully sometime this fall. In making an argument for diversity and inclusivity, we need to be respectful and not jeopardize discussions happening with the diocese and nationally.

b. **Library Renewal Update**

Zack MacDonald, an SJU Librarian, provided an update on the library renovation, which is still on schedule for the library opening in January 2020. Despite some surprises as may be typical with renovating an older building, the renovation is still on budget, partly based on the successful procurement of items through current contractors. MacDonald showed pictures of the present construction space. The Interim President thanked faculty who have been extremely patient with the construction in the building.

- **Motion:** To adjourn the Open Session and move into Confidential Session. Serafini and Bonner. Carried unanimously.

Non-members left the meeting.

- **Motion:** To move out of Confidential Session and to adjourn the meeting. Kormornicka and Serafini. Carried unanimously.

Approved by SJU Senate Council

October 25, 2019