



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## Senate Council Minutes of the Friday, October 25, 2019, Meeting

**Present:** Scott Kline (Chair), Cristina Vanin (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Fred Desroches, Stephanie Gregoire, Alysia Kolentsis, Jolanta Komornicka, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Diana Lobb, Zack MacDonald, Josée-Claire Malenfant, Viola Poletes Montgomery, Lorna Rourke, David Seljak, Andrew Stumpf, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay

**Resource and Recording Secretary:** Christine Schwendinger

**Guests/Resource:** Sue Brubacher, Mike Gourlay, Katrina Kaczala, Jessica Vorsteveld

**Absent:** Steven Bednarski, Chris Burris, Carm De Santis\*, Maureen Drysdale\*, Norm Klassen\*, Jane Nicholas, David Perrin\*, Registrar (vacant), John Rempel, Toni Serafini\*, Mark Spielmacher, Ryan Touhey, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth, Nikolaj Zunic

*\*regrets*

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

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### Open Session

1. **Prayer/Reflection**

Diana Lobb opened the meeting with a reflection from Primo Levi.

2. **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair hopes all are well off into the term and students are moving along with their studies.

The Chair thanked those who attended the Town Hall on October 8, 2019, and explained the timing of the meeting was simply a scheduling issue. In the future, we will endeavour to schedule meetings during the typical Friday timeslot, but there may be extenuating circumstances and the Chair appreciates members' understanding.

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

No conflicts were noted. No additions or changes to the agenda were identified.

- **Motion:** To approve the agenda as presented. Lappin-Fortin and MacDonald. Carried unanimously.

### Consent Agenda

4. **Approval of the Minutes of September 27, 2019**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of September 27, 2019, as distributed.

5. **Committee on Research and Scholarship Report**

**Motion:** To receive for information the deadline reminders for the Aid to Scholarly Publications Fund, Additional Professional Development Fund, and Faculty Research Grant, as well as the Research Officer's note regarding applying for a tri-council grant.

- **Motion:** To approve and receive for information by consent items 4 to 5 above. Vanin and Bonner. Carried. One abstention.

## Regular Agenda

### 6. **Business Arising from the Minutes of September 27, 2019**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### 7. **Governance Committee Report**

- a. *Member Engagement in Senate Council Meetings:* The Governance Committee recommended discussion on the role of Senate Council as members may not be entirely clear about its purpose and the expectation for engagement in the meetings. Members agreed that Senate Council is the forum to discuss and debate matters, to challenge the senior administration, and request more information. Senate Council allows for debate of important issues regarding the academic direction of the University. Meetings have been increasingly information sharing. Though most of the work is done at the committee level with Senate Council seeing the final work, it was raised that committees should open up their work to engage more involvement.

The Interim President felt two issues were being discussed: 1) structural issue, with many of the conversations happening beforehand at the committee level (do we dissolve any of these committees?), and 2) cultural issue, with Senate Council morphing into a reporting body with the hope that the reports spark conversation. Senate Council has not developed topics or themes that will create debate on where SJU is heading with our academic mission, which includes budgeting where we will need to make difficult choices.

- Senate Council asked the Governance Committee to look at revising the Terms of Reference and to bring a conceptual discussion back to Senate Council with proposed next steps (e.g., member responsibility, topics to be discussed, perhaps a plan for future agenda items). For good citizenship, members were asked to review the Terms of Reference to be prepared for upcoming discussion.
  
- b. *Senate Council Terms of Reference: Ex-officio Seat for Registrar (non-voting):* The Governance Committee has begun reviewing who should replace the registrarial role on various committees and in academic policies. At this time, the Governance Committee is able to make one recommendation: to replace the ex-officio (non-voting) seat for the Registrar on Senate Council with ex-officio (non-voting) seats for both the Director of Student Affairs and Director of Enrolment and Upper-Year Transitions.
  
- **Motion:** To recommend to the Board of Governors that the following changes to the Senate Council membership be made:
  - remove Vice President Administration (ex-officio, non-voting) and add Executive Director, Finance and Administration (ex-officio, non-voting)
  - remove Registrar (ex-officio, non-voting) and add both Director of Student Affairs (ex-officio, non-voting) and Director of Enrolment and Upper-Year Transitions (ex-officio, non-voting)
 Acton and Rourke. Carried unanimously.

### 8. **Academic Committee Report**

- a. *Medieval Studies New Courses, Course Change, Plan Changes:* The Medieval Studies program recently underwent a program review and recommendations were made for an online course and special topics courses, which are being added to the plans.

The new online course, MEDVL 252: *Medieval Monsters*, is meant to be an interdisciplinary course and instructors from various disciplines will be brought in to develop it. In response to a question on English's involvement with developing the course, the Interim Vice President

Academic and Dean (VPAD) will follow-up with the Co-Director of Medieval Studies, who was not able to attend the meeting. Friendly amendment: The two sentences in the course description were switched with minor editing.

The MEDVL 260 title change should be “c. 400” not “300” (secretarial error). Friendly amendment: The course description was revised to “...end of the ~~highlate m~~Middle ~~a~~Ages.”

- **Motion 1:** To approve the Medieval Studies new courses (MEDVL 252 as amended), course change (as amended), and plan changes, to be effective September 1, 2021. Vanin and Connolly. Carried. One abstention.
- b. *History Course Change:* HIST 260 is cross-listed with MEDVL 260 and its title change should also be “c. 400” not “300” (secretarial error). Friendly amendment: In response to the amendment made to its cross-listed counterpart, the HIST 260 course description was revised to “...end of the ~~highlate m~~Middle ~~a~~Ages.”
- **Motion 2:** To approve the History course change (as amended), to be effective September 1, 2021. Vanin and Connolly. Carried. One abstention.

9. **Experiential Learning Advisory Committee Report** – no report

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

The *Ad Hoc* Committee has done good work in reviewing the current *Standards for Renewal, Tenure, and Promotion* policy and possible standards to be included for the three ranks of librarian. The hope is to bring the revised policy to the November or December meeting.

11. **Library Report**

From the written report, the Librarian (Rourke) confirmed that the fines amnesty is only available during the period October 15-November 30, 2019. This is a good time to return books that are long overdue and have accrued fines.

12. **Director of Advancement’s Report**

- a. *Feast of St. Jerome:* Kieran Bonner was thanked for being an excellent master of ceremonies at this year’s Feast on October 5, 2019. The Interim President echoed the compliment and also thanked all who attended. Mary Kuntz, recipient of the 2019 Sweeney Award for Catholic Leadership, gave a most passionate, genuine talk. Next year’s Feast, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be held on October 3, 2020.
- b. *SJU Fundraising Appeal:* SJU’s upcoming fundraising appeal will focus on emergency fund student scholarships to assist students affected by changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). The holiday appeal letter is being drafted and the hope is to get this out in November.
- c. *SJU Update:* Authors are currently working on the next issue of Update.
- d. *Alumnus Visit:* Dick Callahan, an alumnus from the class of 1962, recently visited SJU. He spoke enthusiastically about the spirit of SJU and how his experiences at SJU shaped his future path. He was able to meet with the Interim President as part of the visit.

13. **Interim Vice President Academic and Dean’s Report**

- a. *Fall Convocation:* The Interim VPAD highlighted from her written report that Fall convocation is today and tomorrow, with the Arts convocation ceremony being tomorrow at

10:00 am. Two SJU graduates, Joe Mancini and Stephanie Mancini, will be receiving Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees.

- b. *Academic Administrative Assistant:* Morgan Regehr has been hired as our new Academic Administrative Assistant, arriving on October 28, 2019. Regehr will provide support to faculty and will be moving into the office previously occupied by Marilyn Caird on the second floor of Sweeney Hall. Senate Council thanked Caird for her excellent service in the role this past year.
- c. *Resignation of Faculty Member:* At the previous meeting, the Interim VPAD, then Acting Dean, had provided a report on appointments, which showed the resignation of one of our faculty members, Whitney Lackenbauer. When asked if there had been some kind of recognition for Lackenbauer, the Interim President noted that he still has a formal relationship with the Centre on Foreign Policy and Federalism (CFPF) and so still has a presence on campus. Conversations are ongoing on what a further relationship with UWaterloo/SJU might look like.

#### 14. **Interim President's Report**

- a. *Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Canada (ACCUC):* The Interim President recently attended the ACCUC meeting with the heads of other Canadian Catholic colleges and universities. Three themes came out of the meeting:
  - 1) student mental wellness – This crisis needs to be handled holistically and comprehensively, including the government playing a part. Unless the government makes this a budget priority, there is little we can do except continue to do what we are doing (e.g., counselling available on campus or off campus, SJU hired a wellness coordinator). Universities Canada is meeting next week and mental wellness is on the agenda; others look to colleges and universities for direction.
  - 2) funding agreements – All the Canadian Catholic institutions are in different funding agreements, with some in federated or affiliated agreements negotiated with larger universities. In many cases, the agreement with a larger university makes funding difficult for the federated or affiliated university or college.
  - 3) loss of revenue, especially in Ontario and Alberta – The loss of revenue is very severe for some institutions that have already been using reserves. SJU is in much better shape, but no doubt will have a very difficult budgeting process ahead.
- b. *Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities:* The provincial government has established the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, which replaces the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. This was announced at the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Senate meeting on October 21, 2019. We are not sure what will happen with this change.
- c. *UWaterloo Strategic Plan 2020-2025:* At the UWaterloo Senate meeting on October 21, 2019, the UWaterloo President reported on the Strategic Plan 2020-2025; the final version was coming forward for recommendation to the UWaterloo Board of Governors for approval. The Plan will be part of the UWaterloo President's Town Hall on November 12, 2019. The Plan's vision, mission (UWaterloo is promoting its signatory to the Magna Charta Universitatum), values, and themes with goals and objectives can be found at <https://uwaterloo.ca/strategic-plan/>. SJU will see ourselves in UWaterloo's Strategic Plan largely in the student experience.

#### 15. **Updates from Academic Departments**

- a. *2019-2020 Reading Series:* The first event of the 2019-2020 Reading Series is today, October 25, 2019, 4:30 pm, SJ1 3027, with a reading by Susan Holbrook, poet.

- b. *2019-2020 Bridges Lecture Series*: The first event of the 2019-2020 Bridges Lecture Series is this evening, October 25, 2019, 7:30 pm, SJ2 1004, featuring Patrick Charbonneau (Duke University) and Katherine Larson (Corning Museum of Glass), “The Glass Problem: Changing and Challenging Material Definitions.” On November 8, 2019, the second lecture will feature Arnold Blumberg (Zombie Scholar) and Robert Smith? (University of Ottawa), “Zombies: Monsters with Meaning.”
- c. *Department of Italian and French Studies*: The next Cineclub italiano@SJU will be on October 28, 2019, 4:00 PM, featuring the movie *I Soliti Ignoti (Big Deal on Madonna Street)*. That same evening at 6:00 PM, the Department will hold the second and final Soirée Ciné in Fall 2019, featuring the movie *La famille Bélier (The Bélier Family)*.
- d. *2019-2020 Lectures in Catholic Experience*: As part of the Lectures in Catholic Experience, the Acting Director of the Master of Catholic Thought program is helping to coordinate a film series with Hospice of Waterloo Region, to be held on the last Friday of each month in the Winter 2020 term. The hope of the series is to raise awareness and stimulate conversations about end-of-life issues and to promote compassion for those at the end of life. As a “pilot” for the series and as part of the experiential learning component of the course, the Acting Director will be showing the film *Coco* in his PHIL 319J: *Ethics of End-of-Life Care* class on November 7, 2019, followed by student-led group discussions.

The first event of the 2019-2020 Lectures in Catholic Experience was on October 18, 2019, featuring Myroslaw Tataryn, “Gender: But That is What the Church has Always Taught!” The second lecture will be held on November 15, 2019, 7:30 pm, SJ2 1004, featuring Carolyn Whitney-Brown, “The Paradox of Pleasure: Jean Vanier and the Growth of L’Arche.”

## 16. **New Business**

- a. *Pride Flag*: The University is recognizing student mental wellness, which is very important, but gender and self-identification are also important. In response for an update on flying the Pride flag, the Interim President replied that the Directors of Education for the Catholic school boards in the diocese are meeting with the Bishop next week to discuss next steps. The Interim President will be meeting with the Vicar of Education in the near future and his message will be that we are on a diverse campus and need to convey this through our symbolic narrative as well as our actual narrative. The Interim President asked members to think about what can be done beyond the Pride flag.
- b. *UWaterloo/SJU Fall Open House*: Fall Open House will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019, where prospective students visit the UWaterloo campus, including SJU. These experiences often help them decide whether to apply. The Admissions and Recruitment Specialist sent an email about the event and members were encouraged to volunteer that day.
- c. *Social Event*: Members were reminded of the Halloween potluck event on October 31, 2019. All are invited and are welcome to wear a costume if they wish.

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

Non-members left the meeting.

- **Motion**: To move out of Confidential Session. MacDonald and Bonner. Carried unanimously.
- **Motion**: To adjourn the meeting. MacDonald and Lobb. Carried unanimously.

*Approved by SJU Senate Council*  
January 31, 2020