



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## Senate Council

### Minutes of the Friday, May 28, 2021 Meeting

**Present:** Peter Meehan (Chair), Cristina Vanin (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Susan Brophy, Sue Brubacher, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Mike Gourlay, Stephanie Gregoire, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis, Diana Lobb, David Perrin, Viola Poletes Montgomery, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Anastasia Tataryn, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Denise Whitehead

**Recording Secretary:** Christine Schwendinger

**Absent:** Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Scott Kline, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Ryan Touhey, Jessica Vorsteveld, Carter Watkinson, David Williams, Nikolaj Zunic  
*\*regrets*

**On Sabbatical/Leave:** Honor Brabazon, Carm De Santis, Lorna Rourke, Chad Wriglesworth

*Note: This meeting was held using the online video conferencing platform, Zoom.*

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### ***Open Session***

#### **1. Prayer/Reflection**

A. Stumpf opened the meeting with St. Thomas Aquinas' prayer before study and excerpts of two prayers by Karl Barth.

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

Thank you to those who attended the SJU Assembly on May 14, 2021. The next meeting will be in the fall. It is important that we gather to try to build the understanding and sense of community we agree we want to have.

SJU will be raising the Pride flag again on June 1, 2021, for the month. Thank you to the staff who have worked on the plans to raise the flag and post communications. The communication will recognize and thank the former interim president for initiating this last year.

Graydon Nicholas will be the speaker at this year's Feast of St. Jerome on October 2, 2021. Nicholas was the first Indigenous judge in the Maritime provinces, the first Indigenous Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, and has recently been named Chancellor of St. Thomas University, New Brunswick.

Electronic polling to count votes on motions will be tried at today's meeting.

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

No conflicts, additions, or changes to the agenda were declared.

**Motion:** To approve the agenda as presented.

**Moved:** D. Perrin, **Seconded:** A. Deman, **Carried.** (10 Votes: 10 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes of April 30, 2021**

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

**Motion:** To approve by consent item 4 and to receive for information item 5 above.

**Moved:** K. Bonner, **Seconded:** A. Deman, **Carried.** (13 Votes: 13 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

Discussion occurred on the electronic polling of motions being attempted at today's meeting, which, in essence, is by secret ballot. The Chair of Governance Committee noted that discomfort had been voiced on how votes were being counted in remote meetings (i.e., those who do not vote are assumed to vote in favour by default) and therefore the Committee discussed the option of confidential electronic voting (if necessary, names can be collected, viewed by the recording secretary only). This polling system in Zoom has been used in meetings at the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo).

**Motion:** To adopt the electronic balloting system proposed by the Governance Committee for voting on motions.

**Moved:** S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** T. Connolly, **Tabled.** (To be discussed at a future meeting if a practice going forward is to be established.)

### Regular Agenda

#### 6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the April 30, 2021 Meeting

There was no business arising.

#### 7. Governance Committee Report

*Board of Governors' Response to Senate Council:* The Board invited Senate Council to make a recommendation regarding the presidential search process, to be considered in the Board's policy review this fall.

**Motion:** To recommend to the Board of Governors that the presidential search process, as outlined in Board policies and University bylaws, include a recommendation from Senate Council on the appointment of the President and Vice Chancellor, as indicated in the Senate Council Terms of Reference.

**Moved:** T. Connolly, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.** (22 Votes: 22 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

*Senate Council Terms of Reference:* T. Connolly, Chair, reviewed the changes made to the Terms of Reference in response to the recommendations made by Senate Council. Discussion followed. A further change was recommended regarding the duty and responsibility to approve candidates for the theology degree (item 3.g). When SJU federated, UWaterloo Senate became the official senate of SJU, except for the theology degree; although SJU's current theology degree is conjoint with UWaterloo, we do not want to restrict any future theology degree that may be non-conjoint.

**Motion:** To amend item 3.g of the SJUSC Terms of Reference to "Approve criteria and candidates for degrees in theology; where the degree is conjoint with UWaterloo, shall also make recommendations to UWaterloo Senate."

**Moved:** S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** N. Klassen, **Carried.** (19 Votes: 18 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstain)

**Motion:** To give the Senate Council Terms of Reference a second reading and to recommend to the Board of Governors revisions to Senate Council's membership and duties and responsibilities, and to approve revisions made to Senate Council's regulations for the conduct of its affairs and its standing committees.

**Moved:** T. Connolly, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (21 Votes: 20 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

## 8. Experiential Learning Advisory Committee Report

*Partnership Principles: Experiential Learning / Guidelines for Establishing Partnership Agreements: Experiential Learning:* V. Austen, Chair, noted that the Experiential Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) revised the preamble of the Partnership Principles based on discussion at the last meeting regarding partnerships negotiated for the purposes of external grants. ELAC is advisory to the Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD), but would not be part of advising the VPAD regarding agreements with external bodies entered into via a researcher's or an instructor's needs; those kinds of partnerships fall within the academic freedom of researchers and instructors. ELAC does still encourage the Principles to be followed by all, as the Principles are sound, but the process would be different.

*Friendly amendment, Partnership Principles, preamble, last sentence:*

“Formal relationships between the University and external bodies that are formed because of an individual instructor's or researcher's needs (e.g., an external grant) are not **‘Partnerships’ captured by the Guidelines for Establishing Partnership Agreements: Experiential Learning** and thus would not follow the process for forming ‘Partnership Agreements.’”

**Motion:** To give the Partnership Principles: Experiential Learning and Guidelines for Establishing Partnership Agreements: Experiential Learning a second reading and to approve these revised documents.

**Moved:** V. Austen, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (17 Votes: 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

## 9. Academic Committee Report

*Candidate for Master of Catholic Thought Degree:* Academic Committee recommended to Senate Council a candidate who has met all of the requirements for the conjoint SJU theology degree and is seeking to graduate in June 2021.

**Motion 1:** To approve Ms. Karen Boelhouwer as a candidate for the Master of Catholic Thought degree.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** D. Perrin, **Carried.** (20 Votes: 20 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

*SJU New Program Development Pathways:* SJU already has a process in place for the approval of a new program – Academic would recommend a program to Senate Council; Senate Council would then contemplate approving it; the proposal would then go through UWaterloo approval processes. However, the initial stages from idea to proposal can be difficult to navigate, especially if the program is outside of a current, established department. The Chair thanked V. Austen, Associate Dean, for creating a chart that visibly shows how new program ideas would move forward towards approval.

**Motion 2:** To adopt the SJU New Program Development Pathways.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.** (17 Votes: 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

## 10. Interim Vice President Academic and Dean's Report

The Interim VPAD thanked those who have contributed to and are putting together the graduation video for our graduating students. The video will be presented to our graduates at the virtual Graduation Ceremony on June 13, 2021.

There was no discussion on the VPAD's written report.

## 11. President's Report

Thank you to those who participated in the SJU Assembly on May 14, 2021. There was good discussion in the meeting. It is important to have a place to raise questions and concerns as a community. The next meeting will be in the fall.

Strategic planning is now in Phase Two, creating the plan. The Strategic Plan Steering Committee is reviewing various other strategic plans and a smaller drafting committee will be working with the facilitator to put different ideas together. This will be brought to the community in the fall for consultation.

The President's Advisory Group on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) will continue to work into early September on developing an action plan to recommend to the leadership of the University.

Thank you to Senate Council for attending the special meeting with the VPAD candidates and for providing feedback. The Appointment Committee will be meeting to deliberate on its recommendation. This recommendation will be brought to Senate Council at a special meeting on June 3, 2021. Senate Council is to make a recommendation for the President to bring to the Board of Governors.

## 12. Updates from Academic Departments

The Master of Catholic Thought (MCT) Committee provided a written report on its work since November 2020 (circulated with the agenda). A. Stumpf, Acting Director of MCT, noted that the Committee has been meeting regularly to review and make recommendations on various aspects of the MCT program flowing from the MCT program review, which took place in summer 2020.

S. Brophy, Chair of Sociology and Legal Studies, announced two events:

- The inaugural Joint UWaterloo/SJU Legal Studies Seminar Series will be held on June 1, 2021, 6:00 pm, with Ntina Tzouvala speaking on, "The Spectre of Eurocentrism in International Legal History."
- A book talk event is being organized on September 16, 2021, 10:30 am, to celebrate A. Tataryn's new book, *Law, Migration and Precarious Labour: Ecotechnics of the Social*. An interesting panel is being assembled to discuss themes arising from the book.

The next 2021 Lectures in Catholic Experience, the last in the "Hope in the Time of COVID!" series, will feature Zachary Munro, "No Power Higher: 12-step Recovery without God," June 11, 2021, 7:30 pm.

S. Bednarski, Co-Director of Medieval Studies and Director of the DRAGEN Lab, provided an update on the experiential field school in archeology and archives that has been run for the past 10 years in the south of England. Last summer, the program was cancelled because of the pandemic. This year, Queen's University (our partner institution) and the Bader International Study Centre, UK, agreed to do a hybrid experience whereby an archeologist and her team are working on a dig site with students viewing online and the archeologist also giving synchronous lectures. A number of SJU students are completing the program and seem to be doing well. The students would normally be at the site for nine weeks and the Director is grateful they agreed to do this alternate program delivery.

## 13. New Business

There was no new business.

**Motion:** To adjourn the open session of the meeting and move into confidential session.

**Moved:** A. Deman, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.** (23 Votes: 23 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

May 28, 2021  
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