



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, October 22, 2021 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Sue Brubacher, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Mike Gourlay, Dan Hutter, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis, Carlie Leroux-Demir, Viola Poletes Montgomery, Lorna Rourke, BJ Rye, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Anastasia Tataryn, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Angela Underhill, Jessica Vorsteveld, Denise Whitehead, Chad Wriglesworth

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Steven Bednarski*, Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Scott Kline, Jane Nicholas*, John Rempel, Carter Watkinson, David Williams, Nikolaj Zunic
*regrets

On Sabbatical/Leave: Carm De Santis, Stephanie Gregoire, David Seljak, Ryan Touhey, Cristina Vanin

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

Open Session

1. Prayer/Reflection

K. Bonner opened the meeting with two prayers from *Benedictus: A Book of Blessings* by J. O'Donohue.

2. Chair's Remarks

At the SJU Assembly on October 29, 2021, more information will be shared on the return to campus and a presentation given on SJU's strategic plan (now in the next phase of consultation/seeking feedback). A presentation on the strategic plan will be occurring in this meeting as well.

The Chair recently met with the new University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) President and the Vice-President Academic and Provost. They had a very good conversation about federated relationships and the equity agreement, which was put together 40 years ago and tweaked 30 years ago. They see great benefit of having university colleges and there is willingness to work together.

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: K. Bonner, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Approval of the Minutes of September 24, 2021

5. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

6. Library Report

Motion: To approve by consent item 4 and to receive for information items 5-6 above.

Moved: D. Hutter, **Seconded:** A. Deman, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

7. Business Arising from the Minutes of the September 24, 2021 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Governance Committee Report

T. Connolly, chair, thanked K. Bonner for giving a reflection in this meeting. Members were invited to give the prayer or a reflection at an upcoming meeting this year. Please email Connolly.

The revised Senate Council Terms of Reference are in the process of being approved by the Board of Governors. The President had met with the Board Governance Committee, which had a healthy conversation about the revisions and some regular legislative questions were raised. A working group with members from both the Board and Senate Council Governance Committees will be put together to discuss these questions. Any language changes suggested for clarity will be brought back to Senate Council for new approval before the Terms of Reference go to the Board.

The tabled motion from the May 28, 2021 Senate Council meeting was raised. The Governance Committee provided a description of the electronic balloting system to be used in virtual meetings -- voting on substantial motions will be held by online poll, with numbers recorded in the minutes, and voting on regular business will proceed using the platform's chat function.

Motion 1: To adopt the electronic balloting system proposed by the Governance Committee for voting on motions.

Moved: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** T. Connolly, **Carried.** (26 Votes: 25 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

The Governance Committee proposed that one reading is appropriate for new program proposals, same as with other curricular items, but that time be allowed for further discussion, if needed.

Motion 2: That new program proposals be given one reading at Senate Council in line with practice for other curricular items. Those bringing forward new program proposals are requested to inform Senate Council of the timeline for approval, and allow adequate time for Senate Council to table proposals for extended discussion if desired.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.** (23 Votes: 20 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain)

9. Academic Committee Report

ENGL 2XX: *Graphic Narrative*, a new course recently approved by the UWaterloo Department of English, was presented for information. The course builds on a course taught regularly at SJU, ENGL 108A: *The Superhero*. The proposal is moving forward to UGAG, accompanied by another course titled *Manga*. The Chair of English acknowledged that the proposal originally came from SJU and our department intends to teach this course on a regular basis; however, there is no commitment that SJU will teach it because we do not hold ownership of the course (a complexity of shared disciplines).

The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) noted that Academic Committee had a discussion regarding what timeline would be most valuable to present for information items (e.g., once a year) and she intends to bring this matter to the Governance Committee. It was noted that it would be good for Senate Council to have a sense of the kinds of courses our faculty are teaching.

Discussion followed regarding curricular approvals and there being different protocols based on the relationship with the corresponding UWaterloo department. One member noted that the discussion regarding whether courses are to be approved by Senate Council or be presented for information

gets to the heart of a key difficulty faced by faculty at SJU. One feels an ownership over one's specialty but can feel hamstrung because we do not necessarily have a means of influencing curriculum development since decision-making happens at UWaterloo. Perhaps this is a topic that will come up during the upcoming equity/relationship discussions.

10. Vice President Academic and Dean's Report

Thrive month at UWaterloo occurs from October 18-November 12, 2021. The goals of Thrive are to enhance mental health literacy, build healthy habits and self-care skills, and foster a supportive and inclusive community. Two Thrive events coming out of SJU are Meditation Mondays and a Campus Ministry student volunteer program. Members were encouraged to check out the resources on the [Thrive](#) website.

M. Drysdale has been appointed to the UWaterloo Senate Graduate and Research Council as the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) representative, to April 30, 2023. Drysdale was thanked for serving.

At its recent meeting, UWaterloo Senate discussed the definition of a full-time graduate student and approved increasing the average number of hours they are allowed to work from 10 to 20 per week.

The UWaterloo Office of Research is moving to a new database system, Pivot-RP, where faculty can find funding opportunities. Members were encouraged to make themselves familiar with this new tool; our Research Officer sent an email today that included information on a training session.

11. President's Report

The President recently met with V. Goel, new UWaterloo president, and one of the items discussed was SJU's strategic planning process. Goel made an important note that we get focussed on the 3-5 years of a plan, but if there is not a greater vision for our work (e.g., 20-30 years), then those small ideas get lost and forgotten. We need to have an overarching sense of what we are about and where we are going.

The SJU Assembly on October 29, 2021 will once again be held in virtual format, but will hopefully be held in person in 2022. The return to campus will be part of the discussion. The deadline to provide proof of vaccination or accommodations was October 17, 2021. The support of our policies has been positive; members were thanked for their understanding as we work together to make SJU a safe place for all as we continue to ramp up activities to normal levels.

Strategic planning is moving into phase three, the consultation phase. A presentation will be made to Senate Council today to begin the conversation.

12. How to Go Forward with Indigenization

The Chair asked Senate Council for feedback on how to move forward on the topic of Indigenization and decolonization. Two suggestions were heard: 1) for Senate Council to compose a land or territorial acknowledgement for its meetings; 2) to make Indigenization and decolonization a standing item on the agenda. Discussion followed on who might do the work of the land or territorial acknowledgement. At the last meeting, Senate Council had suggested establishing a university-wide committee since there are a number of people at SJU excited to work on this initiative and work is happening across many places (the senator on this body would report to Senate Council). It is healthy to work together as a University community, as a collective. It was recommended that this working group have Indigenous representation as well, ideally from local community groups. Further discussion on creating working groups can occur at a future meeting.

Motion 1: That Senate Council compose a land or territorial acknowledgement to accompany each Senate Council meeting.

Moved: A. Deman, **Seconded:** C. Acton, **Tabled.**

Motion 2: That Senate Council have a standing item on the regular agenda for Indigenization and decolonization.

Moved: A. Deman, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.**

13. Strategic Plan Steering Committee Presentation

The President offered thanks to the Strategic Plan Steering Committee for their work with the facilitator on drafting SJU's strategic plan, which will provide important direction to the University for the next five years. At the start of this work, the Steering Committee reviewed the previous strategic plan and the general conclusion was that this plan identified really strong objectives and values, but that the plan had become dormant over time. The Steering Committee re-examined what went into the original conversation around strategic planning and discussed how to make the new plan more concise. The conversations resulted in a more refined version of how to achieve our goals, with directional indicators and areas of importance to drive us forward. The President, VPAD, and Executive Director, Finance and Administration gave an overview of the draft plan's priorities, goals, and objectives. Discussion followed with some questions raised about clarifying or adding language (e.g., how we are unique but complementary to UWaterloo, faculty structure, scholarship as one of the goals). The President noted that there is a commitment to do a thoughtful re-examination of what we are about and where we are going. Once the first round of presentations are completed, the draft strategic plan will formally be made available and members were encouraged to provide feedback for the Steering Committee's review.

It is anticipated that discussions on the new academic plan will start later this year or early next year.

14. Updates from Academic Departments

There were no updates from academic departments.

15. 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.**

October 22, 2021

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