



Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, January 28, 2022 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Honor Brabazon, Jasleen Brar, Susan Brophy, Sue Brubacher, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Mike Gourlay, Dan Hutter, Alysia Kolentsis, Saphron Moule, Jane Nicholas, Lorna Rourke, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Anastasia Tataryn, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Angela Underhill, Cristina Vanin, Jessica Vorsteveld, Denise Whitehead, David Williams

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Carlie Leroux-Demir*, John Rempel, BJ Rye*, Chad Wriglesworth, Nikolaj Zunic
*regrets

On Sabbatical/Leave: Kieran Bonner, Carm De Santis, Stephanie Gregoire, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline, Ryan Touhey

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

Open Session

1. Prayer/Reflection

V. Austen opened the meeting with reflections from “On the Flood Plain” by Al Purdy and “Pear Tree Pomes” by Roy Kiyooka.

2. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair offered thanks to the Strategic Plan Steering Committee for their work on the Strategic Plan and also to everyone who contributed feedback. A presentation on the revised draft Strategic Plan will occur later in the meeting.

The Chair offered thanks and gratitude to the Campus Response Team (CRT) who have worked daily (and sometimes hourly) throughout the pandemic. As is known, SJU plans to return to campus starting February 7, 2022. There will be more communication about this at next week’s town hall.

Pope Francis has made synodality the subject of the synod of the church occurring in 2023. The Pope has invited all to provide feedback on the idea of synodality (journeying together towards a new sense of what the church means). This is an opportunity for SJU to provide feedback. A survey will be sent out in March to collect thoughts on the challenges of a Catholic university, to be addressed by the universal church. SJU will be submitting our feedback to the diocese but also, with other Canadian universities, to the Canadian churches as a block.

The Chair welcomed J. Brar, replacing C. Watkinson (on co-op) as the student representative, and S. Moule, who is stepping into M. Gourlay’s role until a replacement is hired (K. Radcliffe will step into Moule’s role during this time). Gourlay is leaving the university, his last day being February 11, 2022. The Chair thanked Gourlay and wished him much success in his new role at St. Mary’s Hospital.

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. Whitehead, **Seconded:** D. Hutter, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. **Approval of the Minutes of November 19, 2021**
5. **Committee on Research and Scholarship Report**
6. **Experiential Learning Advisory Committee Report**
7. **Vice President Academic and Dean's Report**
 - a. Appointments

Motion: To approve by consent item 4 and to receive for information items 5-7 above.

Moved: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** D. Whitehead, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

8. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the November 19, 2021 Meeting**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

9. **Governance Committee Report**

A working group was formed with members from both the Board of Governors' and Senate Council's Governance Committees to discuss the revisions to the Senate Council Terms of Reference (TOR). A few questions were raised by the Board members to help them understand the revisions. The Governance Committee brought forward two of those questions to ask Senate Council's opinion.

- a. Membership, change of "faculty" to "academic staff": The Governance Committee thought this change was perhaps made as part of streamlining the TOR. It was noted that the shift in our language to "academic staff" was done through labour terms, but this excludes librarians. The definition of "faculty" in the SJU Bylaw *includes* librarians. The TOR should align with the Bylaw. The TOR should make clear that "full-time faculty" includes those in definite-term appointments, which is not included in the Bylaw's definition of ranks.

Motion: To retain "faculty" instead of "academic staff" under Membership in the Senate Council TOR, including those on definite-term appointments.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (26 Votes: 24 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

- b. Duties and Responsibilities, item 3.i, change from "may" to "shall" consider and make recommendations to the Board regarding the operating budget: Senate Council has been looking at the operating budget since its inception in 2012; academic programming does require some consideration of cost. However, the Board's confusion is regarding Senate Council making recommendations on the budget, which it has never done in the past, and "shall" making it a requirement. Financial matters are the Board's responsibility. Although this change was made to bring Senate Council into alignment with other senates, our Senate Council is unique in that the vast majority of authority is handled by University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Senate.

Motion: To retain "may" instead of "shall" for Senate Council making recommendations to the Board of Governors with respect to the annual operating budget.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (26 Votes: 17 Yes, 3 No, 6 Abstain)

The Governance Committee brought forward additional items to seek Senate Council's opinion. The changes to the TOR altogether are for the purpose of streamlining and clarifying Senate Council's practice.

- c. Duties and Responsibilities, item 3.a: The Governance Committee proposed new language for the revision to 3.a to clarify Senate Council's duty to develop and approve recommendations on courses, programs, examinations, and plans. Senate Council only has control over curricular items "owned" by SJU; the original TOR included language on SJU-based programming but this was lost in the revision. Other curricular items brought forward for information are approved by a UWaterloo department or body. It was raised that the language should remain broad. Senate Council can approve recommendations, or offer recommendations if the item is brought for information, but items may be changed by the next body until final approval is received.

Motion: To retain the current revision of item 3.a in the Senate Council TOR.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** V. Austen, **Carried.** (25 Votes: 10 Yes, 7 No, 8 Abstain)

- d. Duties of Governance Committee, item 6: The Governance Committee proposed changing its duty to meet with the auditors to meeting with our own finance staff to review the annual audited financial statements, with the option to also meet with the auditors if necessary or desirable. This is not normal practice for the auditors to do and it is more practical for the Governance Committee to meet with our own finance people, who are the ones with the answers and are valuable. It was raised that the Governance Committee (which inherited this duty when Senate Council folded the Finance Committee into the Governance Committee) should have the ability to engage the auditors directly in case the audited financial statements require more scrutiny. Even if the option is maintained to meet with the auditors, concern was raised about getting into a culture where it does not happen. The practice also provides opportunities for mentoring and learning (the two faculty representatives on the Board do not have the option to sit on the Board Finance Committee, where the auditors do present).

Motion: To retain the current item 6 of the Governance Committee's duties regarding meeting with the auditors.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.** (24 Votes: 12 Yes, 6 No, 6 Abstain)

- e. Duties and Responsibilities, item 3.i: In response to the Board's invitation to respond to the presidential search process, Senate Council voted on a motion at its May 28, 2021 meeting that the process include a recommendation from Senate Council, per the Senate Council TOR. This motion, however, needs to be revisited because the TOR also note that Senate Council makes recommendations on the *reappointment* of the president.

Motion: To add "as well as the reappointment" to Senate Council's motion of 28 May 2021.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** D. Hutter, **Carried.** (25 Votes: 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain)

Secretary's note: The May 28, 2021 motion as revised:

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 as well as the reappointment 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)

The SJU Bylaw provides the opportunity for the community to give a recommendation on a president's reappointment (Senate Council is doing that on behalf of faculty) but not the appointment.

Motion: To recommend to the Board of Governors that the SJU Bylaw be revised to provide for Senate Council to make recommendations on both the appointment and reappointment of the president, in line with the Senate Council TOR.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** D. Whitehead, **Carried.** (25 Votes: 21 Yes, 0 No, 4 Abstain)

Senate Council recognized that the presidential appointment (and reappointment) is ultimately the Board's decision and at the point when consultation with Senate Council occurs, the decision has basically already been made. However, Senate Council felt it important to have its recommendation on record (especially if the person comes up for reappointment).

Motion: To recommend the following process to the Board of Governors: Senate Council shall make a recommendation to the Board at the end of the presidential search process, endorsing or not endorsing the candidate who has been chosen. This would occur in confidential session, to preserve the confidentiality of the search result until it is publicly announced.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** V. Austen, **Carried.** (24 Votes: 22 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

10. Academic Committee Report

The PSCI 462/LS 462: *Government and Politics of Indigenous Peoples* course change is coming forward to Senate Council for approval because of its LS cross-listing (SJU co-manages the Legal Studies program). The changes were initiated by UWaterloo Political Science.

Motion: To approve the PSCI 462/LS 462 course change, effective September 1, 2023.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** S. Brophy, **Carried.** (23 Votes: 23 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

11. Vice President Academic and Dean's Report

M. Regehr sent an email asking academic staff and contract academic staff (CAS) if they received a teaching or research award in 2021. The request is in response to a call for items that might be included in the UWaterloo president's annual awards recognition. It provides SJU an opportunity to celebrate these achievements with a wider audience.

As noted in the Vice President Academic and Dean's (VPAD) written report, academic planning is forthcoming. The VPAD anticipates having many conversations with Senate Council moving forward.

The VPAD understands that returning to in-person teaching is very much on everyone's mind, including hers. The VPAD had sent out a memo regarding the return to campus but anticipates that instructors still have questions. More information will be shared as it is received. Time constraints prevented a full discussion on this topic. The VPAD noted that a town hall is being held on February 4, 2022.

12. President's Report

The President referred to his written report and addressed two of the items:

The President thanked all who participated in the strategic planning process. The President will present the revised draft Strategic Plan under the next agenda item.

The report from the President's Advisory Group on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigeneity (EDII) is anticipated to be received in the next few weeks. SJU will have important work to do and the President will be forming an Indigenous advisory committee to begin preliminary discussions on the direction of this EDII work and our commitments to reconciliation. The President expects other issues to be discussed as well (e.g., land acknowledgement). Indigenous partners will be engaged. Announcements will be going out in the coming weeks.

13. Strategic Planning

The President gave a presentation (brief due to time constraints) on the revised draft Strategic Plan. Thanks to feedback from the community, it is a much improved document. The priorities are more concise over a broad understanding; the goals and objectives break down the priorities even further. SJU will be actively engaging in the Strategic Plan as a community and there will be regular reporting for accountability and to measure success. SJU's Strategic Plan will be aligned with UWaterloo's Strategic Plan. The revised draft Strategic Plan will be sent out to the community next week.

Motion: To extend meeting.

Moved: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.**

Per the Senate Council TOR, Senate Council can make recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding university strategic visioning and plans. The Strategic Plan will be going forward to the Board for final approval in the spring. Senate Council did not have time to reflect on this version of the Strategic Plan prior to the meeting. Discussion will occur at the next meeting.

14. Indigenization and Decolonization

The President noted that the Indigenous advisory committee that will be formed will be pertinent to this topic.

15. Updates from Academic Departments

There were no updates from academic departments.

16. New Business

There was no new business.

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

Moved: T. Serafini, **Seconded:** D. Whitehead, **Carried.**

January 28, 2022

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