



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, February 18, 2022 Meeting

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

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Steven Bednarski*, Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale*, Alysia Kolentsis*, Carlie Leroux-Demir*, John Rempel, Jessica Vorsteveld, 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

T. Connolly opened the meeting with a reflection from "Auguries of Innocence" by William Blake.

2. Chair's Remarks

Discussion on the revised draft Strategic Plan will occur later in the meeting.

3. Agenda Review, Declare Conflicts, Additions, Changes

No conflicts were declared. One addition was made to the agenda under New Business: Health Humanities diploma update.

Motion: To approve the agenda as revised.

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

Consent Agenda

4. Approval of the Minutes of January 28, 2022

5. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

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

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

Regular Agenda

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the January 28, 2022 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Academic Committee Report

Periodically we are notified of courses that have not been offered in some time. After consultation, the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies (SMF) are bringing forward several courses for inactivation. They do not foresee offering these in the future.

Motion: To approve the Philosophy course inactivations (PHIL 306J, 318J), effective September 1, 2023.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** B. Tremblay, **Carried.** (23 Votes: 20 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain)

Motion: To approve the SMF course inactivations (SMF 319, 460, 461, 462, 498), effective September 1, 2023.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** D. Whitehead, **Carried.** (24 Votes: 19 Yes, 0 No, 5 Abstain)

The Department of SMF brought forward plan changes to remove one of the Philosophy courses being inactivated.

Motion: To approve the SMF plan changes, effective September 1, 2023.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.** (24 Votes: 18 Yes, 0 No, 6 Abstain)

Stemming out of the recent academic program review, the Medieval Studies program brought forward plan changes to add five additions to the list of approved courses.

Motion: To approve the Medieval Studies plan changes, effective September 1, 2023.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** D. Hutter, **Carried.** (23 Votes: 20 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain)

8. Vice President Academic and Dean's Report

The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) highlighted a couple items from her written report.

Work is being done to close out the 2015-2020 Academic Plan (e.g., what was accomplished, what were some of the barriers, threads to carry forward). The VPAD is creating a survey that will include questions from Senate Council standing committees to ask what people would like to see in the next academic plan. The responses will help define the core pillar areas. The approved Strategic Plan and the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigeneity working group report will also give directives to the Plan. Work on the next academic plan will begin in the fall.

The next Teaching Forum will be held virtually on March 4, 2022, 9:30 AM. The VPAD wants to give academic staff the opportunity to speak on how things are going, in the spirit of the unique circumstances of Winter 2022. Moving forward, the VPAD anticipates holding monthly forums to talk about teaching and pedagogy.

9. President's Report

The President highlighted a few items from his written report.

Loyola University Chicago is hosting an opportunity for Catholic university students to participate in a general forum with Pope Francis on February 24, 2022. Two of the three Canadian delegates are SJU students. Another announcement will be coming out. The virtual forum is open to all to observe.

S. Moule was welcomed as the Interim Executive Director of Finance and Administration, serving in this role as SJU engages the search for a full-time replacement. K. Radcliffe will take on the duties of Interim Director, Finance and Accounting during this time.

The next SJU Assembly will be held on March 11, 2022.

The University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) President and Vice-President Academic and Provost have initiated meetings with the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) presidents to explore the nature of the AFIW/UWaterloo relationship and how the AFIW contribute to UWaterloo. The first meeting was yesterday and was very positive.

10. Strategic Planning

Time did not allow a full discussion on the revised draft Strategic Plan at the last meeting. The President gave a high-level presentation and opened the floor for discussion. The Strategic Plan begins with the University's values and objects and then focusses on four key strategic priorities with goals and objectives flowing out of those priorities. The Strategic Plan has been shaped out of various consultations and the Strategic Plan Steering Committee was thanked for their significant work.

The University wants the Strategic Plan to guide our future and we want to be able to track our successes in a measureable sense. The facilitator who guided the strategic planning process provided a measurement and reporting template, outlining a plan for regularly reporting to the community, including Senate Council, on various areas of the Plan and initiatives that advance the Plan forward.

Discussion on the draft Strategic Plan followed on items such as academic freedom, culture of philanthropy, appeals to the common good, distinguishing ourselves from other mission-driven and faith-based institutions, commitment to reconciliation language, etc.

Senate Council felt it important to affirm academic freedom for faculty and that this be specifically listed in the Plan.

Motion: To recommend to the Board of Governors that pillar 2 of the Strategic Plan be revised to "Guided by our commitment to academic freedom, foster an outstanding culture of research and learning that inspires commitment to the common good."

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** D. Seljak, **Carried.** (24 Votes: 19 Yes, 0 No, 5 Abstain)

In the discussion on philanthropy, the idea of enlarging our donor base and engaging it with compelling narratives that speak to supporting the University's financial need, Senate Council felt it important that the Plan advocates further for a sustainable financial future, advocating both for funding from the provincial and federal governments but also for donor support. It was noted, however, that SJU does not have a direct relationship with the government.

Motion: To recommend to the Board of Governors that objective 4.4.1 of the Strategic Plan be revised.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** H. Brabazon, **TABLED**

The wording of the motion will be carefully considered and the motion brought back to the next meeting.

11. Return to Campus

The Governance Committee had suggested a basic discussion on return to campus as it has been two weeks since returning to in-person teaching. The VPAD will also be holding a forum on March 4, 2022 as an opportunity for this discussion. It was noted that the UWaterloo President has been pleased that the general return has been going well and according to their expectations.

Clustering in hallways ahead of classes was noted. The Campus Response Team will take note to synchronize all classroom clocks across campus and to remind instructors to start/end on time to help with the flow of student traffic between classes.

Questions have been received from students asking for various accommodations and the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) is asking instructors for consideration for students who have to miss class. Instructors may be delayed submitting grades. The University has been clear that instructors are not expected to do hybrid teaching. This will continue to be a voyage of discovery and the University is grateful for everyone's patience. Further conversation can occur at the upcoming teaching forum to explore what is working well in individual circumstances.

12. Indigenization and Decolonization

Indigenization and Decolonization will remain as a standing agenda item. The President expects there will be more items on this topic moving forward. The President is working on forming an Indigenous advisory committee.

13. Updates from Academic Departments

There were no updates from academic departments.

14. New Business

V. Austen, Associate Dean, offered an update on the proposal for a new Health Humanities diploma and new courses and signalled the intended timeline for approval (March 2022 Senate Council meeting, April 2022 Undergraduate Affairs Group [UGAG] meeting) for a September 2023 effective date. The Health Humanities working group (V. Austen, C. Acton, T. Connolly, A. Stumpf) was thanked for their extensive work on this proposal.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

February 18, 2022

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