



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, June 17, 2022 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Honor Brabazon, Sue Brubacher, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Maureen Drysdale, Dan Hutter, Saphron Moule, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Anastasia Tataryn, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Cristina Vanin, Jessica Vorsteveld, Denise Whitehead, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Susan Brophy*, Chris Burris, Andrew Deman*, Carm De Santis*, Fred Desroches, Alysia Kolentsis*, Carlie Leroux-Demir*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Caitlin Roehrig, Nikolaj Zunic
*regrets

On Sabbatical/Leave: Kieran Bonner, Stephanie Gregoire, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline, Ryan Touhey, Angela Underhill

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

Open Session

1. Prayer/Reflection

T. Connolly opened the meeting with the poem "God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

P. Meehan provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Chair's Remarks

The SJU Community Day celebration will be held on June 24, 2022.

Thank you to those who participated in the SJU Graduation Ceremony on June 12, 2022, and to S. Brubacher, Registrar, and M. Caird, Events and Communications Project Manager, for their work putting on an impressive event. Thank you also to those who participated in the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Arts convocation on June 15, 2022. These were great celebratory days for our community and our graduates and their families.

Welcome to M. Atkin, SJU's new librarian. All the best to S. Brubacher, Registrar, who is retiring. On behalf of the entire community, the Chair expressed thanks to Brubacher for her vision and all that she has done. The search for the next Registrar is underway.

The Chair invited the Registrar to give an update on recruitment numbers. Brubacher first expressed sincere thanks for the wonderful experiences and the people she has had the privilege of working with during her career at SJU. She noted that Ontario universities had predicted application numbers would be up, almost a double cohort, with students waiting until after the pandemic to apply, but it ended up not being the case. UWaterloo's numbers still look good. The Faculty of Arts' numbers are good. SJU has 76 admits as of today; our target is 100. Numbers may go up based on Arts and Business (ARBUS) students wanting to co-register at SJU once they are here. Previously, SJU recruitment staff were not able to speak directly to ARBUS students when they applied, but as of this year, the SJU campus has been added to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) website. The Registrar's Office and recruitment staff are excited that ARBUS students will now be able to directly choose SJU when applying.

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. Hutter, **Seconded:** V. Austen, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the May 27, 2022 Senate Council Meeting

Motion: To approve by consent item 4 above.

Moved: C. Wriglesworth, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the May 27, 2022 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Governance Committee Report

The Chair of the Governance Committee encouraged members to nominate themselves or nominate someone who is interested during the second call/new call for SJU committees in 2022-2023.

7. Academic Committee Report

There were no questions or comments from Senate Council regarding Motion 1.

Motion 1: To give the revised Student Discipline policy a second reading and to approve the revised policy for the SJU Academic Operations Manual.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.** (17 Votes: 14 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain)

At its meeting on September 24, 2021, Senate Council made the decision to continue with the UWaterloo Faculty of Arts online course perception survey for 2021-2022 (fall/winter/spring). A decision is needed on how to proceed moving forward. Academic Committee discussed and recommended continuing for another year and to strike a task force to look at the research available from the UWaterloo teaching assessment review, gather best practice data from other academic institutions, gather stakeholder feedback, consider SJU questions, whether we have concerns about response rates, etc. There will be a call for participation on the task force.

Motion 2: To extend the practice of using the UWaterloo Faculty of Arts online course perception survey for one more academic year, with the results going only to the instructor.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** M. Drysdale, **Carried.** (21 Votes: 18 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain)

Motion 3: To create an *ad hoc* committee on course perception surveys.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** D. Seljak, **Carried.** (18 Votes: 16 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain)

8. Vice President Academic and Dean's Report

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

At the last meeting, the VPAD had distributed a draft close-out report of the previous academic plan. Feedback on the report will be received until July 1, 2022. At this meeting, the VPAD will present some preliminary results of the academic planning survey that academic staff and staff participated in.

The VPAD shared the number of students in residence in her report; we are basically full for 2022-2023. SJU is also hosting a refugee student. We welcome R. DeJong, new Manager, Residence and Community Life, at the end of June. Two vacancies on the residency team are currently posted.

The Chair earlier welcomed M. Atkin, Associate Librarian. We also welcome C. Rodrigue, Department of Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies, as of August 1, 2022. Renewals or new hiring around definite-term appointments, as of September 1, 2022, will be announced in the coming weeks.

The “Summary of SJU Curricular Matters, 2021-2022 Academic Year” was distributed as part of the VPAD’s report. This started as an internal document in the VPAD’s office to keep track of curricular proposals over the past academic year. The VPAD thought it may be of interest to the broader Senate Council. Moving forward the report will be placed in the consent agenda.

9. President’s Report

The President has been in discussion with UWaterloo regarding the English for Math mandate and its duration. The President will communicate any updates.

As mentioned earlier, SJU is in the process of replacing the Registrar. The hope is to welcome the new person end of July/early August.

V. Goel, UWaterloo President, has been in discussions with the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) regarding the UWaterloo at 100 visioning exercise, where he expects the university to be on its 100th anniversary. Goel is looking to the future and the AFIW’s role in contributing to UWaterloo’s mission, while engaging each AFIW’s own mission. The discussions have been very positive.

Father J. Martin, S.J. will be this year’s guest speaker at the Feast on October 1, 2022.

10. Academic Planning Preliminary Survey Presentation

The VPAD gave a presentation on preliminary feedback received through the academic planning survey. There was a healthy response rate (29 academic staff, 10 staff) and the VPAD is grateful for people engaging in the process. The VPAD envisions the Academic Plan to be nested within the university’s Strategic Plan and institutional values, with an action plan for identified areas and initiatives that fall under the VPAD (e.g., faculty research, teaching, student-focussed areas). The Academic Plan would provide guidance to the VPAD on budget priorities and resources to devote to strategic-driven items.

To give a sense of the richness of the thoughtful and articulate responses received, the VPAD shared themes and raw data from some of the survey questions. Belonging and experience of community stood out as themes for student experience. The Academic Plan is the place to reflect on how to address Indigenization/Reconciliation, EDI, and our Catholic mission, how this matters for research and teaching, and what this means for individuals and at the departmental level for both faculty and staff. It is also a place to reflect on lessons learned during the pandemic (e.g., blended courses).

At the last Academic Committee meeting, the VPAD had raised that Academic Committee should be used as the academic planning steering committee versus creating a new committee since it has broad representation. Various consultations would be done as needed.

During the summer, the VPAD will finalize what the appropriate role of UWaterloo in our academic planning process would be and also what needs further holistic discussion at a community-wide town hall or focus groups (e.g., research, new programs/review of current programs, living-learning community). The VPAD proposed a timeline for academic planning in the fall (September consultations, October refinement, draft to Senate Council in November, draft to the Board in December). The VPAD will provide more updates to Senate Council, the Administrative Leadership Group, and the Board as we move forward.

The Chair thanked the VPAD for a strong presentation and looks forward to continuing the discussion on the academic planning process.

11. Indigenization and Decolonization

The VPAD and Associate Dean recently joined the SJU DRAGEN lab team for Indigenous training with Anishinaabe Outreach in Kitchener, one of the community partners in the DRAGEN lab. It was a great opportunity to learn about the many partnerships Anishinaabe has. Their philosophy to reconciliation is that atrocities happened, but it is far better to focus on improvements. The training was thought-provoking and there is interest in continuing the dialogue with them on bringing this opportunity to the larger SJU community.

H. Brabazon will be entering the next stage of her Faculty Research Grant project which will focus on decolonizing syllabi, an interesting and important journey, and invited those interested in participating over the summer to contact her. Regarding Indigenous training, Brabazon has participated in and recommends the Centre for Indigegogy at Wilfrid Laurier University.

12. Updates from Academic Departments

There were no updates from academic departments.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

June 17, 2022

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