



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, October 28, 2022 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Susan Brophy, Serena Catania, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Carm De Santis, Andrew Deman, Dan Hutter, Scott Kline, Carlie Leroux-Demir, Diana Lobb, Saphron Moule, Carl Rodrigue, Caitlin Roehrig, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Siobhan Sutherland, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Cristina Vanin, Jessica Vorsteveld, Denise Whitehead, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Honor Brabazon*, Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Stephanie Gregoire*, John Rempel, Anastasia Tataryn*, Ryan Touhey*
*regrets

On Sabbatical/Leave: Carol Acton, Maureen Drysdale, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis, Jane Nicholas, Toni Serafini, Angela Underhill, Nikolaj Zunic

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

Open Session

1. Prayer/Reflection

D. Hutter opened the meeting with a reflection on appreciating each day and each other.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair recently returned from Universities Canada and Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Canada (ACCUC) meetings in Ottawa. There were a lot of good discussions on equity, diversity, inclusion, and Indigenous initiatives, student mental health initiatives, government funding, etc.

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:** D. Seljak, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the September 30, 2022 Senate Council Meeting

5. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

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

Moved: A. Deman, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the September 30, 2022 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Academic Committee Report

At the June 17, 2022 meeting, Senate Council formed the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Course Perception Surveys on Academic Committee's recommendation. After further conversation on whether the committee is needed or whether the matter could be handled within existing governance structures, Academic Committee recommended in this instance that we could do without the committee.

Motion: To disband the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Course Perception Surveys.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** D. Whitehead, **Carried.** (25 Votes: 23 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain)

8. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

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

The composition of the three academic planning working groups was provided in the VPAD's report and she thanked those who stepped forward to participate. The groups are beginning to meet and are focussing this term on coming up with preliminary ideas, which will go forward to Academic Committee and then Senate Council for approval. The VPAD views academic planning as a multi-stage process and once the working groups' ideas are approved, volunteers will be sought to help make the ideas into a reality. The VPAD will keep Senate Council informed as the academic planning process moves forward.

SJU has received the external consultant's wellness program review report. Wellness is an area that we all experience in our day to day lives and many continue to struggle with. The VPAD looks forward to sharing the results of the report over the next few weeks.

A reminder from the Director of Human Resources that all employees are required to participate in the Sexual Violence Response training, being provided for SJU by the University of Waterloo Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO). The second module is in-person training because that is the recommendation of the SVPRO. Sign ups for suggested dates/times are available (contact the Director if there is difficulty making these work or if accommodations are required).

9. President Report

The President has now received the report of the President's Advisory Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). Based on the five focus areas that had emerged from the EDI working group (campus culture; hiring systems and processes; curriculum and programs; outreach, recruitment, and marketing; facilities), the advisory committee's report includes an action plan of five goals with 25 specific recommendations. One of those recommendations is for the President to establish an EDI action committee at SJU by next fall. More information on the committee and the report will be sent out to the community. The President thanked everyone involved for their work. This addresses one of SJU's key Strategic Plan priorities and is very important for SJU moving forward.

The Feast of St. Jerome liturgy and dinner was held on October 1, 2022, a sold-out event. The life of Kay Sweeney, the wife of SJU's first lay chancellor, was honoured at the event and the renaming of the Sweeney Award to the John R. and Kay Sweeney Award was announced. Father James Martin, SJ, joined virtually as the guest speaker and his talk on the relationship between LGBTQ2S+ people and the Church was well received.

The Lectures in Catholic Experience returned to an in-person format on October 19, 2022. This first event featured Dr. Tia Noelle Pratt, Villanova University, who spoke on anti-racism and the Catholic church. The next lecture in the series will be on November 17, 2022, with Dr. Sarah Wilkins

LaFlamme, University of Waterloo, and Dr. Joel Theissen, Ambrose University, “None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the U.S. and Canada.”

The Honourable Graydon Nicholas, an Indigenous leader in Canada and the keynote speaker at last year’s Feast, will be speaking to the Diocese of Hamilton, December 12, 2022, Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Nicholas’ wife is a graduate of SJU.

10. Indigenization and Decolonization

The President has been talking with other institutional representatives about their programs with regards to reconciliation. The President’s intention is to establish an Indigenous advisory committee. Now that the EDI advisory committee’s report has come in, he will be consulting a bit more to understand the proper structure for this committee and expects to have more news soon.

11. Updates from Academic Departments

There were no updates from academic departments.

12. New Business

There was no new business.

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

Moved: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** C. Wriglesworth, **Carried.**

October 28, 2022

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