



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## Senate Council

### Minutes of the Friday, November 25, 2022 Meeting

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

**Recording Secretary:** Christine Schwendinger

**Absent:** Steven Bednarski\*, Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Stephanie Gregoire\*, Scott Kline, Peter Meehan (Chair)\*, John Rempel, Andrew Stumpf\*, Anastasia Tataryn\*, Ryan Touhey\*, Chad Wriglesworth  
\*regrets

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

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

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### ***Open Session***

#### **1. Prayer/Reflection**

M. Atkin opened the meeting with a reflection on the importance of gratitude.

#### **2. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair is out of town for meetings. The Vice Chair will chair this meeting.

#### **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:** V. Austen, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **4. Minutes of the October 28, 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:** D. Hutter, **Seconded:** S. Brophy, **Carried.**

### **Regular Agenda**

#### **6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the October 28, 2022 Meeting**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

#### **7. Governance Committee Report**

T. Connolly, chair, reported that the Governance Committee revisited its previous discussion about the mode of Senate Council meetings. During the summer, there had been agreement for these meetings to stay online for this term because of uncertainty about the fall but with the general

thought that meetings would be in person starting in January for the winter term. The Committee wanted to bring a vote to Senate Council to hear the will of members on whether to have in-person or online meetings (due to technology challenges, the Committee felt that hybrid was not an option).

Senate Council discussed the options, noting the convenience of online meetings, which encourages greater attendance. The lack of engagement and participation of members in online meetings was raised and the idea of whether people are “present.” However, it was noted that discussions are fairly routine since the main discussions happened earlier at the committee level and often members do not have the background to question or debate certain matters. Members are also tired and the remote format allows for expeditious communication of information without discussion. Online meetings reduce tangential discussions. A comment was heard that, from an equity perspective, meetings with staff tend to be in person whereas meetings with faculty are more often online or hybrid. Perhaps Senate Council is meeting too frequently when there is not enough material.

**Motion:** To hold Senate Council meetings in the following mode for the Winter term. (25 Votes: 2 In person, 22 Remote, 1 Abstention)

#### **8. Vice President Academic and Dean Report**

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

SJU will have three Continuing Lecturer searches in the upcoming months. Search committees have now been formed for those hires and the VPAD thanked the members who have agreed to serve.

- English: D. Williams (chair), C. Acton, C. Wriglesworth, R. Touhey, G. Lamont (University of Waterloo [UWaterloo] English)
- Philosophy/Religious Studies/Health Humanities: B. Tremblay (chair), C. Acton, M. Spielmacher, C. Vanin, K. Anthony (UWaterloo School of Public Health Sciences)
- Legal Studies: S. Brophy (chair), K. Bonner, D. Whitehead, S. Terzian, P. Boyle (UWaterloo Sociology and Legal Studies)

The VPAD thanked these members for their work. More information will be announced on ways the community might engage with the candidates during their campus visit.

The Wellness Program Review report will be sent out to the community soon. The hope is for a robust discussion on the report at a future Senate Council meeting. M. Drysdale, director of the Well-Link Lab at SJU, is very involved in the discussion of this report and its implementation and her perspective to Senate Council might be valuable.

The VPAD thanked all those participating in an academic planning working group. Positive discussions are occurring with hopeful ideas coming out of that process.

#### **9. President Report**

The President had submitted a written report and would answer any questions offline.

#### **10. Indigenization and Decolonization**

The recent UWaterloo Senate meeting began with a presentation of three Wampum belts, now on display in the Senate room. Two Indigenous elders spoke about the history and significance of the belts as traditional symbols of agreement and respect between peoples and cultures. Also, J. Becker, UWaterloo Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Relations, gave a brief but thorough overview of the initiatives happening in the Office of Indigenous Relations (e.g., hirings, Indigenous or

decolonization curriculum support). Engaging with the resources in the Centre for Teaching Excellence was encouraged.

M. Atkin, Associate Librarian, shared that United College, which does not have its own library, has dedicated annual funds to build and house an Indigenous and Human Rights collection in the SJU library.

**11. Updates from Academic Departments**

There were no updates from academic departments.

**12. New Business**

There was no new business.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Moved:** D. Seljak, **Seconded:** C. Rodrigue, **Carried.**

November 25, 2022

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