



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, January 27, 2023 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Serena Catania, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Andrew Deman, Stephanie Gregoire, Dan Hutter, Alysia Kolentsis, 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, Angela Underhill, Cristina Vanin, Jessica Vorsteveld, Denise Whitehead, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Chris Burris, Carm De Santis, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale, Scott Kline*, John Rempel, Ryan Touhey*

*regrets

On Sabbatical/Leave: Tristanne Connolly, Norm Klassen, Jane Nicholas, Toni Serafini, Anastasia Tataryn, Nikolaj Zunic

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

Open Session

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection

The Chair opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement, followed by A. Deman reading the poem "Prayer for Werewolves" by S. Burt.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the first Senate Council meeting of 2023. The Chair expressed thanks for faculty and staff's support and work on Wednesday night when the university closed due to the winter storm.

The Chair and the other Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) heads have been meeting with University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) president, V. Goel, as part of Goel's Waterloo at 100 planning. The conversations have been an opportunity to discuss what the AFIW have in common or what is distinctive, and to understand at a high level how each relate to another and to UWaterloo. There has been a strong affirmation of the AFIW's roles at the university and a desire by UWaterloo to work with us. Goel has recently contracted the services of a facilitator, Dr. P. Gooch, to work with the AFIW and UWaterloo on the nature of our relationship and to understand how to establish a framework of principles to govern the relationship moving forward. There will be ongoing conversations throughout the winter and the Chair will report back as possible.

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:** A. Deman, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the November 25, 2022 Senate Council Meeting

5. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

6. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

a. Appointments

A correction to the spelling of a name in the minutes was made.

Motion: To approve by consent item 4 and to receive for information items 5-6 above.

Moved: D. Hutter, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

7. Business Arising from the Minutes of the November 25, 2022 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Governance Committee Report

The *Revisions to the Academic Operations Manual (AOM)* policy notes that the Governance Committee is to do a complete review of the AOM every five years. The Committee discussed and agreed that this review is better done by the Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD). The changes to the *Revisions to the AOM* policy were reviewed by Academic Committee and the policy is coming forward under that report.

9. Academic Committee Report

The VPAD noted that the changes to the *Revisions to the AOM* policy bring the process up to current practice, whereby the VPAD's office does the administrative work of inventorying the AOM (e.g., when were policies last reviewed, any updates from UWaterloo committees or other changes needed). The Governance Committee will see the results of the VPAD's review and still determines what goes on the Senate Council agenda, with Senate Council still approving all AOM changes.

The change of 14 days notice to seven days is in part because the two readings of policies provide ample time for consideration, but also is pragmatic since materials are typically sent out in the agenda package seven days prior to the Senate Council meeting.

Motion: To give the *Revisions to the Academic Operations Manual (AOM)* policy a first reading.

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

The external reviewers from the Medieval Studies academic program review in 2018 had recommended that the program be simplified and streamlined. Students will now pick courses from three broad categories of topics (currently eight). After consultations with relevant departments, a number of courses are being added to the approved list of courses. As well, three German courses are being cross-listed with Medieval Studies.

Motion: To approve the Medieval Studies plan changes and new MEDVL cross-listings, to be effective September 1, 2024.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (26 Votes: 26 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

The Associate Dean made note to chairs that consultations need to be done with the departments whose courses are being added to approved lists or for cross-listings. This is an important step.

10. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The VPAD referred to topics in her written report and highlighted a few items.

Dr. M. Atkin was congratulated on receiving tenure, effective January 1, 2023. Dr. D. Williams was congratulated on receiving promotion to professor, effective July 1, 2023.

D. McMurray, consultant, will give a presentation on the results of the Wellness Program Review at the SJU Assembly on February 10, 2023. Faculty and staff will have an opportunity to ask questions about the recommendations in the report. One of those recommendations is the restaffing of the Wellness Coordinator position. Those interviews have been completed and a formal announcement about the successful candidate will be coming out soon. The members of the search committee were thanked for their work in the interview process.

Good conversations are happening within the academic planning working groups and also at Academic Committee in its role as the Academic Planning Steering Committee. The VPAD will keep Senate Council updated and noted her thanks to those participating in the consultations.

About the UWaterloo Faculty of Arts budget position, a comment was heard on the importance of being mindful of how to speak about efforts of operating more sustainably and the revenue generation of certain departments or programs. The number of students enrolled in a class is only one metric we might use to think about what value Arts brings to the larger institution. It was noted that similar concerns have been raised by chairs in the Faculty of Arts and the UWaterloo Dean is sensitive to them as she engages in conversations with the Provost. A question was also heard about the nature of comments related to service teaching. The VPAD clarified that the conversation focused mainly on the historical precedent of offering some large online courses and those courses being in greater competition with each other.

The Associate Dean is seeking faculty feedback on their experiences with the student self-declaration system and the new Verification of Illness (VIF) system. She will be taking input back to those at UWaterloo conducting the pilot.

11. President Report

As previously announced, the President has received the report of the President's Advisory Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), which will be posted on our website soon. The ultimate recommendation of the Committee's report is the formation of an EDI action committee at SJU, to be ready by the fall to look at the five areas of concern, gather appropriate data, etc. The President is working on establishing this action committee and hopes to provide an update later this term.

SJU's new Director of Marketing and Communications, J. Philip, starts on Monday. There are several items for her to work on right away in line with SJU's strategic priorities. The Events and Communications Project Manager continues in her current role and will work with the Director on a new understanding of the work in communications. Together they will determine this new direction for the University and will develop strategies to own our brand and tell our story based on university priorities. They will also serve as a communications resource to the University, from the website to social media to promotion of recruitment and advancement initiatives.

The first Lectures in Catholic Experience event in 2023 was held on January 26, 2023, featuring Fr. T. Collins, CR and guest speaker M. Thomas Howell. The online and in person attendance was close to 300 people (our largest online audience). In their talk, "Tiny Resurrections for Today," Collins and Thomas Howell spoke about the important work going on with tiny houses for the homeless. The next Lectures in Catholic Experience event is on March 9, 2023, featuring Dr. M. Faggioli, Villanova University, "Francis@ten: The Legacy of Francis' Pontificate at Ten Years From His Election."

The 2023 SJU Annual Recognition Event, celebrating staff and faculty who reached a service milestone in 2022, will be held on February 10, 2023, following the SJU Assembly.

Under the Chair's remarks, the President had spoken about the AFIW's meetings with the UWaterloo president. Discussions have been occurring as an AFIW group to gain a broader understanding of what each do and how each relates to another and to UWaterloo. UWaterloo tends to relate to the AFIW as a block, which puts the onus on SJU to develop the particular nature of our own relationship with UWaterloo. A facilitator will be establishing a framework of principles to govern the AFIW/UWaterloo relationship moving forward; a similar framework of understanding was completed in 2010 and that report served as a roadmap for these discussions.

12. Indigenization and Decolonization

In addition to his work forming an EDI action committee, the President is having ongoing consultations with other universities and Indigenous leaders to understand what an Indigenous advisory circle might look like. It is important to get it right when working with Indigenous people and being sensitive to their roles on such a committee. The President's goal is to have a circle ready by this fall. The President's consultations have been about this body, but SJU could act on other items that are appropriate or sensitive to time, particularly with SJU's responsibility as a Catholic university as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

13. Updates from Academic Departments

The Department of Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies (SMF) offered congratulations to their colleague, C. Rodrigue, who completed his PhD defence in December and now joins SJU on a tenure-track probationary appointment.

The SMF Research Symposium returns on April 12, 2023. This year's theme is "From Singular to Plural: Developments and Intersections in the Study of Sexualities, Relationships, and Families." The keynote speaker will be C. Silverberg. A call for proposals will be going out soon for presentations by undergraduate and graduate students.

The SJU Reading Series continues this term with the theme "Coming Back/Home." The two authors are former or current contract academic staff in the Department of English. B. Lefebvre will read on February 10, 2023, and C. Tacon will read on March 3, 2023. Both readings begin at 4:30 PM.

14. New Business

There was no new business.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: K. Bonner, **Seconded:** C. Rodrigue, **Carried.**

January 27, 2023

/cs