



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council Minutes of the Friday, April 28, 2023 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Michelle Atkin, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Serena Catania, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Andrew Deman, Carm De Santis, Dan Hutter, Alysia Kolentsis, Carlie Leroux, 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, Denise Whitehead, David Williams

Guest: John Arnou

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Veronica Austen*, Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale*, Stephanie Gregoire*, Scott Kline*, John Rempel, Ryan Touhey*, Jessica Vorsteveld, Chad Wriglesworth
*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 C. Acton reading the poem "Hymn" by E. Boland.

2. Chair's Remarks

T. MacDonald, Operations and Project Coordinator, was wished well in her retirement. Today is her last day at SJU.

Last December, the President's Advisory Group on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) submitted its report and 25 recommendations to the president, with the ultimate recommendation being for the president to establish an EDI Action Committee by fall 2023. The Chair gave a brief presentation regarding the preliminary scope and objectives of the newly formed EDI Action Committee, to be chaired by the Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) in its first year and other members appointed or to be elected.

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. Hutter, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the March 24, 2023 Senate Council Meeting

5. Governance Committee Report

- a. Call for Nominations: 2023-2024 Committees

6. Library Advisory Committee Report

- a. SJU Library Annual Report for 2022-2023

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

Moved: A. Deman, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

7. Business Arising from the Minutes of the March 24, 2023 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Governance Committee Report

The Governance Committee brought forward a change to the Senate Council Terms of Reference (TOR) regarding its duty to review the audited financial statements each year and present them to Senate Council. Instead of meeting with the University's auditors for this task, the Committee would instead meet with the Executive Director, Finance and Administration (EDFA) who would provide an educated opinion on the financial statements.

Several members of Senate Council questioned the change, not being convinced that the new auditors cannot present to the Governance Committee and noting an interpretation of the Canadian auditing standards (CAS 260). The EDFA emphasized that, according to audit independence, the auditors determine who they believe is charged with governance and who they will communicate with, to ensure the appropriate people get the appropriate information. These auditors do understand how universities work. The University can ask the auditors to present to the Governance Committee, but it does not have the authority to mandate this (as currently stated in the Senate Council TOR).

The presented motion on the change to the Senate Council TOR was tabled until further information is sought on the matter.

Motion: To table the motion to give the change to the Senate Council Terms of Reference a first reading.

Moved: D. Seljak, **Seconded:** H. Brabazon, **Carried.** (28 Votes: 22 Yes, 2 No, 4 Abstain)

9. Academic Committee Report

Although this report was discussed in the open session of the meeting, the recording of this business has been moved to the confidential minutes, due to its confidential nature.

10. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The VPAD brought attention to the library report in the consent agenda, submitted by the Associate Librarian on behalf of the Library Advisory Committee (LAC). The Associate Librarian was thanked for putting the report together and sharing the activities happening in the library and the work of the LAC.

Congratulations to A. Stumpf, joining the other two recent Continuing Lecturer hires. J. Hutchison has also been hired in a definite-term appointment in English. The once-a-term report of all appointments will come to the next Senate Council meeting.

A reminder to academic staff that the deadline to submit their 2022-2023 activity reports is May 1, 2023. Thank you to those who have already done so. The VPAD enjoys reading members' accomplishments over the past year.

The ad for the next Director of Student Affairs recently closed. Over 100 applications were received. An initial screening by Human Resources determined that 18 met the minimum qualifications and the search committee will review these applications to decide on three to five candidates to bring in for interviews. The interview days will include a meet-and-greet opportunity for those interested.

Good progress is being made on academic planning. The deadline to provide feedback on the first draft of the Academic Plan is the end of today. Academic Committee, serving as the Academic Planning Steering Committee, will review the feedback received and decide what information to include. The hope is to bring a revised draft of the Academic Plan for a first reading to Senate Council at its May or June meeting.

11. President Report

A Community Day BBQ was celebrated last June, and there are plans to do this again this June. This year's BBQ will be held with the Resurrectionists to thank them for their gift of the Louis Hall building. More information will follow.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the donor appreciation event on April 28, 2023, in support of the DRAGEN Lab, Well-Link Lab, and the SJU library. An open house for the community to see these spaces will be held on May 3, 2023.

The President is continuing to meet with the UWaterloo president, UWaterloo provost, and other heads of the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) over the idea of a broad framework agreement of our relationship, similar to what other universities have, which are usually five-year agreements. Directed by facilitator P. Gooch, the discussions are becoming more detailed. The goal is to have a high-level understanding of the relationship between the AFIW and UWaterloo. Right now, the focus is on how UWaterloo relates to the AFIW as a group. At some point SJU will need to express our unique contributions.

12. Sustainability Committee Report

On behalf of the Sustainability Committee, C. Rodrigue shared updates on the Committee's activities: 1) Two lunch and learn sessions were held in April (Earth Month) with the UWaterloo Sustainability Office. Although small, the group had interesting discussions and gained a greater understanding of sustainable actions at work or in their personal lives (e.g., being more mindful of sorting waste and recycling). 2) A tree planting program has been initiated to replace mature trees lost last year on campus. 3) An update will be provided when the waste audit results are received. Also, for information, last fall the Food Services water heater was recommissioned and solar energy from solar panels on the Community Centre rooftop preheats the water before it enters the boilers, which saves about 10% in gas.

In response to a comment about reducing/limiting single-use plastics that are handed out on our campus (e.g., disposable coffee cups), Rodrigue agreed that the goal would be to reduce the use of these items as much as possible (e.g., provide more reusable options). He will bring the suggestions to the Committee to discuss.

13. Indigenization and Decolonization

The President continues his investigations into establishing an Indigenous advisory circle at SJU. He has had good conversations with the UWaterloo Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Relations on the shape of such a committee, as well as with colleagues at other university colleges across Canada on what they are doing. His goal is to bring a proposed structure of an Indigenous advisory circle to the May meeting. While these circles would involve input from faculty, staff, and students, they

would be run by Indigenous peoples themselves, operating on a seasonal set of meetings. We will need to find good stakeholders from the Indigenous communities who are interested in participating on our circle.

Red Dress Day is observed on May 5 each year to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. On May 5, 2023, A. Deman and his family will once again be setting up a commemorative display of red dresses in the SJU courtyard to help raise awareness. This will be third year that Deman has led this important initiative.

14. Updates from Academic Departments

There were no updates from academic departments.

15. New Business

There was no new business.

Motion: To adjourn Open Session and move into Confidential Session.

Moved: A. Deman, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

April 28, 2023

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