



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council Minutes of the Friday, May 26, 2023 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Stephanie Gregoire, Dan Hutter, Alysia Kolentsis, Diana Lobb, Carl Rodrigue, Caitlin Roehrig, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Siobhan Sutherland, Bruno Tremblay, Angela Underhill, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth

Guests: John Arnou, Jaime Philip

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Steven Bednarski*, Chris Burris, Serena Catania*, Carm De Santis*, Fred Desroches, Scott Kline, Carlie Leroux*, Saphron Moule*, John Rempel, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Sylvia Terzian*, Ryan Touhey*, Jessica Vorsteveld

**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

D. Lobb opened the meeting telling the story about a young Cree woman who was murdered, followed by reading a poem that honours the woman's life titled, "Helen Betty Osborne" by Cree/Méti poet M. Dumont. The Chair followed with a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Chair's Remarks

A. Deman and his family were thanked for the third year of displaying red dresses in the courtyard to observe Red Dress Day on May 5, 2023. This important event helps to raise awareness of the serious issue of Canadian missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Effective September 2023, the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) will offer free tuition to all qualifying students (current and incoming) who are members of the two First Nations communities on whose traditional territory the University is situated. This is in direct response to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. UWaterloo is the first university in Canada to show leadership in doing this.

In advance of this meeting, the Governance Committee had polled members about the number of annual Senate Council meetings and the meeting modality for 2023-2024. A link to the results of the poll was put in the Zoom chat, to be discussed under the Governance Committee report.

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. Stumpf, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the April 28, 2023 Senate Council Meeting

5. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

- a. Results of 2022-2023 Adjudications

6. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

- a. Appointments

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

Moved: A. Deman, **Seconded:** D. Hutter, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

7. Business Arising from the Minutes of the April 28, 2023 Meeting

- Page 2, item 8, *Governance Committee Report*: Regarding the discussion about the auditor presenting the audited financial statements each year, the Governance Committee is getting more information and this item will come back to a future meeting.

8. Media Relations Guidelines for Faculty: J. Philip, Director, Marketing and Communications

J. Philip began in the new role of Director, Marketing and Communications on January 30, 2023. She was invited to Senate Council to talk about media relations for faculty and best practices.

Good relationships with the media bring overall benefits to the institution and to faculty. When a faculty member's research is highlighted in the media, it expands professional collaborations and networks, attracts prospective students, could bolster funding applications, etc. Journalism and working in a newsroom have vastly changed and staff work under extreme pressure and deadlines. Best practices when contacted by the media for an interview is to respond fairly quickly but gather as much information as possible about the story, prepare for questions, keep in mind that nothing is off the record, and notify the Director. What makes something newsworthy? Timing, significance, proximity, prominence, human interest. A comment was heard that sometimes there are issues with the media not telling the whole story; if contacted by the media, let the Director know and give her time to prepare and connect with UWaterloo Media Relations to collectively decide how to respond.

The Director looks forward to working with faculty and hopes to build the brand and reputation of the institution and faculty. She is happy to connect with anyone who has given an interview in the media or has received recognition outside of the University. The story can be highlighted on our website and social media. If departments are producing content for Instagram, Facebook, or YouTube, tag the main university channel or flag this for the Director to reshare.

9. Governance Committee Report

The results of the Governance Committee's poll regarding the number of annual Senate Council meetings and the meeting modality for 2023-2024 (in-person, online, or hybrid) were discussed, followed by voting. Various views were heard during the discussion on modality (e.g., accessibility, inclusion, opportunity for robust conversations, the environment).

Motion: In line with University of Waterloo's decision to move to eight meetings annually, skipping the months of December and February, Senate Council will move in a similar direction.

Moved: K. Bonner, **Seconded:** C. Acton, **Carried.** (23 Votes: 21 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain)

Motion: That the meeting modality of Senate Council meetings for 2023-2024 be remote.

Moved: K. Bonner, **Seconded:** D. Hutter, **Carried.** (25 Votes: 19 Yes, 4 No, 2 Abstain)

10. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) referred members to her written report. She shared the following three additional items:

The graduating student awards in the UWaterloo Faculty of Arts have been announced and four of the winners have strong SJU affiliations. We look forward to giving out our own SJU awards at the upcoming SJU Graduation Ceremony.

SJU participates in the first-year residence guarantee (1 June deadline), along with the main campus and two other Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW). Right now, SJU is at approximately 80% of our target for first-year student applications (main campus is 34% towards their target and the two AFIW are below 25%). There is a lot of interest in our residence, which reflects the investment the institution made in those buildings, the hard work of residence staff who make it a wonderful place to live, and the work of our Registrar's Office and Student Affairs staff.

The VPAD provided an update on the financial position at UWaterloo. The Faculty of Arts has instituted a hiring freeze and conversations will be ongoing on how to address this challenging situation.

11. President Report

The President highlighted the items in his written report:

Thank you to those who helped bring the international Model United Nations (UN) event to SJU on May 17-19, 2023, and to the staff for their work with this event, which aligned with our mission and was a great way to highlight SJU.

The You@Waterloo Day open house will be held on Saturday, May 27, 2023, where admitted, confirmed, and still deciding students and their families come to experience campus and have conversations with key people.

SJU will hold its annual Community Day BBQ on June 9, 2023, this year at the Resurrection Manor to honor the Congregation of the Resurrection for their contribution of the Louis Hall building.

SJU is celebrating its graduates at the SJU Graduation Ceremony on June 11, 2023. UWaterloo Arts Convocation is taking place on June 15, 2023, in two ceremonies.

12. Academic Planning

The VPAD gave a detailed presentation on academic planning. The process began last year with the approval of the Strategic Plan, which created a mandate for the Academic Plan. An initial survey provided open consultation on what the community wanted to see in the Plan, what the priorities should be, and three specific working groups were created based on those responses. Throughout Fall 2022/Winter 2023, Academic Committee, serving as the steering committee, discussed the progress of academic planning and updates from the working groups. In April 2023, a complete first draft of the Plan was circulated to the community for feedback. Academic Committee discussed that feedback at its May 2023 meeting and the VPAD subsequently revised the first draft, making the Plan stronger. The Plan implements recommendations from the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan as well as from the Wellness Program Review.

The Plan, titled "Acts of Translation," is a three-year plan (2023-2026) focussing on realistically achievable items in a shorter period. There are modest initiatives that are easily achievable or already in progress. And there are also more ambitious new ideas to be explored, planned, piloted;

some of these will thrive and can be included in the next academic plan and others we will learn through due diligence that they do not make sense.

The VPAD summarized the initiatives in the Plan, highlighting changes or updates, under each of the three sections: Keeping our Promises, Living our Mission; Leveraging our Strengths to Reach New Audiences; Enriching Lives through Research. An appendix provides a preliminary plan for accountability. The VPAD noted the connections of SJU's Plan to the Faculty of Arts' seven-year Strategic Plan, "A Future for Humanity" (social justice, social impact, lifelong learning, student health and well-being) and UWaterloo's Waterloo at 100 Strategic Vision (societal futures, health futures).

After the presentation and some discussion, Senate Council agreed to move a motion from the floor for a first reading of the Plan. The updated draft of the Plan will be circulated to members via email. At the June meeting, Senate Council will have the second reading, approving the Plan.

Motion: That Senate Council give the 2023-2026 Academic Plan a first reading.

Moved: K. Bonner, **Seconded:** S. Brophy, **Carried.** (22 Votes: 21 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

The VPAD thanked all those who participated in the development of the Academic Plan.

13. Indigenization and Decolonization

The President provided an update on his plans for an Indigenous Advisory Circle at SJU, committing to our Strategic Plan on reconciliation and aligning with SJU's mission. He is consulting with different members of local Indigenous communities with the hopes to find representatives who are willing to serve in this capacity. Members will provide guidance for Indigenous work at SJU. That the Circle is led by Indigenous voices is particularly important in light of SJU being a Catholic institution. The Circle will meet two to three times per year, the first meeting to occur this fall to work on terms of reference. The President will provide more information as this develops.

The EDI Action Committee will also begin its work this fall, chaired by the Vice President Academic and Dean in its first year. The EDI Action Committee would work with the Indigenous Advisory Circle regarding decolonization, which is a distinct and separate issue.

14. Updates from Academic Departments

There were no updates from academic departments.

15. New Business

The Research Officer announced that the Committee on Research and Scholarship has received approval to hold an unprecedented third call to the 2023-2024 Faculty Research Grant competition. The call for applications opens today with the deadline being June 23, 2023. An email announcement will follow.

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

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** M. Drysdale, **Carried.**

May 26, 2023

/cs