



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, September 29, 2023 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Michelle Atkin, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Carm De Santis, Maureen Drysdale, Stephanie Gregoire, Jesse Hutchison, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Carlie Leroux, Diana Lobb, Clayton McCourt, Andrew Moore, Saphron Moule, Carl Rodrigue, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Denise Whitehead, David Williams

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Chris Burris, Serena Catania*, Fred Desroches, Jane Nicholas*, John Rempel, Siobhan Sutherland, Ryan Touhey*, Cristina Vanin*, Chad Wriglesworth*, Saman Zaidi, Nikolaj Zunic

*regrets

On Sabbatical/Leave: Veronica Austen, BJ Rye, Anastasia Tataryn

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

Open Session

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection

P. Meehan, Chair, opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement, followed by reading a prayer in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Chair welcomed all members back to Senate Council, with a particular welcome to those returning from sabbatical and a special welcome to the new Director of Student Affairs.

2. Chair's Remarks

Life is returning to campus and students are active. It has been a great start to the fall semester. The Orientation Investiture Ceremony on September 5, 2023 was a success. The Director of Student Affairs and his team were thanked for all their efforts with students.

Aligned with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the first Lectures in Catholic Experience was held last night with Archbishop D. Bolen speaking on, "The Wounds of the Past, Truth-telling and a Future of Hope: The Doctrine of Discovery and the Path of Reconciliation."

SJU welcomed the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Board of Governors the evening of September 26, 2023 as part of its retreat. The Manager of Business Development was thanked for her efforts with this and similar events.

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 May 26, 2023 Senate Council Meeting

5. Governance Committee Report

- a. 2023-2024 Committee Membership List
- b. Call for Nominations

6. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

7. Experiential Learning Advisory Committee Report

8. SJU Academic Plan (2023-2026) (record of second reading and approval, electronic motion, June 16, 2023)

9. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

- a. Summary of SJU Curricular Matters, 2022-2023 Academic Year
- b. Appointments

Motion: To approve by consent item 4 and to receive for information items 5-9 above.

Moved: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

10. Business Arising from the Minutes of the May 26, 2023 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

11. Governance Committee Report

- a. *Senate Council Terms of Reference Changes:* Aligning the Research Officer's term with other committees' terms, particularly the Committee on Research and Scholarship which they chair, and updating the Academic Committee membership were brought forward for a first reading.

Motion: To give the changes to the Senate Council Terms of Reference a first reading.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (24 Votes: 22 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

- b. *Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection:* This year, the Governance Committee will start the practice of having a different person give both the territorial acknowledgement (SJU's standard statement or an option of their choice) and the prayer/reflection at each Senate Council meeting. The chair of the Governance Committee welcomed interested volunteers to contact her.

12. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

The Research Officer highlighted the items in the Committee on Research and Scholarship's written report under the consent agenda.

13. Academic Committee Report

- a. *Course Perception Surveys:* Senate Council considered Academic Committee's recommendation to adopt the UWaterloo online Student Course Perceptions survey used by the Faculty of Arts as SJU's evaluation instrument. SJU used this instrument during the pandemic. The other Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) also use this instrument and students are familiar with the process. Right now, results are given directly to the instructor and not used in hiring, tenure, and promotion evaluations unless provided by the instructor. There are some concerns about response rates declining, particularly with the online modality, but UWaterloo has an office devoted to understanding and monitoring the course evaluation process and response rates are less of a concern when the information is not currently being used.

Motion 1: To adopt the Faculty of Arts' online Student Course Perceptions survey as the instrument for St. Jerome's University on a go forward basis.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.** (23 Votes: 18 Yes, 1 No, 4 Abstain)

If there is a desire to add Tier 2 questions to the instrument specific to SJU, that can be revisited. It is good for instructors to make clear to their students that they welcome the feedback and to fill out the survey when they receive the email.

- a. *Terms of Reference for SJU's Unattached Academic Programs:* SJU's interdisciplinary programs need protocols on how their academic business will be handled. The new Health Humanities

program has been added to this document plus other editorial changes. Senate Council made a friendly amendment to clarify the composition of the Health Humanities Committee.

Motion 2: To approve the changes to the Terms of Reference for SJU's Unattached Academic Programs.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** A. Kolentsis, **Carried.** (27 Votes: 24 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain)

In response to a question, the Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) provided an update on the state of the Human Sciences program, which had just gone through a quality assurance program review when she began at SJU. One possible pathway is to take some of the ideas in the Human Sciences Committee report and build this into a robust first-year opt-in program ("SJU Start") but this would need to be discussed more by Senate Council when a proposal is ready. The Academic Plan also notes that if Human Sciences is not addressed as part of the SJU Start discussion that it will be brought forward to Senate Council in other ways.

- b. *Health Humanities Course Change:* Changes to HHUM 307: *Concepts of Health and Disease in Western Medical History* were brought forward for approval.

Motion 3: To approve the HHUM 307 course change, to be effective September 1, 2024.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (28 Votes: 27 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

14. Sustainability Committee Report

C. Rodrigue gave a report from the Sustainability Committee. The Committee received the results from the waste audit conducted at SJU, which they will discuss at their next meeting. An initial review shows that last year SJU improved on decreasing the portion going to landfills and increasing the portion going to recycling or compost. However, we need to reduce the use of paper towels; the quantity of paper towels that is part of organics compost is far too large.

15. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The VPAD referred members to her written report where she highlighted two items and shared one additional item:

A warm welcome to the new Director of Student Affairs. He had provided the Student Affairs updates in the VPAD's report. The Director was thanked for all that he and his team are doing.

Work has begun on key initiatives in the new SJU Academic Plan. For example, the VPAD is having conversations with the Research Officer regarding the research items in the Plan and they will be meeting with the UWaterloo Vice-President, Research and International, on potential items we can do at SJU. A working group will be put together to start thinking about a new "SJU Start" program, addressing the question on what it means academically to be an SJU co-registered student. The Wellness Implementation Team discussions are underway regarding wellness initiatives.

The VPAD is the AFIW representative on the UWaterloo Dean of Arts search. The search committee has now split into groups to do stakeholder interviews to help develop the brief that candidates will receive. This is a good opportunity to shape relationships with colleagues at UWaterloo. It is such an important search.

16. President Report

The President highlighted the items in his written report and shared one additional item:

The Orientation Investiture Ceremony on September 5, 2023 was a great event. Coming out of the pandemic, it was inspiring to see everyone there and feel the spirit in the room. Thanks to all involved.

Archbishop D. Bolen gave the first Lectures in Catholic Experience last night on the Doctrine of Discovery. It was a great talk, well attended with superb questions. Bolen has been a leader in the

reconciliation movement in Canada and was a lead organizer for the delegation that visited Pope Francis in March 2022 and then Pope Francis' visit to Canada in July 2022.

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Committee, chaired by the VPAD in its first year, will soon start meeting. The VPAD will also be meeting with the UWaterloo Associate Vice-President, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism. We look forward to hearing about this committee's work.

The Feast of St. Jerome will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, featuring Dr. K. McLaughlin, UWaterloo professor emeritus and former SJU VPAD, speaking about the history of SJU and its legacy and commitment to mission-driven education.

The President is continuing to meet with the UWaterloo president, UWaterloo provost, and other AFIW heads regarding the relationship between the AFIW and UWaterloo. Discussions are still at a high level about the value each AFIW brings, an appreciation of our identities, and basic rules on how we work together. A broad framework agreement on the relationship will be drafted in the coming year.

17. Indigenization and Decolonization

After many meetings, consultations, and discussions, including with the UWaterloo Office of Indigenous Relations, the President was pleased to announce that SJU's Indigenous Advisory Circle has now been constituted. The Circle will be meeting seasonally, and the hope is to have a first meeting this term. This is an important group for SJU that will be instrumental in providing unique, independent advice on our commitment to truth and reconciliation.

18. Updates from Academic Departments

The DRAGEN Lab will be hosting a talk by Dr. C. Lloyd, "The Strange Afterlives of Jimi Hendrix," October 18, 2023. Lloyd is from the lab's research partner Bader College, Queen's University.

The Department of Sociology and Legal Studies is hosting a visiting scholar this term, Dr. A. Papadopoulou from the Greek Ombudsman for Human Rights, Greece. Her speciality is refugees, particularly Roma peoples. She is here doing research comparing Canada's treatment and ways of dealing with refugees with Greece's. She is happy to meet people and to give guest lectures.

The Urgency of Social Justice event was held on September 20, 2023. SJU faculty and students were present at this important event, which shows SJU's unique but also complementary contributions to UWaterloo. The Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies Student Society hosted a table with information and interactive activities.

19. New Business

The VPAD held a meeting over the summer, which was appreciated, with those teaching in areas related to gender and social justice and for staff/faculty who felt impacted by the June 28, 2023 attack. UWaterloo has assigned responsibilities to two Associate Vice-Presidents to review operations (e.g., physical space) and culture and people (e.g., training). Any workshops would be open to SJU employees, but the VPAD is open to hear if people want particular SJU-specific training. Communication will be coming out soon about the Joint Health and Safety Committee's review of SJU's emergency preparedness plan and safety recommendations for our classrooms and student spaces. Security cameras are installed and security guards are on site evenings and weekends when staff are not here; SJU is also in partnership with UWaterloo security services. SJU would cover the cost of employees wishing to register for first aid training through the [UWaterloo Safety Office](#).

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

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

September 29, 2023

/cs