



Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, October 27, 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, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Carm De Santis, Maureen Drysdale, Stephanie Gregoire, Jesse Hutchison, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis, Diana Lobb, Clayton McCourt, Andrew Moore, Saphron Moule, Carl Rodrigue, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead, David Williams

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Scott Kline*, Carlie Leroux*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Siobhan Sutherland, Ryan Touhey*, 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

D. Seljak opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement, followed by a reading on laughter from the book *A Year with Hafiz*, edited by D. Ladinsky.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Feast of St. Jerome occurred on October 14, 2023. It was a fantastic event and the Chair thanked everyone who supported it.

The President's Christmas Party will be held on December 7, 2023, 4:00-6:30 PM, in the Atrium. The Chair is expecting a broad attendance from SJU and the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo).

Recruitment is going well and applications are up from this time last year. Fall Open House takes place on November 25, 2023, along with UWaterloo's Open House. A good turnout of prospective students is expected and a strong attendance from SJU members is encouraged to showcase our campus and programs. The Registrar confirmed that SJU advertises the same admissions standards as UWaterloo (low 80% cut-off for admission into Honours Arts and Honours Arts and Business); offers will begin going out in December.

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

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the September 29, 2023 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: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the September 29, 2023 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Governance Committee Report

- a. *Senate Council Terms of Reference (TOR) Changes*: Two TOR changes (Research Officer term, Academic Committee membership) were brought forward for a second reading and approval.

Motion 1: To give the changes to the Senate Council Terms of Reference a second reading and to approve the changes.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded**: C.A. MacGregor, **Carried**. (27 Votes: 26 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

- b. *Academic Operations Manual (AOM) Policies*: Academic Committee and the Library Advisory Committee have reviewed four AOM policies.

- i. *University of Waterloo Academic Policies that Affect St. Jerome's University Students*: No changes but coming forward to Senate Council for a review.

Motion 2: To waive the two-reading rule for the *University of Waterloo Academic Policies that Affect St. Jerome's University Students* policy. One reading is sufficient given that this is a review of the policy.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded**: K. Bonner, **Carried**. (28 Votes: 26 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain)

Motion 3: To give the *University of Waterloo Academic Policies that Affect St. Jerome's University Students* policy the one reading and to approve the review of the policy for the Academic Operations Manual.

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

- ii. *Protocols for Exams at St. Jerome's University*: This new policy attempts to merge three current examination ones (*After-Hour Final Examination Support Coverage*, *Proctoring and Conducting Final Examinations*, Regular Tests and Examinations). One friendly amendment was made to item 5.2, "...test or exams in another course."

Motion 4: To give the new *Protocols for Exams at St. Jerome's University* policy a first reading. This one new policy will replace the three previous exam policies.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded**: A. Stumpf, **Carried**. (28 Votes: 26 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

- iii. *St. Jerome's University Library Gifts and Donations*: No changes but coming forward to Senate Council for a review.

Motion 5: To waive the two-reading rule for the *St. Jerome's University Library Gifts and Donations* policy. One reading is sufficient given that this is a review of the policy.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded**: S. Bednarski, **Carried**. (28 Votes: 26 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

Motion 6: To give the *St. Jerome's University Library Gifts and Donations* policy the one reading and to approve the review of the policy for the Academic Operations Manual.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded**: C.A. MacGregor, **Carried**. (26 Votes: 25 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

- iv. *St. Jerome's University Library Collections*: Revisions are being made to align the policy with current practice. One friendly amendment was made to item 1, second paragraph, "...as well as **those** that support..."

Motion 7: To give the revisions to the *St. Jerome's University Library Collections* policy a first reading.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded**: K. Bonner, **Carried**. (28 Votes: 27 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

8. Academic Committee Report

- a. *Sociology and Legal Studies New Courses*: Two new Legal Studies courses were brought forward for approval, LS 301: *Legal Studies Research Methods* (“for a Global Age” has been dropped from the title due to character limit) and LS 348: *Animal Law*. It was confirmed that the new methods course is significantly different from the two methods courses already in the program, which are Sociology based and this course will be purely Legal Studies; no anti-requisites are needed and students can get credit in all three methods courses.

Motion: To approve the new LS 301: *Legal Studies Research Methods* and LS 348: *Animal Law*, to be effective September 1, 2024.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.** (28 Votes: 26 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

- b. *Sociology and Legal Studies New Courses/Course Changes*: The Legal Studies program is co-managed by a Joint Legal Studies Steering Committee, made up of both the UWaterloo and SJU Departments of Sociology and Legal Studies. As part of this co-management, proposals from the UWaterloo department come to SJU for information and feedback, and vice versa, and then each body approves their own proposals. For information, the UWaterloo department’s proposals for two course changes and two new courses were brought forward.

9. Sustainability Committee Report

C. Rodrigue gave a report from the Sustainability Committee. At the last meeting, SJU’s large use of paper towels had been raised. It was noted that there are areas where electric hand dryers are not working (members can submit a request to Facilities to have them fixed) or not available. The Committee is exploring options to reduce paper towel use, each having their own costs and benefits and feasibility, and will come up with a recommendation. The hope is to offer a diversity of options. The spread of bacteria when using hand dryers was raised.

Next spring, a pollinator garden project will be implemented near the SJU chapel. Also, SJU will soon be collaborating with a local paint recycler to buy paint for reuse.

10. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) referred members to her written report where she highlighted a few items and an additional item.

The Acting Associate Dean was thanked for her work on the renewal of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival Agreement, recently signed for another five years. SJU, in partnership with several other universities, has had the agreement for some time, a summer program where students take courses on site at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford.

The AOM is being reviewed to ensure all policies have been looked at recently and are on a five-year review cycle. Some policies came through in this meeting and more will come forward this year.

The potential restructuring of departments/programs in the Faculty of Arts has been a conversation at UWaterloo General Group meetings (which includes all department chairs in Arts). Faculty would have received an email from the Dean of Arts describing some of the rationale for this. The VPAD has asked SJU chairs to stay in contact with their corresponding chairs, who are to have conversations at the departmental level about potential paths forward. The VPAD will keep Senate Council posted.

The VPAD serves on the UWaterloo Dean of Arts Search Committee. The deadline has not yet closed, but the Committee is pleased with the number and quality of applications that have come in so far.

The VPAD will send out a call for participation on various initiatives outlined in the Academic Plan.

11. President Report

The President referred members to his written report where he highlighted a few items and an additional item.

SJU is renewing its involvement in the UWaterloo Student Refugee Program, the resettlement of student refugees with opportunities for higher education. UWaterloo is looking at ways to sponsor more students. Thank you to everyone in Student Affairs for their commitment to this program.

J. and S. Mancini, SJU alums and founders of The Working Centre, will give the second Lectures in Catholic Experience on November 9, 2023, "Living the Virtues in the Face of Homelessness." They have a powerful commitment to addressing local needs in our community and serving the lives of others.

The Feast of St. Jerome on October 14, 2023 was a great success, raising over \$80,000 for student scholarships. Sr. M. Taylor, SSND, on the cusp of her 100th birthday, gave a brief, inspiring reflection on her time at SJU in the 1970s/1980s as Campus Minister. Dr. K. MacLaughlin gave a talk on SJU's history, which the President connected to UWaterloo's vision at 100 and SJU at 200. Bishop D. Crosby, OMI, received this year's Sweeney Award for Catholic Leadership. The evening was a good opportunity for alum, donors, and the community to hear about the great work going on at SJU.

Discussions happening over the last two years between UWaterloo and the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) regarding our relationship have been positive. UWaterloo has now raised the topic of discussing the Equity Agreement, more as an opportunity to reflect on and revisit an agreement put together over 40 years ago, updated once in 1991, and to review what is best for everyone. The recently appointed UWaterloo Associate Vice-President, Academic Operations has been representing UWaterloo in these discussions. The President will keep Senate Council posted. The merger of Brescia University College with Western University, ceasing the affiliated agreement, was raised.

12. Indigenization and Decolonization

The first Indigenous Advisory Circle meeting will be scheduled sometime in November. Members have been meeting informally at various other events (e.g., Feast of St. Jerome, United College's Pow Wow). Archbishop D. Bolen's lecture on the Doctrine of Discovery continues to be a source of great discussion for the university community in general; the President has received much positive feedback about how good it is that SJU hosted such a conversation and this being a positive way to approach reconciliation. The Indigenous Advisory Circle will have much to discuss, including reviewing a number of documents (e.g., UWaterloo Indigenous Strategic Plan, SJU's mission and vision statements) and other ideas. The President will have more to report after the first meeting.

13. Updates from Academic Departments

The National Council on Family Relations recently informed Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies (SMF) that it has become an accredited department to offer certain courses, allowing students the opportunity to apply for provisional status as a Certified Family Life Educator upon graduation. Also, SMF will once more offer a summer institute of learning for professionals who are seeking a certificate. This year, on June 1-2, 2024, SMF will host the Sexual Attitude Reassessment two-day conference with C. De Santis as the primary organizer. The Department has submitted an ethics application to support the evaluation part of the conference.

Today is the first event of this year's Reading Series with a reading by author D. Madott, 4:30 PM, SJ2 1002.

14. New Business

Motion: Senate Council thanked President P. Meehan for agreeing to extend the first term of his presidential term for one year to ensure senior leadership transition.

Moved: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** N. Klassen, **Carried.**

Motion: To adjourn the open session of the meeting and move into confidential session.

Moved: M. Atkin, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

October 27, 2023

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