



Senate Council
Minutes of the Friday, March 22, 2024 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Michelle Atkin, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Serena Catania, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Jesse Hutchison, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Carlie Leroux, Diana Lobb, Clayton McCourt, Saphron Moule, Carl Rodrigue, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead, David Williams

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Honor Brabazon*, Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Stephanie Gregoire*, Norm Klassen, Andrew Moore*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Siobhan Sutherland, Ryan Touhey, Chad Wriglesworth, Saman Zaidi, Nikolaj Zunic

**regrets*

On Sabbatical/Leave: Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Susan Brophy, Carm De Santis, Anastasia Tataryn

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 with a reflection on the relevance and purpose of territorial acknowledgements. These acknowledgments may not make changes, but they start important conversations.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair announced that the Institute for Religion, Culture and Societal Futures (IRCSF) is being developed at SJU, led by C.A. MacGregor along with colleagues in the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Department of Sociology and Legal Studies. The members are experts in the sociology of religion and the IRCSF will be a hub for research related to religion, spirituality, and emerging forms of communities of belief and practice.

As clarified in a notice from the Board of Governors' chair, the membership on the President's Evaluation Committee has now been expanded and includes two faculty, one staff, and one student.

The heads of the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) have been meeting with representatives from UWaterloo. The group is currently drafting a framework agreement, a broad constitutional understanding of our relationship and operations. That work is expected to continue into the spring and the Chair will provide updates.

Approving the 2024-2025 budget has been delayed because of not having enough information from the government or UWaterloo about our funding. The goal is to bring the budget to Senate Council in April. In the meantime, work is being done weekly on developing our budget. The cooperation of budget holders is appreciated as all unit budgets have needed to be reduced.

3. Agenda Review, Declare Conflicts, Additions, Changes

No additions or changes to the agenda were declared. C.A. MacGregor declared a conflict of interest on item #10.

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

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

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the February 9, 2024 Senate Council Meeting

5. Sustainability Committee Update

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

Moved: D. Whitehead, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the February 9, 2024 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Governance Committee Report

- a. *Governance Committee Membership:* An interim member was appointed while another member is on sabbatical. When this member returns, they will only have two months left of their term and so, instead, they worked it out with the interim member to continue to complete this term. The Governance Committee would normally hold a call for nominations/ election to fill an interim position but has decided this is an occasion to use the “normally” option and has appointed the interim member to continue for continuity.
- b. *Academic Operations Manual (AOM) Policies:* Academic Committee has reviewed two AOM policies. As well, the Governance Committee is bringing forward one new AOM policy.
 - i. *Attendance:* This policy is deemed not necessary since it is student-facing. Students are governed by policies/regulations in the UWaterloo undergraduate calendar or other places.

Motion 1: To waive the two-reading rule for the *Attendance* policy. One reading is sufficient given that this is considered housekeeping.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (24 Votes: 23 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

Motion 2: To give the inactivation of the *Attendance* policy the one reading and to approve the inactivation of the policy from the Academic Operations Manual.

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

- ii. *Appointment and Reappointment of the Associate Dean:* Some changes are routine housekeeping and others emerged when we went through the reappointment process of our current associate dean. A more substantive change coming out of Academic Committee is changing “may” to “shall” appoint because there will likely never be a time when SJU has no associate dean.

Motion 3: To give the changes to the *Appointment and Reappointment of the Associate Dean* policy a first reading.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** A. Kolentsis, **Carried.** (25 Votes: 24 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)

- iii. *Senate Council Conflict of Interest:* The need for a conflict of interest policy for Senate Council and its standing committees has been identified. In developing this new policy, the Vice President Academic and Dean’s (VPAD) office completed a review of such policies at other universities. Senate Council had a brief discussion of what would be considered potential conflict of interest versus appearance of conflict of interest. It was noted that serviceable definitions can be found under item 3.

Motion 4: To give the new *Senate Council Conflict of Interest* policy a first reading.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** D. Seljak, **Carried.** (25 Votes: 25 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

8. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The VPAD highlighted several items in her written report and added one additional item:

Congratulations to C. Schwendinger who is celebrating 20 years at SJU.

The library would be grateful if members continue to weed the collection in preparation for the change from compact shelving to standard shelving.

Work is happening on the Academic Plan's objective to develop continuing education and at least one micro credential. The Certificate in Catholic Leadership employer partnership program is being created with the Diocese of Hamilton. Also, the Department of Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies (SMF) will be sponsoring a summer workshop for the Sexual Attitude Reassessment (SAR) certification.

Work is also happening on the Academic Plan's emphasis on supporting wellness. Good things are happening in partnership with Student Affairs and the Well-Link Lab.

A tenure-track search is occurring in the Department of Psychology. There will be an opportunity for people to meet the two candidates.

9. President Report

The President highlighted the items in his written report:

The Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) meets next on April 5, 2024. The group's first project is to work on an Indigenous Strategic Plan for SJU.

Nominations for three University Awards (Sweeney, Choate, White) are open until March 31, 2024. Information and criteria as well as the nomination form can be found on our website.

At last night's Lectures in Catholic Experience (LCE), Dr. T. Bruce, a sociologist of religion and an expert on American Catholicism, gave a compelling talk on women's leadership in the Catholic Church following Vatican II (six decades ago) and today. She had also hosted a workshop earlier in the day. The final LCE for the year will be held on April 15, 2024, with Br. G. Consolmagno, SJ, a planetary scientist, speaking on the dialogue between faith and science.

A donor recognition event will be held on April 15, 2024, in advance of the LCE talk that evening. It is important to recognize those who support us with their philanthropy.

C.A. MacGregor left the meeting.

10. Board Appointment/Reappointment of Vice President Academic and Dean Policy

The President took Senate Council's feedback on the composition of the VPAD Evaluation Committee to the Board. Two faculty, one contract academic staff, one staff, and one student have now been added. Comments were heard that the Board's response to this feedback was appreciated, but to bring consideration of the weighting of faculty representation back to the Board to be more in line with other institutions in North America, including UWaterloo. The complexity is that the VPAD at SJU is dean but also vice president who operates in a provost manner. The suggestion was heard for three faculty members. The President agreed to bring this back to the Board.

C.A. MacGregor returned to the meeting.

11. Indigenization and Decolonization

The President had reported on the IAC earlier under his report. He is grateful to those participating as resources who have given context to the work that the IAC will do from the experience of SJU. It may be possible to bring in others at future meetings.

A. Deman gave a presentation on how SJU can model some of the cultural excursions that larger institutions have undertaken as part of their Indigenization initiatives (including UWaterloo). For anyone who wishes to have this cultural experience, he suggested an opportunity of visiting a Six Nations reserve and highlighted a few points of interest.

12. Updates from Academic Departments

The Department of SMF will be hosting the annual SMF Research Symposium on April 10, 2024. Members were invited to attend the keynote address by Indigenous scholar Dr. D. Thomas, "Gayenshragowa: The Everlasting Love," at 9:30 AM.

The Department of SMF will be hosting the SAR seminar on June 1-2, 2024.

The Psychology Search Committee will be interviewing two short-listed candidates on April 2 and 4, 2024. Faculty and staff are invited to participate in the candidates' research and teaching sessions and details will be coming out soon.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

March 22, 2024

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