



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, November 20, 2020 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Cristina Vanin (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, John Arnou, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Sue Brubacher, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Mike Gourlay, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Diana Lobb, Viola Poletes Montgomery, David Perrin, Lorna Rourke, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Denise Whitehead

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Susan Brophy*, Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Stephanie Gregoire*, Katrina Kaczala*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, BJ Rye*, Anastasia Tataryn*, Ryan Touhey, Carter Watkinson, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth, Nikolaj Zunic

**regrets*

On Sabbatical/Leave: Carm De Santis, Scott Kline

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

Open Session

1. Prayer/Refection

C. Acton opened the meeting with a reflection regarding persons with disabilities being categorized. - "Disabled," by Wilfred Owen.

2. Chair's Remarks

University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) has announced that Dr. Vivek Goel, former vice-president, research and innovation at the University of Toronto, will become the next president and vice-chancellor as of July 1, 2021. The Chair had the opportunity to meet Goel, who comes with relevant experience working with federated and affiliated institutions. Goel will be an asset to the University in terms of advancing its research position and with his commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. He was involved in the SARS outbreak years ago and is now on advisory committees regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.

St. Jerome's University (SJU) employees will receive an additional holiday on December 23, 2020, as well as two floater days to be used before April 30, 2021. Recognizing that the community is under a lot of strain, the University is looking for ways to give some form of release. The University is also looking at organizing an end-of-year holiday celebration.

The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) search process is going well. The Chair will report more in his president's report.

Martha Fauteux is retiring as the director of Campus Ministry. Congratulations were extended to Fauteux on being awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice from Pope Francis at the request of the Bishop of Hamilton. This is a remarkable award granted to members of the clergy and lay persons for their significant contribution and service to the Catholic Church.

3. Agenda Review, Declare Conflicts, Additions, Changes

No conflicts were declared.

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

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

Consent Agenda

4. Approval of the Minutes of October 23, 2020

5. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

6. Governance Committee Report

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

Moved: L. Rourke, **Seconded:** C. Acton, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

7. Business Arising from the Minutes of October 23, 2020 Meeting

There was no business arising.

8. Academic Committee Report

At its meeting on May 22, 2020, Senate Council passed the motion that Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 course evaluations would use UWaterloo's online evaluation system (eEvaluate) through the Faculty of Arts. At the time, we did not know whether classes would be back on campus or still remote in the Winter 2021 term.

Senate Council discussed extending the May 22, 2020 motion to include the Winter 2021 term. The VPAD confirmed that instructors can request letters explaining the exceptional circumstances. These letters may be included as part of a member's case file when applying for renewal, tenure, or promotion.

Motion: That Winter 2021 SJU course evaluations be held using UWaterloo Arts online evaluations through the eEvaluate system.

That the data collected will be provided to the instructor who will not be compelled to share the data.

That upon request, an instructor will be provided with a letter for their records explaining the exceptional circumstances of Winter 2021 course evaluations at SJU.

Moved: C. Vanin, **Seconded:** D. Perrin, **Carried.**

9. Interim Vice President Academic and Dean Report

C. Vanin highlighted that UWaterloo has made a decision regarding Winter 2021 academic schedule changes. Instructors have received various emails with this information.

Sincere thanks were extended to the staff recruitment team who are working hard to find meaningful ways to recruit remotely and make good connections with prospective students.

10. President's Report

P. Meehan provided an overview of the President's report.

The search to find Martha Fauteux's successor has been successful and a candidate has been offered the position.

SJU is following UWaterloo and Public Health authorities as we move forward with COVID-19 protocols and communications. We will be paying close attention to today's press announcement from the Ontario premier, which we expect will include further safety measures.

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group continues its work. The President expects a formal recommendation from the group in the new year.

The VPAD Appointment Committee had a very good first meeting in which it drafted the mandate for the VPAD role. The mandate was circulated to the Board of Governors and Senate Council for feedback. The mandate will be completed shortly and taken forward to the appropriate bodies for approval. The ad for the VPAD position will be posted in December, closing at the end of January.

The first meeting date of the proposed SJU Assembly will be announced shortly, to be before the Christmas break. Draft terms of reference will be distributed to faculty, staff, and contract academic staff for discussion.

11. Updates from Academic Departments

There were no updates from Academic Departments.

12. New Business

Due to no pressing matters, the Governance Committee has decided to cancel the Senate Council meeting on December 11, 2020.

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

Moved: K. Lappin-Fortin, **Seconded:** C. Acton, **Carried.**

cs/
November 20, 2020