



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## Senate Council

### Minutes of the Friday, February 26, 2021 Meeting

**Present:** Peter Meehan (Chair), Cristina Vanin (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Susan Brophy, Sue Brubacher, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Mike Gourlay, Stephanie Gregoire, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis, Diana Lobb, Viola Poletes Montgomery, David Perrin, Lorna Rourke, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Anastasia Tataryn, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Jessica Vorsteveld, Denise Whitehead

**Recording Secretary:** Christine Schwendinger

**Absent:** Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Katrina Kaczala\*, Kerry Lappin-Fortin\*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Ryan Touhey, Carter Watkinson, David Williams, Nikolaj Zunic

*\*regrets*

**On Sabbatical/Leave:** Honor Brabazon, Carm De Santis, Scott Kline, Chad Wriglesworth

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

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### ***Open Session***

#### **1. Prayer/Refection**

R. Cauchi-Santoro opened the meeting with a reflection regarding young people and the reality of mental health, especially during this time of the pandemic.

#### **2. Chair's Remarks**

The President's Working Group on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) has completed Phase 1 and they have submitted a summary report of their findings with recommendations. The members of the working group were thanked for their work. The process will now move into the second phase, "Development of an Action Plan," with the President's Advisory Group.

An announcement will be going out soon regarding opportunities for various levels of the community to participate in strategic planning consultations, end of March into April.

SJU continues to operate under COVID-19 protocols. The Chair recognized that this is a particularly challenging time for people, balancing work, research, and other parts of life, especially for those with young families.

Thank you to M. Caird and S. Brubacher for their efforts on the SJU Community Spirit Booster events, which have been gratefully received.

The next SJU Assembly will be held on March 12, 2021. Suggestions for agenda items are welcome.

#### **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:** D. Perrin, **Carried.**

### Consent Agenda

4. **Approval of the Minutes of November 20, 2020**
5. **Interim Vice President Academic and Dean's Report**
  - Appointments as of January 1, 2021 (for information)

**Motion:** To approve and receive for information by consent items 4 and 5 above.

**Moved:** K. Bonner, **Seconded:** L. Rourke, **Carried.**

### Regular Agenda

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes of November 20, 2020 Meeting**

There was no business arising.

7. **Governance Committee Report**

T. Connolly, Chair, highlighted from the written report that the Governance Committee continues to review the Senate Council terms of reference, including the composition and duties of Senate Council standing committees and the election process.

The Governance Committee presented a motion to postpone indefinitely the motion 1 tabled at the October 5, 2020 special Senate Council meeting, as allowed by Robert's Rules of Order.

**Motion:** To postpone indefinitely the tabled motion from the October 5, 2020 Senate Council meeting.

**Moved:** A. Kolentsis, **Seconded:** D. Perrin, **Carried. (2 abstentions)**

8. **Experiential Learning Advisory Committee Report**

V. Austen, Chair, highlighted from the written report that the Experiential Learning Advisory Committee's (ELAC) work remains slow because the current pandemic has put a pause on the University's experiential learning activities. ELAC's current priorities are to review its terms of reference (there are questions around its scope, for example, pertaining to Finn) and to establish a good evaluation and approval process for new and continuing partnerships following the Senate Council approved partnership principles (ELAC is an advisory committee to the VPAD in determining partnerships).

On behalf of ELAC, the Chair presented *Learning in Action: Experiential Education at St. Jerome's University*. The document defines experiential learning at SJU and outlines the value this brings to students, faculty, and partners. ELAC was thanked for capturing this information and discussion followed. ELAC has started the discussion on what opportunities it might have to offer guidance and resources; it was suggested that ELAC could be of service in coordinating with UWaterloo and thus guiding researchers who have international placements available for students. One of ELAC's long-term goals is to assess what experiential learning relationships and activities are already occurring at SJU and the *Learning in Action* document will assist with defining and evolving that environment. ELAC is open to feedback on the *Learning in Action* document.

9. **Committee on Research and Scholarship Report**

M. Drysdale, Chair, highlighted from the written report that the three Faculty Research Grant (FRG) applications received for the 2021-2022 competition are out for peer review; a second call

for applications, if viable, will be sent out sometime in March. FRG reports were due February 15, 2021. Members were reminded of the March 1, 2021 deadline for the 2020-2021 Aid to Scholarly Publications Fund (ASPF) and Additional Professional Development Fund (APDF).

The Chair presented an APDF application form.

**Motion 1:** That one reading of the Additional Professional Development Fund application form is sufficient, to be added to the Additional Professional Development Fund policy as an appendix.

**Moved:** D. Perrin, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.**

**Motion 2:** To give the Additional Professional Development Fund application form the one reading and to approve that the application form be added to the Additional Professional Development Fund policy as an appendix.

**Moved:** C. Acton, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.**

#### 10. Academic Committee Report

C. Vanin, Chair, presented Legal Studies new courses, course changes, and plan changes and invited S. Brophy, Chair of Sociology and Legal Studies, to speak to the proposals.

**Motion 1:** To approve the following new courses, all of them to be effective September 1, 2022:

(i) LS 4XX: Law of the Environment;

(ii) LS 4XX: Democracy, Revolution, Law;

(iii) LS/SOC 2XX: Surveillance Studies;

(iv) LS/SOC 3XX: Socio-Legal Approaches to Privacy in Contemporary Contexts;

(v) LS/SOC 4XX: Cybercrime and Digital Harm.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** S. Brophy, **Carried. (1 abstention)**

LS 2XX/SMF 250: Family Policy and the Law and LS 3XX/SMF 350: Love and the Law will be going to UGAG as *SMF* course changes to add LS cross-listings.

Friendly amendment: An additional change was made to the LS 221/SOC 221 prerequisite to be consistent with the language in the LS 280/SOC 280 prerequisite: **“One of LS 101, SOC 101/101R...”**

**Motion 2:** To approve the following course changes, all of them to be effective September 1, 2022:

(i) the addition of Legal Studies cross-listings to SMF 250 and SMF 350;

(ii) pre-requisite changes to LS 221/SOC 221 (as revised), LS 280/SOC 280;

(iii) course component changes to LS 496, LS 498.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** S. Brophy, **Carried. (1 abstention)**

**Motion 3:** To approve the Legal Studies Minor plan change, to be effective September 1, 2022.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** S. Brophy, **Carried. (1 abstention)**

The Human Rights Program, St. Paul’s University College has proposed to add two LS courses, as well as several other courses, to the Human Rights Minor list of approved electives. They are also adding LS 101: Introduction to Legal Studies as a prerequisite to two of their 200-level courses. This will help make the course progression more logical for students moving through the Minor.

Friendly amendments to HRTS 202 proposal: HRTS 102 will now be changed to HRTS 204, instead of HRTS 202. Also, an antirequisite for HRTS 102 will be added.

**Motion 4:** To approve the Legal Studies changes in the Human Rights Minor and the Human Rights courses, to be effective September 1, 2022.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** S. Brophy, **Carried. (1 abstention)**

#### **11. Interim Vice President Academic and Dean Report**

C. Vanin, Interim VPAD, announced that K. Bonner is participating in the UWaterloo Centre for Teaching Excellence's Educational Technologies Week. Bonner's session on March 1, 2021 is titled, "Looking Backward, Looking Forward: Learnings from Remote Learning."

A reminder that March 15-16, 2021 are two additional scheduled pauses in the Winter 2021 term.

The Interim VPAD invited S. Brubacher, Director of Enrolment and Upper-Year Transitions, to speak on fall recruitment. Brubacher noted that fall 2021 numbers are down, as typical at many institutions, by about 100 applicants, but those applying and being admitted are very engaged. Recruitment has been online and virtual (e.g., webinars, Instagram). There is a desire to have some tours on campus. The annual March Break Open House will be held virtually on Saturday, March 20, 2021, 2:00-4:00 p.m. An important topic at universities right now is how we might want to change outreach and recruitment efforts by looking through a systemic racism lens.

The Interim VPAD acknowledged the ongoing uncertainty regarding the return to campus and plans for the fall. Conversations have begun on what fall might look like (scheduling will begin in May). There are many variables to think through on what is possible, including the impacts on scheduling and space allocation, criteria for classes returning face-to-face, and instructors' and students' safety and accommodations.

In response to a question about the Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies hire suspended last year, the Interim VPAD noted she can report on this once the 2021-2022 budget is approved.

#### **12. President's Report**

The President recognized the difficulty of operating under COVID-19 and expressed thanks to all who are looking at scenarios and trying to understand and figure out how and when to return to campus. Senior administration has made a commitment to communicate regularly with the community regarding return to campus planning.

The President thanked the President's Working Group on EDI for their work and encouraged members to look at the report circulated. The recommendations in the report will be the starting point for the work of the President's Advisory Group in the next phase. With SJU's unique identity, it is important that EDI has a particular emphasis, as an extension of our mission, on shaping the different activities at the University (e.g., hiring decisions, how we deliver programs). The President will report back on the work of the Advisory Group.

The VPAD Appointment Committee recently met with a team of EDI specialists from McMaster University to discuss the role that unconscious bias plays and the importance of keeping EDI concerns in mind during searches. The posting for the VPAD position closed last week and the Appointment Committee will now consider candidates. The goal is to make a final decision in May.

The strategic planning process is getting underway, an important activity for the community. The Strategic Plan Steering Committee has been established and has had one meeting with the facilitator. The first phase will involve consultation with the community, end of March/early April.

There has been continued work on the draft SJU Assembly terms of reference. There will be an opportunity to look at these again at the meeting on March 12, 2021. A call for agenda items and for nominations for the faculty seat and staff seat on the SJU Assembly Managing Committee went out today.

**13. Updates from Academic Departments**

The Lectures in Catholic Experience (LCE) is sponsoring four online lectures this year. The first is co-sponsored with the Master of Catholic Thought program: D. Perrin will speak on "The Collapse of Self-Transcendence: COVID-19 and Meaning-Making in Everyday Life," March 17, 2021, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

**14. New Business**

There was no new business.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Moved:** K. Bonner, **Seconded:** L. Rourke, **Carried.**

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February 26, 2021