



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## Senate Council

### Minutes of the Friday, March 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, Mike Gourlay, Alysia Kolentsis, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Diana Lobb, David Perrin, Viola Poletes Montgomery, Lorna Rourke, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Anastasia Tataryn, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Denise Whitehead

**Recording Secretary:** Christine Schwendinger

**Absent:** Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale\*, Stephanie Gregoire\*, Norm Klassen\*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Ryan Touhey, Jessica Vorsteveld, 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**

A. Tataryn opened the meeting with a reflection from Frantz Fanon, "My final prayer, oh my body, make me a person who always questions," with a call to continue to push, challenge, and regroup ideas and knowledge.

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

C. Schwendinger will be taking over the role of secretary to Senate Council, effective this meeting. Thank you to K. Kaczala for her past support.

The first of hopefully many SJU wine-tasting events will occur on Saturday, March 27, 2021. Participants received a wine sampler and charcuterie board (via curbside pickup). This virtual event will be a test run for the Feast, which will also be an online event in the fall.

Thank you to M. Caird and S. Brubacher for their continuing efforts on the SJU Community Spirit Booster events. It is important to have fun breathers amidst all of the online meetings.

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

### Consent Agenda

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes of February 26, 2021**

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

**Moved:** D. Perrin, **Seconded:** A. Deman, **Carried.**

**Regular Agenda**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes of February 26, 2021 Meeting**

There was no business arising.

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

D. Perrin provided a report on behalf of M. Drysdale, Chair, who was unable to attend the meeting. The Committee on Research and Scholarship has completed adjudications for the 2020-2021 Aid to Scholarly Publications Fund (ASPF), 2020-2021 Additional Professional Development Fund (APDF), and 2021-2022 Faculty Research Grant (FRG). Two faculty were awarded an ASPF, one received additional PD, and three were awarded a FRG. With the remaining funds in the Committee's budget, a second call for FRG proposals has gone out with a deadline of April 9, 2021. Academic staff can contact any of the Committee members if they have questions.

**7. Academic Committee Report**

C. Vanin, Chair, presented five Italian Studies course changes (ITALST 111, 112, 291, 292, ITALST 349/RS 349), as detailed in the written report.

**Motion 1:** To approve the ITALST course changes, to be effective September 1, 2022.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** K. Lappin-Fortin, **Carried. (1 abstention)**

C. Vanin, Chair, presented two Legal Studies course changes, being proposed by Speech Communication (SPCOM 430/LS 492, SPCOM 471), as detailed in the written report.

**Motion 2:** To approve the SPCOM/LS course changes, to be effective September 1, 2022.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** S. Brophy, **Carried.**

During this time of remote teaching, SJU has been using the Faculty of Arts' online course evaluation (Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021) with results going to the instructor only. The discussion now comes to Spring 2021 since we are still teaching remotely. There is value in providing evaluations in this remote context, but SJU has not yet moved on our own online evaluation and we do not have the capacity to issue the SJU paper evaluations (last used in Fall 2019 when we were on campus).

**Motion 3:** To approve that Spring 2021 SJU course evaluations be held using the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Arts online evaluations through the eEvaluate system.

**Moved:** C. Vanin, **Seconded:** V. Austen, **Carried.**

**8. Interim Vice President Academic and Dean Report**

C. Vanin, Interim Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD), highlighted a few items from her written report.

Thank you to L. Rourke and D. Adesso for making available the opportunity for faculty and staff to access our library collection. Thank you to D. Adesso for her work on recreating the [faculty publications](#) webpage, which is live as of today. The Library's website has a link for SJU members to submit publication information.

High-level early discussions are occurring regarding Fall 2021 planning and the variety of ways courses could be delivered, maximum classroom capacity (e.g., 50%; will be determined based on Public Health requirements), and class sizes. Discussions suggest that masks or some form of personal

protective equipment will be required. The VPAD will be working with department chairs to find out faculty members' preferred delivery mode for Fall 2021. One guiding principle is for all students to be able to progress in their degrees and, therefore, a number of courses (e.g., core courses) that are offered face-to-face will also have to be available online. Fall 2021 scheduling is imminent.

March Break Open House was held virtually on Saturday, March 20, 2021. The event went well, with lower attendance than if it would have been on campus.

## 9. President's Report

D. Perrin gave the first online lecture in the 2021 Lectures in Catholic Experience on March 17, 2021, "The Collapse of Self-Transcendence: COVID-19 and Meaning-Making in Everyday Life." Thank you to Perrin and also to D. Seljak, Lectures in Catholic Experience Coordinator, and M. Caird for organizing.

An announcement recently went out regarding the return of the role of Registrar and the return of the reporting structure of the Director, Student Affairs to the VPAD. The Senate Council Terms of Reference and academic policies will be updated as necessary.

Strategic planning is in its first phase of listening and gathering information from stakeholder groups. One focus group session has occurred with the Board of Governors and one with the community; two more community sessions are scheduled. Thank you to those who are taking the time and energy to attend these sessions. There has been a lot of interest in addressing questions on shaping our future and it has been a good start to the process. The President will keep the community updated.

The President's Advisory Group on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) has now been constituted. The President met with the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) heads regarding EDI and anti-racism and also with the UWaterloo Vice-President, Research and International (VPRI), who oversees the President's Anti-Racism Taskforce. UWaterloo is happy to support SJU's work (e.g., curricular development specialists will be hired to address problems of decolonizing the curriculum) and will report periodically to SJU; SJU will also report periodically to UWaterloo. This will assist SJU as it continues to develop the work of the Advisory Group and beyond.

The VPAD Appointment Committee is reviewing a healthy list of candidates for the VPAD position. The pace of meetings is slower right now in this remote environment and the delay in process is strictly because of this. The goal is to have a recommendation to the Board of Governors by June.

C. Dean, UWaterloo VPRI, will be completing her first five-year term in this position in June 2022; she is willing to renew her appointment for a second five-year term. M. Drysdale is the AFIW representative on the UWaterloo VPRI Nominating Committee and she invites expressions of opinion or ideas regarding the role of the VPRI or for the incumbent.

## 10. Updates from Academic Departments

C. Acton, Acting Chair of English, noted that the recent international review of the UWaterloo Statistics and Actuarial Science program made a special point of commending the communications elements of the program. The course specifically tailored to the program is ENGL 378/MTHEL 300: *Professional Communications in Statistics and Actuarial Science*, which is taught solely by SJU. Kudos were given to our English faculty who teach this course: M. Spielmacher, S. Terzian, A. Deman, D. Lobb, and recently J. Hutchison and M. Lesiuk.

The Department of Italian and French Studies was congratulated for receiving a grant from the Italian Embassy for the fourth consecutive year. An application for a fifth year was recently submitted.

The next 2021 Lectures in Catholic Experience will be an online lecture by P. Meehan, "Progressive or Conservative? Archbishop Pocock and the Renewal of the Church in Canada," April 23, 2021, 7:30 pm. The first lecture by D. Perrin on March 17, 2021, the first-ever online lecture, had good success and M. Caird, M. Regehr, and T. Kelly were thanked for their help coordinating the event.

**11. New Business**

D. Lobb is participating in a round table discussion titled, "Theatre and the Art of Adaptation," hosted online by the Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre, March 27, 2021, 2:00 pm (<https://kwlt.org/>).

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

**Moved:** K. Lappin-Fortin, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

March 26, 2021

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