



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, April 30, 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, Carm De Santis, Maureen Drysdale, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Diana Lobb, David Perrin, Lorna Rourke, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Jessica Vorsteveld, Denise Whitehead

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Mike Gourlay, Stephanie Gregoire*, Jane Nicholas, Viola Poletes Montgomery, John Rempel, Anastasia Tataryn*, Ryan Touhey, Carter Watkinson, David Williams, Nikolaj Zunic

**regrets*

On Sabbatical/Leave: Honor Brabazon, Chad Wriglesworth

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

Open Session

1. Prayer/Refection

K. Lappin-Fortin opened the meeting with a poem ("If" by Rudyard Kipling).

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair began the meeting with a recognition for K. Lappin-Fortin, Department of Italian and French Studies, who retires on May 1, 2021. T. Serafini, S. Brubacher, and R. Cauchi-Santoro gave invited remarks and others offered congratulations and best wishes.

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:** K. Lappin-Fortin, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Approval of the Minutes of March 26, 2021

5. Governance Committee Report

- Call for Nominations: 2021-2022 Committees

Motion: To approve by consent items 4 and 5 above.

Moved: T. Serafini, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the March 26, 2021 Meeting

There was no business arising.

7. Governance Committee Report

Board of Governors' Response to Senate Council: In a written response to Senate Council, the Board of Governors clarified the communication channel between Senate Council and the Board. The Board also responded regarding the two motions Senate Council brought to the Board last year around the presidential search process. For the latter, the Governance Committee will provide Senate Council with the motions in question and discussion will occur at the next meeting on what information to submit to the Board on this matter by the September 1, 2021 deadline.

Senate Council Terms of Reference: T. Connolly, Chair, thanked the Governance Committee and its secretaries (past and present) for their work on reviewing the Senate Council Terms of Reference (TOR) and also the standing committees for providing feedback on their own duties and responsibilities. On behalf of the Governance Committee, Connolly presented the Senate Council TOR and provided an overview of the suggested revisions made. The purpose and character of the revisions are for clarification and streamlining current practice. Discussion occurred and several recommendations were heard for the Governance Committee's consideration. The Senate Council TOR will come forward to the next meeting for a second reading.

8. Experiential Learning Advisory Committee Report

Partnership Principles: Experiential Learning / Guidelines for Establishing Partnership Agreements: Experiential Learning: The Experiential Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) brought forward proposed revisions to the Partnership Principles and Guidelines. ELAC is attempting to better define partnerships formed between the University and an external organization or individual. A question was raised on whether these principles apply to partnerships negotiated with grants (where the university enters into legally binding contracts with an external partner to support the research); further conversation will occur on this. The Partnership Principles and Guidelines will come forward to the next meeting for a second reading.

9. Interim Vice President Academic and Dean Report

C. Vanin, Interim Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD), highlighted Fall 2021 planning/scheduling from her written report. Fall planning has included chairs reaching out to faculty regarding their preferences among the scheduling options available for the fall term. Comments were heard that the distribution of students in classrooms (50% capacity) and ventilation are essential items that the University needs to keep in mind.

10. President's Report

At the UWaterloo Senate meeting on April 19, 2021, the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) announced their WUSA Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award recipients. Congratulations to V. Austen for winning the award for the 2019 teaching year.

The UWaterloo President announced that they are planning to expand in-person experiences for more students this September, which means more employees returning to work on campus.

Vivek Goel, UWaterloo's next president, gave a keynote address at the Universities Canada meetings this week on COVID-19 and where we are going. Goel is very engaged with this topic; he sits on provincial and national committees that are addressing COVID-19. Goel commented that there will be a good supply of vaccines, but the question will be how to address vaccine hesitancy or reluctance, which appears will slow down the movement towards herd immunity (i.e., it may not happen that everyone is vaccinated by the summer). The conversation is changing all the time and we must proceed with caution.

Strategic planning is moving into the second phase. Feedback received from the stakeholder focus group conversations will guide the Strategic Plan Steering Committee's work of creating goals and objectives for SJU's next Strategic Plan. There will be more opportunities in the fall for the community to contribute to the strategic planning process.

The President's Advisory Group on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) met recently. Members are interacting with the UWaterloo President's Anti-Racism Taskforce (PART). The President is also working with the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) to find ways to share information. This will help inform the direction SJU will take.

The short-listed candidates for the VPAD position will be giving presentations to the community; the first one was earlier today. The candidates will have special meetings scheduled in May with Senate Council and the Board of Governors.

May 5th is recognized as Red Dress Day in Canada, the national day of awareness for missing and murdered Indigenous women (#MMIW, #REDressProject). Thank you to A. Deman for raising awareness on this important issue and for his work on a Red Dress tribute at SJU on May 5, 2021.

11. Updates from Academic Departments

The Department of English congratulated V. Austen on her WUSA Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

The lecture by P. Meehan on April 23, 2021, was well received. The next 2021 Lectures in Catholic Experience will be by Carol Duncan, "The Black Church in Canada," May 14, 2021, 7:30 pm.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board recently announced that it will start flying the Pride flag at its schools in June. An announcement will be coming out regarding SJU flying its flag again in June.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre will be hosting a variety show this evening, April 30, 2021, 8:00 pm. D. Lobb will host Poetry 101 and will be talking about anaphora.

12. New Business

There was no new business.

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

Moved: T. Serafini, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

April 30, 2021

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