



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, May 29, 2020 Meeting

Present: Scott Kline (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, Carm De Santis, Maureen Drysdale, Mike Gourlay, Stephanie Gregoire, Norm Klassen, Kerry Lappin-Fortin, Diana Lobb, Zack MacDonald, David Perrin, Viola Poletes Montgomery, Lorna Rourke, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Anastasia Tataryn, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Andrew Stumpf, Carter Watkinson, David Williams, Denise Whitehead, Chad Wriglesworth

Recording Secretary: Katrina Kaczala

Guests/Resources: Christine Schwendinger; Saphron Moule, Director, Finance and Accounting

Absent: Chris Burris, Fred Desroches, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Ryan Touhey, , Nikolaj Zunic
**regrets*

On Sabbatical/Leave: Susan Brophy, Alysia Kolentsis

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

Open Session

1. Prayer/Refection

S. Kline opened the meeting with a reflection.

2. Chair's Remark's

It is now public that SJU will be flying the pride flag in June. Positive feedback from the community and the church has been received.

The pride flag will be raised at SJU on Monday, June 1st at 10 a.m.

3. Agenda Review, Declare Conflicts, Additions, Changes

Carried.

Regular Agenda

4. 2020-2021 Proposed Budget (Revised)

M. Gourlay presented the proposed 2020-2021 revised operating and capital budgets to the Senate Council. The budget has been approved by the Board Finance and Audit Committee and, after presentation to Senate Council, it will then go to the Board of Governors for final approval.

M. Gourlay described five key priorities as well as some assumptions the budget team held at the forefront of their planning and maintained while preparing the revised budget.

M. Gourlay reviewed the operating revenue, and salaries and benefits highlighting the impact the COVID-19 situation will have on ancillary revenue. During the revision process, departments worked together to reduce their budgets in order to compensate for the reduction in operating revenue.

The budgetary impacts COVID-19 will continue to have on different areas of the university were outlined.

It was proposed that the deficit budget be funded using funds in the University's savings account and by drawing funds from the University's unrestricted investments.

The capital budget was also reviewed during the presentation. It was proposed that many of the planned capital projects that have yet to be started be deferred to 2021-2022. Some projects, due to their urgency or because of commitments made with the University of Waterloo, are planned to move forward in 2020-2021 and were presented within the capital budget.

In discussion:

- Senate Council members discussed instructor needs for TA, IT, and other additional supports for teaching remotely. Department chairs were asked to take into account the academic supports their department would require when revising their budgets. Providing support to the University's contract academic staff was also emphasized within the conversation.
- A consolidated list of resources found at SJU and UW will be created and distributed to instructors so that they can be aware of what resources are currently available to them.
- A Senate Council member inquired about the Feast of St. Jerome and whether there would be an online event. There are plans to hold a virtual event and it will focus on raising funds for mental health initiatives.

Motion: Whereas teaching and research are central to the mission of St. Jerome's University, and Whereas the switch to remote teaching and learning under the conditions imposed by the Covid-19 crisis threatens to disrupt the student learning experience, and Whereas the burden of offering quality remote instruction for these students requires a greater commitment in terms of resources and time from faculty and support staff, the SJU Senate Council recommends that,

in its consideration of the 2020-21 budget, the Board of Governors provide adequate funding to support teaching and research during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moved: D. Seljak, **Seconded:** M. Drysdale, **Carried.**

Senate Council thanked the budget team for the level of transparency and clarity that was provided during the budgeting process. S. Kline acknowledged and thanked M. Gourlay and S. Moule for their hard work on revising the budget.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

Meeting adjourned.

kk/

May 29, 2020