

Senate Council
Minutes of the Friday, September 27, 2024 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Rosina Aiello, Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Serena Catania, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Jesse Hutchison, Scott Kline, Carlie Leroux, Clayton McCourt, Saphron Moule, Carl Rodrigue, Yuri Sangalli, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Siobhan Sutherland, Anastasia Tataryn, Bruno Tremblay, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth

Guest: Karen Radcliffe

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Fred Desroches, Alishau Diebold*, Stephanie Gregoire*, Norm Klassen, Diana Lobb*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, BJ Rye, Sylvia Terzian*, Ryan Touhey*, Nikolaj Zunic

**regrets*

On Sabbatical/Leave: Chris Burris, Carm De Santis, Alysia Kolentsis

Note: Seven members joined the meeting via the online video conferencing platform, Zoom.

Open Session

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection

T. Connolly opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement followed by reading a poem by H. Derozio titled, "Sonnet to the Pupils of the Hindu College."

2. Chair's Remarks

Welcome to new members, R. Aiello and Y. Sangalli. Welcome back to V. Austen, Associate Dean, and all members.

The inaugural Health Humanities public lecture will be held today starting at 11:45 a.m.

Senate Council is returning to in-person voting where members raise their hands in the meeting for motions. Those connected online should put their vote in the chat or also raise their hand. For substantive motions (where the recording secretary would have launched a Zoom poll in online meetings), the number of Yes/No/Abstain will no longer be recorded.

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: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the May 24, 2024 Senate Council Meeting

5. Governance Committee Report

- a. 2024-2025 Committee Membership List
- b. Call for Nominations

6. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

7. Library Advisory Committee Report

- a. Library Renovation Project

8. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

- a. Summary of SJU Curricular Matters, 2023-2024 Academic Year
- b. Appointments

Motion: To approve by consent item 4 and to receive for information items 5-8 above.

Moved: V. Austen, **Seconded:** D. Whitehead, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

9. Business Arising from the Minutes of the May 24, 2024 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

10. Governance Committee Report

- a. *Renewal, Tenure, and Promotions Committee (RTPC) Conflict of Interest Guidelines:* RTPC Conflict of Interest Guidelines were presented for information and discussion. The Collective Agreement (full-time unit) gives the RTPC the power to develop such guidelines (no Senate Council approval required as this is not a policy). In drafting these guidelines, the RTPC reviewed other university policies, particularly University of Waterloo Policy 69: Conflict of Interest, for comparison. The RTPC members were thanked for their work.

11. Academic Committee Report

- a. *Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies Plan Changes:* Adding a course to the Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies (Sexualities, Relationships, and Families [SRF], effective September 1, 2025) approved courses list in the plans was missed in the larger proposal last year when the program name change came through.

Motion: To approve adding ITALST 112/SRF 112 to the approved courses list in the SRF academic plans, to be effective September 1, 2025.

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** D. Whitehead, **Carried.**

12. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) referred members to her written report. She added a few additional items.

At the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Senate meeting this past Monday, the Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies name change to Sexualities, Relationships, and Families was approved, effective September 1, 2025. We will now need to communicate and launch the new program name. Thank you again to the chair and department for their work on that proposal, which was in response to recommendations in the cyclical program review. The Religious Studies name change to Religion, Culture, and Spirituality was also approved, effective September 1, 2025. Religious Studies is relatively unique on campus in that it is a cooperative effort of five agencies, UWaterloo and each Affiliated and Federated Institution of Waterloo (AFIW; current chair is from SJU); due to this complexity, the name change proposal did not go through each AFIW approving body.

Further from UWaterloo Senate, President V. Goel had reported on items happening at the federal and provincial government level. The federal cap on the number of international student visas will now involve graduate students (previously exempt) and there will be additional restrictions on spouses of graduate students getting work permits. This will have implications on international

recruitment, potentially impact people's interest in wanting to come, and financial implications. Provincially, funding for all Ontario universities is tied to Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) accountability metrics. We are in the early stages of the SMA4 planning period (SMA3 was deeply impacted by COVID) and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities has made clear that for the first two years of SMA4 they are not making any adjustments to its corridor funding model. The Ministry's increasing accountability requirements now also include being transparent about the cost of textbooks and that this cost be included on syllabi. UWaterloo and SJU will launch this new mandate starting January 2025. Details on what cost to include (e.g., bookstore, Amazon) and reporting compliance are being worked out and will be communicated by the VPAD and Associate Dean.

Thank you for a successful launch of term. There was a great turnout at the Dean's Brunch and Orientation Investiture Ceremony earlier this month. Under the consent agenda, basic data that profiles our new first-year co-registered students has been provided.

13. President Report

The President highlighted the items in his written report.

September 30, 2024, marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, a day to honour the survivors of residential schools in Canada and their families (one of the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report). As a Catholic university, SJU has a special obligation to this day. Those interested in participating in UWaterloo's event and walk around the ring road are welcome to meet at 10:45 a.m., SJ2 Atrium, to go together.

Feast will be held on October 5, 2024. Sister M. Taylor, SSND, will be honoured with the Sweeney Award, SJU's highest award.

The Lectures in Catholic Experience, in its 43rd year, began on September 12, 2024 with a talk from President and Vice Chancellor Emeritus Dr. M. Higgins on, "The Synod, the Pope and the Controversies - Why We Have Cause to Rejoice and Not to Fear On." The second lecture was last night with an engaging talk from Dr. G. Watts on, "The Spiritual Turn and the Challenge of Solidarity." The next lecture will be on November 14, 2024, with Dr. M. Hoven speaking on the life of Father David Bauer's vision for hockey in Canada.

The first Health Humanities public lecture will be held today, 11:45 a.m., SJ2 1002, with Dr. A. Charise, founder of the first Health Humanities program in Canada, speaking on, "We Have Always Been Unwell: Arts, Community, and Living with Health Humanities."

The first SJU Assembly of this year will be held on October 25, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

14. Indigenization and Decolonization

Monday, September 30, 2024, is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The next meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) will happen later in October. The IAC will be working on an Indigenous Strategic Plan for SJU. The President will bring the suggestion to the IAC for them to meet faculty and staff.

Former Supreme Court Justice F. Iacobucci will be visiting SJU to give a special lecture in LS 101 on Canada and Indigenous People, October 21, 2024, 10:00-11:20 a.m. Some spaces are available for members of our community. Thank you to Drs. G. Niccoli and K. Bonner for arranging this lecture and to Dr. A. Tataryn for hosting it in her course and moderating.

15. Announcements and Events

The first event of the 2024-2025 Reading Series will be held on October 4, 2024, 4:30 p.m., SJ2 1002, with author S. Gordon reading. Proceeds of Gordon's recent book, *A Horse at the Window*, will be going to a charity for homeless and low-income people living in Toronto.

The DRAGEN Lab will be hosting Dr. S. Sherlock on October 9, 2024, 5:30 p.m., SJ2 1004. Sherlock is an archaeological colleague of the Lab who has offered experiential learning opportunities for our students in England over the past two summers. In his talk, "4000 Years of PreHistory: Excavating the Neolithic, Bronze, and Iron Ages at Street House, UK," he will also report on the great work our students are doing; they have found a ringstone with mounds of human remains.

16. New Business

There was no new business.

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

Moved: A. Stumpf, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

September 27, 2024

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