



Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, November 29, 2024 Meeting

Present: Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Rosina Aiello, Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Serena Catania, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Alishau Diebold, Maureen Drysdale, Jesse Hutchison, Carlie Leroux, Diana Lobb, Clayton McCourt, Carl Rodrigue, Yuri Sangalli, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead, David Williams

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Roberta Cauchi-Santoro*, Fred Desroches, Stephanie Gregoire, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline*, Peter Meehan*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, BJ Rye, Siobhan Sutherland, Anastasia Tataryn*, Sylvia Terzian*, Ryan Touhey*, Chad Wriglesworth, Nikolaj Zunic

**regrets*

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

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

Open Session

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection

C. Acton opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement followed by reading a poem by I. Rosenberg titled, "Break of Day in the Trenches."

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair has sent regrets. The Vice Chair will chair this meeting

This is the second in-person meeting of Senate Council. Members were reminded to use their microphone when speaking so that those joining online can hear.

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:** D. Whitehead, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the September 27, 2024 Senate Council Meeting

Motion: To approve by consent item 4 above.

Moved: V. Austen, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the September 27, 2024 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Governance Committee Report

- a. *Academic Operations Manual: Course Outline Requirements and Template:* Changes are being made to this policy and template to follow the provincial government's Bill 166 mandate that the cost of textbooks, readings, and other learning materials be added to all course outlines. The change is of benefit to students because it makes these costs more transparent. Because it is a government directive with which we must comply, the Governance Committee

proposed waiving the two-reading rule and felt that Senate Council should vote in a single reading on whether the added language captures this important change.

Some discussion occurred on preserving collegial governance procedures and autonomy and still having the two readings (i.e., other government directives may be more complex and we do not want to set a precedent). However, we have to comply to this particular government directive by the Winter term. A suggestion was heard to revise the first motion and add “without prejudice.”

Motion 1: To waive the two-reading rule for the *Course Outline Requirements* policy and accompanying template. One reading is sufficient given that SJU must follow this provincial government directive.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** K. Bonner

Friendly Amendment

Motion 1: To waive the two-reading rule without prejudice for the *Course Outline Requirements* policy and accompanying template. One reading is sufficient given that SJU must follow this provincial government directive.

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

Motion 2: To give the changes to the *Course Outline Requirements* policy and accompanying template the one reading and to approve the changes of the policy and template for the Academic Operations Manual.

Moved: T. Connolly, **Seconded:** C. Vanin, **Carried.**

- b. *Dissolution of Experiential Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC):* Since being established, ELAC has done some excellent work for experiential learning partnerships at the University (principles, guidelines, assessment forms). Thanks were given to everyone involved on ELAC over the years. In recent years, there has not been much work for ELAC to do and it is felt that the committee has served its purpose. The recommendation is to dissolve ELAC, and any future work for external partnerships (not research or classroom partnerships) would be done through another committee. According to its Terms of Reference, Senate Council can amend regulations for the conduct of its affairs and its committee structure without Board of Governors’ approval.

Motion 3: To approve the dissolution of the Experiential Learning Advisory Committee and to transfer its duties and responsibilities to the Academic Committee.

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

7. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

The Research Officer provided an update on the Committee on Research and Scholarship’s upcoming work. The Committee is to adjudicate the applications for all internal research support at the same time in a particular order—Additional Professional Development Fund (APDF), Aid to Scholarly Publications Fund, and then the Faculty Research Grant, with any remaining funds of set increments converted into Course Credits for the new Faculty Research Release Pool. For this year only, the application deadline is December 20, 2024. Priorities for research support remain unchanged. The Committee will meet in January and applicants will hear a decision by end of January.

There has been a change in the rollover amount of faculty member’s professional development (PD) fund, 50%/year with now no maximum cap. It was raised that faculty need to know of any adjustments to their PD so that they know whether to apply to the APDF. For impacted members, Finance will be communicating any adjustments on the next monthly fund reports.

The Research Officer announced an initiative coming out of discussions on the intellectual life of the University and ways to sustain our research efforts. Starting in the Winter term, invited faculty

members will speak on their research (restoring what was previously done at the former College Council). Dates/times of the talks are to be determined and more information will be sent out.

8. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

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

The VPAD is the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) representative on the Arts Restructuring Group established by the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Dean of Arts. The group meets bi-weekly and discussions are confidential. There will indeed be some kind of restructuring, the desire being to complete it this year. Current UWaterloo senior administration value what is being done in Arts, but new administration may not provide the same support and Arts wants to be in a structurally strong position. The plan is for the Dean to bring a report to the Arts Leadership Group in January, followed by other committees. The VPAD will keep Senate Council updated.

Given financial restraints at UWaterloo, Arts has started cancelling undergraduate courses with enrolment under 18, unless there is a clear rationale (e.g., seminars, needed for degree requirement). The project is raising awareness of where there is low enrolment, potentially finding efficiencies, and going forward really planning what courses are viable. It will raise discussions with departments on caps. The Arts Graduate Affairs Group is beginning to talk about graduate courses in light of similar financial restraints and changes in Master's funding packages (a little more judgment will be needed on the graduate side). This is the first term where cancelling courses is in place, and a few terms are needed to see how this works out. SJU does not have the same requirement, but we need to be responsible stewards in meeting our equity obligations. It is a difficult time for the Ontario university sector.

The Director, Marketing and Communications sent out a memo this morning with further details on SJU's website content transition. The new website will go live on December 4, 2024.

We look forward to welcoming the new Academic Administrative Assistant on December 9, 2024.

9. President Report

The President had provided a written report. No questions or comments on the report were heard.

10. Indigenization and Decolonization

The Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) meets four times a year. It recently had its fall meeting and meets next early in the new year. The IAC is working on an Indigenous Strategic Plan for SJU. There had been a request for IAC members to meet the community, which will be considered based on their availability.

11. Announcements and Events

The Fall Author Event is being held after the Senate Council meeting in the Fireplace Lounge.

12. New Business

A reminder that the Sustainability Advisory Committee is seeking input/feedback on the draft SJU Environmental Management System (EMS) circulated to the community.

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

Moved: C.A. MacGregor, **Seconded:** K. Bonner, **Carried.**

November 29, 2024

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