



Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, September 26, 2025 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Andrew Deman, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale, Scott Kline, Carlie Leroux-Demir, Ariana Moreno Tanaka, Karen Radcliffe, Carl Rodrigue, BJ Rye, Yuri Sangalli, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Bruno Tremblay, David Williams, Nikolaj Zunic

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Michelle Atkin, Chris Burris, Tristanne Connolly, Carm De Santis*, Stephanie Gregoire, Norm Klassen, Alysia Kolentsis*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, David Seljak*, Siobhan Sutherland, Ryan Touhey*, Chad Wriglesworth

**regrets*

On Sabbatical/Leave: Andrew Stumpf, Anastasia Tataryn, Sylvia Terzian, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead

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

Open Session

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection

A. Deman opened the meeting with reading the valedictory poem that Dr. W.J. Fischer delivered in 1902, followed by a territorial acknowledgement. Our library currently has an exhibit on display about Fischer.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed all to a new academic year, welcomed back those returning from sabbatical, and introduced the new Students' Union representative.

A reminder that membership in the Senate Council Terms of Reference has changed for staff representatives, now being appointments by the Governance Committee. We welcome K. Radcliffe, Director, Finance and Accounting, as a non-voting ex-officio member.

Senate Council will be using Mentimeter in this meeting to vote on specific motions.

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:** C. Acton, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the May 23, 2025 Senate Council Meeting

5. Governance Committee Report

- a. 2025-2026 Committee Membership List
- b. Call for Nominations

6. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

7. Library Advisory Committee Annual Report

8. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

- a. Summary of SJU Curricular Matters, 2024-2025 Academic Year
- b. Appointments

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

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

Regular Agenda

9. Business Arising from the Minutes of the May 23, 2025 Meeting

- a. Page 3, item 8c.iii., *Faculty Research Release Pool (FRRP)*: A minor housekeeping edit made to the FRRP policy was brought to Senate Council's attention.
- b. Page 5, item 8c.vi., *Faculty Research Grant*, final paragraph: The minutes state that the intention for the *Faculty Research Grant* policy was to ensure decisions are not arbitrary and the Committee on Research and Scholarship (CRS) does not scrutinize budgets line by line. A member of Senate Council raised that in this year's competition, applicants were encouraged to submit cost ranges for their budget items, meaning this will require the CRS to deliberate on individual budget lines, a reversal of the intention. The Research Officer disagreed with this interpretation and replied that the CRS had not yet met but would review the applications in light of the policy that has been passed.

10. Governance Committee Report

- a. *Academic Operations Manual: Withdrawal: The Standards for Permanency and Promotion in Teaching Stream Appointments* policy (currently the *Standards for Continuing Appointments at the Rank of Lecturer*) is being withdrawn from a second reading and approval. Since the policy received a first reading, the Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) received feedback from the SJU teaching stream faculty and, also, the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) provided further updates about the criteria used to assess their teaching stream faculty for permanency and promotion. As a result, a new policy that ensures we are able to demonstrate our teaching stream faculty meet the standards set at UWaterloo will come forward for a first reading at a future Senate Council meeting, after being reviewed by the Renewal, Tenure, and Promotions Committee and the Academic Committee.

Motion: To withdraw the *Standards for Permanency and Promotion in Teaching Stream Appointments* policy from a second reading and approval.

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

- b. *Responses to Senate Council Survey*: The results of the Senate Council survey were emailed out in June and the Governance Committee wanted to offer the opportunity for any discussion. There was none. The Committee was thanked for doing this survey and providing the responses.

11. Academic Committee Report

- a. *Health Humanities: New Course, Plan Change*: A new course, HHUM 322/PHIL 322: *Ethics for Health Care Professionals*, is being proposed for the Health Humanities program. Since the course has an ethics/philosophical approach, it is being cross-listed with Philosophy, which the corresponding UWaterloo department supports. The new course is being added to the approved list of courses in the Health Humanities Diploma. UWaterloo Pharmacy is interested in having their students take one HHUM course.

Motion: To approve the new HHUM 322/PHIL 322 course, to be effective September 1, 2026.

Moved: C. Acton, **Seconded:** N. Zunic, **Carried.**

Motion: To approve the Health Humanities plan change, to be effective September 1, 2026.

Moved: C. Acton, **Seconded:** N. Zunic, **Carried.**

12. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The VPAD acknowledged the good work happening in the library and encouraged people to read the Library Annual Report 2024/2025 found under the consent agenda. She referred to her written report, highlighting a few items.

SJU delivered 97% of our target in 2024-2025, a considerable year-over-year increase. At Academic Committee, the VPAD had acknowledged chairs for their work in meeting that target, Psychology in particular. Most of the departments continue to meet their departmental target, but we need to meet a global equity target. We have a lot of work to do to maintain this and hopefully meet a perfect score. The President noted gratitude for the significant work on the VPAD's part and all the academic departments.

The Arts Faculty Council vote on the Arts reorganization passed with 84% faculty and 95% staff in favour. The proposal passed at UWaterloo Senate on Monday and there is one more step of approval by the UWaterloo Board of Governors. The work will then begin on deciding internal governance and leadership. We will see how this will impact SJU.

SJU will be doing a tenure-track hire in Psychology, made possible by someone taking phased retirement at reduced load. Several faculty took up the University's retirement incentive, which will allow the VPAD to plan for faculty complement rehiring. The ad, approved by Academic Committee, is now posted and people were asked to pass it through their contacts.

On Monday we welcome A. Dattani, our new Manager of Outreach and Recruitment. The VPAD is excited for what he can do in terms of recruiting our students.

13. President Report

The President has been enjoying walking around and engaging with people, seeing more presence on campus, year after year slowly coming back after the pandemic. He is looking forward to our two new staff coming soon. The Dean's Brunch on September 2, 2025 was wonderful and it was inspiring to listen to the passion of faculty to our new students.

The first Lectures in Catholic Experience (LCE) was held on September 18, 2025, with C. Dulle, *America* magazine's Vatican correspondent, giving an engaging talk, "Struck Down, Not Destroyed: Keeping the Faith as a Vatican Reporter." More LCE talks are coming up this year.

The second part of the SJU Board of Governors retreat was yesterday, the first part being in June. There is always much business to do throughout the year, and the retreat provided the opportunity to talk about the future of the University, existential questions that face us (current situation, urgencies around us) and requirements we need to have from Board members. The Board's new advancement committee will discuss sharpening our fundraising to support programming that aligns with the Catholic intellectual tradition, perhaps seeing endowed academic chairs, etc. A member-at-large emphasized a strong emphasis on the student experience.

The President is in his second year as a member of the UWaterloo Executive Council, representing the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW). This gives him an important opportunity to meet with UWaterloo's senior administration and speak on behalf of the AFIW. It is a good place for us to be represented and to build relationships.

The AFIW heads continue to meet regularly with the UWaterloo Associate Vice President, Academic Operations. These meetings are good to express our concerns and also to listen. Right now, they are

looking at the UWaterloo/AFIW service agreement (who does what). It is important to sort this out before looking at the equity agreement, which will not be easy to untangle; strong relationships with departments in Arts will be important to move us in the right direction. The conversations have been collegial.

The President affirmed that there is now an AFIW representative in the search for a new president at UWaterloo, serving from Conrad Grebel University College (initially the AFIW were not included). It is essential to get the right person to lead UWaterloo. It will likely be a closed search. The President inquired about the search for a new Registrar, this being an important relationship to SJU, and was told there would be opportunity for feedback. The AFIW heads were given a special presentation on UWaterloo's campus master planning, a joint concern, after inquiring about the AFIW's participation. The AFIW need to lobby to be involved in various activities at UWaterloo.

14. Indigenization and Decolonization

The Indigenous Advisory Circle meets seasonally, and its fall meeting will be on October 8, 2025. The Indigenous core members cycle in and out and one possibly two new members will be added. New members give new ideas and new investments. It is a particular commitment.

Being the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is this coming Tuesday, September 30, 2025, A. Deman wanted to draw people's attention to Indigenous-themed popular media. He gave a presentation with recommendations on a non-fiction book, fiction book, TV show, movie, graphic novel, and cooking shows about Indigenous cuisine.

15. Announcements and Events

The first event of the 2025-2026 Reading Series will be held on October 3, 2025, 4:30 p.m., SJ2 1002, with poet S. Madhavan-Reese.

An anime group at SJU meets on Thursday nights, 6:30 PM. Students screen material around a theme and then have a discussion about that theme.

A reminder of the Additional Professional Development Fund, Aid to Scholarly Publications Fund, and Faculty Research Grant application deadline (October 2, 2025) as well as the Faculty Research Release Pool application deadline (October 20, 2025). Everyone eligible is encouraged to apply.

On September 22, 2025, the Department of Sexualities, Relationships, and Families (SRF) had its fall welcome/back social and soft launch of the new department name, previously Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies (SMF). Students, faculty, and staff gathered to remember SMF-past and to celebrate the future of SRF.

The Well-Link Lab is holding many events for students for mental health and well-being (see [website](#)). Drop-in programming is held on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Encourage your students to come.

16. New Business

There was no new business.

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

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