



Senate Council

Minutes of the Friday, October 24, 2025 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Kieran Bonner, Susan Brophy, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Melissa Chaffe, Andrew Deman, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale, Alysia Kolentsis, Carlie Leroux-Demir, Karen Radcliffe, BJ Rye, Yuri Sangalli, David Seljak, Mark Spielmacher, Bruno Tremblay, Alessia Ursella, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth, Nikolaj Zunic

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Steven Bednarski*, Honor Brabazon*, Chris Burris, Tristanne Connolly, Carm De Santis, Stephanie Gregoire*, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline*, Ariana Moreno Tanaka, Jane Nicholas*, John Rempel, Carl Rodrigue*, Toni Serafini*, Siobhan Sutherland*, Ryan Touhey*
*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

R. Cauchi-Santoro opened the meeting acknowledging the land as a place we share and where everyone is recognized. She feels “territorial” insinuates ownership and encouraged everyone to reflect on and pray for all who are suffering around the world because of this notion of ownership. She noted we need leaders who recognize that we share the world and prosper together.

2. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair introduced M. Chaffe, the new Director of Student Affairs, and welcomed A. Ursella, the Contract Academic Staff representative on Senate Council for 2025-2026.

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:** C.A. MacGregor, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the September 26, 2025 Senate Council Meeting

Motion: To approve by consent item 4 above.

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

Friendly Amendment:

- Page 2, item 9b), *Business Arising: Faculty Research Grant*, last sentence: “The Research Officer **disagreed with this interpretation and** replied that the CRS had not yet met ~~to decide how to proceed but they will~~ would review the applications in light of the policy that has been passed.”

Regular Agenda

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the September 26, 2025 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Governance Committee Report

a. *Academic Operations Manual*

- i. *Access to and Release of Student Information*: Changes are being made to reflect SJU's current practice and to align the policy with the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo).

Motion 1: To waive the two-reading rule for the *Access to and Release of Student Information* policy. One reading is sufficient given that the changes are not substantive and considered updates to align with UWaterloo.

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

Motion 2: To give the revisions to the *Access to and Release of Student Information* policy the one reading and to approve the policy for the Academic Operations Manual.

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

- ii. *Returning Assignments and Posting Grades*: The policy is being brought forward for a general review, no changes.

Motion 3: To waive the two-reading rule for the *Returning Assignments and Posting Grades* policy. One reading is sufficient given that this is a review of the policy.

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

Motion 4: To give the *Returning Assignments and Posting Grades* policy the one reading and to approve the review of the policy for the Academic Operations Manual.

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

The Governance Committee welcomes any feedback on using Mentimeter for voting.

7. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) referred to her written report, highlighting one item and adding a few others.

Academic Committee recently discussed whether to finish up the work in the Academic Plan (2023-2026) and start a new planning process, but the inclination was to extend the current Plan and continue on. The VPAD will give an Academic Plan update at an upcoming Senate Council meeting and will welcome thoughts on this at that time. A reminder to let her know about ongoing work that advances an Academic Plan priority.

The Associate Dean is holding an Academic Integrity workshop after Senate Council and the VPAD hopes to see many there.

UWaterloo sent an email to faculty/staff about on-campus presence. SJU did not send out the same note to our faculty/staff because this is basically what we are already following. The VPAD noted they know there are reasons faculty may not be on campus, but faculty presence is important and does matter; for collegiality and faculty/staff relations the hope is that people give thought to that.

At the Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Affairs Group (UGAG) meeting yesterday, a pause on curriculum submissions until Winter 2027 was announced; curriculum work can continue but there will be no submissions until the new schools are sorted (launching July 2026). The February 2026 UGAG will continue for reporting, but the May 2026 UGAG will be cancelled. Some exceptions at a Fall 2026 UGAG (from the two existing schools, Dean of Arts Office, Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo [AFIW] that do not connect to main campus) will allow items to move forward. There is pushback on this as the announcement took departments by surprise.

8. President Report

The Lectures in Catholic Experience continue on November 6, 2025, with Fr. T. Uniac, CR presenting, “I have seen the Lord’ The Transforming Power of Mary Magdalene’s Proclamation.” Uniac is currently the Provincial Superior of SJU’s founding Congregation of the Resurrection.

The Mission and Identity Forum, which replaces the former Administrative Leadership Group and Catholic Higher Education Reading Group, will provide more opportunities for faculty/staff to engage in discussion on SJU’s Catholic mission and identity. The potential to explore a relationship with the Jesuits, with respectful recognition of our founders, will be explored this year.

The President referred to his written report and the travelling he will be doing representing SJU.

9. Strategic Plan Update

The President referred to the Strategic Plan information provided in the agenda package and touched on a few items in the four major priority areas:

- 1) Catholic Mission and Identity (e.g., Mission and Identity Forum’s major initiative this year to look at the university’s future with an Ignatian identity; Campus Ministry’s mission-focused activities for students).
- 2) Culture of Research and Learning (e.g., ongoing discussions with UWaterloo on all aspects of the UWaterloo/AFIW relationship; discussions with UWaterloo about co-registration opportunities and expanding our footprint; possible new institute based on Pope Francis’ thoughts and legacy).
- 3) Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive and Just Community (e.g., Indigenous Advisory Circle nearing completion of an Indigenous Strategic Plan; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee exploring different themes connecting to the university’s mission).
- 4) Sustainability (e.g., increased ancillary revenue due to increase in conferences and residence programming; Board of Governors’ new committee to seek major donor support for university initiatives).

10. Indigenization and Decolonization

The Indigenous Advisory Circle had its fall meeting on October 8, 2025. Since that time, the President has interviewed another member who will be joining. Discussions have been thoughtful, and the work has been progressing in the right way, with consultation and respect. Indigenous people follow “nothing about us without us,” but thinking of better relationships that encourage reconciliation should flow naturally.

11. Announcements and Events

The next 2025-2026 Reading Series event will be held on November 7, 2025, 4:30 p.m., SJ2 1002, with novelists K. Smythe and K. Jaronczyk. The reading will be the opening event of The New Quarterly’s Wild Writers Festival which starts that evening.

One of our fall library co-op students is working with the UWaterloo Library Associate Director, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access to host a discussion group on the book *Hospicing Modernity*, November 4, 2025, 2:30 p.m., ASA Reading Room.

12. New Business

There was no new business.

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

Moved: M. Atkin, **Seconded:** A. Deman, **Carried.**

October 24, 2025

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