



**Senate Council**

**Minutes of the Friday, February 27, 2026 Meeting**

**Present:** Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Susan Brophy, Melissa Chaffe, Armaan Dattani, Carm De Santis, Fred Desroches, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis, Carlie Leroux-Demir, Karen Radcliffe, Carl Rodrigue, Yuri Sangalli, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Siobhan Sutherland, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Alessia Ursella, David Williams, Nikolaj Zunic

**Recording Secretary:** Christine Schwendinger

**Absent:** Chris Burris, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro\*, Tristanne Connolly, Stephanie Gregoire\*, Norm Klassen, David Seljak\*, Ariana Moreno Tanaka, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Ryan Touhey\*, Chad Wriglesworth  
*\*regrets*

**On Sabbatical/Leave:** Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, BJ Rye, Anastasia Tataryn, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead

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

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***Open Session***

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection**

C. Acton opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement followed by reading two poems, the first by J. Donne, Holy Sonnet 10, "Death, be not proud," and the second by J. Kenyon, "Otherwise."

**2. Chair's Remarks**

The Ontario government has announced significant funding over the next four years for the university and college sector, \$6.4 billion, and an end to the tuition freeze. The University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) President recently made an announcement to faculty and staff providing details and thanking the government. This is good news. It is not clear at this point how this will impact SJU, but we are hopeful. UWaterloo is on target to balance its budget by 2028 even with this new funding. They are addressing their budget deficit first and will be seeing major senior leadership changes but may return to equity agreement discussions in the future.

Last spring, the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) sent out a survey to Ontario federated and affiliated universities regarding governance, sustainability, etc. The reason for this survey appears to be the Ministry's interest in understanding the largely unique relationships between the university colleges and their partner universities. That exploration led the President to convene a meeting with the other Ontario federated and affiliated university college heads to discuss the aspects of our identities and public university relationships that we hold in common. From that meeting, it was clear that all are committed to good relationships with our public university counterparts, and the heads have now agreed to consider meeting bimonthly. Additionally, a meeting has now been set between the heads of the university colleges and the Assistant Deputy Minister at MCURES. In preparation for that meeting, the President composed the briefing note to the Assistant Deputy Minister on behalf of the university colleges.

The President and the Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) are putting together a program for the community to discuss SJU's identity moving forward, about the potential and meaning of a relationship with the Jesuits of Canada and next steps for an Ignatian endorsement agreement. The President has had conversations with the Resurrectionists, our founders, and they understand the reasons for this possible change.

**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:** A. Kolentsis, **Seconded:** C. Acton, **Carried.**

**Consent Agenda**

**4. Minutes of the January 23, 2026 Senate Council Meeting**

**Motion:** To approve by consent item 4 above.

**Moved:** K. Bonner, **Seconded:** C. Acton, **Carried.**

**Regular Agenda**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the January 23, 2026 Meeting**

- Pages 2-3, item 8, *Academic Committee Report*: The Master of Catholic Thought proposal was seen by the UWaterloo Faculty of Arts' Graduate Affairs Group last week, resulting in no changes. The proposal is now moving forward to Senate Graduate Council.

**6. Governance Committee Report**

a. *Academic Operations Manual*:

- i. The new *Standards for Permanency and Promotion in Teaching Stream Appointments* policy was brought forward for a second reading and approval. The VPAD noted that two substantive questions remained after the last meeting (where the Senate Council standards of commitment, quality, and impact in service could be found; whether service shall or will include relevant educational leadership service activities for those applying for promotion to professor, teaching stream). After a robust discussion, Academic Committee made edits to the policy based on those comments.

**Motion 1:** To give the new *Standards for Permanency and Promotion in Teaching Stream Appointments* policy a second reading and to approve the policy for the Academic Operations Manual.

**Moved:** C. Rodrigue, **Seconded:** S. Sutherland, **Carried.** One abstention.

This policy will replace the *Standards for Continuing Appointments at the Rank of Lecturer* policy when that policy is no longer needed.

- ii. The *Standards for Renewal, Tenure, and Promotion* policy was brought forward with housekeeping changes to maintain places of parallel language with the teaching stream policy. A question was raised on whether one change is more than housekeeping for the tenure stream, that is, the language on standards for teaching. Academic Committee did discuss there being a difference between being committed to a record of teaching excellence and actually having a record. Most of that discussion was for the teaching stream policy and then that language was copied over to the tenure stream policy.

**Motion 2:** To waive the two-reading rule for both the *Standards for Renewal, Tenure, and Promotion* policy and the *Secondment* policy. One reading is sufficient given that the changes are not substantive and considered housekeeping.

**Moved:** C. Rodrigue, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **WITHDRAWN.**

**Motion 3:** To give the changes to the *Standards for Renewal, Tenure, and Promotion* policy a first reading.

**Moved:** C. Rodrigue, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.** Three abstentions.

- iii. The *Secondment* policy is coming forward as part of the routine Academic Operations Manual policy review. It has not been looked at since 2014 and has also not been used. The initial recommendation at Academic Committee was to retire the policy but after a robust discussion, Academic Committee's recommendation was to keep it. Minor housekeeping edits were made after the Academic Committee meeting.

**Motion 4:** To waive the two-reading rule for the *Secondment* policy. One reading is sufficient given that the changes are not substantive and considered housekeeping.

**Moved:** C. Rodrigue, **Seconded:** V. Austen, **Carried.** One abstention.

**Motion 5:** To give the changes to the *Secondment* policy the one reading and to approve the policy for the Academic Operations Manual.

**Moved:** C. Rodrigue, **Seconded:** T. Serafini, **Carried.** Two abstentions.

## 7. Vice President Academic and Dean President Report

The VPAD referred to her written report and highlighted several items.

Congratulations to one of our students, S. Costello, for being named a finalist for the prestigious McCall MacBain Scholarships. SJU will be hosting an information session about these scholarships on March 5, 2026, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., SJ1 3012. Please invite your students to learn about this very good opportunity.

Three short-listed candidates will be interviewed next month for the tenure-track position in Psychology. Please join the research and teaching presentations.

Faculty of Arts' reorganization conversations are ongoing about the structure of the new schools and committees. We will see more direction once the directors of the schools are in place. In the written report, the VPAD had highlighted a potential new Graduate Affairs Group structure but was updated recently that a different proposal, where SJU would still have a seat, might be the favoured proposal. The VPAD will continue to provide updates as available.

UWaterloo has ratified their Collective Agreement for graduate teaching assistants (TA) and research assistants (RA). We will need to pay attention to these new rates to be competitive. The funding subsidizes graduate students through their degrees. SJU has historically matched UWaterloo's rates to be consistent with other departments, and the VPAD will speak with leaders at UWaterloo if that is still a formal request; she asked faculty members to share with her any experiences they may have had to help with that discussion which may also be brought via our Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo representative to the Senate Graduate Committee. It was raised that SJU's TA/RA pay rate chart does not have categories for graduate markers or lab managers.

## 8. President Report

The President highlighted the items in his written report.

As part of our ongoing work with the Jesuits, SJU is now a part of the Intellectual Apostolate of the Canadian Jesuit Province, which has had a speaker series for many years. D. Seljak is representing SJU as our respondent at this year's webinar on March 26, 2026, with guest speaker Fr. D. Mwamba Mutale, SJ, Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, Zambia.

Last night's Lectures in Catholic Experience (LCE) featured G. Adler presenting, "Catholic in Governing, not Catholicism in Government: How Local Government Officials' Manage Interaction between Religion and State." The next LCE is on March 12, 2026, with M. True presenting, "Anne of Austria's Surgeon: François Gendron, the 17th-century Jesuit Mission to the Wendat, and the History of Medicine."

Thank you to everyone who attended yesterday's Mission and Identity Forum. B. Rodrigues, SJU's Chancellor, talked about equity, diversity, and inclusion through a Catholic lens and also a Jesuit lens.

#### **9. Indigenization and Decolonization**

The Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) met two weeks ago and welcomed new members as others' terms ended. This group understands SJU and conversations have been healthy, including about SJU's responsible responses to reconciliation. J. Lewis, UWaterloo Interim Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Relations (J. Becker's replacement as she has now retired) wants to participate in the Circle. At the last meeting, the IAC reviewed a complete draft of SJU's Indigenous Strategic Plan. When completed, the Plan will be brought to Senate Council.

#### **10. Announcements and Events**

The next Reading Series event will be held today, 4:30 p.m., SJ2 1002, with a reading by fiction writer and playwright D. Tarnopolsky. Another exciting event will be on March 13, 2026, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Notre Dame Chapel, where SJU will host one of G.E. Clarke's "5 Poets Breaking into Song" events.

The DRAGEN lab's undergraduate student caucus is organizing a Historical Minecraft Speed-Building Challenge on March 20, 2026, 2:30-6:30 p.m., PAS 1237.

March Open House will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026. D. Williams will be giving a mock lecture on how to read a poem. Thanks in advance for faculty's participation that day.

#### **11. New Business**

There was no new business.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Moved:** K. Bonner, **Seconded:** C. Rodrigue, **Carried.**

February 27, 2026

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