



Senate Council
Minutes of the Friday, April 24, 2026 Meeting

Present: Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Carol Acton, Michelle Atkin, Veronica Austen, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Susan Brophy, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Melissa Chaffe, Armaan Dattani, Carm De Santis, Fred Desroches, Alysia Kolentsis, Carlie Leroux-Demir, Karen Radcliffe, Carl Rodrigue, BJ Rye, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Sylvia Terzian, Ryan Touhey, Bruno Tremblay, Alessia Ursella, David Williams, Chad Wriglesworth, Nikolaj Zunic

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Honor Brabazon*, Chris Burris, Tristanne Connolly, Stephanie Gregoire*, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline, Ariana Moreno Tanaka, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Yuri Sangalli*, Andrew Stumpf*, Siobhan Sutherland

**regrets*

On Sabbatical/Leave: Andrew Deman, Maureen Drysdale, Anastasia Tataryn, 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

S. Bednarski opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the Chair giving a territorial acknowledgement.

The Chair encouraged people to volunteer to give the prayer/reflection at the start of these meetings. The purpose of the opening prayer or reflection is to set a focused, united, and purposeful tone that fosters collaboration, aligns intentions, and establishes an environment of trust and mutual respect aligned with the mission and vision of St. Jerome's University.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair has just returned from the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Canada (ACCUC) and Universities Canada meetings in Vancouver. People from different provinces are dealing with similar higher education questions and struggles.

The University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Associate Vice President, Academic Operations and the heads from the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) continue to meet to discuss our relationship. At the last meeting, our Director, Finance and Accounting joined the Chair in the talk about the service agreement. The Chair believes the theme for next year will be to understand the equity agreement in different areas and also how the budget model relates to the AFIW. The provincial funding announcement gives UWaterloo 2% more funding a year. UWaterloo had planned a balanced budget by 2027-2028 but are now looking to push this out to 2028-2029.

The Pope Francis Institute (PFI) was announced earlier this week, launched on the first anniversary of Pope Francis' death. This expression of our Catholic mission and identity is how we are going to be presenting ourselves to school boards, the Diocese of Hamilton, and others. The Certificate in Catholic Leadership is a key part of PFI, and we will also be looking to engage speakers and other programs that grow out of Pope Francis' message. An official launch with donors will occur.

The Chair will speak about the Ignatian endorsement under his president's report.

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: C. Rodrigue, **Seconded:** N. Zunic, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the March 27, 2026 Senate Council Meeting

5. Governance Committee Report

- a. Academic Operations Manual: Retire (one reading)
- b. Call for Nominations: 2026-2027 Committees

The Governance Committee's consent report includes two motions for the *Standards for Continuing Appointments at the Rank of Lecturer* policy, the first for one reading and the second for the policy to be retired. The Chair noted that voting to approve the consent agenda will include these two motions.

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

Moved: A. Kolentsis, **Seconded:** C. Rodrigue, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the March 27, 2026 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Governance Committee Report

- a. *Academic Operations Manual:*
 - i. *Course Outline Requirements*

Motion: To give the changes to the *Course Outline Requirements* policy a second reading and to approve the policy for the Academic Operations Manual.

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

8. Academic Committee Report

- a. *Italian and French Studies Course Change:* ITALST 394: *Italian Studies in Italy* was brought forward with changes to the course description and a new prerequisite.

Motion: To approve the ITALST 394 course change, to be effective September 1, 2027.

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

9. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report: FRRP Summary Presentations

D. Williams, Research Officer, introduced the new Faculty Research Release Pool (FRRP), highlighting ways in which it can provide incremental research time to faculty through a course reduction. He invited three faculty members to briefly speak about how their FRRP course release had been advantageous to them.

- A. Kolentsis was able to devote additional time to a co-edited volume, which was critical to meeting the publisher's deadline. She is proud of this project and hopes to have a book launch once it comes out.
- C. Acton dedicated time to a conference proposal, book chapter, and revamping some courses.
- C. Wriglesworth put time into a book under contract with Michigan Press. The project has taken several years, and he expressed gratitude for a range of SJU research supports over that time (e.g., Faculty Research Grant, Aid to Scholarly Publications Fund, FRRP).

All expressed gratitude for the FRRP course release. Williams invited all faculty who are engaged in similarly important work to consider applying for a FRRP release in the next round in October.

10. Vice President Academic and Dean President Report

A call for nominations is included in the Governance Committee's report under the consent agenda. The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) encouraged people to put their name forward for a committee they are interested in serving on.

The Faculty of Arts has announced the directors selected by the nominating committees for the two new schools. The nominees will each be giving presentations, followed by a vote to appoint them. The AFIW do not vote but we can participate. J. Dolmage's presentation will be on Monday and the VPAD will let people know when the second presentation is scheduled.

Bargaining has concluded for the renewal Collective Agreement for Contract Academic Staff. An announcement will go out once it is officially signed. The VPAD will let department chairs know of the changes relevant to them.

The successful candidate in the Psychology search is J. McArthur, who will be finishing her PhD this year. McArthur has expertise in forensic psychology but also has intersections with Legal Studies and Sexualities, Relationships, and Families.

11. President Report

Last night's Lectures in Catholic Experience (LCE) was the last LCE for the year. Fr. M. Durham gave an interesting talk about palliative care access for all, including those experiencing homelessness, poverty, and marginalization.

The President gave a PowerPoint presentation on what an Ignatian Endorsement Agreement could mean for SJU. One of the priorities in the Strategic Plan is to "Strengthen Appreciation and Understanding of our Catholic Mission and Identity." Over the last two years, SJU has been delving into what this means with speakers, discussion groups, and last year under the Mission and Identity Forum. SJU was founded as a Catholic institution by the Congregation of the Resurrection and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. We have been exploring our own history, what our founders intended, and are now exploring a relationship with the Jesuits and their shared commitment to faith, justice, intellectual excellence, and a goal of forming individuals for ethical leadership/service. Such a partnership would advance SJU's identity of *how* we are a Catholic university. It would give us resources/services/programs from a world-wide position. The President is putting together a draft agreement for review with the Board of Governors and the Jesuits of Canada. His desire is for this endorsement to be a real, "lived" experience for SJU, more than ceremonial. In the coming year, the Jesuits are sending a Jesuit priest who will serve as St. Jerome's first Jesuit in Residence.

Senate Council discussed the endorsement. The Jesuits are deeply committed to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and bring with them a more than 500-year tradition in Catholic higher education. In response to a point made about the importance of the Resurrectionists' local identity and heritage in this community, the President responded that the Resurrectionists understand and are supportive of the endorsement; SJU's relationship with the Resurrectionists will continue (e.g., one member on the Board per the SJU Act). We are not replacing but building a Jesuit relationship on a Resurrectionist foundation. The President confirmed that SJU's mission statement may be revised in the future, perhaps as part of strategic planning for the next Strategic Plan.

Motion: That Senate Council endorse the plan to seek an Ignatian Endorsement from the Jesuits of Canada for St. Jerome's University.

Moved: S. Bednarski, **Seconded:** V. Austen, **Carried.** Five abstentions.

12. Indigenization and Decolonization

Elder M. Henry, UWaterloo Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, is interested in giving a presentation to our Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC). The Jesuits are also interested in speaking with the IAC about truth and reconciliation. The President will be bringing SJU's draft Indigenous Strategic Plan to Senate Council at some point in the future. The IAC is an engaged group.

May 5 is Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited people in Canada. Thank you to A. Deman and Campus Ministry for their work in bringing awareness of this meaningful day.

13. Announcements and Events

There were no announcements.

14. New Business

There was no new business.

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

Moved: M. Atkin, **Seconded:** C. Rodrigue, **Carried.**

April 24, 2026

/cs