



Senate Council
Minutes of the Friday, May 22, 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, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro, Melissa Chaffe, Carm De Santis, Fred Desroches, Carlie Leroux-Demir, Karen Radcliffe, Carl Rodrigue, Yuri Sangalli, David Seljak, Toni Serafini, Mark Spielmacher, Siobhan Sutherland, Sylvia Terzian, Denise Whitehead, David Williams, Nikolaj Zunic

Recording Secretary: Christine Schwendinger

Absent: Chris Burris, Tristanne Connolly, Armaan Dattani, Stephanie Gregoire*, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline, Alysia Kolentsis*, Ariana Moreno Tanaka, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, Andrew Stumpf*, Ryan Touhey*, Bruno Tremblay*, Alessia Ursella*, Chad Wriglesworth

**regrets*

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

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

Open Session

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection

C. Rodrigue opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement followed by encouraging people to reflect on how thankful we are to work on this land, to those who take care of this land, to be able to educate students, and to work with colleagues who further the mission of SJU.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair attended a goodbye celebration for R. Myers who is completing his term as principal of United College on June 30, 2026. The celebration was also a goodbye to United College's chancellor, M. Jean, finishing her second term. The Chair looks forward to working with United College's new president, T. Penny Light, commencing July 1, 2026.

The Chair will be meeting with B. Rosehart, incoming University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) president, and will be pleased to show him SJU. As a UWaterloo alum (three degrees, with his undergraduate residency being at St. Paul's University College [now United College]), Rosehart comes to us with a good sense of the university colleges, which is a positive start.

The Chair and the Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) are almost finished lining up the Lectures in Catholic Experience for 2026-2027.

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: N. Zunic, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.**

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of the April 24, 2026 Senate Council Meeting

5. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

- a. Appointments

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

Moved: K. Bonner, **Seconded:** V. Austen, **Carried.**

Regular Agenda

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the April 24, 2026 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report: FRRP Summary Presentation

Last month, three colleagues briefly presented their work done during their Faculty Research Release Pool (FRRP) course release. D. Williams, Research Officer, invited another faculty member to speak about their work during their FRRP.

- H. Brabazon dedicated time to new research (e.g., co-edited a special issue of *Studies in Social Justice*, co-authored an article for this special issue) and also to new opportunities for research mobilization and collaboration (e.g., co-applicant of successful SSHRC grant, gave an invited talk on freedom of expression).

8. Vice President Academic and Dean President Report

The VPAD referred to her written report. She added a few additional items.

Thank you to all who expressed interest in serving on committees. The call for nominations results will be sent out after Senate Council.

Thank you to the Manager, Outreach and Recruitment, who is putting together the final preparations for You @ Waterloo Day tomorrow, Saturday, May 23, 2026. A number of colleagues will be giving up their Saturday to meet with students who have received an offer of admission and their supporters.

J. Dolmage and I. Milligan, previously nominees, have now been officially appointed as the inaugural directors of the two new schools in the Faculty of Arts, effective July 1, 2026, four-year terms (Dolmage as Director, School of Critical and Creative Humanities; Milligan as Director, School of Social, Political and Historical Research). It will be good to work through what this means for the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) when they figure out the final school staffing and committee structures. The current chairs in Arts have been asked to stay on for the first year, with different titles.

A Lunch and Learn on GenAI and its impact on teaching/learning will take place today after Senate Council. Thank you to the Associate Dean for the work putting this together. The VPAD hopes to see many there to discuss this important topic.

9. President Report

The President referred to his written report, highlighting a few items.

SJU has been receiving good press/publicity and comments/feedback about the launch of the Pope Francis Institute (PFI) at St. Jerome's University, even an article in the Vatican News. A mass and dinner with donors to celebrate the formal launch of the PFI will occur on May 26, 2026.

Thank you to Senate Council for the endorsement at the last meeting of the Ignatian Endorsement Agreement with the Jesuits of Canada. The Mission and Identity Forum also endorsed this. The President will be bringing the plan and endorsements forward to the Board Executive next week, followed by the Board of Governors in June.

On May 12, 2026, Fr. J. Meehan, SJ, spoke to the Mission and Identity Forum on Jesuit higher education drawing on his experience at various Jesuit institutions. He offered valuable insights and nuances for us to ponder as we think about our relationship with the Jesuits.

10. Indigenization and Decolonization

The Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) has one final meeting for the year in June. They will be working on the penultimate if not ultimate draft of SJU's Indigenous Strategic Plan and also discussing the role of the Jesuits. J. Lewis, UWaterloo Interim Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Relations, would like to be an ex officio member of the IAC and will be coming to that meeting. The President expects to bring the Indigenous Strategic Plan to Senate Council in the fall.

11. Announcements and Events

The Chair of Sexualities, Relationships, and Families announced that one of their faculty members, C. De Santis, has received the Muriel Bechtel Educational Award from Langs Youth Wellness Hubs, a practicum community partner, to be conferred on June 16, 2026. Congratulations were extended to De Santis.

12. New Business

There was no new business.

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

Moved: M. Atkin, **Seconded:** C. Leroux-Demir, **Carried.**

May 22, 2026

/cs