



One University. One World. Yours.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
B3H 3C3  
Senate Office  
Tel: 902-420-5412  
Web: www.stmarys.ca

## SENATE MEETING MINUTES February 15, 2019

The 599<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, February 15, 2019, at 2:00 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr VanderPlaat, Chairperson, presided.

**PRESENT:** Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Bhabra, Dr Francis, Dr MacDonald, Dr Sarty, Dr Doucet, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Hall, Dr Khokhar, Dr McCallum, Dr Power, Dr Rahaman, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr Twohig, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Warner, Mr Brophy, Mr Mahmudur Rahman Shovon, Mr Archibald, and Ms Claire Milton.

**REGRETS:** Dr Butler, Dr Smith, Dr Grandy, Dr Kehoe, Dr Loughlin, Ms van den Hoogen, Mr Oshobu, Mr Southwell and, Mr Nasrallah,

Meeting commenced at 2:03 P.M.

**18054**

### **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

Members were advised that the agenda would be reordered.  
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted as revised.

**18055**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** attached as *Appendix A* (10 min)

Summerby-Murray advised members of the following:

- RBC Foundation has donated \$695,000 over three years to the RBC Talent Hub at Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship Centre. RBC Future Launch is a 10-year, \$500 million commitment to empowering Canadian youth for jobs of tomorrow, and as part of that program, RBC announced the establishment of the RBC Talent Hub at the Saint Mary's Entrepreneurship Centre. Together, RBC and Saint Mary's are working to better prepare our students for the workforce and to build upon Saint Mary's position as a key driver of entrepreneurial culture and success in our region.
- EBay will collaborate with the Halifax Partnership, Nova Scotia Business Inc., and Saint Mary's University in delivering Retail Revival Halifax – a program designed to harness the power of technology and eBay's global marketplace to grow small business, strengthen local economies and foster vibrant community growth.

Leading this venture for Saint Mary's is the David Sobey Centre – the Centre will participate in the program as a research partner. An anticipated outcome of this 12-month program, for the approximately 50 small to medium-sized companies involved, will be assistance in exporting their products and growing their businesses. Dr. Ramesh Venkat, along with Dr.

Rahman Khoker and Dr. Mark Raymond will form the research team to study performance of the participating companies in addition to overall economic impact on this region.

- Following the successful conclusion of the negotiation process and ratification by SMUFU, the Board of Governors has also ratified this new collective agreement. Thank you to both negotiating teams for their work.
- Budget development is underway and on target re timelines. The Budget Committee have been asked a number of strategic questions relative to the fiscal restraints and the goal of being sustainable.
- We are hopeful for an MOU with 1% increase on the grant. We also expect to see further percentage adjustments in targeted areas like accessibility, access for marginalized groups and deferred maintenance. The approach is more systematic versus a politicized approach. More thought was given to the other challenges that face the post secondary sector. This looks like it might be a five-year MOU. We still have not recovered from the -3-3-4 reductions of the former government. We are optimistic for the future.
- A full report has been posted to SMUport.

**18056**

**VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (10 min)

Deferred due to absence of Dr Butler.

**18057**

**QUESTION PERIOD** (length at the discretion of chair based on business volume)

- Question: Is there an update on the work of the Racism Committee? Answer: A report is ready for review and will be come forward to the March meeting of Senate. **Action Item: Bell** to place on agenda.
- Question: Is there a status report on enrolment? Answer: Enrolment has been going down since 2015. We forecasted 0 % for international, and 3% for national. There will be a slow pick up after 2021. The provincial demographic is beginning to change. There are some intriguing numbers. Our high school numbers have increased which means our recruiting efforts are working. The China market has softened over the last three years. We are diversifying to address this. Only 35% of the international students are from China today down from 43%. Most of those students are in the Sobey School of Business. There have been increases in enrolments from the Caribbean, India, Bangladesh, and Ghana. We are just under 7,000 students, which presents a challenge as we have been at 7400 in the past. In terms of a breakdown, we have 60% form the Maritime Provinces and 59% are Nova Scotia students. We have committed a further \$50,000 to recruitment in Nova Scotia and Canada. We have increased direct recruitment in China. We are getting an increase of non-agent students from China. Graduate enrolments are up.
- Question: What is the status of travel to China? Answer: There has not been much change in the past few weeks but we are monitoring the situation closely. Both China and Canada have moved reciprocally in terms of travel advisories and currently there appears to be a bit of a standoff. We are holding to a business as usual with heightened diligence on documentation. We are investigating other avenues to ensure better access to applications for Visas. We are working with Grant Thornton, China to streamline the text issues that faculty members have experienced. We are being particularly cautious in relation to travel documentation.

- Question: Are you able to reassure faculty members committed to teaching in the program, that there will be no additional costs related to their participation. Answer: We are working on that to ensure that the tax situation is managed from Canada. We are well advanced on this issue.
- Question: People who have gone to China are not tax compliant in China although we are in Canada. What kind of risk under the grant situation does this present? Answer: We are working to resolve this. China and Canada do not have a reciprocal tax treaty. Grant Thornton, China is working with us on this. There should soon be a policy on this to address faculty concerns.
- A member commended the University for the Process of communicating and addressing the recent storm closure. Question: Was there any change in process from last year? Answer: There was no recent change. We working with the weather reporting agencies as early as 5 am. Conditions were reviewed and other institutional decisions were considered prior to making our decision. Halifax Transit is now one of the first groups to close operations due to safety. Our internal guideline is to have the notice up on the website at 6 AM and we met that requirement.

18058

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2019, were circulated as *Appendix D*.

Moved by McCallum, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2019 are approved as circulated.” Motion carried.**

18059

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) Senate Ad-Hoc Committee to Review Accessibility in an Academic Environment, 1) Discharge and 2) Next steps on recommendations (App O) (McCallum or Takseva)

**Key discussion points:**

- Dr Takseva responded that the members of the Ad-Hoc Committee are very keen to hear what the next steps will be that are linked to their recommendations. That interest leans specifically to the forming of another body to move forward with the recommendations.
- McCallum advised that the idea is to have a broader committee, perhaps under the President to move this initiative forward. The hope is that funds will be available from the MOU. The President noted that the legislation requires universities to have the committee that is being proposed. There is real value in having the work of this committee continue. Senators were advised that some of the members of this committee would like to go forward with this work through participation at the next level of committees.
- Interested members of committee were asked to meet with the President (to include one member that worked on Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) and worked on the design).
- The University Committee needs to be a committee that reaches out to include the nature of the broad learning environment.
- It was suggested that Senate defer discharging the committee. The President asked to meet with interested members of this committee during the week of the 25 of February. **Action Item: Bell** will organize that meeting.

b) Discussion Related to position of Senate Chair: Senate Bylaw 3.1.1., Appendix P (Jason Grek-Martin)

**Key discussion points:**

- Grek-Martin advised that the circulating document is for discussion purposes only.
- The Bylaws Committee met and considered the research that Ms Milton provided and the feedback from the Senate. Other institutions had various models and those were considered.
- Revision to section 3.1.1 – Timing of election of Chair and Vice-President and the limit of the number of terms of service.
- Committee discussion revolved around the challenges created by electing the Chair and Vice-Chair in September and the reticence to challenge an existing Chair. The election in May would provide time for consultation prior to the new chair taking over the role.
  - People that constitute Academic Staff are the faculty members that are eligible for election to the Senate. These are the members that are eligible to be elected for Chair and Vice-Chair.
  - A two or three year term limit was considered too short. The committee thought a five consecutive year term limit would be appropriate.
  - Question: Why exclude a student member from being Chair? The proposed change would allow only faculty members. Answer: Due to the election process at SMUSA, the term of students ends on April 30 and Senate – particularly the role of chair, must be active until the first meeting in September of the next academic year.
  - It was suggested that a Senate member should have served on Senate for at least one year prior to being elected as Chair. The student representative stated that SMUSA also looked at this option and it could have prevented a good candidate from serving. Support was voiced for this approach.
  - Question: How does this prevent a situation where a person serves for several repetitive five years terms? Answer: It does not but it is a healthier environment if the institutional memory does not reside in one individual. If that person is lost, it is difficult to continue.
- The revision keeps the electoral process consistent for Chair and Vice-Chair.
- 1.10.2 – Procedure of Elections – regarding a balanced representation on Senate.

Currently not all faculties are equally represented on Senate. We discussed how to address this. The list of those eligible has always shown the faculty in terms of their faculty/department affiliation. We are suggesting that we include the current membership of Senate and their affiliations. The committee did not take the step to stipulate where the members of Senate were to come from. Colleagues argue that we should not think of colleagues as belonging to a particular faculty.

  - Question: Would students be excluded from voting? Answer: The student terms ends on April 30. We are proposing the ballot take place before the May meeting of Senate. The outgoing students could vote.

- Concern was expressed that Senate discussions are impoverished by a lack of a balanced discussion and/or participation from all faculties. The Elections Committee has attempted a minimally intrusive way to alert the community to potential deficiencies in representation on Senate. We hope it will encourage a more organic approach to promoting a more balanced representation on Senate.
- A Senator noted that only Senate members participate in the election process outlined in Section 3 but all faculty members participate in the election process in Section 1.
- The student representatives stated that they would prefer the outgoing student to vote in the election process outlined in Section 3. Outgoing student representatives could vote if the election was run in April. Senate members were advised that this was the goal.
- Question: Could we have a graduate student senator serve on the Senate? Answer: the Student Association determines Student participation. Graduate students have not been restricted from running; they generally choose not to serve.
- The Dean, Sobey School of Business expressed his doubt that an organic, self-managing approach to representational balance would work.
- The President advised that he lobbied for graduate students on council in a previous university career. The student advised that it was not for lack of encouraging the participation of graduate students, but they are normally not as engaged in the operations of SMUSA.
- It was noted that the bylaw section was titled eligibility to vote and this might be an issue. Answer: This is an existing section title. It is part of the larger document with that section title.
- Question: How are students identified for Senate? Answer: The President and the Board Chair sit on the Senate. The Student Association nominates the other three student representatives.
- Student Senators should be a voice in the election of Chair and Vice-Chair.
- A faculty member advised Senate that there is currently a single person serving as Secretary of Senate and Recording Secretary of Senate. In the past, a faculty member was elected as Secretary of Senate. In addition, there was an administrative assistant in the Senate Office. For reasons of transition planning and work load management the current situation merits a future discussion.

**18060**

**OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS**

Report from the Committee on Experiential Learning (Presentation submitted in hard copy. The Committee declined to send a representative. - **Appendix D1 & D2**

**Key discussion points:**

- Reports were circulated for Senate review. The committee declined to send a representative.
- Senators had expected to be able to ask some questions and seek some clarity.
- Question: Can we review the terms of reference of the committee? Answer: It is in the presentation report.

- We have not debated or approved the recommendations. It was suggested that we do not approve those until the committee responds to Senate's request for clarity and the ability to ask questions.
- Brophy advised that this is connecting experiential learning to the learning that is happening in the classroom. Concern was expressed on how this would be implemented.
- A member advised that the report is out of date. The recommendations appear out of nothing with no evidence to support them. We should move forward and consider doing something else. We should create a new committee.
- SMUSA advised that they were not contacted for their feedback for this report. The contacts listed that were students are still on campus. The statement that they could not be contacted is incorrect.
- A member noted that recently there has been an increasing use of Ad Hoc Committees. It was suggested that if we properly structure a committee, we could hold them accountable. Senate was strongly encouraged to create a Senate Committee on Experiential Learning to bring forward recommendations to Senate.
- The University Secretary advised that the accountability of both standing and ad hoc committees are the same.
- This committee was struck at a time when we were exploring this area. Other groups that have been formed since then may have overcome the work of this committee. We may consider some of the other work going on before we create another committee.
- Members were advised that there is a committee for learning and teaching that could address this issue.
- The President advised that Senate receive the report. He expressed concern that there was no opportunity to explore that work. We need to look to other avenues to collect information.
- The Dean of Arts stated that this area is very important to the university. There has to be some vehicle as a hub where service learning is one of the spokes of their mandate.
- Takseva is chairing the Senate Standing Committee on Learning and Teaching. Question: Dr MacDonald was asked if she would like to participate in these discussions. Dr MacDonald advised that Mr Brophy is a partner in this interest. Both would be interested in participating.
- The Dean, FGSR acknowledged that the report be received by Senate but that the Senate will not act on the recommendations. Senate is aware of other initiatives that are not necessarily in line with this report but that will be considered.

18061

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01

Academic Planning Committee.

- i. Bachelor of Environmental Studies (5-year review) (Dr Grek-Martin) *Appendix E* – APC Notice of Motion, *Appendix F* - Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix G* - Self Study Report, *Appendix H*- Self Study appendices (1-11), *Appendix I* – Dean's Response to Self Study, *Appendix J*- External Review Committee's (ERC) Final Report, *Appendix K* -Department Response to ERC Report, *Appendix L* - Dean's Response to ERC report. (Dr Grek-Martin)

**Key discussion points:**

- Question: Declining enrolment stopped two years ago. Have enrolments increased since then? Answer: Dr MacDonald advised that there was no major change.
- Question: Has the program done anything about developing a minor for commerce students? Answer: This may be an item for discussion at the retreat. The answer is unknown but Grek-Martin will find out and advise.

Moved by Grek-Martin and seconded, **“that the Bachelor of Environmental Studies Program submit an action plan to APC in May 2019 based on the preceding responses”**. Motion carried.

and

Moved by Grek-Martin and seconded, **“that in February 2020, the Bachelor of Environmental Studies Program submit a one-year report to the Academic Planning Committee on the progress made on the Action Plan according to Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University”**. Motion carried.

- ii. CSSH Self-Study – APC Notice of Motion - *Appendix M1*, Self Study – *M2* & Addendum – *M3* (Dr Adam Sarty)  
**Key discussion points:**
- No discussion

Moved by Sarty and seconded, **“that the Senate accept the self-study Report of the Centre for the Study of Sport & Health (CSSH) as meeting the requirement of section 3.3 of the Senate Policy 8-1009, Senate By-Laws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary’s and that CSSH be authorized to continue for a further period of five years from the date of review.”** Motion carried.

- iii. GEOG MA Program Review One-Year follow-up report – APC Notice of Motion *Appendix N1*, Summary report - *Appendix N2*, 1-Year Report – *Appendix N3* (Dr Grek-Martin)  
**Key discussion points:**
- Sarty advised that the initiatives that they have stated to have done are moving forward.
  - There was consensus that the one-year follow-up report of the GEOG MA Program meets the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s and is accepted into the record

18062

**REPORTS OF JOINT COMMITTEES**

Honorary Degrees Recommendation, *Appendix Q*

- We have also provided the information about what we expect from our potential recipients.
- We have done an analysis on the honorary degrees that we have awarded. We are considering those outcomes.

- A Member noted that the diversity is lacking in this selection. Response: The committee is aware of this and asks Senate to consider nominating with this in mind. The Committee is also reviewing their policy in this regard.

**Six individual recommendations were considered and motions were moved by Dr Summerby-Murray and seconded that each recommendation be approved for forwarding to the Board of Governors for approval. Motions were carried.**

- iv. CSSH Self-Study – APC Notice of Motion - *Appendix M1*, Self Study – *M2* & Addendum – *M3* (Dr Adam Sarty)

**Key discussion points:**

- No discussion

**Moved by the Academic Planning Committee that the Senate accept the self-study Report of the Centre for the Study of Sport & Health (CSSH) as meeting the requirement of section 3.3 of the Senate Policy 8-1009, Senate By-Laws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary's and that CSSH be authorized to continue for a further period of five years from the date of review. Motion carried.**

**18063**

**NEW BUSINESS FROM**

- a) Floor (not involving notice of motion)  
Availability of Senate minutes on the website. Work is being done to resolve the breaking links issue.

**18064**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 P.M.

Barb Bell,  
Secretary to the Office of Senate