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SENATE MEETING MINUTES April 16, 2021

The 625th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held via Zoom on Friday, April 16, 2021, at 2:00 PM. Dr Takseva, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Butler, Dr Bhabra, Dr Francis, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Austin, Dr Bannerjee, Dr Brosseau, Dr De Fuentes, Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr O'Brien, Dr Panasian, Dr Power, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr Twohig, Mr Brophy, Ms van den Hoogen, Ms Killam, Mr de Chastelain, Ms Winters, Mr Tumusiime, Mr Zokari, Dr Smith, Ms Sergeant-Greenwood, Dr Kay, Dr Fullerton, Dr Lundholm, Dr Zhang, and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr Sarty, Dr Hanley, Dr Hart, Dr Collins, and Ms Nankani.
Meeting commenced at 2:06 P.M. with the territorial acknowledgement.

21091 **REPORT OF AGENDA COMMITTEE**

- This is the final meeting for the student Senators. Our student Senators were thanked for their contributions and service to the Senate in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- There is a request that the agenda item dealing with the MBAN proposal be addressed no later than 3:15 PM so that the discussion and decision may be completed no later than 3:30 PM.
- The Agenda Committee report was accepted as revised.

21092 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Posted as *Appendix A* for this meeting (10 min).

Key Discussion Points:

- **Discovery and Innovation in a Learning-centered environment**
 - Congratulations were given in recognition of all the innovation work that is going on at SMU.
 - The 35th Annual Psychology Student Conference took place last week and showcased the considerable innovations in student research, including work on the COVID-19 pandemic. Congratulations to students and supervisors.
 - SMU received funding from the Province of Nova Scotia to support access and pathways for marginalized populations to study Computer Science (part of an allocation to four universities).

- **Intercultural Learning**
 - Over the past month, the primary focus of the President’s work in Intercultural Learning has been on diversity excellence, specifically the Scarborough Charter (as presented at the last meeting of Senate by the Standing Committee on the Prevention of Racism) and the BlackNorth Initiative Education Committee. On the former, the national advisory committee met again this week to begin a review of feedback received from universities and colleges across the country. A revised document will be submitted in the coming months.
 - Considerable work continues to be done on access to Canada and to Saint Mary’s for international students. Key issues include lobbying for improvements in visa processing times, public health and quarantine regulations, vaccination policies, and the continuation of the post-graduate work permit for students studying online but outside Canada. Conversations with Universities Canada, CBIE, IRCC, the AAU and the Public Health Agency of Canada continue. Senators should be aware of the announcement of the Government of Canada this week that opens a pathway for international students to apply directly for permanent residency between May and November of this year.
- **Institutional Sustainability**
 - The Government Relations file continues to be very active, and we are positioning Saint Mary’s strongly in discussions with provincial, municipal, and federal governments. In the lead up to the federal budget next week, various funding opportunities are being announced. We are exploring eligibility for universities on several of these, including those focusing on infrastructure, green technology, and diverse communities.
 - Saint Mary’s joined the ‘Deputy Minister Champion’ program with the Government of Canada. Our Champion is Ms. Caroline Xavier, Associate Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
 - Several Board meetings took place over the past month including: 1) the Governance Committee focused on Board appointment processes with particular attention to diversity 2) a special joint meeting of the Advancement and Property & Campus Planning committees discussed a bequest to the university; and 3) a ‘Campus Connection’ session for the whole Board led by Dr. Diane Crocker on the prevention of sexualized violence on university campuses.
 - the strategic planning process being led by Michelle Benoit and Janelle McNulty is progressing well and there has been an impressive engagement of our Saint Mary’s community – and more to come.
 - There have been personnel changes in the President’s office. Jo-Anne Peckham has taken an early retirement. A replacement will soon be announced. Dorcas Oginni, administrative assistant, is now on parental leave and we will shortly have a long-term replacement

to cover her leave. Karen Leonard will join the President's office on a temporary basis on Monday.

- As the term ends, Senators and members of faculty were thanked for all their work done within the last few months to successfully conclude the term.

21093

VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH REPORT

Posted as *Appendix B* for this meeting (10 min).

Key Discussion Points:

Spring Registrations (FCEs)

- Overall registration has been very strong for spring and summer, especially as measured against last year where we greatly expanded the number of summer offerings. We repeated that this year, and the registrations/interest are supporting that move. Clearly there is a strong interest from students in being able to access courses from us outside the traditional fall/ winter cycle.
- Faculty members have asked for a longer-term view providing a timeline for when things would be happening. This is being requested to assist in individual planning. Butler will be working on this within the next couple of weeks.

21094

SMUSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Posted as *Appendix C* for this meeting (5 min).

Key Discussion Points:

SMUSA Updates:

- **Current SMUSA Representatives final meeting** - The April Senate meeting is the final meeting with the current SMUSA Senate Representatives. Franklyn Southwell will be a new representative as the SMUSA incoming President and takes over on May 1. The other representatives will be determined shortly.
- **2021-2022 Academic Year**
 - **Continued Communications**

The University should continue increased communication with students around delivery plans. In addition to the increased communications, students should have clear avenues to address questions and concerns.
 - **Syllabus Repository**

Creating a syllabus repository for courses would allow students to better understand what a course will look like during the course registration stage. This would limit any add/drop problems.
 - **Lockdown Plan**

With the multiple different delivery plans for the 2021-2022 Academic year, students are worried about how a lockdown may affect each course differently - having plans in place that would be executed if a lockdown did occur with outlines for each delivery model would elevate some of this concern and would allow the University to be more proactive.
- **2020-2021 Academic Year – Grade Appeals**

With the end of the term, students are again turning to Final Grade Appeals to rectify any final grade problems. Students are finding the \$30 fee associated with the appeal as a barrier. Removal of this fee would help remove this barrier.

21095 **QUESTION PERIOD** (length at discretion of chair based on business volume)

Key Discussion Points:

- de Chastelain was thanked for his service over the past two years.
- Question: The request to remove the Grade Appeal fee was referred to Academic Regulations at the last Senate meeting. Is there an update? Answer: ARC has a meeting scheduled for May 3. **Action item: Bell** to ensure the appeals item is on the agenda.
- Question: Bridging activity – In Chemistry there is a significant issue where incoming students have basically no background in the subject matter. The potential for a training session prior to the year starting is being discussed. Funding support will be available.
- The Agenda Committee Chair advised that historically the last full Senate meeting is scheduled in May. If necessary, the Senate Executive meets on behalf of Senate during June through August.
- Question: Considering the changes anticipated in the next few months, is there an appetite for meetings over the summer? Answer: There were no objections.

Moved by Stinson, and seconded, **“that the Senate meeting schedule will be extended to include the months of June through August 2021.”**
Motion carried.

21096 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2021, were *circulated* as *Appendix D*.

There being no objections or revisions, **the minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2021 are approved.”** Motion carried.

21097 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

.01 Feedback on the Scarborough National Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education – suggestion to establish a sub-committee of Senate to provide oversight and feedback for all aspects over which they have jurisdiction.

Key Discussion Points:

- At the last meeting of the Senate, feedback was requested on the draft Charter. One suggestion was brought forward relating to how Senate deals with this type of question. That suggestion was to establish a sub-committee of the Senate that would provide oversight on how we as an institution respond to recommendations/directives coming forward from this Charter.
- To clarify, the original suggestion was for an institutional level committee with Senate representation included in the membership.

- Members were advised that creating another committee might be a duplication of effort. There is an existing Presidential Committee (Standing Committee on the Prevention of Racism) that is already working on these issues. There is faculty representation on that committee. It was suggested that the Presidential Committee could consider expanding the membership to include a Senate representative. This group is chaired by Debbie Brothers Scott.
- In the months ahead, the Diversity Committee will be consulting with the Standing Committee on the Prevention of Racism on the implications of the Charter as it relates to their mandate. It would be particularly important to ensure that all existing committees work together.
- **Action Item: Butler** stated that he would take this as a task assigned by the Senate to identify how this concept might be appropriately implemented and consider how Senate would be represented. Butler will bring forward a proposal for this and the issue below.
- Question: Could Senate refer issues of Learning and Teaching to this level/committee as well? Answer: These are exactly the types of conversations that have been happening at the Standing Committee on the Prevention of Racism. The elements of decolonization could also be considered at this level.
- Any Senate Committee can consider items of diversity and representation as they apply to their terms of reference.

21098

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01

Academic Planning Committee

- i. MTEI One-Year report, Appendix E1 – Notice of Motion, Appendix E2 – One-Year report. (Dr Gordon Fullerton attending)

Key Discussion Points:

- There was no discussion and no questions.

Moved by Panasian and seconded, **“that Senate approve the one-year follow-up report of the Master of Technology, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (MTEI) as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Graduate Programs at Saint Mary’s.” Motion carried.**

- ii. Undergraduate Biology Program Review documentation: *Appendix F* – APC Notice of Motion, *Appendix G* – Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix H*- Self Study Report, *Appendix I* - Self Study appendices (I1-I7), *Appendix J* – Dean’s Response to Self Study, *Appendix K*- External Program Review Committee’s (PRC) Final Report, *Appendix L* - Program Response to ERC Report, *Appendix M* – Deans Response to ERC Report / Prog Response. (Dr Jeremy Lundholm attending)

Key Discussion Points:

- **Recommendation 1:** APC looks forward to the outcome of discussions with the Dean and from the retreat in this regard.
- **Recommendation 2:** APC concurs with the responses of the Dean and the Department.

- **Recommendation 3:** APC concurs with the responses of the Dean and the Department.
- **Recommendation 4:** APC concurs with the Dean’s response.
- **Recommendation 5:** APC commends the Department on their response and concurs with the responses of the Dean and the Department.
- **Recommendation 6:** APC concurs with the Dean’s response.
- **Recommendation 7:** APC looks forward to the outcome of the Department discussions at their upcoming retreat on this recommendation regarding how they will reduce third- and fourth-year courses with labs.
- **Recommendation 8:** APC concurs with the Dean’s response. The Department is asked to note that this recommendation is also connected to recommendations one and four.
- **Recommendation 9:** APC concurs with the Dean’s response.
- **Recommendation 10:** APC supports the recommendation of the reviewers, and the Dean’s response, but this recommendation is beyond the purview of APC and Senate. APC suggests that the Department and Dean discuss this recommendation during the budgetary process.
- **Recommendation 11:** APC concurs with the responses of the Dean and the Department.
- **Recommendation 12:** Withdrawn. Returned to APC for reconsideration.
- **Recommendation 13:** This recommendation is beyond the purview of APC and Senate. APC suggests that the Department and Dean discuss this recommendation during the budgetary process.
- The program representative requested that APC withdraw Recommendation 12. This request was accepted, and Recommendation 12 was returned to APC for reconsideration.
- A revision to the motion was suggested to add the words “with the exception of Recommendation 12 to be referred back to APC for further discussion and to be brought back to Senate for a future meeting.”

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that Senate supports the recommendations from the APC as listed above with the exception of Recommendation 12 to be referred back to APC for further discussion and to be brought back to Senate for a future meeting.” Motion carried.**

- The other three motions in the Notice of Motion were withdrawn and will be brought forward at another Senate meeting if Senate approves the response to Recommendation 12.

iii. Proposal – *Appendix N1* - APC Notice of Motion *Appendix N2* – MPHEC Proposal for the Master of Business Analytics (MBAN), *Appendix N3* – Library Review. (Dr M. Zhamg)

Key Discussion Points:

- Dr Zhang advised that they have been working for quite a while on this development. The team would like to thank Dr Kay for his assistance with the development of the proposal. This is an interdisciplinary program that was developed after significant consultations.
- Dr Zhang was thanked for his leadership in the development of this program.
- This is a unique program and the only one of its kind east of Montreal.

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that the Senate approve the Sobey School of Business proposal for a Master of Business Analytics (MBAN) for furtherance to MPHEC”.** Motion carried.

.02 Bylaws Committee

Revised Bylaws document, *Appendix O1* – Notice of Motion, *Appendix O2* – Revision to 2.3 Passage of Motions, and *Appendix O3* – Bylaws document.

Key Discussion Points:

- Historically smaller Bylaws revisions have been collected through the year and applied annually to the full document. The last time this document underwent such a revision and came to Senate for approval was in February of 2020. Subsequently Senate approved revisions in May and August of 2020 and January and March of 2021.
- We also made some minor stylistic corrections that clarified existing language or were editorial in nature.
- We are proposing a new revision under section 2.3 Conduct of Meetings. There are a couple of articles that did not reflect current practice. These are proposed to be removed.
- The Bylaws Committee approved these additional revisions.

Moved by Grek-Martin and seconded, **“that the Senate approve the revision to section 2.3 Passage of Motions, submitted at Appendix O2 for this meeting, for inclusion in the Senate Bylaws document.”** Motion carried.

Moved by Grek-Martin and seconded, **“that the Senate approving the revised Senate Bylaws document (to including the revisions to section 2.3).”** Motion carried.

.03 Curriculum Committee

New ARTS designation / acronym to be used as a shell for ARTS based interdisciplinary teaching, *Appendix P* – Notice of Motion.

Key Discussion Points:

- This was discussed previously at the March meeting. This is a request for an ARTS shell designation.

- This existing motion is too broad. A member suggested that the motion be revised as it does not acknowledge that there are already dozens of existing interdisciplinary courses in the Faculty of Arts. There are also other interdisciplinary courses and programs on campus that already have their own acronyms. The motion should refer to initiatives that involve more than one of the extant departments or programs.
- Question: How would such courses be proposed (since the new electronic workflow begins with a faculty member in a department or program)? Who will review and approve such proposals? Answer: The Registrar stated that was the purpose for the proposed acronym, to provide for a way to pilot such courses. These courses would be treated as special topics courses and follow the procedures already existing for such courses. When the course is to be regularized, it will proceed through the established curriculum process.
- A member stated that the motion is specific (ARTS based interdisciplinary courses). The motion does not include interdisciplinary courses beyond the Faculty of ARTS.
- The proposal for the ARTS 1000 course that came to Senate in March, was more than was needed at that time. The Faculty of Arts intended only to ask for approval of the ‘ARTS’ designation/acronym. If the course becomes regularized, it will go through the normal curriculum process. Because this is a first-year designation course, a temporary way was needed for this to happen within the Faculty of Arts.
- It was noted that the current policy on special topics only allows the special topics courses to run for one year. The ARTS 1000 course was proposed as a three-year offering.
- Members were advised that the intent was originally to create a pilot and as such it does not belong in the calendar as a course until, or if, it is regularized.
- Question: Who decides the FCE issue? Answer: Strategic Enrollment (SEM) is responsible for the FCEs.
- There are four different departments involved in offering the ARTS 1000 course. In the future there will be a decision related to a home for this course.

Moved by Killam and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the creation of an ‘ARTS’ designation / acronym for ARTS based interdisciplinary courses.” Motion carried.**

21099

NEW BUSINESS FROM

a) Floor (not involving notice of motion)

.01 Team teaching – What it means and ways we could do that going forward in both an on-campus and remote teaching environment.

Key Discussion Points:

- Butler advised that a faculty discussion about this was welcome. There will also be components of this discussion that relate to the Faculty

Collective Agreement. We would need to ensure whatever approach was taken was done fairly across the university.

- There are many important components to consider:
 - operationalization
 - how it counts in the FCE allocation
 - work capacity - more faculty members would be qualified to teach these courses. A member advised that there is incredible experience to be gained by participation in team teaching.
 - allocation for credit for teaching.
 - It was suggested that this could be discussed by the APC or by SCoLT.
 - Butler was asked if it were possible to seek the input from APC, SCoLT, and SMUFU to get some sense for how team teaching could work here and then a report submitted back to the Senate. The Studio for Teaching and Learning may also have experience in this area.
 - The following suggestions were made:
 - Senate should have a more fulsome discussion before we task Senate Standing Committees and other SMU units with the consideration of this agenda item.
 - A discussion with the SMU faculty was suggested to identify the wishes of faculty.
 - Senate should invite faculty representatives to present on their experiences with team teaching.
 - This agenda item should be forwarded to the agenda of one of the summer meetings.
 - If the logistics issues were resolved, it would facilitate future development in this area.
 - There is research in this area, that could inform such a conversation.
 - The resource issue is separate. There is an operational piece in terms of teaching allotments and FCEs that can only be addressed (in a leadership role) by the VPAR.
 - We need something that is sustainable at the University and departmental levels.
 - **Action Item: Agenda Committee** to include an Agenda item for the June Senate meeting to allow for a discussion and to invite faculty representatives with experience in team-teaching to present to Senate.

21100

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary of Senate