

SENATE MEETING MINUTES January 11, 2013

The 547th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, January 11, 2013, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Bradshaw, Dr. Enns, Dr. Smith, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Austin, Dr. Barclay, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Power, Dr. Sewell, Dr. Stinson, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Mr. Hotchkiss, Mr. Michael, Mr. Perry, Mr. MacDonell, Ms. Chimhanda, Mr. Coady, Dr. Westhaver (SOI/CRIM) and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate

REGRETS: Dr. Vessey, Dr. Ivanoff, Dr. Russell, Dr. Secord, Dr. Street, Dr. Pendse, Dr. van Proosdij, Dr. Wang and Mr. Gorba Bhandari.

Meeting commenced at 2:30 P.M.

12040 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

12041 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
Minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2012, were *circulated* as **Appendix A**.

Moved by Bjornson, and seconded, **'that the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2012 are approved as circulated.'** Motion carried.

12042 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
.01 2012 Report on the Employment of Women as per Article 10.4.8 of the Saint Mary's University and Saint Mary's University Faculty Union Collective Agreement circulated as **Appendix B**
Key Discussion Points:

- In Article 10.4.8 of the SMUFU collective agreement it states: The Employer shall report in writing annually to Senate and to the Board of Governors by 1 December, on actions taken to improve the employment of members of the four groups specified in 10.4.1 in the university community, and in particular the development and implementation of the hiring goals required for academic units. The groups specified are: women, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities and people with disabilities. This article has been included in the agreement for some time.

- This report addresses the status of employment of women at Saint Mary's. Future reports will be structured to include information on the other three groups.
- Question: Why are no actions stipulated in the report? Answer: This is an issue we intend to focus on during the next reporting cycle.
- Question: What are we doing to retain the individuals we have within the specified sectors? Answer: Our HR processes focus on both recruitment and retention. We will address these areas more specifically in future reporting.
- Question: Will a revised report be submitted in consideration of the fact that some groups are absent from this one? Answer: No. This is an initial step taken to comply with this article in the collective agreement. The intention is for future reports to be structured to include information on those additional groups.
- Question: Are we striving to be on par with the national average or are we striving for parity in respect to gender? It looks like that we are not that far off the national average. More than ½ of our undergraduate students are female and they are not seeing that reflected in our faculty. Answer: What we would like to have discussions within the academic units to address this issue. The National Average does not necessarily address equity.

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the Senate accept the 2012 Report on the Employment of Women as a response to the requirements of Article 10.4.8 of the Saint Mary's University and Saint Mary's University Faculty Union Collective Agreement”**.
Motion carried.

.02 Follow up report to the 2009 Program Review of Sociology and Criminology, circulated as **Appendix C**. Dr. Westhaver attended to answer questions.

Key Discussion Points:

- It was noted that due to a printing error, there were some pages missing from the submission.
- The Academic Planning Committee discussed the program review documents along with this follow-up report. The APC recommends that the Senate consider approving the report of the Department of Sociology & Criminology as fulfilling the requirements of both the Senate Policy and the Senate motion of 11 June, 2010.
- Question: Recommendation 5 deals with TA workload and the development of policies. Has this issue been addressed? Answer: This was a situation where department faculty members were missing critical information in regard to the management of TAs and RAs. The faculty has noted the restrictions in regard to the role of the TAs. The department has since addressed this issue.
- Question: If the department disagrees with a recommendation, is there a process for dealing with that? Answer: There are reviews under which some of the external reviewer's recommendations are not implemented, and there could be substantive reasons for that decision. The responsibility of APC is to ensure that the process is followed. As long as the Academic Planning Committee is satisfied

that the program is addressing the recommendations, whether they accept them or not, a response is considered to be complete.

- Members were advised that there are instances where recommendations made by external reviewers require significant commitment of resources that are not available. Those recommendations cannot be accepted by the University because of budget restrictions.

12043

WINTER GRADUATION LIST

Documentation to be circulated at the meeting by the registrar as

Appendix D

Key Discussion Points:

- A summary sheet was circulated. The hard copy listing has been circulated to the Deans and senior administrators.
- The number of Winter Graduates has been increasing. There are 293 credentials being presented to 263 graduates this January which is creating space problems within the Theatre Auditorium. Only two tickets are available per family.
- Question: Is the option of live streaming available to another location on campus? Answer: We haven't looked at that.
- Question: Has there been any thought to having two ceremonies? Answer: Yes there has.
- Question: Is the increase in graduates the reason for the disproportionate allocation of distinctions? Answer: No.
- We have a number of student transcripts missing grades from courses taken on letters of permission. We will need the enabling motion for those students.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix D) at the Winter Convocation”**. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“to enable the Registrar to add such graduates to this list as may be identified subsequent to this meeting.”** Motion carried unanimously.

12044

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01

Academic Planning Committee

001 Institute for Computational Astrophysics (ICA) Annual Report as

Appendix E

Key Discussion Points:

- Research Centres and Institutes are required to report annually through APC to Senate. APC reviews these reports and provides feedback to the centre or institute. When satisfied with the response, APC forwards the information to Senate.

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the Senate accepts the annual report of the Institute for Computational Astrophysics (ICA) in fulfillment of the requirement set out in section 3.2**

Reporting Procedures in the Senate Bylaws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary's University." Motion carried.

002 Gorsebrook Research Institute – annual reports for 2010-2011 and 2012 attached as **Appendix F**

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: Why is there two years of reports? Answer: Because the GRI did not report last year.

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the Senate accepts the annual report of the Gorsebrook Research Institute in fulfillment of the requirement set out in section 3.2 Reporting Procedures in the Senate Bylaws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary's University.” Motion carried.**

.02 Curriculum Committee Addendum report circulated as **Appendix G**

Key Discussion Points:

- Dixon advised that as indicated during the December, 2012 Senate meeting, these are last minute clean-up items for the 2013-2014 Academic Calendar.
- The two program sections are already approved programs by both the Senate and by MPHEC.
- Question: Is most of the MMCCU program offered on-line? Answer: It is all on-line. There are two on-campus activities; the orientation and graduation.

Moved by Dixon and seconded, **“that the report of the Curriculum Committee is accepted, and that the material is approved for publishing in the 2013-2014 Academic Calendar.” Motion carried.**

12045

NEW BUSINESS FROM

a) Floor (not involving notice of motion)

- Dr. Bradshaw advised that there is a pending change in relation to the offerings of the Bachelor of Commerce, Major in Finance. Saint Mary's has an ongoing relationship with Beijing Normal University. We are implementing a program where students study there for two years and then come here to study for two years. We will also have faculty flying to Beijing to teach 20 credit hour courses. This involves the same admission standards, the same courses, and the same faculty. There will be a significant change in location and the courses will be taught in condensed model. There will be dedicated classrooms, residences and offices dedicated at Beijing Normal University for this program. We are hoping this will encourage the internationalization of the curriculum.
- Question: Can you speak to the benefits of this program? Answer: The partner school approached us in this regard. These types of programs are being offered more and more in China. They have a

long standing relationship with SMU and this was a significant opportunity for us. A number of the major business schools are moving in this direction. It has the potential benefit of providing internationalization for faculty and staff. It is also a way to reach out to some students that would not otherwise have the opportunity for the SMU experience.

- Question: Would you speak to the potential drawbacks? Answer: Development of websites for parents is one of those. The parents and families in China are a lot more involved in the student's programs. We will also need to maintain the quality of the program. It will impact the budgeting process and will be a strain on the Sobey School of Business in that regard. There is already a lot of overload teaching being done in the School.
- It was noted that Saint Mary's has offered programs off-campus before and those did not require Senate approval. The location in which we deliver these programs has not been a matter that Senate had to vote on.
- Dodds advised that back in the 1990s we ran whole programs in Gambia. Those did not go through Senate. We have had some experience in doing this. We did not continue in Gambia because there was funding to create a University in Gambia and we had an exit strategy.
- Gauthier advised that MPHEC must be kept informed and it is important that we make Senate aware of such activities.

12046

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dodds advised that there wasn't anything to add subsequent to the report at the last Senate meeting.

12047

QUESTION PERIOD

No questions

12048

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate