

**SENATE MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2023**

The 641st meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, February 17, 2023, at 2:00 PM, in CLARI, Atrium room 340. Dr Grandy, Chaired.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Bhabra, Dr Francis, Dr Ingraham, Dr Sarty, Dr Austin, Dr Barclay, Dr Brosseau, Dr Fan, Dr Grandy, Dr Hare, Dr Irving, Dr Kocum, Dr O'Brien, Dr Power, Dr Sanderson, Dr Stinson, Dr Ylijoki, Dr Al Zaman, Dr Zhyznomirska, Mr Brophy, Mr Peters, Ms van den Hoogen, Ms Tyler, Ms Meyers, Ms Mihika, Ms Boudreau, Mr Wilson, and Ms Bell, Secretary of Senate.

GUESTS: Ms Sergeant-Greenwood, Dr Kay, Dr Fiset (GBST 2:45 pm),

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm. Dr Grandy chaired and provided the territorial acknowledgement.

23065 **REPORT OF AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The agenda was accepted as posted.

23066 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
Posted as **Appendix A** for this meeting (10 min).
Key Discussion Points:
The President referred to the report included with meeting materials and highlighted the following:

Discovery and Innovation in a Learning-Centered Environment

- Pilot implementation of MyCreds within the province's universities is a part of a wider initiative to improve security of documents and portability of student information.

Intercultural Learning

- The President participated in the following events: Immigrants Gala, AVPs Diversity Excellence meeting, Sobey Speaker Series, and African Heritage Month.
- International Night is tomorrow night on campus.

Institutional Sustainability

- Government relations activities continue to be strong and focus on securing federal funds for the Sobey's Inspiration Hub. Also being addressed are immigration issues & study permits, student housing, and a potential Active Transportation project with federal funding.
- We are finalizing a contract for the Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub with Carleton University.
- There have been important positive developments in fundraising and philanthropy in recent weeks, including meetings with senior leadership of the major banks.

23067 **VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH REPORT**
Posted as **Appendix B** for this meeting (10 min).
Key D
Discussion Points: Winter Enrolments (as of Feb. 5th)

- Because Appendix C is in pdf file format, the MPHEC Enrolment Trends link included in the report is not functional. **Action Item: Bell** to upload the report document as an MS Word file instead of the existing pdf.
- A two-year comparison of the number of undergraduate FCEs both domestic and international was presented.
- The Search Committee has agreed on a short list with interviews for the AVP, Enrolment Management & Registrar position starting Feb 21.
- The first meeting is being scheduling for the Selection Committee for the position of Dean Sobey School of Business.
- Saint Mary's has received a large grant from the Global Skills Opportunity Program which will be announced soon.
 - This program is Canada's national outbound student mobility pilot program. It aims to empower post-secondary institutions to increase the participation of Canadians in international learning opportunities, especially students with disabilities, Indigenous students and those from low socio-economic backgrounds who have traditionally faced barriers to participation.
 - It is administered jointly by Universities Canada and Colleges and Institutes Canada. Projects are designed, implemented and managed by participating universities, colleges and institutes across the country.
 - A large percentage of the funding from the Government of Canada through Employment and Social Development Canada will be distributed as follows: 50% is earmarked for supporting underrepresented students' access to outbound mobility opportunities. Forty percent is directed towards diversification of destination countries where students choose to work/study abroad. Ten percent is directed to test innovative approaches to reduce barriers to study/work abroad.
- This is the second grant from the Global Skills Opportunity Program.

23068

SMUSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Academic focus)

Listed as **Appendix C** but presented verbally only (5 min).

Key Discussion Points:

- Megan Boudreau was introduced as the new SMUSA Senate rep. She also sits on the Board.
- Students have been discussing using AI to complete assignments resulting in an increased risk to academic integrity on campus. Concern was expressed about the upcoming exams.
- SMUSA elections were concluded this week. The successful candidates begin their terms as of 1 May 2023.
- The Student Technology Advisory Committee continues to meet. A recent survey result has been reviewed and the committee has been discussing how certain aspects of mandatory classroom technology impact students.

23069

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

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: How does someone access the funding from SDC? Answer: The funding comes in to the UDEI in Student Services, who then coordinates all outbound exchange requests.
- Question: Is this funding open to all students? Answer: Yes. It is open to all, especially students that would not have access otherwise. There is a concerted effort to increase opportunities for students to have an international opportunity who would otherwise not be able to do so.

- Question: Is there a deadline for the availability of these funds? Will there be new terms of reference? Answer: The program will continue until 2025. The TOR are unknown. We are trying to convince them to move to a different model that would be continue when this pilot ends.
- Question: Will the funding be available for use by the Peaceful Schools International project? Answer: No, it is not available to that project.
- Disappointment was expressed concerning the termination of the Peaceful Schools project. Question: Why was this popular program terminated? Answer: SMU does not generally fund non-academic field programming. Resources are not in place for this activity, and we must also clarify the relationships between all the participants. The leadership of the Peaceful Schools Project is currently all SMU employees with SMUSA having a piece through their Peace and Resolution Society.
- In January 2023, the Chinese government told Chinese students enrolled with foreign schools, colleges, and universities that they must study in-person rather than online going forward. They were told that going forward, online credentials obtained from a foreign institution would no longer be recognized. Question: Will this affect us positively or negatively? Answer: This was a non-consultative decision and had the potential to seriously impact students. We contacted the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa and expressed concern about this and asked for a solution. On January 29, a clarifying statement was issued assuring students of additional flexibility in cases where there is simply no way to transition quickly to in-person learning. The good news in the long term is that students from China that have been studying online will be coming here.
- Question: What happens to the program for faculty exchanges and the 2 + 2 programs? Answer: This discussion was taken offline.

23070

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2023, were *circulated* as **Appendix D**.

Key Discussion Points:

- No discussion.

There being no revisions or objections, the minutes of the Senate meeting of January 20, 2023, were accepted as posted.

23071

a)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Agenda Committee (Dr Stinson),

Memo re Transcription Services, **Appendix E**.

Discussion Points:

- The Senate tasked the Agenda Committee to explore the use of a transcription service to document Senate meetings. This would be in addition to the current minute taking process.
- The Senate Agenda Committee gave considerable thought to this request and appreciates both the benefits and risks associated with a transcription of Senate meetings.
- The Agenda Committee concluded that the current approach to meeting minutes meets the current requirements.
- According to Deborah Brothers-Scott, faculty or staff members who require an accommodation can contact Graham MacKenzie, Return to Work and Accommodations Consultant at Graham.MacKenzie@smu.ca.
- Question: Was the Accessibility Plan consulted in arriving at this decision. Answer: The Agenda Committee considered the accessibility plan when evaluating the transcription request.

- b) Curriculum Committee – Education Courses Submission, **Appendix M1 & M2.**
- Education 1000 and 1101/1102 are intended for and are of most benefit to first-year students, particularly new international students. The aim is to better engage students academically, and thereby contribute to first-year student retention. The idea for transition courses arose from the Senate Report on Student Success (2006) that identified multiple transition points students experience and require support to succeed.
 - EDUC 1000 is specifically designed to orient new international students to the North American ideal and model of independent thinking and agency in higher learning.
 - In EDUC 1101/1102 courses, students develop critical awareness and knowledge. The value of these courses as transition courses was recognized by the Student Success Committee under SEM.
 - Question: Who takes these courses and why? What is the program they are in?
Answer: These courses are intended for first-year students, and students in any major can take them.
 - Concern was expressed that the course descriptions do not reflect what the rationale is saying about these courses.
 - Question: Did the Curriculum Committee (CC) approve these descriptions, and can we restrict the credit hour requirement (with no more than 15 (fifteen) credit hours of completed coursework)? Answer: Yes, the CC did approve these course description and yes Banner can restrict the credit hour limit.
 - It was noted that the explanation of EDUC 1000 provided in the submission does not match what exists in the calendar. Response: The CC depends on the Faculty councils to do the due diligence to ensure the relationship of submissions to programs are appropriate and correct. With Education, there is no Faculty or Executive Councils to address this.
 - Concern was expressed that the information in the rationale is not included in the calendar and students will not have a clear idea of the purposed of these courses. The course descriptions use language that is not consistent with the given intent. Consensus was that this submission should be sent back.
 - Question: Can this submission wait another month? Answer: No. We must publish the Academic Calendar on March 7.
 - Question: Concern was expressed that this is the second time this submission has come to Senate. Could someone discuss this with the acting Dean so it can be submitted in a format we can approve. **Action Item: VanderPlaat** will do this.

Moved by Peters and seconded, “**that Senate approve the revisions to EDUC 1101 and 1102 for insertion into the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.**” Motion superseded by the following secondary motion.

Moved by O’Brien and seconded, “**that this submission is referred back to the proponent through the Curriculum Committee.**” Motion carried.

23072 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Academic Planning Committee (Dr John Fiset x pm)
 - a) Global Business Program Review (UG), Program Review documentation, **Appendix F** – APC Notice of Motion, **Appendix G** – Recommendation-Comparison summary, **Appendix H** – Self Study Report, **Appendix I** - Self Study appendices (I01-I07), **Appendix J**– Dean’s Response to Self Study, **Appendix K** - External Program Review Committee’s (PRC) Final Report, (**Note:** see the **APP G** for the following two items) – Program Response to PRC Report., and Dean’s response to PRC Report.

Key Discussion Items:

- The program coordinator gave a brief overview of the program and process and stated that the reviewers did a thorough job with the review.
- **Recommendation 1:** Add a core course in international business to serve as an entry way into the major and provide all Bachelor of Commerce students with exposure to international management concepts.
*Senate concurs with APC and strongly encourages the program to explore ways to include an international business course in their core offerings.
- **Recommendation 2:** Review the electives outside of the business school to ensure alignment with the goals of the program.
*Senate concurs with APC.
- **Recommendation 3:** In the medium term, explore international experiential activities such as international exchange, short international trips, internships, service-learning, or research projects.
*Senate concurs with APC and encourages the program to investigate ways to offer students a variety of international experiential activities.
- **Recommendation 4:** In the long term, create new courses for the Major that focus more explicitly on intercultural competence development (e.g., intercultural business communication, international negotiations, etc.).
*Senate concurs with APC and encourages the program to seriously consider the creation of new courses for the Major in intercultural competence development.
- **Recommendation 5:** House the major within the Management department. If that is not viable, consider creating a structure under the Bachelor of Commerce Office.
*Senate concurs with APC and encourages the BCom Program Coordinator to explore this recommendation with the Department of Management.
- **Recommendation 6:** Reduce the number of credits to be more aligned with other majors in Sobey School of Business.
*Senate concurs with APC and encourages the program to seriously consider this recommendation.
- **Recommendation 7:** Simplify the requirements of language, geographic, and cognate electives to become a selection of all courses combined.
*Senate concurs with APC.
- **Recommendation 8:** Increase flexibility in the business course offerings as part of the major.
*Senate concurs with APC.
- **Recommendation 9:** Eliminate the course ACCT 3332 Planning and Control from the list of recommended courses.
*Senate concurs with APC.
- **Recommendation 10:** Rename the “Cognates” elective grouping.
*Senate concurs with APC.
- **Recommendation 11:** Increase promotion activities with a target student group in mind and informed by local employers’ needs and that highlight potential career paths.
*Senate concurs with APC.

- **Recommendation 12:** Review and revise the GBM website to clearly describe the program and its benefits, demonstrate double major options and career paths, and showcase extracurricular options.
*Senate concurs with APC.
- Question: The first recommendation appears to be the only example of a disagreement between the reviewers and program. Is there anything Senate can do in this regard? Answer: It will take time to make this happen. It is possible but it is just a timing thing.
- Question: Given the multidisciplinary nature of the program, why is the Management Department being suggested as a home? Answer: The reviewers related to their own international business departments. They saw there was limited support for this floating program. It has not received the attention it deserves over the past few years. In the review they said it needed some additional courses and those were within Management. That is where that suggestion came from.

*Moved by VanderPlaat and seconded,
“that Senate supports the APC recommendations arising from the GBST program review as listed above.” Motion carried.*

*Moved as an omnibus motion by VanderPlaat, and seconded,
“that the GBST program submit an Action Plan, that is based on the preceding recommendations, to the Academic Planning Committee in time for the May 2023 meeting of the APC”.*

It was noted that Appendix F states February instead of May. **Action Item: Bell** to correct **Appendix F**

and

“that one year after the approval of the Action Plan, the undergraduate GBST 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”.

and

“that two years after the approval of the one-year report, the undergraduate GBST program submit a three-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”.

Motions carried.

23073

NEW BUSINESS FROM

- a) Floor (not involving notice of motion)
- b) Floor (involving notice of motion)
 - i. Senate Policy on Course Outlines review request, **Appendix L1 & L2**

Key Discussion Points:

- Senate approved this policy for implementation in 2012 and it should be reviewed concerning the following:
 - It is not clear where the requirements of the policy end and the recommendations begin.
 - It is not clear whether the policy applies to all undergraduate courses (e.g. does it apply to directed studies or honours thesis courses?)
 - It is not clear to faculty whether the policy applies at all to graduate courses.
 - Changes in course delivery mode options seem to require a revised Course Outline Policy.
 - Encourage or require faculty to include references to resources available at the University that are new since 2011, for example the Academic Integrity 101, the Accessibility Plan, and the introduction of Advisors for Indigenous and black students.
- It was suggested that perhaps an ad hoc sub-committee should review this policy rather than tasking the Curriculum Committee (CC) with it. Consensus was that it should remain with the CC.
- In five years, this document will need to be reviewed again and it would be nice to have the policy owned by a Senate committee.
- There has been an increasing amount of information that is included in the course outline policy. The CC should concentrate on establishing a balance between the critical elements that are needed and the time faculty and students need to create/read the document.
- Members were advised that a subgroup of the CC have been working on this. Discussion related to an expected response established that October 2023 is a reasonable timeline.
- It was suggested that Dee Dooley, the sexual violence advisor be consulted in this effort.
- The Senate Curriculum Committee was directed to consult with the following University bodies during the revision process:
 - Associate Deans of all faculties
 - FGSR
 - Academic Appeals Committee Chair (Dr Grandy)
 - SMUSA
 - University Librarian
 - Indigenous student advisor
 - Black student advisor
 - Fred Smithers Centre for Student Accessibility (consider issues as per the University Accessibility Plan)

Moved by Austin and seconded, **“that Senate shall require the Senate Curriculum Committee to revise Senate Policy 8-1012, Senate Policy on Course Outlines, reporting back to Senate no later than the meeting in October 2023.” Motion carried.**

23074

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.