



One University. One World. Yours.

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

SENATE MEETING MINUTES December 14, 2018

The 597th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, December 14, 2018, at 2:00 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr VanderPlaat, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Butler, Dr Smith, Dr Francis, Dr Sarty, Dr Doucet, Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Loughlin, Dr Power, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr Twohig, Dr VanderPlaat, Mr Brophy, Ms van den Hoogen, Mr Archibald, Mr Oshobu, and Ms Sargeant Greenwood,

REGRETS: Dr Bhabra, Dr MacDonald, Dr Hall, Dr Kehoe, Dr Khokar, Dr McCallum, Dr Rahaman, Dr Warner, Mr Nasrallah, Mr Mahmudur Rahman Shovon, and Mr Southwell,

Meeting commenced at 2:03 P.M.

18032 REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Members were advised that the agenda would be reordered to ensure everything requiring a motion would be addressed while a quorum of members were present. The order was: 8a Curriculum, 9 Honorary Degrees, 10 Emeritus, followed by 7.02 Create Indigenous Working Group of Senate.

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted as revised.

18033 PRESIDENT'S REPORT attached as *Appendix A* (10 min)

Summerby-Murray advised members of the following:

We remain in a good relationship with our Provincial Government. The full President's report is posted on SMUport for the information of Senators.

New England Travel Update

- At the invitation of Yale University Vice President, Pericles Lewis, attended a Yale Conference entitled "Twenty Years of Peace – Progress and Possibilities in Northern Ireland". This was a terrific initiative and kudos go to the faculty that were involved. We have a potential partnership in the works with Yale and some other institutions. More info to come.
- Attended and delivered remarks, at an EduNova sponsored event held for Guidance Counsellors in the Boston area.
- Met with members of Saint Mary's alum – both in the form of in person meetings, as well as a very well received/attended reception for Boston area alumnae and represented Nova Scotia in attending the Boston Tree Lighting Ceremony.

- Notice was given of the appointment to the Bench of the Board Vice-Chair and an Alumna.
 - Mr. Scott Norton, Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, is appointed to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. The Board is seeking a new vice-chair.
 - Ms. Darlene Jamieson, a B.A. alumna has also been appointed to the Supreme Court.

Institutional Sustainability

- Discussion of the MOU is a central agenda item on the December 14 MOU Partnership Team meeting agenda – I anticipate being in a position to provide a more fulsome report in the course of the January meeting of Senate.
- This morning the MOU partnership meeting was held with ministers and university president's across Canada. We are on track working on a stable and predictable tuition change and policy. Progress is being made on information technology and cyber security as well as facilities and accessibility costs.
- There was a recent announcement by the Provincial Government of specific funding to Kings College (2.2 million increment on their grant) and Saint FX (2.95 million increment on their grant). A reminder to Senate members that Saint Mary's did get 11 million for the HUB project this year.

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to convey best wishes to all members of Senate for an enjoyable break. I would like to extend my thanks to each of you for your efforts on behalf of our students and Saint Mary's University, over the course of 2018. I am sincerely proud of what we have accomplished together over the course of the past 12 months, and I look forward to both our shared work and shared successes in 2019.

18034

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT (10 min)

Butler advised members of the following:

- Starting in January, the VPAR will submit a written report.
- APC sent out a recent call for participation in a pilot. It was proposed that the pilot courses be used as alternates to the ENGL 1205 degree requirement but that proposal was withdrawn. There will be ongoing discussions related to integration of the new offerings more effectively into programs.
- During the closure period, we will be investigating options available in Enrolment Management through the Registrar's Office. We will be working through those in terms of a call for offers for the position of Registrar.
- It was acknowledged that most faculty members do not have the knowledge, background or experience when it comes to engagement with indigenous communities. We plan to develop training for faculty to begin in the New Year. This initiative has to start before the Academic Plan is in place.
- We will circulate a notice for round two of consultations on the Academic Plan early in the New Year. There will be more focus on faculty and student engagement.

18035

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

- A Senator asked: The pilot initiatives have implications for curriculum. There is not enough information available on the pilots in this regard. Questions: How are we going to evaluate these academic literacy pilots? How will we know if the pilots worked? Can faculty participate in the second year if they did not get the opportunity at the beginning? Would consideration be given to a web course? The VPAR answered: We will be establishing communities of practice so that the participants are engaged in the process together. We will be looking at growing the initiative next year so there will be opportunities for other faculty to engage at that time. We will also be looking to bring in external speakers and reviewing how other institutions are addressing these issues and what initiatives they have in place. There are no obstacles to the consideration of a web course for this application. It is a different engagement model, but not outside of the realm of possibility.
- Question: A Senator asked why students would take the pilot courses if ENGL 1205 continues to be the degree requirement. The VPAR responded: When the APC reviewed the programs on campus, there was only one program in the Sobey School of Business where students did not have room in their program to participate. More detail will be provided to the academic advisors over the winter to help students incorporate this opportunity in their program.
- Senators were advised that the Faculty of Science was concerned that, if ENGL 1205 was replaced, we ensure it is replaced with a humanities course.
- Question: A faculty Senate representative suggested that faculty are interested in how the negotiations are going as it relates to the operations of the university, especially if there is a strike in the New Year. Answer: In terms of negotiating the faculty union financial asks, the constraints are a 1% increase in the provincial grant. This is well below the cost of inflation related to operational and utility expenses. The University is challenged in terms of being able to provide a sustainable financial model going forward. There is a need for caution to ensure identification of a reasonable way forward.
- The Dean, FGSR advised that work on the Strategic Research Plan is proceeding. A web tool is being used to engage faculty and consultations will be continuing in the next few weeks.
- A Senator asked for confirmation that people will be welcome to join the pilot next year. The VPAR replied: “Yes they will.”

18036

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2018, were circulated as *Appendix D*.

Moved by Smith, and seconded, “**that the minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2018 are approved as circulated.**” Motion carried.

18037

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS

- a) Report from the Committee on Experiential Learning
Discussion deferred to January.
- b) Follow-up to Preparing to Indigenize Report (Takseva)
Key discussion points:

- A faculty Senate representative proposed the creation of a working group or ad-hoc committee whose mandate would be to draft a statement regarding the value of Indigenous knowledge that would be included in the new Academic Plan and the University's mission and vision.
- Such an initiative would further the university's commitment to indigenization with specific reference to the truth and reconciliation commission recommendations: establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship, building respect and appreciation for Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, and connections to the land, facilitating the growth of indigenous curriculum and demonstrating our commitment to social responsibility. This would also be consistent with our commitment to the liberal arts.
- Question: If this is to be part of the Academic Plan, is this the right approach? Answer: The VPAR stated that such an initiative would be viewed in a very positive light by the President's Advisory Council on Indigenous Education, who would be worked with very closely to ensure the right approach was taken. Beyond that, there is no issue with connecting this initiative with the academic plan process.
- Senators were advised that the Academic Plan would be ready for approval in April 2019. This initiative would have to complete their task in time for inclusion in the Academic Plan.
- **Action Item: Butler** to do the preparation work next week including approaching individuals to participate.
- The President advised that he expected there would be tremendous support in the Advisory Council for this idea. The Council will be meeting next week. **Action Item: Takseva** to send names of those interested to Dr Butler.

Moved by Takseva and seconded, **“to create a working group/ad-hoc committee whose mandate would be to draft a statement regarding the value of Indigenous knowledge that would be included in the new Academic Plan and the University's mission and vision.” Motion carried.**

18038

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01 Curriculum Committee, semi-annual reports, *Appendices: C1* Notice of Motion, *C2* - Faculty of Arts, *C3* Faculty of Science, *C4* Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research & *C5* Sobey School of Business.

Key discussion points:

- Senators were advised that there was a substantial package of submissions to the Curriculum Committee for review in conjunction with the revision of the Calendar.
- Question on Faculty of Arts package
 - There is a new course in Spanish 2771. Why is it proposed as a six credit hour course? The description suggests it should be 30 credit hours. Answer: The Associate Dean responded that this is an immersive experiential and engagement course that includes a variety of other activities. This structure is consistent with other courses of a similar structure.
- Question related to CRIM: There are a number of course changes where their level goes from 2000 to 1000 and vice versa. In addition, CRIM 1210 appears no longer to be needed and the new 1000 course that has been introduced is not applied as a prerequisite in the way that 1210 was. What was the

rationale for this? Answer: The Associate Dean responded that CRIM did not historically have a 1000 level course. This revision allows students to take one but the program did not want to require students to take it and thereby create a new gateway course.

- A Senator identified a situation with the CRIM Major where two courses are required to be completed in order to be admitted into the major program, however they are also requirements for the program. The prerequisite for CRIM 2110 is enrolment in the Criminology Major. This is contradictory. A student cannot register for Exploring Criminology unless they are enrolled in the CRIM Major program, and they cannot be enrolled in the CRIM Major program unless they have already taken Exploring Criminology (2110). This is impossible. Students who transfer into Saint Mary's from outside could conceivably be enrolled without that requirement. Answer: This allows flexibility. For admission to the program students must have completed 2110 and 2304. **Action Item: Twohig** will consult with the department to correct this oversight. The resolution is to revise the prerequisite of 2110 to CRIM 1303 and delete "Enrolment in a Criminology Major".
- Question: A Senator asked why the requirement for the Minor was a minimum grade of B- and the Major requirement was a C? It should be consistently a C requirement. **Answer: The Associate Dean** will consult with the department. The resolution is to revise the Major requirement to "a minimum grade of B- in each course".
- In a number of places the new proposed prerequisite is supposed to be CRIM 1303 and not CRIM 2303. Corrections are necessary. **Action Item: Bell** to correct. This was done immediately following the meeting.
- In the report for the Faculty of Science, there is a revision to the Bachelor of Science - General (with a Concentration) that changes the ENGL 1205 requirement. Question: Is this related to the development of a new academic literacy course? What plan is there to develop this? Answer: The Acting Dean responded that the Faculty of Science is open to discussion on this issue, but will not be requiring students to take ENGL 1205, which has been identified as not meeting the requirement for which it was proposed. There is still room for Science students to take the new courses in ENGL (supporting examples were given).
- Question: A Senator noted that the prerequisites for all upper level CRIM courses seems to be a declaration of a major. This is contrary to SMU practices and is limiting. Someone in another level / discipline might want to take these courses. Answer: The Associate Dean advised that the CRIM program is running at capacity in terms of teaching resources. This is a way to control the program to ensure that the students in this discipline will have a seat reserved for them in these courses.
- Question: Is it not true that Majors have priority and can register a week ahead of time for their courses? Answer: the Associate Dean advised that students can do that if they register on time, but there is the potential for other students to register ahead of CRIM students that need these credits to complete their programs.
- A Senator noted that the Department of Sociology is deleting a course that in the last year had 200 students registered. There is no substitute course for it. Why are they deleting it? Answer: The Associate Dean advised that in the dissolution of the Department of Sociology and Criminology, there was a

fundamental consideration of methods as a whole. The content of that course will be moved into a new single methods course.

- A Senator noted that in the Department of Geography, several lab courses are being changed in terms of time spent. Question: Have the human resource implications been considered? Answer: The Associate Dean advised that consideration of the resource implications was done and the budget has been increased to address this. An additional full-time faculty member has been hired. The change in lab structure will bring the Department of Geography in line with other lab courses in the Faculty in terms of contact time and credit hours. There is no change in the Department's allotment. A modest increase from the VPAR's allotment has been made to bridge the transition period.
- A Senator advised there was an issue with the formatting of numbers in sections within Geography - Requirements for a Major in Bachelor of Science Degree. **Action Item: Bell** corrected this immediately following the meeting.
- The Dean, FGSR advised that there were two new German Courses that a section would need to be created within the German Calendar because there is no graduate German program.

Moved by Smith and seconded, **“that the material presented in Appendices C2 through C5 is approved for insertion into the 2019-2020 Academic Calendar as revised.” Motion carried.**

18039

HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

Five names were recommended to Senate

- Questions focused on the process followed when considering candidate recommendations and what rationale was used for the decision on which candidates are recommended to Senate and the Board.
- **Individual motions were moved by Summerby-Murray and seconded for each of the five recommendations. Motions were carried.**

18040

PROFESSOR EMERITUS RECOMMENDATION(S)

Recommendation for Dr. J. Reid, Department of History, *Appendix E1 and E2*

Key discussion points:

- Support was expressed for this recommendation.

Moved by Summerby-Murray and seconded, **“that the emeritus recommendation for Dr J Reid, Department of History is approved for forwarding to the Board of Governors for awarding.” Motion carried unanimously.**

18041

NEW BUSINESS FROM

- Floor (not involving notice of motion)
- 2018 Report on Positive Action to Improve the Employment of Women, Aboriginal Peoples, Visible minorities, and People with Disabilities at Saint Mary's University, *Appendix D*.

Key discussion points:

- Submission of this report to Senate is predicated by the SMUFU Collective Agreement.
- The VPAR advised that the presentation of the data is somewhat challenging. In 2019 there will be an update to the data.
- The A tables reflect the data being compared to the SMU data.

- The B tables hold the relevant data and show the SMU landscape compared with labour market expectations. According to current Federal Employment Equity Act Guidelines, underrepresentation is considered significant if the number gap is -3 or greater (note that while the gap is referred to as -3 or greater, the actual numerical value is -3 or less, i.e., -3, -4, -5, etc.), and if the percentage gap is 80% or less of the labour market expectation. If the number gap is a factor of -3 or less or 80% or less.
- Table 5B indicates one significant gap has emerged in Science – representation of women. We need to investigate this and consider our strategy going forward in the coming year.
- We asked the Deans for items that have been done and those are represented at the end of the report.
- We are working with Deborah Brothers-Scott on these issues going forward.
- Question: A Senator noted that on page 3 the numbers are not surprising. Even with the minimum goal, SMU continues to have a gap in terms of respondents; at Saint Mary's University visible minorities and aboriginals are still under-represented.
- It was noted that there are improvements since the previous report.
- Question: A Senator asked if there had been any consideration of exit surveys. That would ensure that we addressed issues that underlie why faculty may leave. Answer: The VPAR replied that it is part of the conversation with Ms Brothers-Scott.
- A Senator acknowledged the strategies taken by the Faculty of Arts. In spite of those, there are still some significant gaps. For example, SMU does not have a black student advisor on campus. This is felt by our international students in particular. Answer: The VPAR advised that this is being addressed to identify the needs and to engage resources to address this gap.
- The report was accepted into the Senate record.

18042

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate