



One University. One World. Yours.

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

SENATE MEETING MINUTES March 13, 2015

The 564th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, March 13, 2015, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Dodds, Dr Gauthier, Dr Dixon, Dr MacDonald, Dr Smith, Dr Vessey, Dr Naulls, Dr Power, Dr Austin, Dr Bjornson, Dr Gilin Oore, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Secord, Dr Short, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Warner (leaving early), Ms DeYoung, Mr Michael, Mr Hotchkiss, Mr. Hamilton, Mr Dhudak, Mr Patriquin, Mr Rice, Ms Morrison, Mr Rooney, Dr Sewell, Dr Crocker, Dr Dalton, Dr Soucy and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr Bradshaw, Dr Campbell, Dr Francis, Dr Kozloski, and Mr Feehan,

Meeting commenced at 2:35 P.M.

14057 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

14058 **SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY 2015-2016 OPERATING BUDGET**
Presentation by Darrell Rooney and Gabe Morrison

Key Highlights:

- This budget will be submitted to the Board of Governors for consideration on March 25th. After approval, the presentation file will be made available to Senators.
- This is not a balanced budget as required by our Board of Governors but is strategically aligned to what we have to achieve in the next year.
- External influences continue to play a significant role.
- Through various Senior Management initiatives and a hiring chill, we have been able to close the gap almost completely for the 2014-2015 year.
- We created a three-year budget recovery strategy that has been endorsed by the Executive Management Group. The University will returning to a balanced budget in 2017-18.
- Key Decision Drivers:
 - Initiatives that drive undergraduate enrolment were given priority.
 - Ensuring the continuation of the AACSB Accreditation for the Sobey School of Business.

- Initiatives that assist students through their continuum with the university were a priority (recruitment, enrolment, student life and student success; providing funding for orientation activities for new students and other President’s Council initiatives).
- The impact of proposed permanent reductions was weighted against the resulting benefit of strategic reallocations. Each unit contributed to solving the budget situation through reductions and/or new revenue initiatives.
- Budgets were adjusted to reflect the ‘actual costs’ of providing ancillary and auxiliary services. Budgets were reset for key areas that drive student enrolment.
- Efforts were put into creating a sustainable budget model for athletics and recreation.
- Budgeting for a contingency relating to risks on: Government grant, Fall 2015 enrolment, other unknowns).
- Presentation of budget details followed by an opportunity for questions and answers.

14059 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2015, were *circulated* as *Appendix A*. The following revisions were noted:

- note – Item numbers need to be corrected
- Moved by Bjornson, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2015 are approved as revised.” Motion carried.**

14060 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None.

14061 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01 Academic Planning Committee

- i) MFIN – APC memo and one-year follow-up report, *Appendix B1 and B2*

Key discussion points:

- It was noted that recommendations (3 & 6) are still on hold. A follow up report was requested on these to be submitted to the Senate at a later date.

Moved by Gauthier, and seconded, “that the Senate approves the follow-up report of the MFIN Program as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s.” Motion carried.

- ii) **Asian Studies Program** review documentation circulated as: *Appendix C* – APC Notice of Motion, *Appendix D* - Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix E* - Self Study Report, *Appendix (F1-F8)* - Self Study appendices, *Appendix G* - Deans Response to Self Study, *Appendix H* - External Review Committee’s (ERC) Final Report, *Appendix I* - Department Response to ERC Report, *Appendix J* - Dean’s Response to ERC report. (*Dr Sewell, Coordinator, Asian Studies attending*)

Key Discussion Points:

- The members of the Academic Planning Committee consider all 8 recommendations to be valuable and worth considering. Those recommendation that are not being forward to the Senate are being referred to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and the ASNT Program for consideration.
- APC supports Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 which are being put forward to Senate.
- Question: Concern was expressed regarding the challenges that interdisciplinary programs face. What is the university doing to address this issue? Answer: There are a number of interdisciplinary programs being reviewed this year. SMU has a great deal of strength in this area. Academic Planning will be taking steps to attempt to assess this issue in a more academic approach.

Moved by Gauthier, and seconded, **“that the Asian Studies Program respond to the recommendations of the external reviewers as articulated in the APC Memo to Senate dated March 2, 2015. APC specifically recommends that the Department implement recommendations 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7”.** Motion carried

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the Asian Studies Program submit an action plan to APC in June 2015.”** Motion carried

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that in March, 2016, the Asian Studies Program submit a one-year report to the Academic Planning Committee on the progress made during the year on the Action Plan according to Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University.”** Motion carried.

- iii) **Religious Studies** program review documentation circulated as:
Appendix K – APC Notice of Motion, **Appendix L**, Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix M1 & M2* – Undergrad and Grad Self Study Reports, *Appendix (N1 – 1-23)* UG Self Study appendices, *Appendix (N2 – 1-15)* Grad Self Study appendices, *Appendix O1 & O2*- Deans Responses to Self Study UG & Grad, *Appendix P* - External Review Committee’s (ERC) Final Report, *Appendix Q1 & Q2* - Department Responses to ERC Report, *Appendix R1 & R2* - Dean’s Responses to ERC report. (*Dr Soucy, Chair, Department of Religious Studies and Dr Anne Marie Dalton, Grad Coordinator attending*)

Key Discussion Points:

- The members of the Academic Planning Committee consider all 16 recommendations to be valuable and worth considering. Those recommendation that are not being forward to the Senate are being referred to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and the Religious Studies Program for consideration.
- APC supports Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 12, 13 and the first ½ of 15 which are being put forward to Senate.
- The department has taken action on almost all of the recommendations.
- Question: Recommendation 4 addressed marketing of the Department on the website and it was noted that there is no

information on research. Answer: The Department has been trying to address the issues with the website and will continue to work on this issue. It was noted that this issue should be placed before the steering committee responsible for the website.

Moved by Gauthier, and seconded, **“that the Religious Studies Program respond to the recommendations of the external reviewers as articulated in the APC Memo to Senate dated March 2, 2015. APC specifically recommends that the Department implement recommendations 1, 2, 3, 12, 13 and the first ½ of 15”.** Motion carried

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the Religious Studies Program submit an action plan to APC in May 2015.”** Motion carried

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that in March, 2016, the Religious Studies Program submit a one-year report to the Academic Planning Committee on the progress made during the year on the Action Plan according to Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University.”** Motion carried.

14062

NEW BUSINESS FROM

- a. Floor (not involving notice of Motion)
Academic Discipline, Academic Regulation #19 attached as *Appendix S*
- Senate discussion regarding an academic discipline case that involved a student paying another individual a significant sum of money to take a difficult course for them.
 - The hearing panel met and submitted recommendations. There were two options – to dismiss the student or to allow some leniency if the student revealed the name of the student who was the deal broker.
 - This was a highly professional job and the student was very professional in their performance of this service. They had a false ID which was validated by the library and by SMUSA when they issued the student a UPass. The impersonator was able to get through the first term without being caught.

Moved by Patriquin and seconded, “that the Senate meeting be continued for an additional 15 minutes to allow for further discussion.” Motion carried.

- The University Librarian advised that it would not be a significant issue to include photos on IDs. Library and SMUSA staff could also be trained to identify false IDs.
 - IDs are the property of the university and are confiscated when the situation warrants.
- Senate was asked to consider our approach to academic discipline.

- i. Should there be a summary report to Senate (or should the report be made more widely available), of cases, outcomes, and lessons learned?
- ii. Is greater clarity around process needed?
- iii. Would restorative justice be a better lens for restructuring our regulation? Could restorative justice principles be fruitfully incorporated?

Key Discussion Points:

- Forward to next meeting due to lack of time.

14063

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Key Discussion Points:

- The Presidents will meet with the Government next week to continue the funding discussions. The president elect will be also be attending to meet the minister.
- The transition process for the President elect will commence May 1.
- SMUSA transition processes will also commence May 1.

14064

QUESTION PERIOD

➤ None

14065

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate