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SENATE MEETING MINUTES February 17, 2017

The 581st Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, February 17, 2017, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Enns, Dr Dixon, Dr Bradshaw, Dr MacDonald, Dr Smith, Dr Naulls, Dr Campbell, Dr Conrad, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Hall, Dr Henry, Dr Hlongwane, Dr McCallum, Dr Rahaman, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Warner, Mr Brophy, Ms DeYoung, Mr Alanazi, Ms Bhaskar, Mr Rahman, Mr Rice, Dr Sawicki (ASTR&PHYS), Dr Muir (CSCI), Dr Freeman (HIST), Mr Rajniš (ITSS) and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr Vessey, Dr Grandy, Dr Peckmann, Mr Michael, and Ms Jones.

Meeting commenced at 2:32 P.M.

16040 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report was accepted as circulated.

16041 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
Minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2017, were circulated as *Appendix A*.

Moved by Hall, and seconded, “that the minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2017 are approved as posted.” Motion carried.

16042 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
.01 Name Change Proposal correction, Department of English, *Appendix B*

Key discussion points:

- This is a request from the Department of English to correct an editorial error in the proposed name change for the Department of English. There was a transcription error, which appeared in the written communication from the Department of English dated 21 April 2016. This resulted in an incorrect placement of two words in the proposed new name.
- The Department of English agreed, during the meetings of 22 January and 23 September 2016, to change its name to the Department of English Language and Literature. This is recorded in the minutes of those meetings, copies of which have been supplied to the Senate Office.

Moved by Stinson and seconded, **“that the Academic Senate approves the revision to the new name for the Department of English, from the Department of English Literature and Language to the Department of English Language and Literature.” Motion carried.**

- .02 During the discussions at the December Senate meeting, about the termination proposal for the Atlantic Centre for Green Chemistry, a request was made that, in the future, senators be supplied with more information and a rationale for termination of a Centre. This information was to be forwarded to the Chair of the Academic Planning Committee. Question: Did the Chair receive that communication? Answer: No but the APC Chair in attendance today and has now been informed.

16043

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01 Academic Planning Committee

a) Bachelor of Arts Minor in Geography in the BES Degree, *Appendix C*

Key discussion points:

- Currently, a B.E.S. student can take a minor in any discipline and many do (in both Arts and Sciences). Some B.E.S. students have wanted to take a minor in Geography, but in the current academic calendar, there are only two options for a minor in Geography: one for Arts/Commerce students and one for Science students. B.E.S. students wanting to take a minor have been taking the Arts/Commerce minor requirements, but these are redundant to a number of courses that they already require for their degree. This proposal will specifically outline a minor for B.E.S. students that incorporates courses that they would not specifically be taking for their degree.
- The proposed minor in Geography for B.E.S. students is built around a series of technique courses in Geography that will have significant applicability for B.E.S. students but which are not currently required as part of the B.E.S. degree.
- Beyond the two introductory courses (GEOG 1100 and 1200), care has been taken to avoid overlap with specifically designated GEOG courses already required (or strongly recommended) for the B.E.S. degree.
- The BES program has many requirements and there is not a lot of elective courses (6 credit hours in Year 1 and three credit hours in Year 2). The courses listed would not be able to be done in the first two years. In addition, GEOG 3356 and GEOG 3386 are required as prerequisites for 4496 Applications in Geomatics (Group C)
- Students would have to be carefully advised to take these courses in their first two years. The students would need to be given very explicit advice to be able to meet the requirements. Response: This approach removed a lot of the opportunity to double count courses. In reality, students take the BES electives throughout their degree as they fit. It was acknowledged that the suggestion of specific advising was an excellent one.
- Concern was expressed regarding how the BES program could define a minor in Geography when normally minors are defined by programs. There will be a minor in Geography defined with three different requirements. One for a Minor in a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Commerce Degree, another for a Minor in a Bachelor of Science Degree, and a third for the BES Degree program. Question: How does a program define a Geography minor that is different from the minors the department has defined? Answer: Members were advised that the Faculty of Arts is proposing this new minor.
- Question: Wouldn't it be better offered as a certificate in geographical techniques? Answer: Where it might be confusing is that the BES is a separate degree program.

The students will also need guidance for this particular program. Since the BA and BSc requirements are different, the BES needs to be defined clearly. Response: It was suggested that a certificate in geographical techniques might be of more benefit to students than a minor in Geography.

Moved by Enns and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the motion from the Faculty of Arts for a Bachelor of Arts, Minor in Geography in the BES Degree.” Motion carried.**

- b) Physics Program Review documentation circulated as: *Appendix D* – APC Notice of Motion, *Appendix E* – Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix F* - Self Study Report, *Appendix G* - Self Study appendices (G1-14), *Appendix H*– Dean’s Response to Self Study, *Appendix I*- External Review Committee’s (ERC) Final Report, *Appendix J* Department Response to ERC Report, *Appendix K* Dean’s Response to ERC report.

Key discussion points:

- APC looked at the results of this review and made the following recommendations to Senate.
 - **Recommendation 1** - APC is concerned about the statement from the reviewers that there may be some sort of neglect of the undergraduate program. APC recognizes the issue that the reviewers identified (the heavy reliance on part-time instructors in the UG program) and encourages the department to explore a range of ways of addressing this issue.
 - **Recommendation 2** – APC is concerned about the reviewer’s observations that the curriculum is focused primarily on the preparation for physics graduate school. APC encourages the department to consider preparing students for more diverse future pursuits by review their curriculum and examine the relationship between the major and the honours.
 - **Recommendation 3** – APC commends the program for their positive response to this recommendation and removing the requirements of a graduate course in astrophysics. APC encourages the program to work on how best to provide honours students with the option of taking graduate level courses to provide breadth for those wishing a deeper understanding of certain subject areas.
 - **Recommendation 4** – APC concurs with the Dean’s response and looks forward to learning of the outcomes in due course.
 - **Recommendation 5** – APC concurs with the Program and Dean’s responses and encourages the program to continue their efforts to provide additional opportunities for their students.
 - **Recommendation 6** – APC appreciates the program’s response and supports the Dean’s response. APC suggests that it would be beneficial for the program to have a facilitated discussion on curriculum mapping. APC particularly notes that Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 6 should be addressed at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 7** – APC concurs with the Dean’s response and encourages the program to continue to consider how such a program could be developed and implemented within the Department.
- Recommendation 1 was to create a net new instructor-level position for the Department of Astronomy and Physics. Question: How seriously is a recommendation like this taken? Response: This is outside of the purview of Senate. It is returned to the Program and Dean for discussion during the Budget

process. In addition, their recommendation violates our collective agreement and cannot be actioned.

- The Department Chair responded that there were a number of factual errors in the ERC report. An example of this is their statement that the last program review was conducted in 1994, which is not true. The reviewers took this to mean that there was some neglect of the undergraduate programs. Our last program review was 7 years ago as required and we are very engaged and focused on our undergraduate program. The program does not see the recommendation regarding a new position, focusing on classroom instruction and program management as a practical approach to the issues that exist.
- Question: Why do you identify some courses as service courses? Answer: That is what they are called within similar programs. These courses are potential recruiting opportunities for our program. 99% of these courses are of interest to students that do not intend to pursue further studies in this discipline. Members were advised that there are first year courses in Astrophysics and Physics that are introductory in nature. There are four first year courses in addition to the courses identified as service courses (Astronomy and Physics for non-major students). The courses for Physics are taught by full-time instructors. The Astrophysics course is taught by Dr Gallo and the Physics course is taught by Dr Austin. Both are full-time faculty members. Question: There may be a difference between Arts and Science in terms of students. Response: It is not that simple. As an example, the calculus course in the Department of Mathematics is called a service course.
- In the first recommendation of the external reviewers, they perceived that the Department relied quite heavily on part-time sessional teachers to offer their programs, and that in some courses (like the two Physics for Life Sciences offerings) the situation verged on chronic. It was suggested that this seems to be a fundamental issue and that the underlying issue seems to be how best to apply the resources given the current structure.
- It was suggested that there is a strong argument to be made that it is precisely in the large courses that the department should want the full-time faculty to engage. Response: Full-time faculty teach first year courses in our program. The other courses that are taught by the part-time faculty are outside of the program. We are doing a good job of delivering these other courses. Those part-time instructors have been delivering those courses in most cases longer than some of our full-time faculty.
- Whenever we do a program review, it covers all of the offerings of the program. In that context, it is legitimate for the reviewers to have those concerns. There were also some concerns regarding the program that were raised by some undergraduate students.
- Question: The reviewers noted the lack of women in some areas and they recommended a committee system to address that issue. The program rejected that suggestion. What alternative does the program recommend? Answer: We would like to implement a system where we advertise the positions consistently at one standardized time in the year. The Faculty of Science is taking the lead in this area and the program is waiting the launch of that initiative. Dr Sarty is heading this initiative. This will give an opportunity to all students.

Moved by Enns and seconded, **“that the Astronomy & Physics Program submit an action plan to APC in April, 2017 based on the responses as articulated in Appendix D.” Motion carried.**

and

Moved by Enns and seconded, “that in February, 2018, the Astronomy & Physics 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.” Motion carried.

- c) Computing Science Program Review documentation circulated as: *Appendix L* – APC Notice of Motion, *Appendix M* – Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix N* - Self Study Report, *Appendix O* - Self Study appendices (O1-18), *Appendix P* – CIPS External Review Committee’s (ERC) Final Report, *Appendix Q* Department Response to ERC Report, *Appendix R* - Dean’s Response to ERC report.

Key discussion points:

- APC reviewed the outcome of the program review and has provided the following recommendations:
 - **Recommendation 1** - APC acknowledges that the Deans and Registrar have been working to encourage students to declare their majors sooner.
 - **Recommendation 2** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 3** - APC is pleased to see that cooperation is ongoing and that they will be meeting to discuss their budget priorities.
 - **Recommendation 4** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 5** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 6** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion at the upcoming retreat on engaging CIPS Nova Scotia to provide periodic talks for students.
 - **Recommendation 7** - APC concurs with the Dean’s response and supports the program’s initiative to make the recommended changes.
 - **Recommendation 8** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat and encourages the program to discuss administrative support needs with the Dean.
 - **Recommendation 9** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 10** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 11** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 12** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 13** - APC concurs with the Dean’s response and supports the program’s initiative to make the recommended changes.
 - **Recommendation 14** - This is a duplication of recommendation 6
 - **Recommendation 15** - APC concurs with the Dean’s response and supports the program’s initiative to make the recommended changes.
 - **Recommendation 16** - APC concurs with the Dean’s response and supports the program’s initiative to make the recommended changes.
 - **Recommendation 17** - APC supports the Dean’s response. APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.
 - **Recommendation 18** - APC looks forward to the outcome of the discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat.

- **Recommendation 19** - APC concurs with the Dean and looks forward to the outcome of the retreat.
- This program review was preceded by a Canadian Information Processing Assessment so the process that was followed was a little different.
- Question: It was noted that the Program was collaborating with other Universities and organizations and the Chair was asked to comment on which Universities and the success of those initiatives. Answer: We have and continue to work on the 2 plus 2 programs wherein students work on courses at other locations and then come to SMU for the final two years of their programs.
- There was collaboration with a university in Vietnam. Question: Has this been successful? Answer: These relationships are new. We have an existing relationship with Beijing Normal University at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We also have had collaboration with India. This was quite good for a while and then decreased. There are two other new relationships and another agreement will be signed soon.
- Question: Clarification was requested regarding the difference between the accreditation report and the ERC report. Where does the weight fall in terms of feedback? Did you respond to the CIPS report first? They expressed concerns and there are 19 recommendations. Answer: We worked on a large self-study document and completed that in February of 2015. That document was submitted to CIPS. 6 weeks later, they sent an assessment team to campus, and by October they wrote their recommendation report. After that, we started the self-study document (summer 2015) required by MPHEC incorporating some of the information from the CIPs self-study and incorporating the additional components required by MPHEC. This initiative was already underway when the CIPS report arrived.

Moved by Enns and seconded, **“that the Computing Science Program submit an action plan to APC in April, 2017 based on the responses as articulated in Appendix L.” Motion carried.**

and

Moved by Enns and seconded, **“that in February, 2018, the Computing Science 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.” Motion carried.**

- d. History UG & Grad Program Review documentation circulated as: *Appendix S* – APC Notice of Motion, *Appendix T* – Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix U* - Self Study Report, *Appendix V* - Self Study appendices (V1-22), *Appendix W1 & 2* – Dean’s Response to Self Study, *Appendix X*- External Review Committee’s (ERC) Final Report, *Appendix Y* Department Response to ERC Report, *Appendix Z* Dean’s Response to ERC report.

Key discussion points:

- APC reviewed the outcome of the program review and has provided the following recommendations:
 - **Recommendation 1** - APC appreciates the Dean’s response. No diminishment in support is expected.
 - **Recommendation 2** - APC supports the Program’s continued its efforts with respect to interdisciplinary and other programs. APC commend the program for their longstanding commitment to interdisciplinary programing at SMU.
 - **Recommendation 3** - APC encourages the Program to action their response as

- soon as possible.
- **Recommendation 4** - APC concurs with the reviewers, Dean and Program with respect to the desirability of examining and adjusting Honours requirements as necessary and encourages the Program to action their response as soon as possible.
 - **Recommendation 5** - APC supports the responses of the Program and the Deans and encourages the program to action their response as soon as possible.
 - **Recommendation 6** - APC encourages the program to further their recruitment efforts and look for creative solutions to increase funding for graduate students.
 - **Recommendation 7** - APC supports the Dean and program's responses and encourages the program to continue to explore this recommendation.
 - **Recommendation 8** - APC supports the Dean's response and encourages the program to revisit the timeline and credit requirements of the MA.
 - **Recommendation 9** - APC supports the Dean's response and encourages the program to work with FGSR to find ways to ensure that graduate funding is consistent and competitive.
 - **Recommendation 10** - APC supports the Dean's response and encourages the program to work to ensure adequate support and advising is available for the incoming international students.
 - **Recommendation 11** - APC concurs with the Dean's response and encourages the program to work with the Communication Officer in the Faculty of Arts to promote its programs and many excellent outreach initiatives.
 - **Recommendation 12** - APC concurs with the Program and Dean's responses and encourages the program to continue to be committed to reaching out to underrepresented groups and recognize the important initiatives that are well underway.
 - **Recommendation 13** - APC supports the Dean's response bearing in mind the challenges of space allocation within the university.
 - There is the expectation of no diminishment in support for the History Program. It is known that there will be one teaching resource that will retire in the near future. The position is a supernumerary one but still represents less available resources. What is the situation in this regard? Answer: The intention is that there is no decrease in support recognizing that the supernumerary position was expected to terminate.
 - Question: We do not concur with the Dean regarding the space allocation issue. Space was taken away from the program that is needed. Answer: Things change every year in terms of program retirements and sabbaticals. There is the hope that the graduate commons will be utilized as fully as possible.

Moved by Enns and seconded, **“that the History Program submit an action plan to APC in April, 2017 based on the responses as articulated in Appendix S.” Motion carried.**

and

Moved by Enns and seconded, **“that in February, 2018, the History 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.” Motion carried.**

16044

.01

REPORTS OF JOINT COMMITTEES

Honorary Degrees Committee

Recommendations for Honorary Degrees, *Appendix AA* (circulated at meeting)

Key discussion points:

- Five recommendations are brought forward.
- Question: Are these all the nominations on hand at this time? Answer: There are other recommendations that the committee are considering but these are the recommendations that have been approved at this time. The process is highly confidential as some of the nominees may decline the award.
- Concern was expressed regarding the gender imbalance in this grouping. Answer: Members were advised that there are other women among those being considered but a gender imbalance in this grouping was acknowledged. The President advised that the committee had undertaken an analysis of awards since 1947, part of which looked at gender distribution. Over the long term there is less of an imbalance than senators might anticipate.
- Question: How many do we need? Answer: In the course of a year we do 7 to 9. The committee looked at the inflation of awards over recent years and is more comfortable with the 7 – 9 range. We are attempting to hold to those numbers. The idea of having an honorary degree at every convocation is problematic.
- Question: There is significant diversity in the recommendations. We do not seem to be receiving nominations from different classifications of groups, for example from minority groups? Answer: There has been a lot of diversity over time in terms of minorities. We awarded two members of the Mi'kmaw Nation in recent years and we awarded Phan Thi Kim Phuc, D.C.L. from Vietnam in 2015.

An omnibus motion was moved by Summerby-Murray and seconded, **“that the Academic Senate approves the recommendations as presented above for forwarding to the Board of Governors for awarding.”** Motion carried.

16045

NEW BUSINESS FROM

a. Floor (not involving notice of motion)

.01 Many SMU web-based forms for students and faculty are not accessible and do not lend themselves to be formatted or converted to become more accessible. There are clear academic implications for students and faculty. (Predrag Rajnis)

Key discussion points:

- One of our graduate students in Women and Gender Studies raised an issue of accessibility. The student is legally blind. The software she uses to read forms does not work with some of the forms on campus, but especially the REB form and the instructor course evaluation form. She cannot work her way through forms because she cannot hear their contents and/or the sequence of elements being spoken to her do not match the physical format of the form. This student stated that the inaccessibility of the REB form is stalling her work and siphoning off momentum from completing her degree.
- Rajniš advised that there are multiple ways of putting forms on the website. One way is to put up a fillable pdf. Unfortunately ITSS does not have control of forms that programs put on the website. These forms can be made accessible with a program but that would require additional resources and a support person to address this area. The University would have to hire an expert to manage accessibility issues

on campus and there would have to be on-going maintenance on the part of the departments. In terms of the website design, it is accessible as far as we know. ITSS consulted with the Fred Smithers Center prior to creating the site we have now. The Center approved the content.

- Question: Is this a Senate issue? Answer: This is negatively influencing a student's academic program and therefore it is important.
- The Fred Smithers Center is responsible for student accommodation. They should not be approving website content. They do not have the expertise to do this.
- A member noted that there was no standing item for accessibility on Senate and there should be. Response: The standing items on the Senate agenda are articulated in the Senate By-laws. To have this as a standing item would require a revision of the By-laws.
- Rajniš advised that we do not have an in-house expert on accessibility issues. At this time, there are no requirements for the University to have such a position on campus. ITSS, the CAT and the Fred Smithers Center are doing their best to support students.
- It was suggested that the problem of the inaccessibility of the forms is a part of a larger systemic issue. There are no resources within the university to inform the institution on accessibility. A member suggested that there might be an opportunity through SMUWorks, Students could work alongside ITSS and anyone else tasked with this initiative over the summer months.
- It was noted that Senate had a previous conversation on the accessibility issue and there was an understanding that a group would be struck to review this issue.
- The President advised that HR is reviewing the resources we have and an initiative is underway to do this. The President represents the University Presidents on a CONSUP Working Group that was established to consider the impact of the potential new legislation on the Nova Scotia Universities and Colleges. This group has been doing some good work in this area. The group is looking at whether the Universities are covered by the legislation.
- The University is required to accommodate students but that does not mean that we have to accommodate them exactly as they demand.
- A senator advised that they asked that this item being brought forward because it reflected a broader problem that needed to be addressed by the new pan-university group.
- Accommodating students can initially be very expensive, but we need to look at this issue in terms of preparing the University for the bigger systemic issue.
- It was suggested that ITSS investigate how other universities are dealing with this to identify if there is an easier approach. ITSS could discuss this with their Peers. Response: We have not done this prior to this issue because there was no requirement.
- Ontario has legislation and ITSS could look at that and how the universities there are responding.
- Members were advised that having someone read the forms to someone who requires accommodation does not permit the student/faculty member to reflect on the material/issues. It is also problematic in terms

of the interpretation of those forms. That degree of support is not classified as good accessibility.

- The President advised that the legislation proposed for NS is a direct model of the Ontario legislation. Our resources have been focused on the Ontario model. We are looking at how we can get the resources from the Province to address this issue and develop a Plan.
- It was acknowledged that accommodation and accessibility are very different.

b. Floor (involving notice of motion) - none

c. Chair

.01 Result of call for EOIs in accordance with Article 10.3.10 a) of the SMUFU Collective Agreement for one faculty member appointed by Senate to serve on a Search Committee for University Librarian.

Key discussion points:

We have expressions of interest from the following faculty:

- Myles McCallum, Professor of Classics, Department of Modern Languages and Classics
- Rohini Bannerjee, Professor of French, Department of Modern Languages and Classics
- Syed Adnan Hussain, Assistant Professor Religious Studies
- Dr Adam Sarty, Professor of Physics, Associate Dean of Science - External & Student Affairs
- A secret ballot was done and the Secretary of Senate tabulated the results.
- Appointed to a Search Committee for University Library is Dr Myles McCallum.

16046

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Appendix AB

Key Points:

- This report is available on SMUport.

Discovery and Innovation in a Learner-centred environment

1. Dr. Malcolm Butler is joining Saint Mary's on July 1, 2017 as Vice-President Academic and Research.
2. The Executive MBA program in the Sobey School of Business was recently named to the top five in the country.
3. Saint Mary's hosted a roundtable on 'Immigration and Innovation', bringing together Federal Ministers Bains, Brison and Hussen, as well as Provincial Minister Lena Diab, community and business leaders, recent successful alumnae, and student leaders. Close to 300 people attended the event, with audience members including other MPs, Senators, MLAs, business representatives, professors, staff and students. The innovative format and the relevance and timeliness of this discussion continues to resonate, locally and in Ottawa, demonstrating the continued leadership of Saint Mary's on this theme.
4. Co-chaired a panel on 'immigration, refugee settlement and universities' this week and attended other sessions at the Universities Canada *Converge 2017* conference in Ottawa. The event brought together, in addition to the Prime Minister, other federal ministers, members of parliament and senators, professors, future innovators, entrepreneurs, business and community leaders from across the country with a view

to exploring what Canada can become in the next 50 years. One hundred students, selected from across the country and including Saint Mary's student Zahra Dhubow, attended and created a new national network.

5. The President's Academic Cabinet was established in January and is comprised of members of the Executive Management Group and the 4 Deans. The mandate of the Cabinet is to consider high level academic issues facing the University and to assist in developing appropriate implementation of initiatives in the strategic plan
6. Saint Mary's has signed a sponsorship agreement with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia for the Historic Salzinnes Antiphonal Exhibition.

Internationalization and 'intercultural'

1. It was a pleasure to welcome the Chinese New Year via attendance at separate events held by the Hong Kong Canada Business Association, the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia, and our Confucius Institute.
2. International Night was successfully celebrated on campus in early February.
3. The key item over the two weeks, however, has been the university's response (along with Universities Canada and other institutions around the country) to the immigration ban put in place by executive order in the United States. Saint Mary's hosts students from all seven affected countries and the ban has considerable implications for the future movement of students and faculty members. Although currently suspended as a result of judicial action, the ban has created considerable uncertainty. In addition, the ban opens some opportunities for recruiting students from the listed countries and others who may otherwise have been considering the United States for their studies.

Value and Values

1. Athletics and Recreation programs continue to enjoy success, with a number of teams now in AUS playoffs. In addition, we have welcomed Bishop's University to the AUS for football.
2. The University community held a well-attended commemorative "moment of silence" event on January 30, in recognition of those who lost their lives in the Quebec Mosque massacre and to demonstrate the supports available to students.

Institutional Sustainability

1. Saint Mary's completed the purchase of the Canadian Martyrs Church, with a formal exchange of keys taking place on January 20, 2017.
2. Participated in a number of donor (Advancement) events/initiatives over the course of the past weeks and have secured some smaller gifts. Progress was made in recent weeks on securing a significant gift.
3. Significant efforts are currently underway in the development of the institution's 2017-18 budget.

Senior Administrative Updates

1. Vice-President Advancement Erin Sargeant Greenwood is now on campus and has begun the process of building a robust Advancement Plan for the University. Erin is already contributing strongly both from an Advancement and Executive Management perspective.

2. Noting that Dr. Kevin Vessey will continue in his roles as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and Associate Vice President Research until 30 June 2017, a Search Committee for his successor has been struck and the advertising of the position has begun.
3. I am pleased to confirm that Ms. Anne Marie Delorey will be joining Saint Mary's in early March in the role of University Secretary, in support of the Board in particular.
4. Significant progress has been achieved as we work to finalize the implementation phase of our strategic plan – the plan, will be rolled out to the University community in the March/April timeframe, with a view to completion/sign off in the spring.

16047

QUESTION PERIOD

Key Points:

- Question: What is the role of the President's Academic Cabinet (PAC) in terms of the relationship between that group and Senate? Answer: There is no relationship between the two bodies. The PAC is there only in an advisory capacity and is related to the implementation of the University's Strategic Academic Plan. It was felt that the presence of the Academic Deans was needed to better inform the process going forward.
- Question: Will this group implement academic matters separate from the Senate? Answer: No. There is no attempt to abrogate the power of Senate. This is only an advisory group to the EMG.
- Question: In the context of the travel ban, will the university communicate their position to the community? Answer: There is a communication on the website and we have informed the Minister about this.
- Concerns were expressed around the recent issues with the University closure policy. Question: What is the criteria in terms of the decision and communication to staff and students? Answer: The President advised that the decision to close the University or cancel classes is the responsibility of the President (or designate) after consultation with the Vice President, Finance and Administration and consideration of all relevant information available. This consultation/discussion takes place at 5:00 am. Facilities advises on the state of snow clearing on-campus and a discussion also occurs with the presidents of other universities. The availability of transit is also a component considered. We also consider the potential academic disruption.
- There was a lot of chatter on Twitter about classes being cancelled. There has been as much criticism about the university being open but faculty cancelling classes and not informing anyone.
- The EMG will continue to consider the policy with a view to improve the system and address the concerns that have been brought forward. Members were reminded that the situation is also a two-way street with faculty, students and staff having responsibilities as well.
- The President, SMUSA advised that some instructors posted that those students who could not attend the exam would lose the 35% of their final grade. There are students coming from outside of the city that could not get to campus. There should be accommodation for those students.
- It was stated that if transit discontinues service, the University should be closed. Response: The President advised that the current protocol is the 5 am discussion. Other universities have a similar protocol. The University will be reviewing the process subsequent to the situation that arose with this last storm.
- Members were advised that when buses are on a snow plan, some individuals cannot get to buses to get into campus. Response: We will be considering this as well.

- Question: Who takes responsibility if someone gets injured coming into the university in these conditions? Response: We need to consider that this is Canada and that winter conditions are normal. There are multiple factors that need to go into the closure decision.

16048

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate