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

SENATE MEETING MINUTES September 22, 2017

The 585th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, September 22, 2017, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Malcolm Butler, Dr Naulls, Dr MacDonald, Dr Sarty, Dr Doucet, Dr Francis, Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Hlongwane, Dr Khokar, Dr Loughlin, Dr McCallum, Dr Peckmann, Dr Rahaman, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Warner, Mr Brophy, Ms DeYoung, Mr Nasrallah, Ms Ali, Ms Bhaskar, Mr Oshobu, Ms Caswell, Ms Delorey, Ms Sargeant Greenwood, Dr Clyburne (ENVS), Dr Akbari(GCAP), Ms Brown (AllNovaScotia) and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr Bradshaw, Dr Smith and Dr Hall.

Meeting commenced at 2:31 P.M. Dr Naulls presiding as Chair
For the benefit of the new members, self-introductions were done.

17001 **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY AND PARLIAMENTARIAN**

.01 Nominations for Chair of Senate:

- A member stated that Dr Naulls has served as Senate Chairperson for a very long time. Question: Are you interested in continuing? Answer: Due to the increased responsibilities of the position of Acting Associate Vice-President (Enrolment Mgmt) and Registrar, Dr Naulls declined a nomination.
- **Question:** How long has Dr Naulls been chair of Senate? **Answer:** Twenty-three years, since 1994.
- Dr Naulls confirmed he would be available to the new Chair of Senate for consultation purposes.

Moved by Stinson and seconded, **'that Dr Madine VanderPlaat is elected as Chairperson for the 2017-2018 Senate year.'** Motion carried.

.02 Nominations for Vice-Chair of Senate:

Moved by Stinson and seconded, **'that Dr. Takseva is elected as Vice-Chairperson for the 2017-2018 Senate year.'** Motion carried.

.03 Moved by Vanderplaat and seconded, **'that Ms Barb Bell is re-elected as Secretary of Senate for the 2017-2018 Senate year.'** Motion carried.

.04 Moved by Warner, and seconded, **'that Dr Doucet is elected as Parliamentarian for the 2017-2018 Senate year.'** Motion carried.

Dr VanderPlaat assumed the role of Chair.

17002 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The Agenda was re-ordered to address items 17007.01 a) and c) due to the schedules of the faculty attending to answer questions on these items. This revision was accepted.

17003 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2017, *Appendix A*.

Moved by McCallum, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2017 are approved as circulated.” Motion carried.**

17004 **FALL GRADUATION LIST**

- The listing of graduates was circulated to Deans with a copy for Senate.
- Convocation is next Friday and Saturday, September 29 & 30th in the theatre auditorium.
- Graduate degrees in the Faculty of Graduate Studies will be at 7:00 PM on Friday, undergraduate programs in the Sobey School of Business at 10:00 AM Saturday, and undergraduate programs in the Faculties of Arts and Science at 2PM Saturday afternoon.
- Four hundred and twenty-six credentials will be presented to 408 graduates. Of these, 32 students are graduating with distinctions.

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

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

17005 **MEMBERSHIP ON SENATE COMMITTEES FOR 2017-2018**

Senate Executive Memo -*Appendix C1*; “Nominations for Senate Committees for 2017-2018” Section A - *Appendix C2*

0101 APPEALS

- Ms Lexa Ali (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)

.0102 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

- Dr Florian Muenkel (FINA/COM) (to 2020-08-31)
- Dr Stephanie Morley (ENGL/Arts) (to 2020-08-31)
- Dr Randy Hart (SOCI&CRIM/Arts) (to 2020-08-31)
- Dr Luke MacDonald (EGNE/Science) (to 2020-08-31)
- Dr Clarissa Sit (CHEM/Science) (to 2020-08-31)
- Mr Oссama Nasrallah (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
- Ms Lexa Ali (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
- Ms Deeksha Bhaskar (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)

.0103 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE APPEAL BOARD

- Dr Peter Twohig (ACST/Arts) (to 2020-08-31)
- Dr Anne Daiziel (BIOL/Science) (to 2020-08-31)
- Ms Lexa Ali (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)

- Mr Ossama Nasrallah (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
- .0104 ACADEMIC PLANNING
- Ms Lexa Ali (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
- .0105 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS
- Ms Lexa Ali (*student rep in senior year, appt'd by SA to Apr.18*)
- .0106 ANIMAL CARE (to be advised by the committee chair)
- TBA (*Student Representative – 1 graduate appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
 - TBA (*1 undergraduate student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
- .0107 CONTINUING EDUCATION (disbanded)
- 0108 CURRICULUM
- Dr Todd Calder (PHIL/Arts to 2020-08-31)
 - Ms Lexa Ali (*student Senator elected by Senate to Apr/18*)
- .0109 LIBRARY
- Ms Lexa Ali (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
- .0110 LITERACY STRATEGY
- Ms Lexa Ali (*Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
- .0111 RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD
- Up to three Graduate Student reps*
- TBA (*Graduate Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
 - TBA (*Graduate Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
 - TBA (*Graduate Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18*)
- .0112 STUDENT DISCIPLINE
- Ms Lexa Ali (Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18)
 - Mr Ossama Nasrallah (Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18)
- .0113 STUDENT SUCCESS (disbanded)
- .0116 SUSTAINABILITY (disbanded)

Outstanding member nominations to be provided by the Committee Chairs and/or Deans.

Moved by Doucet and seconded, **“that the nominations for Section A of the Membership on Senate Committees 2017-2018 (circulated at Appendix C2), are approved as amended above.” Motion carried.**

.02 SECTION B – NOMINATED BY SENATE FROM THE FLOOR OF SENATE
circulated as ***Appendix C3***.

- .0201 AGENDA (3 members of Senate, one of whom shall chair)
- Dr Veronica Stinson (one member of Senate to 2018-08-31)

- Dr Jason Grek Martin (one members of Senate to 2020-08-31)
- Mr Ossama Nasrallah (1 student senator appt'd by SA to Apr/18)

.0202 BYLAWS

- Ms Lexa Ali (Student Senator elected by Senate to April/18)

.0203 ELECTIONS (5 elected members of Senate)

- Dr Karen Grandy
- Dr Marc Doucet
- Dr Lyndan Warner

.0204 EXECUTIVE

- Dr Madine VanderPlaat (new Senate Chair)
- Dr Tatjana Takseva (new Senate Vice-Chair)
- Mr Ossama Nasrallah (SMUSA President) (Student Senator elected by Senate to Apr/18)

.0205 LEARNING AND TEACHING

- Dr Alexander Avdulov (M L&C/Arts)
- Dr Karen Lightstone (ACCT/Bus)
- Dr Paul Muir (MATH/Science)
- Dr Laura Weir (BIOL/Science)
- Dr Shelagh Crooks (PHIL/Arts)
- Ms Lexa Ali (One full-time student rep – nominated by SA/Committee to Apr 18)
- TBA (One part-time student nominated by OPTAMUS/Committee to Apr 18)

.0206 SCHOLARSHIP

- Dr Mohammad Rahaman (FINA/COM)
- Dr Meg Ternes (PSYC/Science)
- Mr Ossama Nasrallah (Student rep appt'd by Senate to April/18)

JOINT COMMITTEES

.0207 HONORARY DEGREES (2 members appointed by Senate)

- Dr Myles McCallum (appointed by Senate to 2019-08-31)
- Mr Ossama Nasrallah (student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/18)

PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEES

.0210 BUDGET (2 members of the faculty appointed annually by Senate)

- Dr Mohammad Rahaman (FINA/COM)
- Dr Myles McCallum (ML&C/Arts)

Moved by Brophy and seconded, **“that the nominees for Section B of the Membership on Senate Committees 2017-2018 (circulated at Appendix C3), are approved as amended above.” Motion carried.**

17006

PROPOSED DATES FOR SENATE MEETINGS FOR 2017-2018

Circulated as *Appendix D1 & D2*.

Moved by Nasrallah, and seconded, “**that the proposed dates for Senate meetings of 2017-2018 are approved as circulated**”.

Motion carried.

17007

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01

Academic Planning

a) Environmental Science – 1-Year Report: APC Notice of Motion - *Appendix E1*, 1-Year Report – *Appendix E2*

Key Discussion Points:

- Butler advised that this report was reviewed by APC last week and approved for forwarding to Senate.
- There was no further discussion on this report.

Moved by Butler and seconded, “**that the Senate approves the one-year follow-up report of the Environmental Science Program as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Undergraduate Programs at Saint Mary’s.**” **Motion carried.**

b) Proposal for a Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies, *Appendix F1* – APC Notice of Motion, *Appendix F2 & F3* – Proposal and Calendar Entry.

Key discussion points:

- Butler advised that this new Minor Program meshes with the current strategic thrusts at Saint Mary’s.
- Question: The course description for POLI 4843, Selected Topics: Politics & Peace in Northern Ireland includes the instructor’s name and reference to her links but nothing on course content. Course descriptions should not specify the name of the instructor. A new course description will be required.
- Question: Is this a new course proposal? Answer: There is still some question as to which group will house course.
- Question: Will additional courses be listed? Answer: Yes. There will be a list of approved courses at the beginning of the calendar entry.
- Question: We have courses on public revolution. For example, CLAS 2454 Bloody Caesars: Roman History II [HIST 2454]. Why wasn’t it included in the course listing? Was it not violent enough? Answer: This listing was just a result of a canvas of faculty to encourage interest. This will be an interdisciplinary program drawing together those faculty interested in peace and conflict.
- It was suggested that the definition of a minor in arts is different from a minor in Science. How would this work for science students? Answer: It may be housed in arts but any student can get this minor following the arts rules.
- Question: Is the program amenable to including some courses in PSYC? Answer: Yes. We will be doing another canvas of faculty.
- Senate members were advised that the course description for ANTH 4474 Human Variation has been changed for the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar and will have to be updated in this program proposal.

- This Minor could be a very popular for students. When the Dean of Arts visited the Dean of Arts at Dalhousie, there were many posters around the Dal campus with the question “What is your Minor?” Dalhousie are encouraging students to do additional minors.
- The themes, being packaged as a minor, are highly beneficial for students.
- Question: Is this Minor administrated through the Dean’s Office?
Answer: This is not the only minor that is interdisciplinary and yes, they are administered through the Deans Office.

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the Proposal for a Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies.” Motion carried.**

c) MPHEC Proposal – Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Applied Economics, *Appendix G1* – APC Notice of Motion, *Appendix G2* – Proposal, *Appendix G3 -7* – Appendices.

Key discussion points:

- There is an emphasis on Public Policy but there are no public policy courses. There are also three and four thousand level courses that have been cross-listed. Question: Haven’t the Senate Curriculum Committee and the Registrar’s Office discouraged this situation?
Answer: The courses that will be offered in this program will have an emphasis on public policy but are not specifically titled “Public Policy”. The course components/requirements for fourth level courses will be different. They will be required to do different assignments and exams.
- Question: Do we currently have any courses specifically on public policy? Answer: No, but there are elective courses that emphasize relevant concepts in public policy.
- Question: Why is there no course in public policy? Answer: This could be introduced later. There are many applicants to the Masters in Applied Economics program but some lack the background in Economics. This program will fill that gap. It is also an opportunity for upgrading.
- Section 2.2 description is incongruent with the 2.1 program description. Question: If someone with a Chemistry degree took this program, they could theoretically go into the MAE program.
- These Post-Baccalaureate programs are becoming quite common and package the requirements that allow students to enter into the graduate program. It was noted that the context of what this certificate is trying to do is relevant here.
- Question: Concern was expressed that the goal for creating this post-baccalaureate certificate is to create a space in the marketplace for the new MA in Applied Economics. Rather than create another channel into this new program, the resources are better spent toward enhancing the program itself. Answer: We are providing students with additional training prior to entering the MAE program. This approach is not unique to this program or this university.
- There is a lot of potential student interest but there are also many situations where these potential students do not have the background. We are trying to find ways to address that gap.

- The consensus was that the program needed to clarify the relationship of this program to public policy. In Section 2.1, the proposal claims: “graduates will gain some basic understanding of economic principles involved in public policy and business decisions”. In section 2.6 the proposal states: “GCAE will provide the students both theoretical concepts and practical skills in Economics beyond the undergraduate level and help them gain valuable capacities in making public policy and business decisions. “ If we are making these claims, it should be qualified in some sense within the proposal how that is accomplished. Response: The idea is to train them for the new program. Dr Akbari advised that this revision could be made. Action Item: Dr Akbari will make this revision.
- The idea is not to create policy experts but to give economics students an idea as to how economics plays a role in policymaking.
- A friendly amendment was made to clarify the role of public policy within this proposal, at which point members agreed that it could go forward to MPHEC once this revision was done.

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the MPHEC Proposal for a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Applied Economics (with the revision noted above) for furtherance to MPHEC.” Motion carried.**

- d) Update – progress of the Working Group to examine and report on the feasibility of implementing the models presented in the Cross Faculty Working Group on Academic Literacy Report and Recommendations to Senate.

Key discussion points:

- The group has been working but due to the issues achieving quorum for a summer meeting, the Sept 15 deadline that was proposed has been extended.
- The first available opportunity when all members were available for a meeting was October 11. A meeting is scheduled.

.02 Animal Care Committee revised Terms of Reference, ***Appendix H1 & H2***

Key discussion points:

- Appendix H1 is the Terms of Reference. This document meets the outside regulatory requirements. Because this is a Standing Committee of the Senate, Appendix H2 is the corresponding by-law change with the appropriate section numbering.
- Outside regulatory bodies control the REB and Animal Care and Senate has no control. Senate may want to consider removing these two groups as standing committees of Senate. In order to maintain a reporting function to the Senate, it was suggested to replace the current situation with a requirement for the ACC and REB to report annually through the VPAR to Academic Senate.
- Concern was expressed that there may be a requirement of the Canadian Council on Animal Care or the Tri-Council Policy Statement that these groups need to have a more direct link with the Senate. An investigation is necessary.

- Consensus was to defer further discussion of the status of the ACC and REB as Standing Committees of the Senate until the October 20 meeting.

Moved by Francis and seconded, **“that Senate approve the revised and terms of reference of the Animal Care Committee”**. Motion carried.

17008

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES

.01 Honorary Degrees Committee

a) 2016-2017 Annual Report to Senate circulated as *Appendix I*

Key discussion points:

- The President advised that this report lists the Honorary Degree recipients through the 2016-2017 academic year. The Committee considers a range of issues in terms of diversity, gender and other issues when recommending the conferral of honorary degrees.
- There being no objection, the annual report of the Honorary Degrees Committee was accepted into the record.

b) Honorary Degrees Committee Recommendation

Moved by Summerby-Murray and seconded, **“that Senate move ‘in camera’ for this item of business”**. Motion carried.

Key discussion points:

- A nomination has come forward for a Doctor of Civil Laws.
- Question: Has this individual already received an Honorary Degree? Answer: Not that we know.
- Question: What are the choices in terms of honorary degrees? Answer: The committee generally sees an alignment in a specific area. We use a Doctor of Civil Laws for someone who has contributed to the community (a Civil Contribution).
- Question: How unusual is it to give an Honorary Degree to a younger recipient? Answer: The Honorary Degrees Committee discussed this issue as far back as 2010. This individual’s name was on the list back then. There are precedents for this.
- **Action Item: Summerby-Murray** will take this back to the committee for a reconsideration of the type of degree.

Moved by Summerby-Murray and seconded, “that Senate approve this individual for awarding of an Honorary Degree.” Motion carried.

ii) **Standing Committees REB and ACC**

Key discussion points:

- The requirements were unclear when these were established. There is a guidance structure now available from the appropriate regulatory bodies.
- Other universities in Halifax are asking for support in terms of services from these committees and that was a little problematic in regard to these groups being Senate Committees.
- There is a valid role for Senate which must be aware of the activities but cannot rubberstamp those activities when they have no control.
- This conversation is deferred to the October 20 Senate meeting.

17009

NEW BUSINESS FROM

- Floor (not involving notice of motion)
Inactive or obsolete Senate Committees.
The following Ad-Hoc and Standing Committees of Senate have either completed the task for which they were established, or have been inactive for an extended time. It is proposed that they be disbanded at this time.

1. Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Plan Implementation

- Rationale: The academic plan ends in 2017.

Moved by Naulls and seconded, **“that Senate disband the Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Plan Implementation.” Motion carried**

2. Senate Standing Committee on Student Success

- Rationale: There are numerous other initiatives underway on campus in this regard. The committee has not met since 10 May 2011.

Moved by Naulls and seconded, **“that Senate disband the Senate Standing Committee on Student Success.” Motion carried.**

3. Senate Standing Committee on Continuing Education

- Rationale: The Division of Continuing Education and the position of Division Director no longer exist. The Senate Standing Committee on Continuing Education will need to be reinvented and/or coordinated with the new approaches to life-long learning.

Moved by Naulls and seconded, **“that Senate disband the Senate Standing Committee on Continuing Education.” Motion carried.**

4. Senate Standing Committee on Sustainability

- Rationale: There are numerous other initiatives underway on campus in this regard. The committee has not met since 10 December 2009.

Moved by Naulls and seconded, **“that Senate disband the Senate Standing Committee on Sustainability.” Motion carried.**

17010

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Summerby-Murray advised members of the following:

Discovery and Innovation in a Learner-centered environment.

- The Occupational Health and Safety Summer Institute (through the CN Centre and with other partners) was held here in July.
- Researchers from Astronomy & Physics were recognized for their work to gain insight into the characteristics of the Strong Nuclear Force.
- David Sobey Centre for Retail Studies has partnered with Seaport Market.
- Partnering with other Halifax Universities, SMU played a strong leadership role in co-hosting the June annual conference of the Society for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Our 3M National Teaching Fellow played a key role – and our first 3M Student Fellow was honoured at the conference.
- The Honourable Lena Diab was on campus on September 19 for an event at which the most recent restaurant to take part in the Enactus Saint Mary’s

Square Roots Token Program – King of Donair – was announced. Enactus will compete in the Enactus World Cup in English. Our team has been a tremendous group in these competitions.

- The Studio had a very successful orientation program for new faculty members.
- Welcome Week events were very successful including the Santamarian Ceremony.
- Attended a conference on Medieval Studies at the Basilica. The exhibition at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is something to see.

Internationalization

- There will be the launch of a report in the next couple of weeks.
- There have been a number of international engagements on campus these past few weeks.
- An Intercultural Competencies Delegation comprised of eight SMU administrators and educators will travel to Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai in early June 2018 and will serve as resources for the newly established Intercultural Action Team established under the Strategic Plan.
- Global Affairs Canada recently request a consultation session on a possible Canada-China free trade agreement. In June 2017, the President participated in a delegation to China in this regard.
- At the request of the Governor General of Canada, the President continues his participation on the Global Education Study Group.
- In June, our President and the Board Chair Karen Oldfield announced the launching of the SMU South China Alumni network in partnership with BNUZ.
- SMU hosted a successful summer program for visiting students from BNUZ.
- Saint Mary's University is the first university outside China to enroll a cohort of Chinese students into an Arts Faculty in a designated 'two plus two' program.

Value and Values

- Announcement of the appointment of Raymond Sewell, who joins the university as Saint Mary's first full-time indigenous student advisor.

Institutional Sustainability

- Financial Services submitted our 3-year budget submission to the Department of Labour and Advanced Education. This budget was highly detailed due to the increase scrutiny places on all post-secondary institutions in the province.
- There has been significant work and progress achieved in the fundraising priority setting program. Vice-President Erin Sargeant Greenwood led a broad consultative process.
- The President and Ms Sargeant Greenwood attended the Fundraising for Presidents' Institute facilitated by Academic Impressions in Phoenix, Arizona.

Senior Administrative Updates:

- Dr Malcolm Butler formally joined SMU on July 1, 2017.
- Dr Esther Enns completed her interim role as VPAR and has returned to the role of Special Advisor in Teaching and Learning.

- Dr Adam Sarty was appointed to AVP Research and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.
- The search for the next Athletics Director is nearing completion. An offer has been extended to our preferred candidate.
- Search Consultant Kenniff & Raccine has been hired to search for the next Dean of the Sobey School of Business. Meetings are underway.
- The President applauded the work being done on campus by faculty.

17011

QUESTION PERIOD

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: How long did Dr Naulls serve as chair on senate? Answer: Dr Naulls was Associate Dean of Arts in 1991. He has been Chair of Senate since 1994 (for 23 years).
- There is a persistent problem with the website and also with the calendar that has been showing courses that are not current. Answer: The previous Registrar brought in a program that has been problematic. Dr Naulls is on the steering committee and is working on this issue.
- Question: There needs to be academic representation on the web steering committee. Answer: The Registrar was the faculty representative on that committee.
- There is still the existing situation of duplication of websites that has not been dealt with.
- The steering committee is very small and this committee should have feedback from faculty and students.
- The conversations in the past have been about having links on the Department pages to the Academic Calendar Content that would exist in the formal calendar on the SMU website.
- Dr Naulls requested that members email him with specific information on where the problems occur.
- It was noted that there is no Graduate student on the Senate. Response: There has been in the past. The Senate representatives are elected through a SMUSA process.
- Question: Is there any plan for the space where the St Thomas Aquinas-Canadian Martyrs Church was? Answer: Yes, there is a campus plan. For the immediate term, it is a parking lot. We have discussed the potential for other types of academic buildings on that site. Those discussions are continuing. Any development would be predicated by identified need and available funding.

17012

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate