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

SENATE MEETING MINUTES February 16, 2018

The 590th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, February 16, 2018, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr M. VanderPlaat, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Butler, Dr Naulls, Dr Bradshaw, Dr Sarty, Dr Smith, Dr Doucet, Dr Francis, Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Hall, Dr Hlongwane, Dr Khokhar, Dr Rahaman, Dr Takseva, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Warner, Dr Twohig, Mr Brophy, Ms DeYoung Ms Ali, Mr Oshobu, Dr Novak (MA GEOG), Ms Boland, and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr MacDonald, Dr Loughlin, Dr McCallum, Dr Peckmann, Dr Stinson, Mr Nasrallah, Ms Caswell, and Ms Bhaskar,

Meeting commenced at 2:32 P.M.

17054 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

17055 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
Minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2018, were *circulated* as *Appendix A*.

Moved by Butler, and seconded, “**that the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2018 are approved as circulated.**” Motion carried.

17056 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
None

17057 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01 Academic Planning Committee

a) M.A. Geography – Program Review documentation, *Appendix B* – APC Memo, *Appendix C* – Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix D* - Self Study Report, *Appendix E* - Self Study appendices (1-7), *Appendix F* – Dean’s Response to Self Study, *Appendix G*- External Review Committee’s (ERC) Final Report, *Appendix H* - Department Response to ERC Report, *Appendix I* - Dean’s Response to ERC report.

Key discussion points:

- This was a very positive review. There were five recommendations (below):

- **Recommendation 1:** The program is encouraged to investigate development of a co-op stream.
- **Recommendation 2:** The program is encouraged to continue their work towards promoting the MA Geography program.
- **Recommendation 3:** Given the availability of an M.Sc. (and Ph.D.) in Applied Science, APC concurs with the Dean and the program that a science-focused option already exists.
- **Recommendation 4:** The program should continue to explore ways to extend supervisory capacity, through engaging part-time faculty and others in Adjunct positions.
- **Recommendation 5:** The Deans and the program are encouraged to continue to explore ways within the budgeting process to address increasing basic financial support for this program.
- Question: Novak was asked to reflect more informally around the questions the report raised. Answer: They highlighted recruitment. We are improving and still working on that area. We have been working consistently in terms of promoting the program.

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that the MA Geography Program consider the recommendations above for implementation as soon as possible.” Motion carried.**

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that the MA Geography Program submit an action plan to APC in April 2018 based on the preceding responses according to Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University.” Motion carried.**

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that the MA Geography Program submit a one-year report to APC and Senate in February, 2019 according to Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University.” Motion carried.**

- b) Criminology 5-Year Strategic Plan (for information only), APC Memo - *Appendix J1*, Strategic Plan – *Appendix J2*

Key discussion points:

- This plan is being submitted to Senate for information only.
- This Strategic Plan was drafted as the program committee's response to a recommendation of the External Reviewers during the last program review, and a letter from MPHEC dated July 15, 2016 extending the program’s conditional approval pending receipt of longer-term planning to ensure sustainability and a clear program vision. This report will be submitted to MPHEC as a follow-up to their July 15, 2016 letter.

- c) CCEPA Winter report (for information only), APC Memo - *Appendix K1*, Report – *Appendix K2*.

Key discussion points:

- In October, 2017 Senate approved the self-study Report of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs (CCEPA) as meeting the requirement of section 3.3 of the Senate Policy 8-1009, Senate By-Laws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary's. Senate authorized CCEPA to continue for a further period of five years from the date of review. During the year a self-study is submitted, an annual report is not required.
- CCEPA submitted an annual report to the February 7, 2018 meeting of the Academic Planning Committee, which is being forward to Senate for information only.

.02 Curriculum Committee Report, Memo – *Appendix L1*, Report – *Appendix L2*, Addendum – *Appendix L3*.

Key discussion points:

- The original motion: “that the Senate Committee on the Curriculum recommends that Senate approve the revised text as presented in the attached Curriculum Report for publication in the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar.” was withdrawn and a new motion was presented.
- Question: Did you include Education in the new motion you just presented? Answer: No. We will deal with that in a moment.
- Question: We are deep into developing the schedule twos. Having curriculum materials approved at this late date is problematic. Now that the process has changed to on-line publication, are we typically going to have late submission being approved? Answer: Now we have gone to an on-line version the timelines have slipped. We may review and revise some of the deadlines.
- Frustration was expressed related to the challenges posed by the new flexibility in deadlines and not knowing what those deadlines are. Members were advised that an attempt will be made to ensure the timelines are followed next year.
- Senators were advised that the late changes submitted by FGSR were related to the recent Senate approval of the change in the structure of Sociology, Criminology and Social Justice. The programs are attempting to make sure the required program revisions are in place to provide students with as seamless a transition as possible.
- Other material includes script for Education, Continuing Education and the Studio for Teaching and Learning. These preamble sections are simply text. If Senate approves these sections, then every time there is an editorial change we would need to get those approved by Senate.
- Question: It seems a new move to include the description of a support unit in the Academic Calendar. Answer: The Academic Calendar is three things, a place for 1) the academic regulations, 2) academic program information, and 3) material for recruitment, tuitions, scholarship, etc. We are attempting to remove the material that is not related to academic programs.
- In consideration of the previous statement, perhaps the text for the Studio should not be in the Academic Calendar. Response: The proposal is not

to include the information for the Studio for Teaching and Learning in the Academic Calendar.

- Question: Do we have a Faculty of Education? Answer: Yes. Now that there is an opportunity for a Masters program in Education, it was thought that it should be replaced in the calendar.
- Question: The Faculty of Education does not seem to line up with our other structures. Why do we have a Dean? Answer: Since we already had the existing structure it was decided to continue with that structure.
- The script for Education is for the information of the Senate only.
- The Script for the Studio and Continuing Education will not be included in the calendar.
- The number of programs we have under Education could also be run out of the Faculty of Arts.
- If we do not approve the department and program preambles at Senate, who approves it? Answer: The Registrar's Office and the Senate Office.
- We should reconsider the script for the Studio but if we do include it in the Academic Calendar, there should be a statement that it is a support unit. Response: We do not want to include text on support units in the Academic Calendar.

Moved by Naulls and seconded, **“that the material submitted for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Arts in the report of the Curriculum Committee is approved for publication in the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar.” Motion carried.**

17058

NEW BUSINESS FROM

- a) Floor (not involving notice of motion)
 - i) Mental Health 101/202/303 presentation – Tom Brophy & Cindy Boland.
Key discussion points:
 - The uptake on this program from the staff perspective has been good but faculty uptake could improve.
 - A brief video was shown related to mental health issues.
 - This is the third year the program has been offered on campus. The consistent feedback that was received during these programs was related to the need for more time to discuss the issues. Mental health 202 and 303 were developed to address these concerns.
 - Student feel anxious about approaching instructors about issues they are experiencing. These programs were created to address those issues. Mental health directly relates to academic success. We are hoping to get more engagement on campus from faculty. Each of us has a responsibility to create a caring campus environment.
 - Mental Health 101 is a short yet informative presentation developed for university Faculty and Staff to increase awareness and understanding of mental illness and mental health problems, thus increasing confidence in supporting students. It is titled - Identifying and Responding to Students in Distress. This is an introduction and the 202 and 303 modules sprang from this original presentation.

- Mental Health 202 is the 2nd part in the series designed for university Faculty and Staff to increase awareness and understanding of mental illness and mental health problems, thus increasing confidence in supporting students. It is titled - Practical Approaches for Supporting Stressed, Anxious and Depressed Students.
- Mental Health 303 is the 3rd part in the series designed for university Faculty and Staff to increase awareness and understanding of mental illness and mental health problems, thus increasing confidence in supporting students. It is titled - Estimating Risk of Suicide and Facilitating referrals for students.
- Question: Are there statistics on campus related to the numbers of students that have thoughts of suicide? Answer: There are Canadian statistics which show that approximately 90 students on our campus annually will attempt suicide.
- One in five people are currently dealing with a mental health issue.
- We are collecting data in terms of how many and who the individuals are that are going through the programs. We are hoping to assess the effectiveness and the outcomes of these programs in the months ahead.
- Question: What would be a critical mass required to do one of these sessions on request? If we could suggest some times when a group of faculty and/or staff could take a session could your unit respond? Answer: Yes, this can be accommodated. The sections have to be taken in order. We are looking at organizing a couple of sessions in the spring.
- Senators were advised that even smaller things like putting the information on resources into the course syllabus at the beginning of the year will help to initiate the conversations that needs to be undertaken.
- This training was offered to SMUSA employees.
- There is also a peer support program. This is a system of giving and receiving help founded on key principles of respect, shared responsibility, and mutual agreement of what is helpful. Peer support is not based on psychiatric models and diagnostic criteria. It is about understanding another's situation empathically through the shared experience of emotional and psychological pain. Peer Supporters are students who have experience dealing with mental health concerns. These students are trained within the Stay Connected Mental Health Project and The Counselling Centre to support their peers through active listening, goal-setting, and resource referral.
- There are definite cultural issues when it comes to seeking support for mental health issues. These cultural groups need to be encouraged to use the support services that are available.
- The training is critical for Department and Program Assistants and Student Advisors. They are generally the first to recognize when students are struggling with issues.
- The 'Go-To' faculty training in the summer was very good and there is a sign that can be posted on the faculty member's office door. Senators were advised that everyone who takes this training gets a pass on Mental Health 101.

- SMUSA has also been doing a Mental Health First Aid training. The training is open to everyone including faculty and staff.
- As a result of student discussions, the Minister has moved the issue of mental health and support up on his agenda. We expect to see opportunities for Provincial funding support for these issues in the future.

17059

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Appendix M

Summerby-Murray advised members of the following:

Discovery and Innovation in a Learning-centred environment

- The work of Dean FGSR and others related to the launch of the MSc in Applied Psychology Program in mid-January, is to be applauded. The connections with the community are impressive and the curriculum is innovative.
- Hosted a meeting of the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training in late-January. Having accepted an invitation to deliver remarks, I took advantage of the opportunity to not only showcase the University, but to speak to our strength in the area of innovation and discovery, as well as entrepreneurship.
- Recently confirmed Saint Mary's continuing relations with Junior Achievement initiative during a meeting with Junior Achievement CEO, Kirsten Williams. In finalizing our sponsorship, I shared the JA view that between our two organizations we continue to generate great success for today's youth, and tomorrow's leaders – speaks to the ultimate value of this continuing partnership.

Internationalization and intercultural learning

- Preparatory to my role as Chair Designate of the CBIE Board, I attended meetings in Ottawa with current Board Chair, David Ross, and CBIE President, Karen McBride. Coincident with this meeting, Ms. McBride and I met with Parliamentary Secretary, David Lametti; Minister Scott Brison; and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade – in the course of these meetings, I not only advanced the CBIE agenda, but the Saint Mary's agenda as well.

Institutional Sustainability

- We are getting better metrics around the performance of our institution.
- Hosted a number of donors and friends of the University at a reception held at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. The reception honoured Saint Mary's commitment to the Salzinnes Antiphonal, and provided an opportunity for Dr. Judy Dietz to share the history behind this significant artefact and her role in its discovery, in advance of the Antiphonal's return to Saint Mary's. The Salzinnes Antiphonal has just recently come home to Saint Mary's.
- I recently traveled to Nassau, where we hosted events designed to both meet with prospective students and to engage with Alumni. Beyond these events, we met with Minister Lloyd, Bahamian Minister of Education, and with Linda Davis, Provost & VP of the University of the Bahamas – in the course of this meeting a MOU between our two universities was signed. Particularly around environmental issues. The current Minister is very familiar with SMU. His daughter graduated from here.

- Members of EMG are currently undertaking a series of budget deliberation meetings as we work to finalize the institutional budget(s) for the coming year.

External Relations and Communications

- Saint Mary's Alum were extremely well represented among the nominees and award winners at the recent Halifax Business Awards Dinner, as presented by the Chamber of Commerce – 75% of all of the nominees had some connection to SMU. It was very gratifying to be in attendance and to see concrete evidence of the impact this institution has within our community.
- Attended the Premier's State of the Province address hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. I was incredibly proud when the Premier made specific reference to the success of the Saint Mary's Venture Capital Team at the recent Boston competition. The Premier asked Dr. Ellen Farrell, along with the student attendees, to stand and be recognized. The members of the team represented a number of programs within the Sobey School of Business.
- President is traveling to Australia to attend a gathering of University Presidents from around the world. They will be considering a multitude of issues at this event.

17060

QUESTION PERIOD

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: Is there any word on the search for the position of Registrar?
Answer: It will be initiated very soon.
- Members were advised that this was Marie DeYoung's last Senate meeting.

17061

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:33P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate