



One University. One World. Yours.

Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
Canada  
B3H 3C3  
Senate Office  
Tel: 902-420-5412

## SENATE MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2021

The 626<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, May 14, 2021, at 2:00 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr Takseva Chairperson, presided.

**PRESENT:** Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Bhabra, Dr Francis, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Sarty, Dr Austin, Dr Brosseau, Dr De Fuentes Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr O'Brien, Dr Panasian, Dr Power, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Mr Brophy, Ms Killam, Ms van den Hoogen, Mr Southwell, Ms Cadeau, Mr Sydney, Dr Smith, Ms Sergeant-Greenwood, and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

**REGRETS:** Dr Butler, Dr Bannerjee, Dr Hanley, Dr Hart, Dr Higgins, Dr Twohig, Ms Mihika, and Mr Tumusiime.

Meeting commenced at 2:04 P.M. Territorial acknowledgement.

### **21101**      **REPORT OF AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The Agenda Committee report was accepted.

The new members from SMUSA were welcomed to the Senate membership. Dr Rylan Higgins is also filling a vacancy for 16 months starting this month.

### **21102**      **SPRING GRADUATES**

Documentation to be presented at the meeting and designated as *Appendix A* (file copies to Deans and Senate file only).

#### **Key Discussion Points:**

- There are 782 credentials being awarded to 751 graduates. Thirty-one graduates are receiving dual degrees.
- In the spring convocation there are 173 distinctions awarded.
- Included in this convocation are 62 graduates from the BNUZ program.

Moved by Killam, and seconded, **“to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix A) at the Spring Convocation”**. Motion carried.

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

21103

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Posted as *Appendix B* for this meeting (10 min).

#### **Discovery and Innovation in a Learning-centred environment**

- Spring Convocation consists of three ceremonies on Friday 28th: Sobey School of Business and Faculty of Graduate Studies (10am), Faculty of Science and Faculty of Graduate Studies (2pm) and Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Graduate Studies (4pm). The ceremonies will be livestreamed and available from the Saint Mary’s website and Facebook page.
- The President spoke briefly at the Wicked Problems Lab Impact Event in celebration of their 1st Year Anniversary and thanked various donors for their generosity, vision, and support.
- In support of the continuing leadership on veterans’ education and transitions to post-secondary, the President attended meetings with colleagues across Canada, Australia, the US and the UK as part of the International Education committee of the Working Roundtable Program on Military, Veterans and Families Wellbeing

#### **Intercultural Learning**

- The standing committee on the prevention of racism continues its work and will shortly present its annual report.
- There was a discussion on Radio Canada (CBC FM 91.5) on Anti-Asian Racism in which Saint Mary’s was represented by Dr. Rohini Bannerjee and Yingjun Chen, an Honours student in French. The President will attend on the university’s behalf sessions on anti-Asian racism to be hosted by the University of British Columbia next month.
- The President attended the Canadian University Boards Association conference last week, attending the keynote address on ‘Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – The Role of Boards in Supporting Meaningful Change’ and participating in a panel discussion on ‘Fostering Inclusive Leadership’.
- The work of the National Dialogues Advisory Committee continues. We met recently to review further feedback on the Scarborough National Charter, with particular attention being paid to governance and processes for endorsement and adoption. The Charter was discussed extensively at the Universities Canada membership meeting in late April, and this was a valuable source of feedback.
- There is a lot of external focus. A large portion of the President’s time is working with various groups to further the goals of the university.

#### **Institutional Sustainability**

- Considerable work continues to be done on access to Canada and to Saint Mary's for international students. Key issues include lobbying (through Universities Canada, CBIE, IRCC and the AAU) for improvements in visa processing times, public health and quarantine regulations, vaccination policies, and the continuation of the post-graduate work permit for students studying online but outside Canada. Senators may have seen calls from the Premier of Ontario to prevent access of international students to that province; I have worked closely with the Government of Nova Scotia at the minister and deputy minister levels to ensure that Nova Scotia remains open to international students. Senators should be aware, however of recent changes for entry to the province for all students, domestic and international.
- We continue to identify funding opportunities through the recent federal budget, especially regarding 'green building', 'active transportation' and 'COVID-19 resilience' streams.
- Last week, we presented our current financial situation to the province and sought their support on key investments for post-secondary, including in digital infrastructure and pathways for under-represented populations. Our primary approach here is to seek investment. We continue to be in constant contact with LAE on the provincial framework for the Fall return to campus and on any changes to public health requirements.
- The Advancement file goes from strength to strength. In addition to our continued engagement with the Sobey family and Sobey Foundation, we continue to have positive results in philanthropy and alumni relations and with the Brand Refinement project, the results of which will be launched in the coming weeks.
- An Executive Assistant has been hired for the President's Office starting on June 7. An announcement will be issued shortly.
- Federal Government relationships – Stephen Moore our Director of Government Relations has been working hard. Our presence in this area has strengthened over the past several months. A tribute to Steven Moore for his work. We are hoping for further financial support from the Federal level.
- Question: Has the Government shown more interest of late in the contributions made by Universities? Answer: They can only provide funding for research or infrastructure. The provincial government does not fund operating budgets. We are seeing a much more targeted approach – technology (in particular green technologies) as an example. Funding is being offered for very specific projects.

21104

**VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH REPORT**

Posted as *Appendix C* for this meeting (10 min).

**Key Discussion Points:**

- **Spring Registrations (FCEs)**  
Registrations are strong for the spring academic session, as students clearly desire a broader set of course offerings during this term.
- Summer session registrations are a bit behind.
- **Fall 2021** - There is student interest in both the in-person and online course offerings, and everyone is monitoring enrolments closely and carefully to ensure we can balance demand properly against access, being mindful of Public Health guidance. Students are looking at the fall as a transition term.
- **Academic Plan** – The Strategic Enrolment Management Steering Committee has presented a plan for review and feedback. This is an extensive plan with the most comprehensive analysis of enrolment we have ever had. After that step, Senate and the Board will review it.
- **Diversity Strategy** – In addition to being members of the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity, we have also joined the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion. Resources from these groups will be made available through the community bulletin.
- **Dean of Arts and Science searches** – These committees meet next week to review candidates and establish long-lists for first round interviews. The short-list interviews will be virtual.
- **MPHEC update** – The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Applied Economics has been approved. The Master of Business Analytics program has been submitted and is being reviewed now.
- **Review status of the Faculty of Education** – Little progress has been made. It has been challenging to prioritize this task. There has been some information gathering done that will be helpful, but many other matters have simply been presenting more urgent demands on time.
- **Action item: Bell** to add Formalizing communication between the Board and Senate to the June Senate Agenda.

21105

**SMUSA PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Posted as *Appendix D* for this meeting (5 min).

**Key Discussion Points:**

- No formal report was submitted. **Action Item: Takseva** will contact Southwell to review this part of the reporting.
- SMUSA recently provided feedback on the academic integrity foundations course offered by the Library. We are hoping to make this a required course for students prior to September.
- **Action Item: Bell** to add a presentation on this to the June Senate agenda.

21106

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

**Key Discussion Points:**

- None

21107

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2021, were *circulated* as *Appendix E*.

An action item concerning the academic appeal fee was assigned to the Academic Regulations Committee. This did not make it onto the May 3 agenda, but it will be reviewed in June.

**In the absence of any objections, the minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2021, are approved as circulated.” Motion carried.**

21108

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

.01 President's Standing Committee on the Prevention of Racism - expand membership composition to include 2 Senate representatives.

**Key Discussion Points:**

- Takseva was contacted by the chair of the President's Standing Committee on the Prevention of Racism with a request for Senate to provide two Senate members to participate on this committee. Volunteers were requested.
- Dr Takseva volunteered to serve. A second volunteer is needed. A call for expressions of interest will be circulated after this meeting. Note: Dr Rohini Bannerjee volunteered.
- Question: What is the status of the position of Indigenous Advisor? Sewell is taking up a tenure-track position on the faculty. Answer: A search is underway for a replacement.

21109

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01 Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching – Inclusive Language Statement (Bannerjee, De Fuentes, Krishnamurti, Takseva).

**Key Discussion Points:**

- Due to additional revisions that were identified during the final review, this document is deferred to the June Senate meeting.

21110

**NEW BUSINESS FROM**

a) Floor (not involving notice of motion)

Special preview of the new University Brand Platform and plans for its launch and adoption across the university (Erin Sargeant Greenwood 10 min + Q&A).

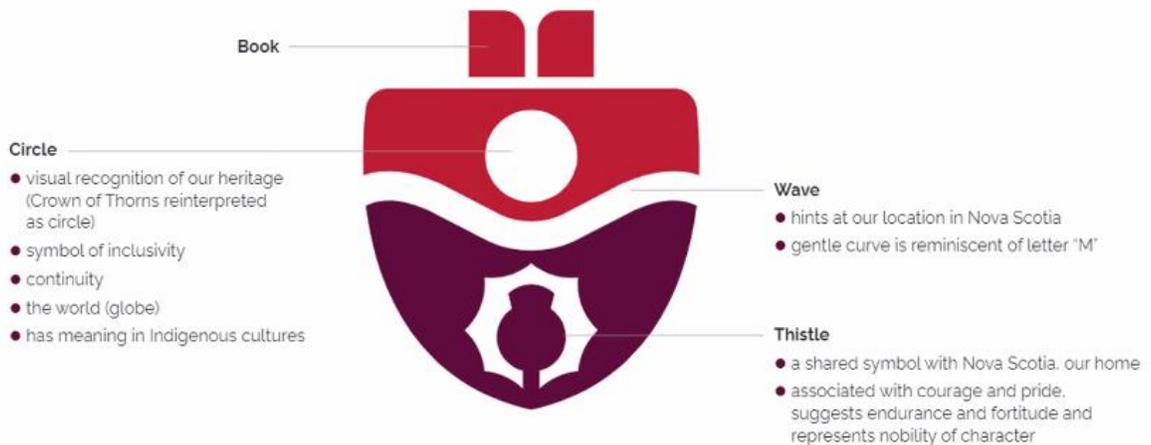
**Key Discussion Points:**

- We want to ensure that the community understands the project from an overall perspective (the why and the how).
- Why? Because SMU has not had an exercise of this type for 15 years. There have been significant changes in that time.
- How? The approach has been focused on the Engagement.
- During the planning, development and consultation stage, students provided a lot of very positive statements, and these were captured. This helped to identify what makes SMU special/unique.

- Our brand values are authentic and aspirational. The Brand Personality is energetic, friendly-maritime informality, global and focused.
- Our promise is to create the space for possibility. This is at the heart of our initiative. Our message is ‘A World Without Limits’. This is a distillation of SMU right now. We are an institution that is perfectly sized.
- The refined and modern ICON is a simple, clear way to capture the history of the university and our location in Nova Scotia.

## ICON

The Saint Mary's University icon is a graphic representation of our core values and ideals. The icon can be used as a graphic element to add signature branding to an application. For icon usage examples, see sample applications.



- The key slogans are “World Without Limits”, and “You can do anything”, We can: do better, We can: shatter the glass ceiling, etc.
- Brand standards – there is a suite of instruction, tools and templates that will empower the community to tell our story.
- Saint Mary’s University Seal stands for tradition, prestige, history, and it will remain in use by the institution. It will only be used by the President’s Office and in Convocations.
- There will be a special alumni logo as well. The Husky logo will also be changing.
- As much as possible we will be using the university logo, but we will also have the logos for each unit to use when necessary.
- There are new templates available for posters and other multi-media usage.
- There is a section around accessibility as well.
- A virtual launch will be done the week of July 1. The new capital project will be announced on June 14. An awareness

and reputation marketing campaign will be run over the summer June 21 (4-8 weeks), Physical Campus – Phase 1 June 21.

- There is also a new Brand Policy 11-1004 posted on the SMU website.
- Question: Are we abandoning the Latin motto? Answer: No, we are not. It will look updated, but the utilization will look much the same. There is a nice connection conceptually between this motto and the new brand direction.
- Question: Will the assets be available through the website? Answer: Yes. In addition, as we move towards implementation of the legislation on accessibility that concept underpinned our developments.
- Question: Reputational ranking – It was stated that the approach was friendly-maritime informality. In sacrificing formality, are we sacrificing some of the prestige with it? Answer: Maintaining the ICON in the shape of the shield maintains the formality but the rounded edges infer informality. The balance is that the prestige will come through the consistency in communication. The unification of our look and feel, our story telling, etc will enhance the prestige of it.
- Question: Has this logo received any positive or negative comments from our community? Answer: Yes. There have been many positive comments. The response from alumni has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Members were advised that the existing ICON has a relatively short history. It appeared in the early 1950s. It has been maroon for about 25 or 35 years. What we have now has not been in place forever.

21111

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 P.M.

Barb Bell,  
Secretary of Senate