

**SENATE MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2022**

The 633rd meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, March 18, 2022, at 2:00 PM. Dr Takseva Chairperson, presided. This was a hybrid meeting - a zoom link was provided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Butler, Dr Bhabra, Dr Francis, Dr Ingraham, Dr Sarty, Dr Austin, Dr Brosseau, Dr Crocker, Dr Driss, Dr Fan, Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr O'Brien, Dr Panasian, Dr Sanderson, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr VanderPlaat, Dr Zhyznomirska, Mr Brophy, Ms van den Hoogen, Mr Southwell, Ms Mihika, Mr Sydney, Mr Tumusiime, Ms Sargeant-Greenwood, Dr Hall, Ms Ulbrich, Ms Benoit, Mr Rooney, and Ms Bell (Sctry).

REGRETS: Dr Taghavi, and Mr Cook.

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm with the territorial acknowledgement.

22066

2022-2023 UNIVERSITY BUDGET PRESENTATION

Presentation: Michel Ulbrich with D. Rooney, and M. Benoit present.

Key Discussion Points:

The President opened the Budget Presentation and thanked the team for their work assembling this budget development. Michel Ulbrich presented the 2022-2023 University Budget to Senators.

Questions:

- One of the more critical assumptions is enrolment. If we do not meet the forecasts the budget will be significantly impacted. How are your assumptions formed? Answer: The enrolment forecast came from Enrolment Services and is based on trends as well as any rebound that is expected related to the pandemic restrictions being removed.
- Question: Would you consider a weighted average? Answer: We acknowledge that we need to do a better job of mitigating the risk of conversion from applicant to registered student. This model is cautious and does have a contingency built into it.
- Question: Budget presentations in previous years included some mention of new faculty and administrative positions. It was not included in this presentation. Would you please speak a little bit about the plan to fill new faculty positions and new administrators/staff vacancies? Is there a plan for new faculty, staff, and new administrators? Answer: The required positions have been included in the budget. There are some areas that have a capacity

need and those are under review. We are prioritizing those based on enrolment and we will advance our thinking based on that. We are setting up a multi-year plan to address faculty requirements and then we will also do the same for key support positions and administration needs.

- Question: The "1 in, 1 out" model of hiring of staff, even if focused on the academic mission of the University, doesn't seem to provide a mechanism to adapt quickly to the increased enrollment numbers we would like to see. Some departments have been waiting months / years for hires which are still in the pipeline and which impact programs today for the students we already have. Response: Some of these vacancies will be addressed immediately. We will have to figure out the others as we move forward.
- Question: Does the slow projected growth in international students in the coming years have something to do with the termination of the BNUZ program? Answer: This will have an impact. The BNUZ program has been reducing over the last couple of years, but this is a relatively small percentage of the issue. This program was always treated as a special project, outside of the operating budget. The international students that are on the Halifax Campus are included in the stream.
- Question: Over the past couple of years, the Library also has had shortages in staff that need to be addressed. Response: Those are the types of positions that we will be addressing as quickly as possible.
- Concern was expressed related to being competitive for the international student group. Response: We have been following the SEM Plan. We need to evaluate what progress we make on that plan before we know how to proceed. We need to look at the landscape as well.
- International students are concerned about getting jobs to pay for tuition. More students will be taking fewer courses because of their need to work to support their tuition costs. Sustainable costs are important for all students. We need to be mindful of what the impact might be.
- Question: Are there any risks to the historical turnover of faculties related to internal reserves? Answer: There are several internal reserves. This is not a desirable situation, and it would have been preferable not to draw on any of those reserves. We need to assess the impact on all the reserves and draw on those that have the least impact. Each of the undergraduate Deans have access to reserves that are unfocused and not restricted.
- Question: Are there any plans regarding large- or small-scale collaborations with other universities? Answer: We are actively looking to expand a couple of other relationships in China. Most others we are looking at would not necessarily be a revenue generator but provide relationships/partnerships only. There are grants to encourage SMU students to travel but these are not revenue generating situations. Over the past six months there have been some faculty that are offering courses to international students that have asked about digital offerings. These are being used as joint offerings at other universities. This has been happening at other universities and work with our strategic mandate for intercultural learning. This opens the opportunity for digital engagement with others.

22067

REPORT OF AGENDA COMMITTEE

The Agenda Committee report was accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Key Discussion Point:

Discovery and Innovation in a Learning-Centered Environment

- The largest military conflict in Europe since 1945 is unfolding with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The rectors of the Ukrainian universities have written to the Canadian university presidents, urging us to do what we can to support students and scholars. To this point, Saint Mary's has determined we have only one student from Ukraine studying with us this term. This student has been provided with support – and CIBC has provided them with a bursary. We are aware of students in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus wishing to study with us next year and are working with them. I have issued a statement on behalf of the university (as have many other university presidents) – and you will note that the flag of Ukraine continues to fly on our campus as a symbol of our support for the people of Ukraine. The federal government and the granting councils have suspended research funding for any engagement with Russia.
- Examples of student accomplishments: undergraduate Engineering - winning the regional competition and moving to nationals, undergraduate and graduate teams placing second in the New England Venture Capital Investment Competition in Boston, SMU hosting of the Atlantic Canada Japanese Language Speech contest, and a successful research day in the Faculty of Arts.

Intercultural Learning

- Scarborough Charter: Senate's recommendation to the Governance Committee of the Board of Governors has been accepted and the committee's further recommendation will be made to the next meeting of the full Board next week. That recommendation will direct the President to sign the Charter on behalf of Saint Mary's. Further, the President continues to serve on the Inter-institutional steering committee for the Charter, including on the committee establishing terms of reference for the governance of signatory members and approving the program for a further institutional forum to be held at UBC in May.

Institutional Sustainability

- The President is in continuing conversations with colleagues at AST, Universite Ste.-Anne and NSCC, including on initiatives that fit within the 'Shared Vision' discussions of CONSUP. The conversations with NSCC focus on new academic pathways. Updates on these will be provided by the Vice-President Academic and Research in due course.
- On government relations, the President has had a busy two months of engagement with key deputy ministers provincially and with one federal minister. We continue to explore funding sources, especially for capital work. Note the announcements of the province regarding COVID-19 support for Nova Scotia post-secondary students. The work of Students Nova Scotia and others in lobbying for this is applauded. In the past few days, the province has announced a \$25 million investment in Research Nova Scotia. As a Board member of Research Nova Scotia, the President is delighted in this investment

in the research capacities of our universities – and we look forward to some portion of these funds coming to researchers at Saint Mary's! At the federal level, the President provided input to CBIE's briefing note as an expert witness at the House of Commons committee on IRCC and visa processing, working with CBIE and Universities Canada. Saint Mary's and EduNova submitted independent briefing notes also, authored in the Saint Mary's case by our Director of Government Relations and the President. Over the past two weeks, we have had considerable engagement with Global Affairs Canada, Employment and Skills Development Canada, and Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada on updating information allowing prospective international students to access accurate information about Saint Mary's. The support of our 'deputy minister champion' in Ottawa and our local MP's office has been crucial. In addition, we are currently working with both provincial and federal governments to propose an 'immigration-innovation' forum, convened by Saint Mary's and NSCC with the various deputy ministers and ministers. The President will advise Senate further as details are confirmed.

- Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research Search – The Provost Search committee has met twice to finalize the job advertisement and the candidate profile. The position was posted externally and internally on March 9th. The committee will meet again near the end of April to review the long list of candidates. The President will report on further progress at a subsequent meeting of Senate.

22069

VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH REPORT

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

Key Discussion Points:

Looking forward:

- The last VPAR update to community started a look forward at the needs and opportunities for the university. Senators were asked for their thoughts on issues that should/could be touched on (mindful that the VPAR needs to keep the presentation down to a reasonable time to ensure time for questions).
- The President and the VPAR have begun a discussion with the Deans on how we can ensure that the Academic mission stays front of mind as we emerge from these COVID years and launch a new strategic plan. This includes issues of how we work together to address concerns around the full-time faculty compliment for both existing programs and innovative new programs, and the supports for faculty in the classroom and laboratory.

22070

SMUSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Academic)

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

Key Discussion Points:

External Affairs

- SMUSA was pleased to be a part of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) advocacy campaign which concluded earlier this month. Throughout those weeks, Southwell and Cook had opportunities to meet and discuss CASA's priority asks with various MPs, and Senators from the Federal Government. Notably Southwell personally met with MP Kody Blois, Senator Terry Mercer, and Rick Perkins who are all proud SMU alumni.

(SNS) Students Nova Scotia

- Earlier last month the NS government announced the introduction of the Covid-19 grant. This grant will provide \$875 to all NS student assistance recipients. This constitutes over 11,000 students. This will help provide financial relief for challenges arising from Covid-19, including the rising cost of living, and education. The significance of this grant is that it was a direct ask from SNS last November during our advocacy week.
- We also started planning our Student Housing Advocacy Campaign which will be unrolling next week

2022 SMUSA Elections

- Isobel Tyler was successfully elected as the 2022-2023 President.
- There were seven members elected to the Board of Directors: Sorav Sogy, Toni-Ann Bennet, Meghan Boudreau, Thomas Waithe, Ashish Ganapathy, Nikita, Nikita, and Francesca Southwell.
- Over the next few weeks, SMUSA will be hiring a new executive team and we will be reporting back on the new team at the Senate Meeting in April.

University Budget

- SMUSA participated in the University budget consultation process for next year. We would just like to thank the university for being so transparent and answering all our questions regarding fee increases. It is important that students are always aware of any changes to their fees and tuition as soon as possible, including the reasoning behind any changes

Fall Preparation

- SMUSA is anticipating a full in person fall semester and planning is underway with welcome week activities, pack leader camps and full in person office hours. Most students we have spoken to are looking forward to getting back to a more normal life. It is hoped that issues relating to the pandemic or the conflict in the Ukraine will not impede that process. We also fully endorse an in-person spring convocation.

SMU Charter Day

- The SMUSA team is planning to host a charter day award event to honor our student leaders on campus and do a review our year.

Graduate Student Committee

- A graduate student committee has been resurrected to collect graduate student feedback. To date, 10 students have signed up and meetings have begun.

Academic Integrity Week

- SMUSA VP Academic Kyle Cook is working with Dr. Takseva to organize a week of workshops, and activities for our students concerning academic integrity. A lot of students still struggle with understanding academic integrity and how to avoid mistakes. Hopefully this week of workshops will give students an opportunity to gain insights on how to avoid those mistakes.

SMUSA on Ukraine conflict

- SMUSA condemns the actions taken by Putin and his forces. They have violated the freedoms and civil liberties of the people of Ukraine. We reached out to students and members of the community who were affected by this war to offer support. We also acknowledge Dr. Lyubov Zhyznomirska who is a member of this Senate and offer our support to bring attention to the conflict in Ukraine.
- Senators were also advised that there was a \$25 million research grant announced from Research Nova Scotia, a share of which SMU will be applying.

22071

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

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: Where any graduate students elected in the spring? Answer: No. Everyone is given an opportunity to run for election. We are looking at how we can improve the supports for those students.
- A member stated that the situation in the Ukraine is a war. It is not a conflict. It is not just humanitarian compassion that needs expression, it is an expression of outrage to the point of condemnation for the actions taken by Russia. The expressions and messages of support have been appreciated. There will be an event of support at SMU next week. An invite will go out to the university community to show leadership and to express our international concern.
- We have students at Saint Mary's that are residents according to University record, but they are also Ukrainian and may be only first generation here in Canada. They have family that are impacted, and they need our support as well. The President was encouraged to raise the importance of Federal and Provincial support for those students who may wish to come to Canada / Nova Scotia for safety.
- The President spoke positively about considering these recommendations. Conversations have already been undertaken with the Provincial Government.
- The event will also have an opportunity for donation to humanitarian aid. At the event there will be a panel comprised of individuals with Ukranian nationality, to include our alumni. [Loyola 171, 2-3:30 next Friday.]

22072

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2021, were *circulated* as **Appendix E**.

There being no objections or revisions, **the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2021, were accepted into the recorded as posted.**

22073

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS

None.

22074

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

a) Academic Planning Committee

- i. Criminology UG & Grad program review documentation, **Appendix G** – APC Memo, **Appendix H** – Recommendation-Comparison summary, **Appendix I** – Self Study Report, **Appendix J** - Self Study appendices (I1-I2), **Appendix K** – Dean's Response to Self Study, **Appendix L** - External Program Review Committee's (PRC) Final Report, (Note: see the summary document for the Program Response and the Dean's Response to the PRC Report.)

Key Discussion Points:

- Theme One: Related to Resources Recommendation
 - Recommendation 1.1: This is budgetary/resource related and beyond the purview of APC and Senate. APC recommends the Department continue to work with the Dean to identify an approach that supports simultaneously addressing the identified issues. Recommendation

- Recommendation 1.2: This is budgetary/resource related and beyond the purview of APC and Senate. As in Recommendation 1.1, APC recommends the Department continue to work with the Dean to identify an approach that supports addressing the identified issues. Recommendation
- Recommendation 1.3: This is budgetary/resource related and beyond the purview of APC and Senate. APC recommends that the Department continue to work with the Dean to identify an approach to effectively respond to this recommendation. Recommendation
- Recommendation 1.4: This is budgetary/resource related and beyond the purview of APC and Senate. APC recommends that the Department continue to work with the Dean to identify an approach to effectively respond to this recommendation.
- Theme Two: Related to the Mission, Identity and Vision of the Department
 - Recommendation 2: APC encourages the Department to continue the work on their vision, mission, and soliciting student input. APC also recommends that the Department work with BA Advising and the Recruitment Office to enhance communications, recruiting efforts and promotional materials. Theme Three: Related to Undergraduate Program Recommendation
 - Recommendation 3.1: APC is concerned that the Program has not considered the suggested opportunities to expand the program and encourages the Department to work with the Dean to consider ways to manage large enrollments within the program while utilizing existing resources. Recommendation
 - Recommendation 3.2: APC supports the work the Department has done to address this recommendation and encourages discussions to continue concerning offerings that provide students with more expansive learning opportunities. Recommendation
 - Recommendation 3.3: APC encourages the program to continue to work with the Dean to address this matter and to consider how other large enrollment programs manage access and enrolment issues. Recommendation
 - Recommendation 3.4: APC supports the work currently underway and encourages the Department to consider further development of specialist streams to create robust and excellent academic student experiences. Theme Four: Related to Honours Program Recommendation
 - Recommendation 4.1: APC encourages the program to ensure students have access to the Research Methods courses and that they are not penalized for taking these courses outside of the program. The program is also encouraged to work with the BA Advisors in this regard. Recommendation.
 - Recommendation 4.2: APC encourages the Department to continue their work to articulate clear learning outcomes across the Criminology Program.
- Theme Five: Related to Indigenization of the Curriculum Recommendation

- Recommendation 5.1: APC supports the efforts of the program and encourages continuing work with the Dean and Arts Advisors in this regard.
 - Recommendation 5.2: APC supports the Dean's response and acknowledges that Criminology has a key role to play in the suggested discussions. Theme Six: Related to the Graduate Program.
 - Recommendation 6: APC urges the program to respond quickly to this question and ensure the consideration of the undergraduate delivery and administration in parallel to this that of the MAC program. The program is urged to consult with other departments operating in a similarly complex environment. APC looks forward to the development of a five-year plan for the MAC program as part of the action plan. Theme Seven: Related to Administration of the Department.
 - Recommendation 7.1: APC supports the response of the Dean and looks forward to the outcome of the review of the secretarial positions.
 - Recommendation 7.2: APC supports the Deans response.
 - Recommendation 7.3: APC concurs with the Dean's response, particularly the need for collaboration and clear communications with the BA Advisors, Department Chairs/Program Coordinators, and the recruitment office.
 - Recommendation 7.4: APC concurs with the response of the Dean and encourages the Department to work with the BA Advisors and the recruitment office in this regard.
 - Recommendation 7.5: APC supports the response of the Dean and encourages the continuing engagement between the Department and the Dean in this regard. Theme Eight: Related to Faculty Development
 - Recommendation 8.1: APC concurs with the response of the Dean and encourages the Department and faculty to take advantage of all available support services both within and outside of the Department and Faculty.
 - Recommendation 8.2: See response to 8.1 above.:
- Concerning those issues that are outside the purview of APC and Senate, it was requested that there be a stronger response because the resource gap makes it difficult for the department to deliver a predictable and consistent program with academic integrity that reflects the discipline and its breadth. One example is the special topics situation.
 - Concerning recommendation 4.1 – to clarify – students are not being penalized for courses taken outside of the program. Students are allowed to take courses outside of the program. The reviewers did not like that the program currently allows honour students to take quantitative or qualitative methods in sociology and quantitative methods in psychology or sociology. These disciplines are deeply connected to criminology. We recognize that the reviewers might have missed the fact that the students could get a methods course from our 3000 level research methods courses. The program has also submitted a change to the honours program to reinstate an advanced methods course.

- Question: What are the specific academic implications if some of the resource needs are not met? Answer: Students register for courses that change or cannot be offered or are already full. It is very frustrating for students. Courses on average are 90% enrolled. The program is at its peak at being able to offer their program. It is hard for the faculty to engage with each other to develop the dynamic department they should have because they are maxed out.
- Members were reminded that the library offers an AI Foundations course. Members of Senate were asked to advise colleagues that these modules are available to incorporate into their courses.
- Question: What is the connection between the integrity of the program and having more courses on the books? More of the special topics courses could be formalized so that they would be available. Answer: The key issue is we do not have the faculty to teach all the current courses. We must rely on part-time instructors and 8-month limited term appointment contracts. Our ability to sustain reductions in special topics courses requires increasing our full-time faculty complement.
- Question: Can you reconsider enrolment limits of 15 or 30 students? Answer: Our courses are capped in a similar manner to others in the Faculty of Arts. We are at 90% capacity while other Arts programs are 60%.
- It was noted that caps should not be used as a measure of comparison or a response to demand because caps are usually associated with the room in which the course is being offered.
- Some introductory science courses have classes of over 200 students. Criminology and Psychology are similar social sciences, and the latter has introductory courses of 200 + students. It was suggested that the program look at where the comparisons are to decide the average enrolment.
- Question: How many of the 300 students in the program convert to majors in Criminology? Answer: The conversion rate is directly related to the capacity. Criminology had 419 majors last year.
- A senator expressed an issue with having trained PhD part-time instructors. The percentage of PhD students that go on into academia is very low. Question: What about the Master trained part-time instructors? Answer: We can do that, but a problem arises when these instructors become more responsible for the delivery of the program than full-time faculty that are based in research expertise.
- Recommendation 3.1 suggests the program lower the threshold for admission into the major program. Concern was expressed regarding APC's tone in the response. The program has considered the opportunities to expand the program. Fundamentally we want the department to work with the Dean to find ways to address this and consider some of the opportunities. It was noted that when a similar point was raised on the biology review it was kept in the recommendation.
- APC requested the following motions be considered:

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that Senate supports the recommendations from the APC arising from the Criminology Program as listed above.”**
Motion carried.

The following omnibus motion was moved by Butler and seconded, **“that the Criminology Program submit an Action Plan, that is based on the preceding recommendations, to the Academic Planning Committee in time for the June 2022 meeting of the APC”**.

and

“that one year after the approval of the Action Plan, the Criminology 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”.

and

“that two years after Senate approval of the one-year report, Criminology Program submit a three-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.

- ii. Sociology Program Review documentation – **Appendix M** – APC Memo, **Appendix N** – Recommendation-Comparison summary, **Appendix O** – Self Study Report, **Appendix P** - Self Study appendices (P1-P4), **Appendix Q** – Dean’s Response to Self Study, **Appendix R** - External Program Review Committee’s (PRC) Final Report, **Appendix S** – Program Response to PRC Report. (Note: see the summary document for the Dean’s Response to PRC Report.

Key Discussion Points:

- Recommendation 1.1: APC concurs with the Deans response and looks forward to the results of the planned retreat in fall 2022.
- Recommendation 1.2: APC Is pleased to see the work on the service-learning course, but also sees many more opportunities. APC respects the perspective of the external reviewers on acceptable class sizes and encourages the program to discuss this with the Registrar’s Office.
- Recommendation 2.1: APC supports the response from the Dean. APC respects the perspective of the external reviewers on acceptable class sizes and encourages the program to discuss this with the Registrar’s Office.
- Recommendation 2.2: APC strongly supports the removal of barriers to registration, and supports the actions proposed by the Department.
- Recommendation 2.3: APC concurs with the response of the Dean that this topic should be included in the discussions at the upcoming retreat. APC encourages the program to be open to the expert feedback that was provided by the reviewers.
- Recommendation 3: APC are pleased to see agreement on this recommendation and looks forward to further progress on this initiative.

- Recommendation 4: APC encourages further discussion on this recommendation at the upcoming retreat. APC notes that certificate programs do not necessarily require the development of new courses but can be a repackaging of existing offerings.
- Recommendation 5: APC concurs with the response of the Dean and encourages the Department to consider the opportunities inherent within this recommendation at their upcoming retreat.
- Recommendation 6: APC looks forward to the outcomes of the retreat related to this recommendation.
- Recommendation 7: This is a resource/budgetary issue and beyond the purview of the APC and Senate. It is referred to the Dean and Program for further discussion.
- Recommendation 8: APC recommends that the Department engage in the ongoing budgetary process to address this recommendation.
- Recommendation 9: APC supports this recommendation and encourages the program to reach out to the supports available on campus through the Studio for Teaching and Learning to assist them in this development.
- Recommendation 10: APC encourages the department to take advantage of all opportunities for collaboration in this regard.

APC requests that the following motions be considered:

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that Senate supports the recommendations from the APC arising from the Sociology Program as listed above.” Motion carried.**

Moved as an omnibus motion by Butler and seconded, **“that the Sociology Program submit an Action Plan, that is based on the preceding recommendations, to the Academic Planning Committee in time for the June 2022 meeting of the APC”.**

and

“that one year after the approval of the Action Plan, the Sociology 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”.

and

“that two years after Senate approval of the one-year report, Sociology Program submit a three-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.

iii. Linguistics Program Review Documentation – **Appendix R**– APC Memo,

Appendix S – Recommendation-Comparison summary, **Appendix T** - Self Study Report, **Appendix U** - Self Study appendices, **Appendix V** – Dean’s Response to Self Study, **Appendix W** - External Program Review Committee’s (PRC) Final Report, **Appendix X** – Program Response to PRC Report. Note: Dean’s Response to PRC Report included in **Appendix S**.

Key Discussion Points:

Theme 1: Faculty Complement

- Recommendation 1 - This is budgetary/resource related and beyond the purview of APC and Senate. APC encourages the Program to work with the Program Innovation and Renewal Committee to explore their options. APC recommends that the Department work with the Dean to consider ways to address this recommendation.
- Recommendation 2: This is budgetary/resource related and beyond the purview of APC and Senate. As in Recommendation 1, APC encourages the Program to work with the Program Innovation and Renewal Committee to explore their options. APC recommends the Department work with the Dean to identify a way forward.

Theme 2: Course Offering and Restructuring

- Recommendation 3: APC concurs with the Dean’s response.
- Recommendation 4: APC concurs with the Dean’s response.
- Recommendation 5: APC concurs with the Dean’s response. The program is advised to refer to Senate Policy 8-1014 concerning Special Topics and Directed Study (Reading) Courses https://www.smu.ca/webfiles/8-1014_Senate_SpecialTopicsDirectedStudiesCrs.pdf.
- Recommendation 6: APC encourages the program to remain open to future collaborations across other programs.
- Recommendation 7: APC concurs with the Dean’s response and supports this recommendation.
- Recommendation 8: APC recommends that the program consider preparing students for future opportunities, and work with the advising group to develop ways to address this recommendation.
- Recommendation 9: APC concurs with the Dean’s response.
- Recommendation 10: APC concurs with the Dean’s response and encourages the program to work with the recruitment team to update their landing pages on the SMU website as recommended.
- Recommendation 11: APC concurs with the Dean’s response and encourages the program to explore the potential benefits of providing additional options for Arts students related to their breadth requirements.
- Recommendation 12: APC concurs with the Dean’s response.
- Recommendation 13: APC concurs with the Dean’s response.
- Recommendation 14: APC concurs with the Dean’s Response.
- The Chair advised that in recommendation 5, the reviewers used the term special topics courses, but they were referring to shell courses. These were courses where a set of topics that come up regularly were offered. The reviewers suggested these shell courses be formalized. Response: APC assumed that these were special topics in the traditional definition. These types of courses exist over other programs with similar titles.

- There was a suggestion to thematically link courses. The program was advised to look at the psychology program model. This suggestion was positively received.
- Question: What is the program renewal committee? Answer: This is the SEM Program Innovation and Renewal committee, that looks at faculty proposing course that deal with renewal and offers the supports necessary to assist that process.

APC requests that the following motions be considered:

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that Senate supports the recommendations from the APC arising from the Linguistics Program as listed above.” Motion carried.**

Moved as an omnibus motion by Butler and seconded, **“that the Linguistics Program submit an Action Plan, that is based on the preceding recommendations, to the Academic Planning Committee in time for the June 2022 meeting of the APC”.**

and

“that one year after the approval of the Action Plan, the Linguistics 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”.

and

“that two years after Senate approval of the one-year report, Linguistics Program submit a three-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.

- iv. **Institute for Computational Astrophysics (ICA)** APC Notice of Motion, **Appendix Z1**, ICA response, Response to Senate, **Appendix Z2**, ICA Annual Report, **Appendix Z3**

Key Discussion Points:

- APC/Senate put the ICA on probation. Their report indicated some actions that were positive.
- APC members agreed that more time should be provided to the ICA to see if they are able to achieve the goals they have propose.

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that in accordance with section three of the Senate Policy 8-1009, Senate assigns the Institute for Computational Astrophysics an additional probationary status for a period of two years [Senate Policy #8-1009 Section 3.3 ii) a) & b)]. At the end of this time, ICA must submit evidence of the activities it has proposed in their response. and have immediate plans to meet the criteria as defined for the approval of Centers at Saint Mary’s”. Motion carried.**

- v. Draft Strategic Research Plan 2021-2026, Appendix Z1 – Notice of Motion, Appendix Z2 – Research Plan (Dr Sarty).

Key Discussion Points:

- The highlights of this plan were first presented in 2021 to provide the opportunity for commentary and feedback.
- The research objectives have changed somewhat over previous plans.
- This was not meant to be an exclusionary document. The intent is to define broad themes that are as inclusive as possible over as broad a spectrum as possible.
- The format of some of the topic sections is mandated by CRC.
- The major research themes are consistent with the consultations held while developing this plan. They are not mutually exclusive, rather are designed to be mutually reinforcing – allowing innovative scholarship within Arts, Science, and Business to contribute collaboratively to enhancing the themes to raise the overall impact of Saint Mary’s University research.
- Innovation in Business and Workplace Studies is the only major research theme which has been retained through all prior versions of the Saint Mary’s Strategic Research Plan, and into the current Plan.
- The list of actions found at the end of this document is new compared to previous plans.
- Question: How did we do relative to the goals and objectives from the 2012 plan? Is there a way to provide an evolution of performance? Answer: This report addresses the need for such an assessment.
- Concern was expressed relative to being too specific in the assessment of goals and objectives. In addition, some of the objectives are difficult to measure. There is a specific action listed in this regard.
- Question: Can you provide some continuity across these reports? Answer: We have not gathered the metrics to facilitate that analysis. We will look at ways to do this type of qualitative assessment going forward.
- In the section titled Innovative Science – Exploring Fundamentals, Developing Applications, it states << Natural Sciences – emerging out of eight departments/divisions that support these areas (Astronomy & Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, and Mathematics & Computing Science).>> Question: Could Psychology be included? Answer: The examples are not exhaustive. It was acknowledged that every other department in the Faculty of Science had been included. Psychology will be added.
This was accepted as a revision to the document.

- Under the theme Modern Global Citizenship Issues, in the second paragraph, the Department of Political Science has at least two scholars that are migration and citizenship experts and that should be reflected in this section. This was accepted as a revision to the document.
- This could be approved as a primary document with some timeframes for small edits. We are asking that the substance of this plan be accepted.

Moved by Butler and seconded, **“that the 2021-2026 Strategic Research Plan is approved by Senate as revised above.” Motion carried.**

Moved by Stinson and seconded, **“that the Senate meeting be extended by 15 minutes.” Motion carried with 2 opposing votes.**

Action item: Bell to research how many times in recent years the Senate meeting was extended past 4:30 pm. See results below:

2018-2019	September 21, 2018, and March 15, 2019.
2019-2020	September 20, and November 22, 2019, May 15, and August 21, 2020
2020-2021	September 18, and November 20, 2020.
2021-2022	September 17, and October 15, 2021. November 19, 2021 (defeated). March 18, 2022.

When reviewing this information, consider the following: 1) On September 21, 2018, members approved a motion from the Senate Agenda Committee to revise the length of the Senate meeting from 2:30 – 4:30 to 2:00 – 4:30 because: <<The two-hour time allotment has been in place for a very long time while the university has continued to grow. More time is needed for a fulsome discussion in Senate.>> and 2) Most of the period above was impacted by the pandemic.

b) Academic Regulations Committee – Item deferred to April.

(Dr VanderPlaat) Notice of Motion, **Appendix Za1**

i. Terms of Reference – revision as per Senate request, **Appendix Za2**

- No discussion due to time restrictions.

ii. Undergraduate Academic Regulation 11 a & c, **Appendix Za3**

Key Discussion Points:

- No discussion due to time restrictions.

iii. Graduate Academic Regulations 17, 18 & 31 a & c, **Appendix Za4**

Key Discussion Points

- No discussion due to time restrictions.

22075 REPORTS OF JOINT COMMITTEES

1. Honourary Degrees Committee

a) Revocation of an Honorary Doctorate.

Key Discussion Points:

- Members were advised that because of the discovery of very serious crimes committed by an honorary degree holder over a lengthy term, and the expectation of criminal charges being brought against this individual, a

recommendation has been submitted by the Honorary Degrees Committee that such circumstances warrant revocation of the honorary degree.

Moved by Summerby-Murray and seconded, **“that the Honorary Degree, as presented in appendix Zc2 for this meeting, be revoked.”** Motion carried.

Honourary Degree Recommendation – Appendix Zb,

Key Discussion Points:

- After a fulsome discussion on the merits of this recommendation, the following motion was submitted:

Moved by Summerby-Murray and seconded, **“that Senate supports the recommendation as presented in appendix Zb for this meeting for forwarding to the Board of Governors for awarding.”** Motion carried.

22076 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

1. Floor (not involving notice of motion)

a) Update – Academic Integrity Week, March 21.25, 2022 (Dr Takseva).

Key Discussion Points:

- Deferred. No discussion due to time restrictions.

22077 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary of Senate