

SENATE MEETING MINUTES
November 8, 2024

The 655th meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, November 8, 2024, at 2:00 PM, in CLARI, Atrium room 340. Dr Karen Grandy, chaired.

PRESENT: Dr. Summerby-Murray, Dr. Delorme, Dr. Veres, Ms. van den Hoogen, Dr. Austin, Dr. Ylijoki, Dr. Kocum, Dr. Barclay, Dr. Grandy, Dr. Sanderson, Dr. Doucet, Dr. Hare, Mr. Chiunda, Ms. Southwell, Mr. Hutchinson, Ms Kalantri, Ms. Gervase, Dr. Malton, Mr Barrett, Ms. Morrison, Secretary to Senate

GUESTS: Dr. Morales, Dr. Westhaver, Ms. E. Sargeant-Greenwood

REGRETS: Dr. VanderPlaat, Dr. Ingraham, Dr. Sarty, Mr. Seneker, Mr. Brophy, Dr. Grek-Martin, Dr. Brosseau, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Hlongwane, Prof R. Sewell, Dr. Samou

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 P.M., and a territorial acknowledgment was provided by Dr. Karen Grandy

25014 REPORT OF AGENDA COMMITTEE

The agenda is accepted as posted.

25015 PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Posted as Appendix.A.(10 min)

The President referred to the report included with meeting materials and highlighted the following:

- This institution has performed better than budgeted for the current term, although there was an unexpected dip in domestic enrolment, which is still below the previous year's numbers.
- International enrolment numbers continue to be problematic, with ongoing challenges.
- Efforts are ongoing to engage with the government at municipal, provincial, and federal levels. The upcoming provincial election is causing a hold on civil service activities and preventing movement on various files.
- The government has not yet committed to the promised increase in the grant, which is part of our agreement.
- Due to the federal policy changes, international student enrolment has dropped from 33% to 25%, resulting in a loss of 7 million in revenue.
- Convocation ceremonies are scheduled for next week, which is an exciting time for the institutions.

25016 VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH REPORT

Posted as **Appendix B1** for this meeting. (5 mins)

The Vice-President Academic and Research report, the Animal Care Annual Report and the Research Ethics Annual Report, are accepted into the record.

25017

SMUSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Listed as Appendix.C.(5 min)

The SMUSA President highlights key items from their monthly report.

Key Discussion:

- Student wellness week has been initiated as a dedicated week to help students de-stress. The event is being organized in collaboration with multiple departments and external organizations to ensure broad support.
- The Black Student Advisor role is being highlighted as part of Student Affairs and Services, providing students with the opportunity to connect with a dedicated individual for support.
- Financial aid for Black students is a key part of these ongoing discussions, emphasizing the need for more support.
- A campaign is underway to encourage students to vote in the upcoming provincial election.

25018

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

- Question: Is the Degree Works update a major change or an upgrade?
Response: It is simply an upgrade to the software.
- Comment: There was a recent CBC article about the \$25 million donation, and it seemed controversial. President Summerby-Murray responded that we should not solely rely on media reports. Progress is being made on the programs, and further developments will come soon.
- SMUSA raised a question regarding a professor requiring a student to show proof of purchase for a skull kit for an online course. The Dean of Science informed Senate that this question was discussed at the Academic Regulations Committee and concluded that there is no academic regulation to prevent a faculty member from requesting this. This will fall into a personnel issue between a faculty member and the Dean.
- Students are confused about asynchronous courses. On the SMU website, a course can be listed as online unless the professor specifies on-campus attendance, which is unclear. Response: This issue has been noted, and clarity on how online and in-person components are communicated on the website will be sought. MPHECs is requiring SMU to complete an Institutional Online Framework; when this is complete, the confusion should be cleared up.

25019

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the September 13, 2024 meeting were circulated as Appendix.D.

There being no other revisions or objections, the Senate meeting minutes of September 13, 2024, are approved.

25020

OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA

1. Senate Committee Memberships

Budget Advisory Committee

Dr. Michael Zhang

Dr. Rob Singer

Dr. Clarissa Sit (Alternate)

Dr. Rahman Khokhar (Alternate)

Moved by Dr. Austin and seconded by Dr. Sanderson, **“that Senate approve the recommendations as presented in Appendix E for membership on the Senate Committees.” Motion carried.**

2. Committee to Review the Instructor Course Evaluation Process Update

Item deferred to next meeting.

25021

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Academic Appeals- Appendix G
2. Academic Integrity – Appendix H1 & H2
3. Academic Integrity Appeal Board – Appendix I
4. Accessibility – Appendix J
5. Agenda – Appendix K
6. Bylaws – Appendix L
7. Election – Appendix M
8. Executive – Appendix N
9. Learning and Teaching – Appendix O
10. Library – Appendix P
11. Student Conduct – Appendix Q
12. Academic Regulations – Appendix R

Key Discussions:

- A SMUSA representative requests that the Student Code of Conduct annual report be reviewed at the next Senate meeting, as they would like an update on the student-to-faculty code of conduct.
- Students feel the Academic Integrity process is too strict, using words such as appellant.

Moved as an omnibus motioned by Ms van den Hoogen and seconded by Dr. Sanderson, **“that Senate accepts the 2023-2024 Annual Reports in appendices H through R inclusive, excluding Appendix Q”. Motion carried.**

- b. Graduate Academic Regulation 30 c & d

Key Discussions:

- The current regulation calculates grades to the hundredth decimal place.
- In the past year, there were three instances where grades (e.g., 2.97) were rounded up to 3.00
- The proposal to round grades to the tenth decimal place instead of the hundredth, for greater consistency and accuracy in grading.
- Addition of a clear definition for the length of time a student has to demonstrate academic improvement when they are not in good standing. The proposed timeframe: No more than two semesters to show improvement, deemed an appropriate period for students to return to good standing.

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr. Delorme, **“that Senate approve the revisions to Graduate Academic Regulation 30 c & d as submitted in Appendix S1,” Motion carried.**

c. 2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr. Delorme, **“that Senate members approve the Academic Calendar of Events, 2025-2026 as submitted in Appendix T1 for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar,” Motion carried.**

d. UG Regulation 18/Graduate Regulation 33 (Academic Integrity Appeal Procedure)

Dr Grandy relinquished the Chair responsibilities to Dr. Austin for this motion and discussion.

Key Discussion:

- The committee ran a pilot test last year to provide the appellant the option of a five-minute interview with the review panel to present their grounds for appeal.
- Suggestion to include the procedural order of events in the regulation itself. This is where the 5-minute interview could be included.

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr. Doucet, **“that Senate approve the revisions to Undergraduate Regulation 18 and Graduate Regulation 33 as submitted in Appendix U1”.** Motion carried.

13. Academic Planning Committee

a. Program Proposal – Arts Major in Sport, Health & Wellness

Key Discussions:

- The Program was envisioning something that would distinguish it from other sports studies programs. Many are business or performance-focused.

- The Faculty of Arts is excited to work with the Sobey School of Business on the two streams being offered. This will be the first program like this to go on the market.

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr. Delorme, **“that Senate approve the MPHEC proposal for an Arts Major in Sport, Health and Wellness for submission to MPHEC” Motion carried.**

b. Program Proposal – Major in Sports Business

Key Discussions

- The Business stream aims to provide students with a focus and understanding of sports business, connecting the areas of business, accounting, and sports marketing. There will be concentration courses.
- Current students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community members are very excited to have these two programs offered here at SMU.
- With this program, students can combine their passion for sports with business knowledge. It is a successful pathway, and students can find jobs easily, not only in the sports industry, but in many areas. Students will develop interesting skills for the market within this kind of program.

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr Delorme, **“that Senate approve the MPHEC proposal for a Major in Sports Business for submission to MPHEC” Motion Carried.**

c. MBA 1 Year Report

Key Discussions:

- Since the report has been submitted, some actions have been implemented.
- The program will create an alumni in-residence.
- Suggestion that the Senate keep an eye on how the Program is doing as they are currently waiting on a variety of factors before taking action on some of the recommendations.

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by Ms. Southwell, **“that Senate approve the one-year follow-up report of the Master of Business Administration Program as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Graduate Programs at Saint Mary’s” Motion carried.**

d. PSYC 1-Year Report

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by, Dr. Delorme, **“that Senate approve the one-year follow-up report of the Psychology Program as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s.” Motion carried.**

Motioned that Senate adjourns for a 5-minute recess

e. Geology Undergraduate Program Review

Recommendation 1: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response.

Recommendation 2: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response.

Recommendation 3: APC encourages the continued discussion between the Geology Department and the School of the Environment.

Recommendation 4: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response.

Recommendation 5: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response.

Recommendation 6: APC recognizes that this is outside the purview of APC

Recommendation 7: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response.

Recommendation 8: APC supports the responses and notes that they are Field Courses.

Recommendation 9: APC concurs with the Dean and recognizes the importance of common areas of student learning.

Recommendation 10: APC concurs with the Deans response

Recommendation 11: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response

Recommendation 12: APC concurs with the Deans response.

Recommendation 13: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response.

Recommendation 14: APC agrees with the Deans response and notes that maintaining safety and accessibility in field experiences is a paramount importance.

Recommendation 15: APC supports the Deans response and encourages all faculty within the program to engage with self-education, while also recognizing the importance of facilitating self-education in support of Indigenous engagement.

Recommendation 16: APC concurs with the Dean.

Recommendation 17: APC recognizes that this is outside the purview of APC.

Recommendation 18: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response.

Recommendation 19: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response.

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr. Austin **“that Senate supports the APC recommendations arising from the Geology program review, as listed above”**
Motion carried.

And

Moved as an omnibus motion by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr. Ylijoki, **“that 60 days after Senate approval, the Geology Program submits an Action Plan, that is based on the preceding recommendations, to the Academic Planning Committee”.**

And

“that one year after the approval of the Action Plan, the Geology Program submit a one-year report to the Academic Planning Committee on the progress made on the Action Plan according to Section 4 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University”.

And

“that three-years after Senate approval of the Action Plan, the Geology Program submit a three-year report to the Academic Planning Committee on the progress made on the Action Plan according to Section 4 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University”. Motion carried.

Key Discussions:

- 19 recommendations brought forward. APC supports the Program and/or the Dean in all recommendations.

f. MSc Applied Psychology (Forensic Stream) Program Review

Recommendation 1: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response

Recommendation 2: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response

Recommendation 3: APC concurs with the Deans response and encourages the Program to work with other areas and work collaboratively to offer Qualitative Methods.

Recommendation 4: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response and encourages the Department to hold progress meetings each term with each student.

Recommendation 5: APC concurs with the Dean and recognizes this is not within the purview of APC

Recommendation 6: APC concurs with the Program and Deans response

Recommendation 7: APC concurs with the Program and Dean and supports a stand-alone Program rather than a stream.

Moved by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr. Delorme, **“that Senate supports the APC recommendations arising from the MSc Applied Psychology (Forensic Stream) program review, as listed above” Motion carried.**

And

Moved as an omnibus motion by Dr. Veres and seconded by Dr. Doucet, **“that 60 days after Senate approval, the MSc Applied Psychology (Forensic Stream) Program submits an Action Plan, that is based on the preceding recommendations, to the Academic Planning Committee”.**

And

“that one year after the approval of the Action Plan, the MSc Applied Psychology (Forensic Stream) Program submit a one-year report to the Academic Planning Committee on the progress made on the Action Plan according to Section 4 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University”.

And

“that three-years after Senate approval of the Action Plan, the MSc Applied Psychology (Forensic Stream) Program submit a three-year report to the Academic Planning Committee on the progress made on the Action Plan according to Section 4 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University”. Motion carried.

Key Discussions:

- This is the program's first review. Its purpose was to see if there was student demand, and it was quite successful. One of the most significant recommendations is that this stream branch off and become its own program.

25021 REPORTS FROM JOINT COMMITTEES

1. Honorary Degrees 2023-2024 Annual Report

Accept into the record.

25022 NEW BUSINESS FROM

- a. Discussion item – Academic Staff members appointed by the Senate to Committees

Key Discussion:

- Senate approved changes to the Appointment of Academic Administrators Policy and submitted the proposed changes to the Board in March.
- S. Morrison will consult with the Board Secretary to get an update on the policy revisions.

25023 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.