

**SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 14, 2012**

The 546<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, December 14, 2012, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

**PRESENT:** Dr. Dodds, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Bradshaw, Dr. Enns, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Austin, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Barclay, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Power, Dr. Secord, Dr. Sewell, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Wang, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Mr. Hotchkiss, Mr. Brian Hotson (Director, Writing Centre), Dr. Westhaver (SOCI/CRIM) and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate

**REGRETS:** Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Smith, Dr. Ivanoff, Dr. Street, Dr. Russell, Dr. van Proosdij, Mr. Michael, Mr. Perry, Mr. MacDonell, Ms. Chimhanda, Mr. Gorba Bhandari and Mr. Coady.

Meeting commenced at 2:37 P.M.

**12032**      **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**  
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

**12033**      **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  
Minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2012, were *circulated* as **Appendix A**.

Moved by Hotchkiss, and seconded, **'that the minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2012 are approved as circulated.'** Motion carried.

**12034**      **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**  
None

**12035**      **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**  
.01 Academic Planning Committee  
Follow-up report to the Program Review of Sociology & Criminology, circulated at the meeting as **Appendix C**  
Key Discussion Points:  
➤ At the June 11, 2010 Senate meeting the Department of Sociology & Criminology was required to submit a final report by June, 2011 detailing the actual results achieved in response to the recommendations contained in the Report of the External Reviewers.  
➤ Dr. Westhaver Chair of the department is here to answer any questions.

- Members requested that the original recommendations from the External Program Reviewers be made available before they considered the department's response.

Moved by Secord and seconded, **“that review and discussion of this report be deferred until the January Senate meeting and that the external reviewers’ recommendations be circulated with the report.” Motion carried.**

**.02** Curriculum Committee semi-annual report circulated as **Appendix D**

Key Discussion Points:

- There are changes affecting degree requirements.
- Recommendation was for the Faculty of Science to review their B.Sc. degree requirements. There are issues related to requiring a minimum grade of C in some courses relative to degree or major requirements. When revisions of degree requirements are made, all of the Faculties need to review their degree level requirements as opposed to department level requirements.
- It was noted that a revision was required on page 24/25 of the report. The course number is 3xxx and the word 'Chinese' is missing in the title.
- Dixon advised that there will also be a submission in January for the MMCCU curriculum material.

Moved by Dixon and seconded, **“that the report of the Curriculum Committee is accepted with the revisions noted above, and that the material is approved for publishing in the 2013-2014 Academic Calendar.” Motion carried.**

**.03** Academic Regulations – Calendar of Events circulated as **Appendix E.**

Key Discussion Points:

- SMU, Dalhousie and MSVU attempt to coordinate their break weeks.
- We had Convocation on Sunday morning and afternoon this year. Participants complained that graduates and their families could not attend church. As a result, and depending on numbers participating, next fall the convocation may be spread across two days (Friday and Saturday). We may need to have three ceremonies in order to be able to accommodate it on campus, in the McNally Auditorium.
- We moved convocation to Saturday in January of 2014.

Moved by Dixon and seconded, **“that the Calendar of Events for 2013-2014 is approved as submitted.” Motion Carried**

**.04** Senate Committee on Literacy Strategy – Saint Mary's University Writing Survey, 2012: Results and Recommendations circulated as **Appendix F**

Key Discussion Points:

- DeYoung advised that this study was done as a follow-up to a previous study done in 2008. We wanted to update this report and provide insight to faculty's perspective on student literacy.
- This study is meant to reflect all students and provides a context for some of the challenges faculty members face. Since the report was

done there have been some proactive initiatives around campus that address this area.

- Brian Hotson, the Director of the Writing Committee is here to answer questions.
- Question: Is there an error in figure 4 on page 6 in the x axis? The Arts Faculty has the lowest response and the Science Faculty has the highest? Answer: There is no error. It may have something to do with the size of classes. Also, filling out this survey was voluntary. There may also be science faculty members that have writing based components in their courses but that did not fill out the survey. Science also had a literacy push a few years ago. All of these things may have influenced that outcome.
- Question: Students have advised faculty that the waiting list for assistance at the Writing Centre is two weeks long. Is this the situation? Answer: There is a drop-in service. The Writing Centre is also open seven days a week with 12 hours available on weekends. In peak times extra hours have been added for tutoring. Staff of the Centre also work with students proceeding through various points in the writing of assignments. We don't do this with every course but for those we have, a marked improvement was noted in those students.

Moved by De Young and seconded, **“that the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Literacy Strategy Report on Writing Survey be forwarded to the Academic Planning Committee for consideration and, where possible, action.” Motion carried.**

**12036**

**NEW BUSINESS FROM**

a) Floor (not involving notice of motion)

.01 Strategic Research Plan and 5 page Summary circulated as **Appendix G & H.**

Key Discussion Points:

- All universities in Canada are required to have an SRP to participate in certain funding programs of the Government of Canada (e.g. CFI, CRC)
- This plan has been more than a year in process. There are two documents that are required by the Canada Research Chair (CRC) Secretariat but they are also required by various other agencies.
- SRPs provide insight into the research spectrum and strengths of the university. There are three pages of guidelines covering the required content for SRPs.
- The process we went through to get to this point was extensive, inclusive and vastly consultative.
- Summary of changes:
  - Shorter and more succinct;
  - Addresses more of the required/requested components;
  - Contains a research mission statement for the university;
  - Major Research Theme #1 on Innovation in Business and Workplace Studies has been expanded to include information systems and technology
  - Major Research Theme #3 has been entitled “The Environment and Natural Resources,” better reflecting the

- significant record and activity of our research involving natural resources (including geological resources). This theme also references our new School of the Environment.
- Major Research Theme #4 on Astronomy and Computational Sciences has been expanded to include Sub-atomic Physics
  - Support was expressed for the identification of limited areas of focus and strength.
  - The SRP is not meant to be a limiting document. If a really great idea comes forward with a strategic opportunity, we want to have the flexibility to be able to respond to that opportunity.

Moved by Vessey and seconded, **“that Senate approves the renewed (2012) Strategic Research Plan and its accompanying Summary, for forwarding to the Canada Research Chairs Secretariat.” Motion carried.**

- .02 2012 Report on the Employment of Women as per Article 10.4.8 of the Saint Mary’s University and Saint Mary’s University Faculty Union Collective Agreement circulated as **Appendix I.**
- The report was received from the VPAR who was unable to attend this meeting.

Moved by Stinson and seconded, **“that consideration and discussion of this report be deferred to the January Senate meeting.” Motion carried.**

12037

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Dodds advised the following:

- The MOU process is still unfolding. There will be a 5 hour meeting next week and the minister will be in attendance.

12038

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: How does the current MOU process compare to the one that was followed many years ago? Answer: It is very similar. They are looking at KPIs, population growth which is in decline, and other key factors. Eight different models are being considered at this time. They are asking the universities to project revenues and costs over the next five years. Most of the considerations are linked to money but some could be structural.

12039

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 P.M.

Barb Bell,  
Secretary to the Office of Senate