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SENATE MEETING MINUTES March 10, 2017

The 582rd Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Enns, Dr Dixon, Dr MacDonald, Dr Vessey, Dr Smith, Dr Naulls, Dr Campbell, Dr Conrad, Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Henry, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr VanderPlaat, Mr Brophy, Ms DeYoung, Mr Alanazi, Ms Jones, Ms Bhaskar, Mr Rooney, Ms Morrison, Ms Sargeant Greenwood, Ms Delorey and Ms Bell, Secretary of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr Bradshaw, Dr Hall, Dr Hlongwane, Dr McCallum, Dr Peckmann, Dr Rahaman, Dr Warner, Mr Michael, Mr Rahman, and Mr Rice.

Meeting commenced at 2:34 P.M. The University Secretary and the Vice-President, Advancement were introduced.

16049 REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE
The agenda was accepted.

16050 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2017, were circulated as *Appendix A*.

Moved by Grek Martin, and seconded, '**that the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2017 are approved as circulated.**' Motion carried.

16051 .01 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Credentials Awarded Summary by Department Major and Degree, *Appendix B & C*.

- This item is for information only, as requested by Senators, January 13, 2017.
- Dixon was complemented on these reports.
- Dixon advised that these reports provided 30 years of information on credentials. Other information is of shorter duration periods.

16052 SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY 2017-2018 OPERATING BUDGET
Presentation by Darrell Rooney and Gabe Morrison
Key Discussion Points:

- On Monday, March 13, this budget will be submitted to the Finance Committee of the Board. The Board of Governors will consider it at their meeting on March 31. After that it can be discussed outside of this venue.

- This is the second year of our market adjustments.
- This is a status quo budget with a focus on compliance requirements, cost neutral initiatives and select strategic initiatives as a result of implementing the market (tuition) adjustments..
- We have a two-year window left to continue to fund strategic initiatives such as: Student Aid, Diversity and Equity, Student Programming, Academic Programming, Campus Renewal, Information Technology, Mitigation, Unfreeze Vacant Positions, and to Replenish the Capital Reserves.
- We are in the implementation discussion phase of the strategic plan. The themes of this plan will resonate throughout the Budget Plan; Differentiation: Discovery and Innovation, Internationalization, Community Engagement, Sustainability: Advancement, Enrolment, Financial and Operations.
- We are particularly focused on enrolment because of the nature of our financing.
- Town Hall meetings will be scheduled on the next two Fridays (March 17 and 24) to seek feedback on these specific initiatives.
- A detailed presentation followed.

Question Period

- Question: Is the Christian Martyrs Church in this budget? Answer: Yes – This is shown as an Internal Loan.
- Question: Will the revenue generated by BNUZ students be shown in budget? Answer: The commitment was for four years and to put four cohorts through the program. We will admit the fourth cohort in Sept 2017. The committee will review after that to see if the program is viable for continuation.
- Question: There were two positions for a learning software support specialist and an active learning specialist. Are these new positions in terms of investment? Answer: Active classroom is not a position but is to cover converting existing classrooms into active classroom learning environments. The Learning software has to do with the CAT lab. Student teaching assistants have been used up to now and that has been determined not to be adequate to meet current needs.

16053

NEW VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT PORTFOLIO

Presentation by Vice-President, Advancement, Erin Sargeant Greenwood

Key discussion items:

- Ms Sargeant Greenwood presented a brief overview of her previous background and her first couple of weeks at SMU.
- The mandate of Advancement is not to create a level of management over existing units. Advancement works with the existing structure to enhance the traditional infrastructure units that support recruitment. We are looking to provide an elevated level of contribution to the advancement of the university. Advancement is a strategic, integrated method of managing relationships to increase understanding and support among the key constituents at Saint Mary's, including alumni and friends, government policy makers, the media, members of the community and philanthropic entities of all types. The key is to bring the right support to deliver the right impact where it is needed most.

- Ms Greenwood looks forward to interacting with Senate in the future in terms of the work that Advancement does and that needs to be done.
- Question: How exactly do you see your position having impact on academics? Does your mandate also include an intent to increase public funding for the university? Answer: Yes. It will become more frequent that both sides ask for a commitment from the other side before they will commit to a level of funding. We will focus our approach to identify the projects that the institution needs to enhance academic strengths. There is a lot of work strategically to identify the right projects that Saint Mary's does very well and promote and support those. Donors give for impact and we want to make sure that donation is where we want it to be. The focus is not on bricks and mortar but on impact. Nothing is off limits for advancement.
- Question: If nothing is off the table, do you envision a future where there may be a TESLA graduate program? Do you foresee corporations funding programs so that their name will be up front? Answer: A decision on what is to be funded is made before a request for funding is made. A corporate name has never been attached to a program. We need to create a gift acceptance policy at Saint Mary's which would have a naming policy. There are always exceptions because there are sponsorship situations.
- We have special events that are funded by corporations like Microsoft but that isn't the same type of thing.
- The use of corporate logos around campuses has come under scrutiny in recent years. There are a number of examples at campuses across Canada. We need processes and practices around these types of things. We need to be thinking about where the dividing lines are.
- It is a matter of transparency in our research that we should acknowledge the supporters and sponsors of those activities.
- Question: Would you define higher education still as public education? Answer: Government has a responsibility to be a funding partner in higher education. We have to be realistic about the role of Government.

16054

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- None at this time.

16055

NEW BUSINESS FROM

- a) Floor (involving notice of motion)
Classroom technology and room design issues (discussion item)

Key discussion items:

- Mr Perry Sisk, ITSS and Mr Gary Schmeisser, Facilities Management received invitations to attend but had conflicting commitments. Item deferred to April Senate meeting.

- b) Motion from the floor

On the issue of accessibility

Moved by Campbell and seconded, "To approve a Senate Bylaw revision to section 2.5.1 Senate Order of Business to add a new standing item called Accessibility."

Key discussion items:

- It is proposed that Accessibility be placed on the Senate Agenda and in the Bylaws as a standing item of business.

- Members were advised that we had invited Mr Rajnis from ITSS to the last Senate meeting for a discussion. The issue was much larger in scope than the ITSS unit mandate.
- It was suggested that it is not the role of Senate to defining what accessibility covers. Senate deals with the academic mission of the University.
- An opinion was expressed that there are a number of accessibility issues that come up on campus that impact the academic environment, but we cannot get those issues moved forward.
- The intention of this motion is not to discuss the minutia of the issue but to encourage the development of a committee that could address the accessibility issues affecting academic issues that also affect the student experience.
- It was noted that academic issues normally come to Senate through the Senate Standing Committees. The problem is that there is no committee to address this particular issue. We need an Ad-Hoc Committee of Senate to do this work and then bring a proposal forward to Senate.
- Members were advised that there is a Classroom Planning Taskforce and perhaps we could send this issue to that group in a similar way as the website issues were handled.
- Members were advised that the Classroom Planning Taskforce was initiated by the Registrar to provide oversight over classroom issues. It meets periodically to address issues that come up. Classrooms are a shared resource and not the property of a Faculty or Department.
- If we want be a progressive institution committed to inclusion, we need to procedurally create a committee to oversee this area. This initiative needs to be done in a meaningful and correct way.
- Concern was expressed that this conversation will be lost and we will remain in a holding pattern.
- Members were advised that there is a small committee in Facilities Management that considers accessibility issues. The President also sits on a taskforce that is considering the impact of the legislation that is currently on hold. This group is considering the issues of accessibility.
- It was suggested that Senate could establish an ad hoc committee to address this issue.
- Question: Do we have an update on the pan-university working group to look at accessibility? Answer: The president advised that he discussed it with Facilities Management.
- The mover withdrew that motion with the stipulation that a committee be established soon that does not only include Senate members.
- Caution was suggested. Members were advised that Senate only has the power over Senate. We need to deal with this issue broadly as well.

Moved by Stinson and seconded, “**That we create an ad hoc committee of Senate to review the issue of accessibility in an academic environment.**” **Motion carried.**

Action Item: The Senate Office will initiate a call for expression of interest to serve on this committee.

PRESIDENTS REPORT**Discovery and Innovation in a Learner-centered environment.**

- Saint Mary's hosted the annual Brain Wars (Discovery Centre) event, held here on campus in late February and bringing together high school and university teams in a day-long series of intellectual challenges.
- In early March, Saint Mary's welcomed Member of Parliament for Halifax, Andy Fillmore, for an announcement related to the Options (overcoming poverty) Youth Program, which is based in the Business Development Centre of the Sobey School of Business. We were delighted with the announcement of a \$480,000 funding commitment from the Government of Canada.
- The Saint Mary's Research Expo was held in early March. The event, which recognized outstanding accomplishments in 2016, was an excellent opportunity to showcase Saint Mary's expertise in the field of research. I was pleased to host Duff Montgomerie and Ava Czapalay, Deputy Minister and Senior Executive Director, Provincial Department of Labour and Advanced Education respectively, to the Expo. Both Duff and Ava were impressed by the caliber of work evidenced at the Expo.
- The annual Commerce Society Dinner was an occasion to host a number of students and celebrate their achievements, included among my guests were members of the Society's Executive as well as 2 Frank H. Sobey Award winners (Jorge Marcano and Michael Curtis). In addition, the Commerce Society announced its 'best professor' awards (Drs Lee and Weigand).
- MCDA team collected first prize.

Internationalization

- Earlier this week, I welcomed Ambassador Julio Garmendia and Counsellor Miraly Gonzalez of the Cuban Embassy – discussion topics were varied, but included particular discussion about the archaeology field course, and the MMCCU program and ongoing research collaboration with the University of Havana. Mid-week presented an opportunity to welcome the President (rector) of the Universidad de Holguin (one of Cuba's premier Universities) – discussion, in this case, centered primarily around university exchanges.
- We are working with the Mayor's office, the Port Authority, the Airport authority and the Halifax Partnership, along with our partners at BNUZ, on a June visit to China that will support academic programming and alumni engagement.

Value and Values

- Varsity sports continues to take centre stage, with our Women's Volleyball team garnering 3rd place in the AUS Women's Volleyball Championship – and a number of teams currently in AUS playoffs. Coach Chris Larade, for the second consecutive year, was named AUS Coach of the Year. Receiving the 2017 AUS Student Athlete Community Service Award is Beatrice Harrietha of the Saint Mary's Huskies. This important award honours an individual who best combines academics, athletics and community involvement – Beatrice will now represent the conference as the AUS nominee for the U Sports Marion Hilliard Award.
- I was pleased to attend an announcement of the Junior Achievement 2017 Laureate; we look forward to continuing our long-standing relationship with JA via a number of avenues, most specifically their scholarship program.

- March 8 presented the opportunity to attend 2 IWF events. The first, a breakfast event at which Saint Mary's University Honorary Degree recipient, Annette Verschuren as the featured speaker. I joined Board Chair, Karen Oldfield and members of the business and government communities, as Dr. Verschuren delivered remarks entitled "It's Time to Bet on Ourselves" inspired by her book "Bet On Me: Leading and Succeeding in Business and Life". An end of day panel discussion entitled "Women & Media", held here at the University, was very well orchestrated and attended.
- Joining me at the launch of the Saint Mary's United Way Campaign, was United Way President & CEO and Saint Mary's Alumna, Sara Napier. Faculty and Staff events have continued throughout the week, and I applaud the work of the organizing team for their commitment to the community and their dedication in bringing these events to fruition. We exceeded our goal of 24,000.

Institutional Sustainability

- With the early February arrival of VP Advancement, Erin Sargeant Greenwood, work is now well underway in terms of advancing this portfolio. Of note, and as a number of members of Senate would be aware, a series of consultative meetings has been established with a view to identifying our top fundraising priorities. Identification of same will inform our advancement activities and the potential for a major fundraising campaign. Saint Mary's has engaged KCI, a national fundraising consultancy firm with extensive experience in the university sector, to help guide and facilitate this critical exercise for us.
- Along with Saint Mary's Director of Admissions & Recruitment, I hosted Halifax MP Andy Fillmore at a meeting to discuss current immigration and recruitment issues impacting post secondary institutions generally, and Saint Mary's University specifically. The discussion was valuable and will serve as the basis for continued dialogue on these issues
- Work continues in the finalization of the institution's 2017-18 budget, with an anticipated approval date of end of March.
- Osama and Azrala incoming president and VP Academic of SMUSA Congrats.

Senior Administrative Updates:

- Ms. Anne-Marie DeLorey has now joined Saint Mary's in her role as University Secretary, in support of the Board. Anne-Marie will join meetings of Senate as an observer.

16057

QUESTION PERIOD

Noted that we had a very successful of Arts delegation moving on to Nationals. The success of students and faculty is phenomenal.

16058

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary of Senate