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SENATE MEETING MINUTES January 15, 2016

The 571st Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, January 15, 2016 at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Gauthier, Dr Dixon, Dr Bradshaw, Dr Smith, Dr Vessey, Dr Naulls, Dr Austin, Dr Campbell, Dr Conrad, Dr Gilin-Oore, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Hlongwane, Dr Kozloski, Dr Peckmann, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr VanderPlaat, Ms DeYoung, Mr Hotchkiss, Mr Algermozi, Mr Armony, Mr Rice (by teleconference), Ms Robert, and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr MacDonald, Dr Bjornson, Mr Michael and Ms Bhayani.

Meeting commenced at 2:27 P.M.

15038 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report was accepted as circulated.

15039 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
Minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2015, were circulated as *Appendix A*.

Moved by Smith and seconded, “**that the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2015 are approved as circulated.**” **Motion carried.**

15040 **WINTER GRADUATION LIST**
Documentation circulated at the meeting by the Registrar as *Appendix B*.
Key Discussion Items:

- Convocation will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2016 in the Theatre Auditorium, McNally Building. Undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science and Graduate Degrees in the disciplines of Arts and Science will be presented at the 10 AM ceremony. Undergraduate programs in the Sobey School of Business and Graduate Degrees in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in the discipline of Commerce will be presented at the 2 PM ceremony.
- An Honorary Degree will be presented to Dr. J. Richard Bond (Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa), at the 10 AM ceremony. Dr Bond is Canada's pre-eminent cosmologist. An Honorary Degree will be presented to Ms. Colleen Johnston (Doctor of Commerce, Honoris Causa) during the 2:00 PM

ceremony. Ms Johnston is Group Head Direct Channels, Technology, Marketing and Real Estate at TD Bank Group.

- A total of 301 credentials will be presented to 285 graduates.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, “**to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix B) at the Winter Convocation**”. Motion carried unanimously.

15041

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTE

.01 Update on the status of the Diploma in Forensic Science (Dean Smith)

Key discussion points:

- The core one-year courses are being redeveloped. There will be further discussion regarding how or whether to move the program forward.
- A Senator advised that the report from the external program reviewers included some key recommendations and identified some significant issues with the program and where it is headed. There is currently no major and the reviewers recommended that it either should become a B.Sc. or it should be terminated.
- It was suggested that perhaps a representative of the Senate might like to participate in the FRSC program review.
- Question: Is this a discussion that Senate should be having, or participating in? Should APC consider this question as a part of their review related to diplomas and certificates? Response: There are differences between what is done in a diploma or a certificate and what is done within a major. We need to keep in mind who the audience is when we build diplomas and certificates. The FRSC diploma drifted into something more, which is why we are having some confusion within the program.
- Question: Who or what group is monitoring whether this program is continuing to decline or whether something is being done to develop a BSc? Answer: This item will be deferred to the next Senate meeting. **Action Item: Bell** will post the external program reviewer’s report, the final recommendations of Senate, and one-year follow-up report for the February Senate meeting. **Action Item: Bell** to supply those documents to Smith and Sarty ASAP.
- It was noted that, at the November Senate meeting, Dean Smith was left with the mandate to review this situation and in consultation with the program participants, make a decision as to how to move forward. The current group will be reviewing this question.
- Members were advised that this program was originally created for RCMP Officers and eventually the numbers of officers enrolled declined and more students began enrolling in the courses.

.02 Proposal for a working group to identify and prepare a report on active and experiential learning opportunities that currently exist for all SMU students. Referred to Academic Planning. (Dr Gauthier)

Key discussion points:

- Senate asked the APC to have further discussion on this issue. The APC discussed this at their meeting on January 6. APC members were advised that there is a provincial innovation strategy underway. There is a working committee on the development of a provincial experiential learning strategy for Nova Scotia. They have created a definition of experiential learning.

This committee has asked each of the universities to submit a report by January 22, 2016 on the experiential activities and programs within their institutions.

- APC members were also advised that the Dean of Science was serving on a provincial working group on enabled learning. The group has generated a 368 page excel spreadsheet identifying types of activities occurring across the province. It was suggested at the APC meeting that there is value to doing this exercise this internally and creating an inventory for each Faculty at Saint Mary's.
- During the discussions there were suggestions for the membership of a working group. An email will go out to the Faculties, Departments and unite at Saint Mary's calling for nominations for participants on this working group. **Action Item: Bell** to post the APC minutes so that Senators can see the discussion at APC on this business item.
- Members were advised that the 'Co-Curricular record' reports on out-of-class experiences and captures skills in an official document. The 'Co-Curricular Experience' Platform provides over 800 Co-Curricular opportunities for students to develop transferable, employable skills beyond what is recognized on their academic transcript.
- Hotchkiss suggested that Donnie Jeffrey (Student Services) would be a good representative to have on the working group.

15042

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01 Academic Planning Committee

- i) Geology one-year follow-up report subsequent to their program review,

Appendix C1 & C2

Key discussion points:

- Question: Are there any other departments that have page limits for their thesis? Is this commonplace? Answer: Not that we know of. The external reviewers suggested a limit to address feedback from students that too much was being required. It was suggested that a page limit is not necessarily going to solve this problem.

There being no objections the Senate accepts into the record the one-year follow-up report as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Undergraduate Programs at Saint Mary's."

- ii) CEARC 2015 Annual Report, *Appendix D1 & D2*

There being no objections the Senate accepts into the record the CEARC 2015 Annual Report in fulfillment of the requirement set out in section 3.2 Reporting Procedures in the Senate Bylaws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary's University."

- iii) CSSH 2015 Annual Report, *Appendix E1 & E2*

Key discussion points:

- APC members commented on the minimal financial report included in this report. Subsequently, The Dean, FGSR was tasked with having a conversation with the Senior Director of Financial Services regarding the potential for a standard templated financial report to be generated by Financial Services for all Centers and Institutes at Saint Mary's that

could then be submitted with their annual report. This will be a support service to the Centres and Institutes and will result in a consistent, standardized presentation to Senate of financial information.

- Question: Most of these reports from Centres and Institutes are showing surpluses. In most cases these surpluses are not insignificant amounts. What happens with the left over monies? Answer: The surplus funds are carried forward to cover future expenses. It is understood that when establishing a Centre or Institute at Saint Mary's, the proponents must consider external funding sources, fund raising activities and service revenue with a view to the entity being as near to self-sustaining as is possible.

There being no objections, the Senate accepts into the record the CSSH 2015 Annual Report in fulfillment of the requirement set out in section 3.2 Reporting Procedures in the Senate Bylaws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary's University."

iv) CNCOHS 2015 Annual Report, *Appendix F1 & E2*

Key discussion points:

- Question: There is a big difference between the financial support the Centre provides to graduate versus undergraduate students. How do they select students in terms of support? Answer: Those activities are the purview of the CN Board. For whatever reason, the CNCOHS Board has focused primarily on supporting graduate students.

There being no objections the Senate accepts into the record the CNCOHS 2015 Annual Report in fulfillment of the requirement set out in section 3.2 Reporting Procedures in the Senate Bylaws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary's University." Motion carried.

.02 Curriculum Committee Report, *Appendix G*

Key discussion points:

- In the Faculty of Science section – Section three, **Bachelor of Science – Page 4 - Major 6 e**
e. eighteen (18) science credit hours — not in the subject of major ~~and excluding the following courses: ASTR 1010; BIOL/ENVS 1203; CHEM 1220, CHEM 1221, CHEM 2380; FRSC 2200, FRSC 2201; GEOL 1202, GEOL 1203, GEOL 1210; MATH 1190, MATH 1202, MATH 1203, MATH 1207; and PSYC 1200~~ — and in addition to the required Mathematics or Computing Science credit [six (6) credit hours]; excluding Geography and Engineering. With respect to this regulation, all courses taught in Psychology and Mathematics are considered Science courses and all courses taught in Geography are considered Arts courses and cannot fulfill this requirement;

Question: FRSC 2200 and FRSC 2201 have always been excluded for credit towards the BSc Major. Does this revision mean that the FRSC courses could potentially be counted for credit towards the B.Sc. Major?

Action Item: Bell will forward this question to the Faculty of Science Dean and Associate Dean Curriculum for a response.

- Page 2 - Faculty of Science section – Section three, **Bachelor of Science – Major Major**

The major program aims to provide students with the opportunity to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge and skills in their major subject area, as well as a broad appreciation in selected complementary science disciplines. A minimum grade of C is required in all courses in the major subject. (Particular requirements for the major in Environmental Science are found in this *Academic Calendar*, Section 4, “Environmental Science”.) *Graduates are prepared to enter the workforce in related fields as technicians or technical officers. Successful graduates are also adequately prepared for continued study in professional programs and graduate level, if warranted by performance and motivation.*

Question: The italicized section above would not apply to graduates of the Psychology program who would not get jobs as technicians or technical officers. There may also be other programs that this statement would not be appropriate for. Would the Faculty consider striking or revising it? **Action Item:** Bell will forward this question to the Faculty of Science Dean and Associate Dean Curriculum for a response.
- Page 3 - Bachelor of Science – **Bachelor of Science - General (with a Concentration)**

Note: Students in the Faculty of Science are NOT permitted to use the following courses as “other sciences” in fulfilling the requirements of their academic program:

ASTR 1010 Life in the Universe
 CHEM 1221 Chemicals
 GEOL 1202 Planet Earth: Atlantic Canada Perspective
 GEOL 1203 Earth History: Atlantic Canada Perspective
 GEOL 1210 Dinosaurs and Their World
 MATH 1190 Pre-Calculus Review
 MATH 1202 Concepts and Topics in Mathematics
 MATH 1203 Concepts in High School Mathematics
 MATH 1207 Survey of Statistics
 PSYC 1200 Introduction to Psychology
 And excluding Geography and Engineering courses.

Question: PSYC 1200 is included in the above listing but there was a recent decision that all PSYC courses were to be considered as science courses. Why has PSYC 1200 being included in this list and should the list be revised? **Action Item:** Bell will forward this question to the Faculty of Science Dean and Associate Dean Curriculum for a response.
- Page 111 – SMBA Professional Development 6010 and 6020 - Question: What happens when students do not complete it satisfactorily? Answer: The credit is left blank until such time as they do complete these courses. These are required courses.
- Senate members were advised that work is still underway to move the Academic Calendar on-line but that it will still exist as a word file. ITSS is working on the project and has projected that it will be available in March. It will take an extended time to build all the course hyperlinks within the departments and programs. The calendar will be like a website that is built around the academic calendar.
- Consideration is still being given to which sections will be included and which sections will not. For example the section on financial information exists elsewhere on the website and is kept current. To have it in the calendar is a duplication. A similar situation exists with: the listing of faculty members which also exists within the Department/Program pages, the section on SMU History, and the information found in the section on

Institutes and Centres. Some of these sections may not be included in the calendar of the future.

- The Chair of Senate advised that the Academic Calendar is the responsibility of the Senate and all sections of that Calendar therefore fall under the purview of the Academic Senate.
- One of the benefits of having an on-line calendar is that changes may be able to be made in a more timely fashion. Members were advised that currently the calendar is effective as of September 1 and constitutes a contract with the student that is established at the beginning of the student's first year.
- Caution was suggested and a policy will have to be created to ensure the process is consistent with the contractual situation that exists between the university and the student. Thorough discussion and consideration will have to be undertaken before deciding on when revisions will become effective. Members were advised that the Curriculum Committee would undertake this project and, in due course, submit their recommendations for a policy to Senate.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the curriculum addendum report as circulated (excepting the three items highlighted above) for publication in the 2016-2017 Academic Calendar.” Motion carried.**

15043

RECOMMENDATION FOR PROFESSOR EMERITUS

.01 Recommendation for Dr. David Guenther, Department of Astronomy & Physics circulated as *Appendix H*.

Key discussion points:

- Significant support for this recommendation has been provided. The recommendation has also been supported by the Department, Dean, VPAR and President.
- President's memo stated this would be awarded at the May Convocation.

Moved by Gauthier, and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the recommendation for an award of Professor Emeritus status to Dr David Guenther.” Motion carried.**

.02 Recommendation for Dr Joelle Cauville, Department of Modern Languages & Classics circulated as *Appendix I*.

Key discussion points:

- Significant support for this recommendation has been provided. The Department voted unanimously to support this recommendation. That recommendation has also been supported by the Dean, VPAR and President.
- President's memo stated this would be awarded at the May Convocation but that should be corrected to the Fall Convocation.
- Question: Where are the criteria in regard to emeritus awards? Answer: On the SMU Website: http://www.smu.ca/webfiles/8-1001_Senate_ProfEmeritus.pdf
- We have a Dean Emeritus in the Faculty of Science. Question: Is there a policy for that? Answer: There is also a policy in this regard posted on the Senate website at the following link: http://www.smu.ca/webfiles/8-1002_Senate_DeanEmeritus.pdf.

- **Action Item: Bell** to supply these links to Dr Campbell.
- Question: Is there a policy for VPAR Emeritus or for President Emeritus?
Answer: There currently is no policy for VPAR Emeritus. The decision to award President Emeritus status is one that resides with the Board of Governors.

Moved by Gauthier, and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the recommendation for an award of Professor Emeritus status to Dr Joelle Cauville.” Motion carried.**

15044 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**
None

15045 **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Key Points:

The President was unavailable for today’s Senate meeting. **Action Item: Bell** to post this report. On his behalf, Dr Gauthier presented the following report:

Student and Learning-Centered

- Negotiations are in the final stages for a memorandum of understanding between the University and SMUSA. The Taskforce report was circulated to the Saint Mary’s community last week and this is one outcome.
- The President continues to represent CONSUP on the provincial government’s ‘Transitions Taskforce’, focusing on career development in the P-12 system and the province’s universities and colleges.
- Last Friday, we held a successful welcome event for new students, including a Santamarian Ceremony.

Internationalization

- International student enrolments are strong and we have welcomed students from around the world this week.
- Internationalization events attended: the annual Boxing Day dinner for international students and the welcome event for international students.
- Recruitment teams are currently in the Caribbean and other international recruitment is underway.
- The theme ‘internationalization’ is shifting toward the concept of ‘interculturality’ within the strategic priority process.

Value and Values

- The strategic priority discussions continue in the coming weeks with a student-based President’s Forum on January 22nd and at the Board retreat in February. A website updating the community will be available shortly.

Financial Sustainability

- We expect a continuation of a 1 per cent increase to our grant through the MOU with the provincial government
- The university presidents (through CONSUP and directly at the table with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education) continue to negotiate with the provincial government over financial and other outcome measures. They are firmly of the mind that the universities and colleges be held accountable in terms of learning outcomes.
- We have achieved solid results on fundraising as we head toward the end of the fiscal year. Reporting will be available at that time

- We are working with a consulting firm to determine our current fundraising capacity and develop a plan for the future. This firm will be on campus beginning next week and will also be working with the Advancement Committee of the Board.

15046

QUESTION PERIOD

- Is APC involved and should a Senate member also be involved in the Board of Governor's retreat for the strategic plan? Answer: The Board holds a retreat every February with various themes from year to year. Given that the president is engaged in strategic planning he has asked the Board to focus in this area. All Board members, which includes faculty board members, will be participating. The President will be reporting on actions that have already taken place. The Board will discuss key issues and priorities and the President will take these into consideration in developing the university strategic plan which he will then solicit further feedback. He has committee to a finalized plan by the end of April 2016.
- The Senate should have representation in this process. Senate feels disconnected from the strategic planning process. Dr Gauthier will convey that back to the President in the coming week.
- Recently the Board of Governors and the faculty members on this group have a confidentiality agreement at the Board level that restricts the communication back to faculty.

15047

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate