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SENATE MEETING MINUTES January 13, 2017

The 580th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, January 13, 2017, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Dixon, Dr Bradshaw, Dr MacDonald, Dr Smith, Dr Vessey, Dr Naulls, Dr Campbell, Dr Conrad, Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Hall, Dr Henry, Dr Hlongwane, Dr McCallum, Dr Rahaman, Dr Stinson, Dr Takseva, Dr VanderPlaat, Mr Brophy, Ms DeYoung, Mr Alanazi, Ms Bhaskar, Ms Jones, Dr Stanivukovic, and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr Enns, Mr Michael, Dr Peckmann, Dr Warner, Mr Rahman, and Mr Rice

Meeting commenced at 2:34 P.M.

16031 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report was accepted as circulated.

16032 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2016, circulated as *Appendix A*.

Moved by Vessey, and seconded, “**that the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2016 are approved as posted.**” Motion carried.

16033 **WINTER GRADUATION LIST**

Documentation circulated at the meeting by the Registrar as *Appendix B*

Key discussion points:

- The list has been posted on the SMU Website. Hard copies were circulated to Deans and to Senate.
- There are 311 credentials conferred on 295 graduates, with 21 distinctions.
- Question: Is there any way that Senate could be presented with a report that addressed stats on the number of majors in the individual programs? Answer: Those statistics are published on an annual basis. There are stats on the number of graduates by program. The Department Chairs and Program Coordinators have this information. Senators were advised that due to time restrictions the Registrar's Office is unable to produce this information prior to convocation. If they were to do so, the information presented would only be a snapshot in time and would not be the correct stats for Convocation. The stats change as new information comes in prior to the date of Convocation.

- Question: Could Senate be provided with the information that is available?
Answer: We could compile that in a pdf format.

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

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“to enable the Registrar to add such graduates to this list as may be identified subsequent to this meeting.”** Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Stinson, and seconded, **“that Senate ask the registrar to provide a statistical snapshot of graduates for undergraduate and graduate programs in terms of majors.”** Motion carried.

16034

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

.01 Discussion regarding accessibility and the suggested Pan-University Working Group –

Key discussion points:

- This item was discussed at the December 16th Senate Agenda and a motion from that meeting was forwarded to the President for consideration.
- The President advised there is currently no Pan-University Committee that is in place addressing the issue of disabilities. There are, however, several smaller groups around campus that are working with students with disabilities. These groups are mainly dealing with ‘one-off’ requests. Those staff that are working on those various groups are very supportive of this concept.
- This issue was raised in a MOU between the SMUFU and the University. One focus of that MOU is to be sensitive to abilities and disabilities in terms of hiring practices.
- Another component is the Nova Scotia legislation that was introduced (Bill 59 – Accessibilities Act). This was introduced and then withdrawn.
- Senate members were advised that the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) has discussed this issue. The University Presidents have drawn in a consultant and the Ontario legislation has been reviewed. The Ontario legislation is in place and is working. CONSUP has established a small committee to consider the impact of the potential new legislation on the Nova Scotia Universities and Colleges. Dr Summerby-Murray represents the University Presidents on this committee.
- Question: Is it possible that the Bill 59 will be revised? There has been a lot of conversation about that possibility. Some consider the Ontario legislation limiting. I hope the group will not just meet the legislation but exceed it.
Answer: The discussion at CONSUP covered the limitations of the Ontario Legislation and addressed how we could go beyond that. There is a lot of detail in Bill 59 and that alone would suggest that the goal is to develop something that goes beyond the scope of the Ontario legislation.
- Question: What do you envision as the next step for SMU and Senate?
Answer: We will keep working with the components that exist on campus at present time. We will bring them together to use those groups as a basis for a working group as requested by Senate. Composition and Terms of Reference would be brought back to Senate for review.

- .02 Working Group on Literacy Requirements Report/Recommendations, *Appendix B1 (Notice of Motion), Appendix B2 (Report)*.

Key discussion points:

- This item was forwarded to the Academic Planning Committee (APC) to establish a Committee to examine and report on the feasibility of implementing the models presented in the Cross Faculty Working Group on Academic Literacy Report and Recommendations to Senate. This appears later in the agenda under the APC.

16035

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01 **Academic Planning Committee**

- a) Termination Proposal – Atlantic Centre for Green Chemistry *Appendix C*

Key discussion points:

- This Centre was founded in March of 2010. The initial self-study review was to be done in 2013-14. A self-study was submitted but APC viewed it as not substantive and advised the Director that additional information would be required. Subsequently APC approved a two-year extension on the self-study process to allow the Centre time to resolve the situation. This fall, the Director of the Centre agreed that the Centre had been unable to meet the original goals and should be terminated.
- Question: Why was only one page submitted? To better inform members prior to the meeting, it was suggested that the rejected self-study would have provided background to the recommendation for termination.
Answer: We will pass that on to the APC Chair.

Moved by Vessey and seconded, **“that the Senate support the recommendation from the Academic Planning Committee to terminate the Atlantic Centre for Green Chemistry according to section 5 of the Senate Policy 8-1009, Senate By-Laws Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Institutes and Centres at Saint Mary's University.”**
Motion carried.

- b) Name Change Proposal, Department of English, *Appendix D1 & D2*

Key discussion points:

- The English Department has long offered courses in literature and language and have just launched a new minor in English Language. More and more students have been taking courses in English Language. In addition, a large number of departments within institutions of higher learning in Canada have departments with this name.
- The Department was unanimously behind this motion.
- This change of name reflects the strength of the department and is more in line with the courses and programs offered.
- Question: Were people confusing the Department of English with the School of English (TESL)? Students call TESL the School of English.
Answer: No, I do not think there will be any confusion. Other universities have schools like TESL and departments of English Literature and Language.
- We are the only English Department in the region that has an English language component imbedded in the curriculum.

- Question: Is it an issue that there are courses in this department that address literature that is not in English? Answer: The Department does not see this as an issue.

Moved by MacDonald and seconded, **“that the Senate approve the request to change the name of the Department of English, to the Department of English Literature and Language.” Motion carried.**

- c) Senate Motion, December 16, 2016 – Terms of Reference for a committee to examine and report on the feasibility of implementing the models presented in the Cross Faculty Working Group on Academic Literacy Report and Recommendations to Senate dated December 2, 2016, *Appendix E*.

Key discussion points:

- DeYoung advised that APC believed that there were still questions that remained unanswered. APC felt that a more effective way of proceeding was to establish a committee to research the feasibility of implementation of the models proposed.
- Dr Takseva expressed the appreciation of the previous working group for the quick response to their work. Takseva is looking forward to working with this group.
- A friendly amendment to the membership of this committee was suggested (amend the membership to include a representative from the faculty union). Senate members were advised that this is not a labour management committee and that the faculty members are representatives of the faculty union.
- The Dean, FGSR advised that he had declined to chair this committee for a number of reasons. One reason is that the deadlines are too ambitious and not achievable. A key member of this committee, in terms of meeting participation, is the Senior Director of Financial Services. The work of this new committee is supposed to be carried out simultaneously with the University Budget Process and that will not work with Mr Rooney’s work schedule. In addition, the current Dean, FGSR will be on administrative leave as of July 2017. It would be better if there was a Chair assigned that could serve for the duration of the work of this committee given that the timelines will have to be revised.
Action Item: Vessey will discuss this with the Chair of the APC.
- The timeline is not realistic and should be revised. It was suggested that the preliminary report date be revised to March 29th and the submission date of the feasibility study be revised to the September 2017 meeting of Senate.
- Question: Is this committee reporting to APC or Senate? Answer: The committee reports through APC to the Senate.

Moved by Bradshaw and seconded, **“that the Senate approve the Terms of Reference for an APC Sub-Committee on the Feasibility of the Implementation of the Cross Faculty Working Group on Academic Literacy Report and Recommendations to Senate dated December 2, 2016.”**

In addition,

Moved by Smith, “that the APC Sub-Committee be tasked with providing a preliminary report to APC by no later than the March 29th APC meeting and to submitting a feasibility study for September, 2017 Senate meeting. Motion carried.

.02 Curriculum Committee Report, *Appendix F*.

Key discussion points:

- This constitutes some minor outstanding issues that have been resolved since the December report.
- The Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology advised that their program removed three mandatory courses from the core to remove bottlenecks in first and second years of the program. In first and second year there were more course requirements than any other program. This revision frees up the teaching resources to offer other courses.

Moved by Dixon and seconded, “**that the Senate approve the 2016 Curriculum Report Addendum.**” **Motion carried.**

.03 Academic Regulations Committee

Revision to Graduate Academic Regulation 17, *Appendix G2 & G2*.

Key discussion points:

- This is a small change to the regulation to facilitate changes in the handling of thesis papers.

Moved by Dixon and seconded, “**that the Senate approve the revision to Graduate Academic Regulation 17.**” **Motion carried.**

16036 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**
None

16037 **PRESIDENT’S REPORT *Appendix H***
Key Points:

- This report is available on SMUport.
- Work continues in the evolution of our Institutional Strategic Plan. Significant attention is being devoted to finalizing the Plan with a view to consultative meetings with the University community in February-March, after which the Plan will be presented to Senate for adoption/approval.
- Attended a wide-ranging seminar for Presidents, delivered by Universities Canada earlier this week. It was interesting to see the commonality of issues across the country. The session provided a platform to consider/discuss challenges facing post-secondary institutions across the country, and roundtable discussions designed to address same. The session was tremendously valuable.
- At the time of the December Senate meeting, attended the 15th university of the Beijing Normal University – Zhuhai (BNUZ).
- Joined our International students at a Boxing Day dinner held in their honour. This annual event is consistently well attended, and well appreciated by our students.

- Delivered welcome remarks at a Global Welcome Luncheon for International Students held in early January. There was a tremendous range of diversity that attended.
- The Winter Santamarian Ceremony and Luncheon for new students was held on January 6. Our students were joined at this meaningful event by members of Faculty, Staff, Senate and our Board. We are looking at increasing the participation of students at this event.
- Attended a welcome-back gathering for Indigenous students in early January, and participated in an Indigenous Gathering Event (a component of our Winter Welcome Week events), complete with exchange of ideas, Smudging, and Drumming – we were pleased to welcome Don Julien as an honored guest. This event was highly successful in terms of the exchanging of ideas.

Senior Administrative Appointments

- Vice President Academic and Research – the process is moving along successfully.
- The search committee has concluded their work and made their recommendation to the Board. The Board has responded favourably to that recommendation and within the next 10-15 days we should be able to make an announcement.
- Erin Sergeant Greenwood, Vice-President of Advancement, has been welcomed by the Board and will start her duties on February 1st, 2017.
- The President recommended Senate attendance at the convocation of Friday of next week. Senators were advised that there will be no honorary degree recipients at this convocation but there will be a keynote speaker who should be very interesting.

16038

QUESTION PERIOD

Key Points:

- Question: Did the Universities Canada Workshop include plans to approach the Minister of Education or the Province to address the funding formula?
Answer: This was an across Canada meeting and the focus was on relationships at a national level. Education is a provincial responsibility. Less than 30% of our budget comes from the province. We signed an MOU that provides an increase in our funding of 1% per year until 2019. There is, of course, a gap between 1% and the inflation rate. The compensation for this gap has been to load that onto the students and there have been increases in student fees. The increases are in place through to the end of the term of the MOU, at which time the situation reverts to the previous arrangement. What happens beyond that is an interesting question. The funding formula has not changed since 2008. The formula does not reflect the numbers across the province. There have been discussions about opening up further discussions on the funding formula but there has been resistance to that idea.

16039

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate