



**SENATE
Minutes of Meeting**

Date: Friday, December 13, 2013

Time: 2:35pm - 4:35pm

Room: 203 Anthony P. Toldo

PRESENT: Mr. Hussein Ahmed, Mr. Mohammad Alam, Dr. Abdul-Fattah Asfour, Dr. Fazle Baki, Dr. Ram Balachandar, Mr. Ifekhar Ibne Basith, Dr. Pierre Boulos, Dr. Camille Cameron, Dr. Rick Caron, Dr. Allan Conway, Dr. Gerald Cradock, Dr. Michael Crawford, Mr. Rob Crawford, Dr. Beth Daly, Dr. Yvette Daniel, Ms. Gwen Ebbett, Mr. Mohamad El-Cheikh, Dr. Anne Forrest, Dr. Laurie Freeman-Gibb, Dr. Maureen Gowing, Dr. Phil Graniero, Dr. Jill Grant, Dr. Leo Groarke, Mr. Mike Houston, Dr. Maureen Irish, Mr. Basit Ishtiaq, Mr. Werner Keller, Dr. Michael Khan, Dr. Marlys Koschinsky, Dr. Dietmar Lage, Dr. Joanna Luft, Dr. Charles Macdonald, Mr. Anthony Meloche, Dr. Kevin Milne, Dr. Maureen Muldoon, Dr. Derek Northwood, Dr. Linda Patrick, Dr. Sudhir Paul, Ms. Erin Plumb, Dr. Katherine Quinsey, Dr. Karen Roland, Dr. Antonio Rossini, Dr. Mehrdad Saif, Dr. Alan Scoboria, Dr. Patrick Selmi, Dr. Jang Singh, Dr. K. W. Michael Siu, Dr. Clayton Smith, Dr. Marijke Taks, Dr. Kemal Tepe, Dr. Patricia Weir, Dr. Alan Wildeman (Chair), Prof. Larry Wilson, Dr. Nancy Wright, Ms. Charlene Yates, Dr. Xiaobu Yuan, Mr. Hussein Zarif, Dr. Shuzhen Zhao.

REGRETS: Dr. Phil Dutton, Dr. Waguhi ElMaraghy, Ms. Marilyn Farough, Dr. Ziad Kobti, Dr. Nancy McNevin, Ms. Sharon Munro, Dr. Valerie Scatamburlo-D'Annibale, Ms. Jennifer Soutter, Dr. Bruce Tucker, Prof. Lionel Walsh.

ABSENT: Ms. Nicole DaSilva, Dr. Gordon Drake, Dr. Christopher Greig, Dr. Mustapha Hamil, Mr. Raed Kadri, Dr. Ed King, Dr. Norman King, Ms. Maya Madolyn, Dr. Elena Maeva, Dr. Mitra Mirhassani, Mr. Julien Paquette, Dr. Jagdish Pathak, Mr. Kaushik Ray, Rev. Thomas Rosica, Dr. Christian Trudeau.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Mohammad Akbar, Prof. Brian Brown, Mr. Adam El-Dika, Ms. Jessaline Fynbo, Ms. Danielle Handsor and Ms. Renée Wintermute and (University Secretariat).

1 Approval of Agenda

Items 5.5.1 a-c, *Program Course Changes*, were unstarred.

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

Mr. W. Keller/Dr. P. Boulos
CARRIED, as amended

2 Minutes of the meetings of November 8, 2013

A minor correction was noted.

MOTION: That the minutes of meeting of November 8, 2013 be approved.

Mr. W. Keller/Dr. K. Milne
CARRIED, as amended

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding Business/Action Items

Nothing to report.

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Reports from the Student Presidents (UWSA, OPUS, GSS)

University of Windsor Students Alliance (UWSA)

Instead of holding Frost Week (WWW) during the first week of winter classes, UWSA is now

considering the second week, in an effort to increase the student participation at events. UWSA has been involved in discussions addressing transportation issues for students who will be taking classes at the downtown campus. A shuttle service for the entire campus has been mentioned as a possible option.

UWSA created a Facebook page in support of a Fall reading week. The page is called "Give us a Break". It is now also gathering feedback on the topic via face-to-face interactions.

In the Winter 2014 term, water bottle stations will be installed in the CAW Student Centre in support of UWSA's Bottle Free Campus campaign.

Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS)

The planning of year-end events is currently underway. OPUS is planning a music festival for February. The theme will be spanning the decades, in light of the University of Windsor's 50th anniversary year.

OPUS will be exploring ways to increase part-time student community involvement and working with Dr. Dave Bussiere to market the campaign.

The OPUS Lounge is currently being used as a study area for students during the final examination period.

Graduate Students Society (GSS)

The GSS has moved into their new location in the Neal Education building. The planning of a grand opening is currently underway. The GSS is anticipating that Mazaar's will start serving food mid-January.

The GSS is in the process of revising their 5-year visions. The document is currently being reviewed and then forwarded for approval.

The GSS is exploring the possibility of offering childcare services, as well as purchasing housing for graduate students to rent. The GSS would also like to offer peer support groups specifically for graduate students, as graduate students feel that it is uncomfortable receiving peer support services from undergraduate students.

5.2 Report of the President

(See document SM131213.5.1 for more details)

Break Days in Fall 2014

The Registrar's Office and the Deans are currently reviewing the 2014-2015 academic calendar dates. The scheduling reveals an extra two days, which could be added to the end of the semester, as break days, or sometime during the semester. The Registrar's Office is proposing placing the two break days on October 9th and October 10th, 2014, which is attached to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. The break will compensate for the extra two-days in the cycle, ensuring that all professors are teaching 12-week courses and, if the University decides to adopt a Fall reading week in the future, the two-day break would allow for a smooth transition. 2014-2015 academic dates need to be determined shortly, as offers of admissions are sent out beginning February 1. In order to assist the Deans and the Registrar's Office in finalizing the academic dates, Senate was asked for its views on this proposal.

In response, concern was expressed that the proposal interferes with the Academic Policy Committee's (APC) assigned task to investigate the question of semester lengths and the possibility of introducing a Fall reading week. If the University decides to adopt the 2 break days, it would be difficult for APC to propose anything different for the 2015-2016 academic year.

In response to the 2 break days, it was noted that students are not in favour of break days, but rather a full week. Members were reminded that this is not a question of establishing a Fall reading week or

days. This is a separate issue dealing specifically with the extra two-days in the Fall 2014 course schedule.

It was noted that the inconsistency of meeting times is confusing to new faculty. The uncertainty also poses an issue for accredited programs, like Engineering, which require a minimum number of contact hours.

In response to a question raised about the academic calendar and how some Fall courses are twelve weeks in length while others are thirteen weeks in length, it was noted that the issue finally came to light in the Winter 2013 semester and Senate gave APC the task of investigating the issue of semester lengths and a possible Fall reading week.

A question was raised whether the two break days would affect labs. In response, it was noted that the break days would not affect labs as all course proposals that go through the Program Development Committee (PDC) are approved for 12 weeks (*i.e.*, 36 contact hours). It was noted that, last year, instructors had the option to cancel their last two classes, so that all instructors taught a total of 36 hours. Rather than cancelling classes, another possible solution would be to introduce 2 break days mid-semester. Some Senators argued that there should be more class time (13 weeks) rather than adding a mid-semester break, to ensure greater coverage of course materials and that students receive more for their tuition dollars.

In response to a question raised about when APC will present findings on the question of semester lengths and a Fall reading week to Senate, it was noted that APC will submit its report to Senate in Winter 2014.

It was reiterated that the Registrar's Office's proposal to introduce two break days next year, should not be confused with the assigned duties of APC or presuppose its conclusion and recommendations.

By way of a straw vote, a majority of the Senators indicated that they supported the proposed two break days in October next year. The chair of Senate noted that the Acting Registrar will consider Senate's feedback in finalizing the 2014-2015 academic dates.

New Differentiation Framework Initiative

Universities have been asked to review their Strategic Mandate Agreements and to align them with the province's new Differentiation Framework Initiative, which includes identifying areas of program strength. Senators were presented with a list of ten areas of program strength that distinguish the University of Windsor and five areas to build upon. The government deadline to submit the revised draft Strategic Mandate Agreement is December 20th, 2013, however, there will be time to make minor revisions to the proposal prior to the government's final March 31st submission deadline.

10 Areas of Program Strength:

While the government suggested that program areas be narrowly defined, universities generally want to keep the areas broad so they are more inclusive and less rigid. After much discussion at the Deans level, a balance was achieved and a list was generated which attempts to capture the University's program and research strengths. The proposed list addresses 11000 students strategically.

In response to a question raised about the number of areas, it was noted that every institution is allowed to list up to ten areas of program strengths and that the point of this exercise is to get institutions talking about their strengths and how to measure success in these areas.

In response to a question raised regarding specific Faculties mentioned in the list, it was noted that this is simply a result of some of the faculties having the same name as the profession.

It was suggested that the area titled Community-Centered Health and Wellness be renamed Community-Centered Development, Health and Wellness as it more inclusive and better embraces the social activism of the Social Sciences.

It was noted that the areas of program strength are not ranked in any kind of order of importance.

However, it was noted that the government did list “jobs” and “job preparation” as number one and that the University needs to be mindful of that.

It was suggested that Mathematics be specifically listed under formal sciences. In response, it was noted that Mathematics and Computer Science were not listed separately so that the areas could remain broad. It was also mentioned that Economics could be captured in Business.

In response to a question about aligning research to the areas of program strength, it was noted that the University would need to develop metrics to evaluate their areas of program strength.

A question was raised regarding how the Humanities, as an area of program strength, distinguishes the University. In response, it was noted that the strength lies in the way in which the Humanities intersect with the six different nodes in the research plan. It was also noted that the University embodies Humanities and that the Humanities embody the University.

Senators were encouraged to send additional feedback to their Deans and become a part of the discussion.

It was suggested that technology be included in the list of areas that the University is building upon. In response, it was noted that technology (use, pursuit and development) is embedded in the areas listed.

It was noted, that the Deputy Minister has reviewed the proposed list of areas of program strength and has commented that the University is on the right track.

Some members suggested that consideration should be given to adding Information Science with Physical and Formal Sciences. It was also suggested that the various areas be described in greater detail. Overall, it was noted that the list was creditable, and it appears to capture all the important areas.

Five Areas to Build Upon:

Senate responded positively to the listed “areas to build upon”. The areas listed were Faculty inclusive, and Senators seemed confident in being able to address the areas mentioned in relation to teaching and learning.

In reference to the fourth area, *Research and graduate programs that build on our strengths*, it was noted that the language was used directly from the strategic plan.

It was suggested that the terminology, interdisciplinary and on-line opportunities appears to be redundant. It was also suggested that research skills be included.

A question was raised about whether number 4, *Research and graduate programs that build on our strength* was similar to number 5, *Programs with innovative content, delivery and pathways that are intellectually challenging and meet student aspirations, including interdisciplinary and on-line opportunities*. In response, it was noted that there is a need to keep the areas as broad as possible so that the University can build upon program strengths.

Members were reminded that the draft SMA has been available on the University website since Fall 2012. The revised draft will be available shortly.

5.3 Report of the Academic Colleague

Nothing to report

5.4 Senate Student Caucus

Nothing to report.

5.5 Program Development Committee

5.5.1 Program Course Changes

a) Honours Biochemistry and Biotechnology – Program Deletion

(See document Sa131213-5.5.1a for more details)

MOTION: That the Honours Biochemistry and Biotechnology Program be deleted.

** Subject to the approval of expenditures required.*

Dr. P. Weir/ Dr. C. Macdonald
CARRIED

b) Minor in Biochemistry – Minor Program Changes
(See document Sa131213-5.5.1b for more details)

MOTION: That the requirements for the Minor in Biochemistry be changed according to the program/course change forms.

** Subject to the approval of expenditures required.*

Dr. P. Weir/Dr. M. Crawford
CARRIED

c) Physics - Minor Program Changes
(See document Sa131213-5.5.1c for more details)

MOTION: That motions 1-6 of the document “Physics - Minor Program Changes” be approved.

** Subject to the approval of expenditures required.*

Dr. P. Weir/Mr. I. Ibne
CARRIED

5.6 Academic Policy Committee
Nothing to report.

5.7 Bylaw Business
This is Dr. Dietmar Lage's last Senate meeting prior to his sabbatical. Dr. Dietmar Lage was recognized and thanked for his contributions as the Bylaw Review Committee chair.

5.8 Report of the Provost
Nothing to report as matters were already discussed under the President's Report.

5.9 Report of Vice-President Research
Mitacs [Globalink](#) is a new program that allows faculty hire a student over the summer months to assist with research opportunities. The internships are 10 to 12 weeks in length with all expenses paid. Partnering countries include Brazil, China, India, Mexico Turkey and Vietnam. This program can be used as a vehicle to attract international students to live and work in Canada. Currently there have been 23 profiles created and 7 profiles have already been matched. A number of the profiles were related to Engineering. Ms. Jillian Hatean is the Mitacs representative, and her office is located in the new Centre for Engineering Innovation (CEI) building.

5.10 Search Committee for the Provost and Vice-President, Academic
(See document Sa131213-5.10 for more details)

Dr. Leo Groarke declared a conflict of interest pertaining to Item 5.10 and was not present during the discussion.

Dr. Leo Groarke will complete his first term as Provost and Vice-President, Academic on March 31, 2015, and he has indicated his willingness to serve a second term. The Senators were provided with the agenda of the search committee. Although the Search Committee is not permitted to collect anonymous feedback, members were assured that the work of the Search Committee is done in strict confidentiality. The President reminded the Senators that this is an important process, and feedback is encouraged. Feedback can be sent to provostfeedback@uwindsor.ca starting on December 16, 2013 after 12 pm.

In response to a question was raised about expectations, it was noted that President conducts annual performance reviews and that Senators can visit the President's website to view the annual performance review framework.

6 Question Period/Other Business

A student brought forth an issue pertaining to his case files in reference to Bylaw 31. In response, it was noted that Senate is not the appropriate place for a discussion and review of individual cases.

Concern was raised regarding the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences suspending admissions to some of its programs. In response, it was noted that admissions into some programs have been suspended for one year as many faculty are on sabbatical leave. There is a need for the department to address the needs of the students currently enrolled in the programs and spend time on revising the programs. It was also noted, that this is common practice.

A question was also raised regarding the Music Therapy program's suspension of admissions. In response, it was noted that the program was suspended a couple of years ago due to the cost of the program and accreditation capacity. Students currently enrolled in the program are completing their degree.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Mr. W. Keller/ Dr. M. Taks
CARRIED