



SENATE
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Friday, November 13, 2020

Time: 2:30pm-4:00pm

Room: Virtual (MS Teams)

PRESENT: Mohammed Abdulaziz, Jalal Ahamed, Dr Abdo Alfakih, Sirinart Ananvoranich, Chris Baillargeon, Lisa Baggio, Fazle Baki, Jeff Berryman, Judy Bornais, Pascal Calarco, John Cappucci, Greg Chung-Yan, Cheryl Collier, Scott Cowan, Linden Crain, Edward Cruz, Herman Dayal, Beth Daly, Biane Deghaiche, Jess Dixon, Candy Donaldson, Gordon Drake, Phil Dutton, Mitch Fields, Ryan Flannagan, Brent Furneaux, Chris Fredette, Emily Fraser, Vincent Georgie, Robert Gordon (Chair), Chris Greig, Lorraine Grondin, Alice Grgicak-Mannion, Marcello Guarini, Adrian Guta, Mustapha Hamil, Chris Houser, Andrew Hubberstey, Ofelia Jianu, Pedro Kanati, Ziad Kobti, Douglas Kneale, Bruce Kotowich, Ruth Kuras, Phebe Lam, Mark Letteri, Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine, Sheri Lowrie, Diana Marion, Tiffany Martindale, Carlin Miller, Dr, Ken Montgomery, Maureen Muldoon, Gordon Orr, Teresa Piruzza, Sathish Pichika, Jody Ralph, Steven Rehse, Anotonio Rossini, Jacqueline Stagner, Mehrdad Saif, Victor Sevillano Canicio, K. W. Michael Siu, Jennifer Soutter, Andrzej Sobiesiak, Bonnie Stewart, Julie Smit, Maureen Sterling, Edwin Tam, Nurlan Turdaliev, Nancy Ursel, Ester Van Eek, Chris Waters, Sue Williams Patricia Weir, Peter Zimmerman.

ABSENT: Edy Haddad, Aman Patel, Ed King, Norman King, Mitul Kansodariya, Nick Hector.

REGRETS: Reem Bahdi.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jennie Atkins, Jeremiah Bowers, Chris Busch, Rick Caron, Vincent Georgie, Bev Hamilton, Kaye Johnson, Anna Kirby, Erika Kustra, Rita LaCivita, Robyn Nease, Gordon Orr, Rosemary Zanutto; Danny Anger (University Secretariat), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary), Alison Zilli (University Secretariat).

1 Approval of Agenda (Unstarring agenda items)

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

P. Weir/S. Pichika
CARRIED

**2 Minutes of the meetings of October 9, 2020.
September 30, 2020 E-Vote**

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2020 be approved.

M. Sterling/J. Cappucci
CARRIED

The E-vote was received for information.

3 Business arising from the minutes
Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding Business/Action Items

***4.1 Board of Governors In-Course Medals – Fall 2020**
(See document S2011113-4.1 for more details)

MOTION: That Senate approve the list of candidates receiving Board of Governors in-course medals.

***CARRIED**

5 Reports/New Business

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

University of Windsor Students Alliance (UWSA)

Members were informed that UWSA is in the process of outlining their strategic priorities. It was noted that ongoing communication is in place to ensure that students have easy access to all University and Health Canada guidelines. It was also noted that the UWSA bi-elections have been completed and final results will be posted shortly.

UWSA, GSS, and OPUS have been working with administration towards a more transparent tuition framework for international students and are pleased to note that the process is going well.

Graduate Students Society (GSS)

Senators were informed that there was strong attendance at the first GSS Council meeting and there was a good discussion about international tuition fees. It was also noted that students are pleased with the new pair of rainbow crosswalks on campus to celebrate diversity. The Pride crosswalks are located beside the Welcome Centre and in front of the CAW Centre, connecting the Education Gym and Dillon Hall.

Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS)

The OPUS awards banquet, which was postponed from March due to the pandemic, recently had a successfully virtual ceremony in October. Members were also informed that regular webinars are hosted for part-time students on a variety of topics.

5.2 Report of the President

(See document S2011113-5.2 for more details)

Appointment/Announcement

Senators were informed that Vincent Georgie has been appointed Acting Associate Vice-President External, effective November 1, 2020 for a two-year period and will oversee the departments of Alumni and Donor Relations, Advancement, and Public Affairs and Communications. Members were also informed that Beverley Hamilton has been appointed Chief of Staff in the Office of the President effective November 1, 2020. Congratulations were extended from Senators.

Organizational Restructuring

Effective November 16, 2020, the position of Vice-President, Finance and Operations (renamed from VP, Planning and Administration) will be filled on an interim basis by Sandra Aversa, who has been serving as Special Advisor, Major Capital Projects. As part of the new restructuring, Gillian Heisz will take on the role of Associate Vice-President Finance and Anna Kirby will take on the role of Associate Vice-President Operations. A new search to fill the VP Finance and Operations position on a permanent basis will be undertaken over the next twelve months.

Dennis Fairhall

Members were informed that the University will livestream a Celebration of Life for late track and field coach Dennis Fairall on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020. Dennis had an extraordinary impact on the lives of UWindsor student-athletes and Canadian varsity athletics. Dennis joined the University in 1985 and is one of the most decorated coaches in Canadian university history.

5.2.1 COVID-19: 2020-2021 Academic Year Update

(See document S2011113-5.2 for more details)

Senators were reminded that the University is doing everything it can to protect the health and safety of the campus community and preserve the integrity of students' education with a high-quality experience while recognizing the increased stress on students, faculty, and staff. It was

noted that the University is continuing to review and implement risk management protocols in light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Residence. The University has implemented extensive additional cleaning protocols and affected students have been moved to a separate building location. Stricter protocols for students who leave Residence on overnight trips are being developed. Additionally, the University has learned from Windsor Regional Hospital that four Faculty of Nursing students who were completing clinical placements have tested positive for COVID-19. The hospital has confirmed that the students did not contract the virus from within the hospital setting.

In response to protecting the anonymity of students/employees who test positive, to avoid social media backlash, it was noted that it is not the intent to share specifics of who has tested positive but there is a need to follow safety protocols when dealing with contact tracing, so often more specifics are required. (*i.e.*, residence and nursing students)

Preliminary results from Human Resources 'Pulse Check Survey' identified the following overarching concerns: 1) concern about what would happen if people don't follow safety protocols on campus; 2) concern about returning to campus and bringing the virus home; 3) increased stress and workload due to COVID-19; 4) stress due to potential job losses in the future; and, 5) feeling isolated from the rest of team/colleagues.

To help relieve stress and disconnect from work, two paid Mental Health Days will be provided to full-time staff and faculty, to be taken before April 30, 2021. The University will also implement three consecutive meeting-free days from February 16–18. Shift rotations will be implemented, until December 31, 2020 for the essential services employees, who have worked on campus day in and day out.

5.2.2 Addressing Anti-Black Racism – Update

(See document S2011113-5.2 for more details)

Senators were reminded that the University is committed to working to combat anti-Black racism on campus and to support equitable access to opportunities for Black students, staff, and faculty. It was noted that the membership of the Anti-Black Racism (ABR) Task Force has been established, following a call for nominations in October. The ABR Task Force will operate somewhat autonomously from the University, but will report to the Board and Senate.

An update on the University's response to the recent use of the n-word in two classes was provided, including instructor and departmental actions; student support, care, and accommodations; education and training; and tasking the ABR Task Force with identifying specific recommendations for addressing this challenge on campus.

While long-term planning will be guided by ABR Task Force recommendations and the external EDI review, members were informed that some immediate actions can and have been taken to combat anti-black racism including: the establishment of an ABR Initiatives Fund (including research grants; teaching, learning and curriculum grants; student leadership experience grants; ABR professional development grants; and establishing an Anti-Oppressive Pedagogies Leadership Chair); as well as a commitment to hire 12 Black faculty members over the next two years.

5.2.3 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Review – Update

(See document S2011113-5.2 for more details)

It was noted that 1) work has begun on the development of a race-based data collection framework; 2) ABR and EDI education and training is being developed; and 3) an external review of EDI policies, procedures, and structures has been planned for 2021.

5.3 Report of the Academic Colleague

(See document S2011113-5.3 for more details)

It was noted that the Colleagues have stressed the importance of the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts to the pandemic response and economic recovery. Moving forward, COU will be focusing on three key priorities: 1) enhancing advocacy to support financial sustainability and postsecondary education policy changes; 2) demonstrating to government and the public an effective sector-wide response to COVID-19 (in terms of testing, scientific discovery, and the many other ways in which university faculties are supporting Ontario through the pandemic); and 3) growing and enhancing COU's data analysis capacity.

The document was received for information.

5.4 Senate Student Caucus

Senators were reminded that the Senate Student Caucus has launched a comprehensive information awareness campaign, including an online anonymous Student Feedback Form, to provide students with the opportunity to raise concerns or share successful initiatives. Senators were also informed that two student-raised concerns have been forwarded to Provost's Council for consideration: 1) inconsistencies in assessment deadlines in courses; and 2) increased student workloads in the online environment.

It was noted that a Webinar will be held November 24, 2020 to promote etiquette in online courses (netiquette).

5.5 Program Development Committee

*5.5.1 Program/Course Changes

*a) Faculty of Law – New Course Proposal (Form D)

(See document S2011113-5.5.1a for more details)

**MOTION: That the following course be approved: ^
LAWG-5706. Transnational Criminal Law**

^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

*b) Master of Applied Computing – Minor Program Changes (Form

(See document S2011113-5.5.1b for more details)

MOTION: That the degree requirements for the Master of Applied Computing be changed according to the program/course change form. ^

^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

*5.5.2 Learning Outcomes

*a) Biochemistry – Course Learning Outcomes

(See document S2011113-5.5.2 for more details)

The document was received for information.*

5.6 Academic Policy Committee

5.6.1 Policy on English Language Proficiency Requirements – Revision

(See document S2011113-5.6.1 for more details)

MOTION: That the proposed revisions to the Policies on Undergraduate and Graduate English Language Proficiency Requirements be approved.

A.Rossini/J. Bornais

The proposed revision to the language proficiency requirements will allow applicants to demonstrate English language proficiency (ELP) through the completion of ELP programs offered by publicly-assisted universities or by pre-qualified private language providers. Currently other universities recognize the UWindsor's English Language Improvement Program as being equivalent to other ELP pathways for entrance to their institution.

Concern was raised about potential students going elsewhere for their proficiency requirements as a result of the change in policy. In response, it was stressed that the intent is to open-up opportunities for students who may want to transfer to the University of Windsor. Often, due to targeted recruitment agencies, students from abroad will enter into an English Language Proficiency program at competing universities but may be interested in transferring to UWindsor once they complete their proficiency training. Currently, UWindsor requires students who have successfully completed an English language training program at another university or at a private language institution to provide a required standardized English score as these ELP programs are not recognized in the current policy.

Clarification was sought regarding how the Private English Language Training Programs are deemed equivalent to the University of Windsor's English Language Improvement Program for entry. In response, it was noted that it was based on a careful comparison with peer institutions.

CARRIED

5.7 Senate Governance Committee

Nothing to report.

5.8 Report of the Provost

Virtual Open House

Members were informed that UWindsor had a very successful Virtual Open Day in early October, which served as a good trial run for the upcoming virtual Fall Open House. Recruitment, both domestic and international, remains a top priority during COVID-19, even though the approach now is mostly virtual.

University of Windsor's Readiness Plan

It was noted that the University of Windsor Readiness Plan has been approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and international students may now arrive in Canada, come to Windsor, self-isolate, and begin their studies.

Decanal Searches

External searches are in progress for the University Librarian and Deans of the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Human Kinetics, and Faculty of Law. The internal search for the next Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences yielded two shortlisted candidates, Dr. Cheryl Collier and Dr. Lydia Miljan, who gave public presentations on their visions for FAHSS.

Humanities Research Group Essay Contest

It was noted that English student Mina Wiebe took top honour in the annual essay contest on the theme of "Why the Humanities matter in times of crisis". The contest provided the student with a prize of a \$3000 tuition credit.

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Members were informed that the NSSE results are in the process of being reviewed by the Office of Institutional Analysis. It was noted that the response rate was over 50% which is extremely positive. Preliminary NSSE results indicate the following: 1) 8 in 10 students are satisfied with their UWin experience;

2) 4th year students are less satisfied with their UWin experience and less satisfied than peers at comparable universities; 3) 50% of 1st year students had experience with high impact practices (HIPS), which are teaching practices that have been identified to have a greater impact on learning than other teaching practices; and 4) students noted that 2/3rd of instructors clearly described course goals and learning outcomes but also noted that there were issues with getting feedback on tests and papers, etc.

5.9 Report of Vice-President, Research and Innovation

(See document S2011113-5.9 for more details)

An overview was provided to Senators on the various grants and funding opportunities that are currently being allocated for COVID-19 testing and technologies. It was noted that a CFI Exceptional Opportunities Fund has been secured by UWindsor researchers for infrastructure to test COVID-19 genetic signature in sewage. The main researchers include: Mike McKay, Daniel Heath, Lisa Porter, Rajesh Seth, and Chris Weisener. It was also noted that WE-SPARK Ignite Discovery COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants were provided to the following researchers: 1) Yufeng Tong to support rapid testing technologies; 2) Munir Rahim (in collaboration with Medical Labs of Windsor) to develop serology testing for antibodies; and 3) Simon Simon-Gagne and Jalal Ahamed to develop a chip-based technology for rapid detection.

It is anticipated that these technologies to pre-screen for COVID-19 could reduce the demand for provincial testing and support safe return to campus.

6 Question Period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

P. Weir/J. Bornais
CARRIED