



SENATE
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Friday, January 8, 2021
Time: 2:30pm-4:45pm
Room: Virtual (MS Teams)

PRESENT: Mohammed Abdulaziz, Jalal Ahamed, Abdo Alfakih, Sirinart Ananvoranich, Lisa Baggio, Reem Bahdi, Chris Baillargeon, Judy Bornais, Pascal Calarco, John Cappucci, Cheryl Collier, Joel Cort, Edward Cruz, Scott Cowan, Linden Crain, Herman Dayal, Beth Daly, Biane Deghaiche, Jess Dixon, Candy Donaldson, Gordon Drake, Phil Dutton, Mitch Fields, Brent Furneaux, Chris Fredette, Emily Fraser, Robert Gordon (Chair), Chris Greig, Lorraine Grondin, Alice Grgicak-Mannion, Marcello Guarini, Adrian Guta, Edy Haddad, Mustapha Hamil, Nick Hector, 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, Ken Montgomery, Maureen Muldoon, Jody Ralph, Steven Rehse, Helga Reidel, Jake Rondot, 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, Nancy Ursel, Ester Van Eek, Chris Waters, Sue Williams, Patricia Weir, Peter Zimmerman.

ABSENT with REGRETS: Greg Chung-Yan.

ABSENT: Fazle Baki, Jeff Berryman, Ed King, Norman King, Mitul Kansodariya, Aman Patel, Sathish Pichika, Nurlan Turdaliev.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jennie Atkins, Nick Baker, Daniella Beaulieu, Chris Busch, John Coleman, Marian Doll, Vincent Georgie, Paramjot Gogia, Beverly Hamilton, Kaye Johnson, Ryan Kenney, Anna Kirby, Erika Kustra, Rita LaCivita, Rosemary Zanutto; Danny Anger (University Secretariat), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary), Alison Zilli (University Secretariat).

Senators observed a moment of silence in honour of victims of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752. It has been one year since the tragedy (Jan 8, 2020).

1 Approval of Agenda (Unstarring agenda items)

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

B. Kotowich/J. Ahamed

Items 5.6.2 and 5.6.3 were unstarred.

CARRIED, as amended

2 Minutes of the meetings of December 11, 2020

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2020 be approved.

P. Dutton/P. Kantati

CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

In response to a question raised about the status of the position of Associate Vice-President, Student Experience, it was noted that the Provost and VP Academic will be taking on this role until an acting appointment is made. Pursuant to Senate Bylaw 12, Section 5, an acting appointment will be made only after consultation with the Senate.

4 Outstanding Business/Action Items

Nothing to report.

5 Reports/New Business

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

University of Windsor Students Alliance (UWSA)

Members were informed that the request from students for instructors to live record their lectures has been well-received. However, there are still student complaints about the need for a compassionate grading policy for the Fall term given the challenges of learning in an online environment, and the added workload in their courses.

Graduate Students Society (GSS)

Nothing to report.

Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS)

It was reiterated that students are expressing that they are struggling to keep up with their workload in the online environment and would support the option to have compassionate grading. It was noted that OPUS has continued efforts to create a “Student Pulse Survey” and delivered many care packages to students prior to the holidays.

5.2 Report of the President

5.2.1 COVID-19 - Update

Windsor-Essex - Grey-Lockdown

Members were reminded that the University continues doing everything it can to protect the health and safety of the campus community. It was noted that as a result of increased cases of COVID-19, the Province moved into the “grey-zone” on December 26, 2020, which is a mandated lockdown that includes wide-scale restrictions to stop transmission. In terms of reported on-campus cases, it was noted that there have been a total of 19 confirmed cases at Windsor, 18 of them resolved.

Readiness Plan

Members were reminded that the University of Windsor’s COVID-19 readiness plan received approval from the government, allowing it to reopen to students from outside of Canada. This means that international students who have been approved for a study permit can now travel to Canada for their studies. The readiness plan includes safe accommodation arrangements for the mandatory 14-day quarantine period for students and mandatory COVID-19 testing, with a site established on campus. The University has collaborated with Air Canada to provide discounted fares to international students, though delays in processing visa applications continue to be an issue and deferrals are higher than normal.

Student Residence

In response to a question raised about the number of students staying in residence, it was noted that there are 231 students in Alumni Hall which is significant decline from last year. (i.e., 800 vs. 231). The decrease is due to the number of students not attending on-campus classes as most courses have been taught online.

5.2.2 Addressing Anti-Black Racism – Update

It was noted that ongoing actions to combat anti-black racism have included: the establishment of an Anti-Black Racism (ABR) Initiatives Fund; an Anti-Oppressive Pedagogies Teaching Leadership Chair; and, a commitment to hire 12 Black faculty scholars over the next two years. It was also noted that long-term planning will be guided by the ABR Task Force recommendations and the external EDI review.

Members were informed that the Anti-Oppressive Pedagogies Teaching Leadership Chair is currently in the consultation stage. The Chair will hold a two-year term, have one course release per year and, \$10,000 project funding annually. The eligibility criteria is as follows: 1) Tenured professors, AAS-learning specialists and librarians (permanent) with strong teaching records; 2) Research experience and expertise in Equity Education, Anti-Racism Education and Pedagogy and/or in the areas of marginalization, disenfranchisement, and critical race theory; and, 3) Preference will be given to Black candidates.

Senators were reminded that the Anti-Black Racism Training and Education Framework has been launched. A series of upcoming events and workshops aimed at addressing anti-black racism for faculty, staff, and students include understanding anti-black racism, acknowledging and challenging unconscious bias, reframing ways of thinking to provide an exceptional and inclusive service experience, understanding whiteness and privilege, etc.

5.2.3 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Review – Update

Senators were reminded that the external review of EDI policies, procedures, and structures will take place in 2021.

The floor was open for comments/questions.

In response to a question raised as to whether consideration has been given to creating designated appointments on committees for underrepresented people, it was noted that there are plans to enhance the diversity of knowledge through educational programming and the diversity of members on the governing bodies and committees.

In response to a question raised about the status of an Indigenous Strategic Plan, it was noted that a discussion will be initiated about this at the next Senate meeting.

In response to a question raised about whether the University has plans to publicly acknowledge receipt of the Ontario Human Rights Commission's letter to all Ontario universities and colleges calling for institutions to have clear frameworks for dealing with ABR and EDI issues, it was noted that an outline of the initiatives undertaken by the University to ensure that these matters are addressed is being developed and will be reported at the next meeting.

5.3 Report of the Academic Colleague

Nothing to report.

5.4 Senate Student Caucus

Senators were reminded that the online anonymous Student Feedback Form has been launched to provide students with the opportunity to raise concerns on academic or non-academic issues.

5.5 Program Development Committee

***5.5.1 Program/Course Changes**

***a) Consecutive Bachelor of Education (2-year program) – Minor Program Changes (Form C)**

(See document S210108-5.5.1a for more details)

MOTION: That the admission requirements for the Consecutive Bachelor of Education (2-year program) be changed according to the program/course change form.^

^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

- *b) Bachelor of Education in Technological Studies/Diploma in Education – Minor Program Changes (Form C)** *(See document S210108-5.5.1b for more details)*

MOTION: That the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Education in Technological Studies/Diploma in Education be changed according to the program/course change form.^

^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

- *c) Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology – New Course Proposal (Form D)**
(See document S210108-5.5.1c for more details)

MOTION: That the following course be approved:^
SACR-1110. Introduction to Family and Social Relations

^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

- *d) Music – New Course Proposal (Form D)**
(See document S210108-5.5.1d for more details)

MOTION: That the following course be approved:^
MUSC-3200. Music and Politics

^Subject to approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

- *e) MA in Sociology – Minor Program Changes (Form C)**
(See document S210108-5.5.1e for more details)

MOTION: That the degree requirements for the Master of Arts in Sociology (Course-based stream) be changed according to the program/course change form.^

^Subject to the approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

- *f) Master of Applied Computing – Minor Program Changes (Form C)**
(See document S210108-5.5.1f 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 the approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

- *g) Master of Education – Minor Program Changes (Form C)**
(See document S210108-5.5.1g for more details)

MOTION: That the admission requirements for the Master of Education be changed according to the program/course change form.^

^Subject to the approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

***h) PhD in Education – Minor Program Changes (Form C)**

(See document S210108-5.5.1h for more details)

MOTION: That the residency requirements for the PhD in Education be changed according to the program/course change form.^

^Subject to the approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

***i) Master of Engineering Management – Minor Program Changes (Form C)**

(See document S210108-5.5.1i for more details)

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

^Subject to the approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

***5.5.2 Kinesiology – Request for Waiver of Course Deletion**

(See document S210108-5.5.2 for more details)

MOTION: That the Request for Waiver of Course Deletion for the following course be approved: KINE-4020. Sport Tourism.

^Subject to the approval of the expenditures required.

***CARRIED**

5.6 Academic Policy Committee

5.6.1 Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs

(See document S210108-5.6.1 for more details)

MOTION: That the proposed Policy on Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs be approved.

J. Bornais/P. Weir

The proposed policy provides a framework for developing degree pathways where graduate courses could be counted towards both a BSc and MSc, with a limit of two, one semester courses. This framework could help areas develop unique degree combinations for students in order to diversify their marketable skills. In order to be eligible for admission, undergraduate students would need to have a major average of 80% of higher in their third year.

In response to a question raised, it was noted that this could be applied to both course-based and research based graduate programs, though the structure would be different.

CARRIED

5.6.2 Experiential Learning Annual Report (2019-2020)

(See document S210108-5.6.2 for more details)

Although one of the main challenges listed in the report is not having sufficient resources to fulfill the goals of the department, the area has refrained from requesting additional resources due to the University's fiscal constraints and the challenges of COVID-19.

In response to a question raised about tagging Experiential Learning course so that they can be used for the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA3) metrics, it was noted that this is currently being done across campus and the PDC forms have been recently revised to now include a section for tagging experiential learning components.

The document was received for information.

5.6.3 Student Awards and Financial Aid Annual Report (2019-2020)

(See document S210108-5.6.3 for more details)

In response to a question raised about students needing to maintain an 85% cumulative average over two terms to renew their scholarships in the following years, it was noted that, given the challenges of COVID-19, if students do not meet the average, Fall 2020 grades are being reviewed and scholarships may be retroactively reinstated. Concern was raised regarding the issue that students who need scholarships may lose them and not be able to afford University. In response, it was noted that students who need funding for university can apply for needs-based grants and OSAP, which are much different than entrance scholarships, as they are guaranteed. It was suggested that more flexible accommodations should be considered to address the issue of students having additional challenges in the online environment.

The document was received for information.

5.7 Senate Governance Committee

Nothing to report.

5.8 Report of the Provost

Update on Searches

Members were informed that there are searches in various stages for the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dean of the Faculty of Human Kinetics, Dean of the Faculty of Law, and the University Librarian. It was noted that Dr. Cheryl Collier has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (FAHSS), effective July 1, 2021.

Flexible/Compassionate Grading Options

It was noted that consultations are in progress with the Deans' and initial feedback has determined that there are differences of opinion regarding compassionate grading for the Fall 2020 term. Some of the concerns regarding grading pertain to the assessment of outcomes. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Enrolment

Applications are down from last year for both domestic and international undergraduate students. OUAC data has not yet been released for comparator data. A decision on the Fall 2021 term should be made by end of January to provide applicants with clarity and certainty.

5.9 Report of Vice-President, Research and Innovation

An overview was provided of the various successful research initiatives across campus. Of note is that University engineering professor Dr. Narayan Kar has been named Canada Research Chair (CRC) in electrified vehicles by the federal government. The research aims to develop electric vehicle components that are better performing, while being more cost effective. It was noted that CFC funding brings much stability to research programs which is very positive for the University of Windsor.

6 Question Period/Other Business

Enrolment

In response to concern raised regarding the issue that the University's enrolment appears to be on the decline, it was noted that this is common across the sector as a result of the pandemic. Many students who would normally be going to university out-of-town are staying close to home. In light of this the University recognizes that they need to continue to find new strategies to enhance student recruitment. On the international front, it was noted that in-country representatives are being placed in strategic countries to recruit students. However, it was also noted that although this is a challenging time, the University will bounce-back in the long-term.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the topic of enrolment and it was noted that a multi-pronged approach is needed to increase enrolment. Innovative program development is one strategy for increasing student recruitment. It was also noted that having flexible online programs that are offered on the weekends has been successful for some areas (*i.e.*, Engineering and Business). In addition, how students feel about their overall course experience is important in student retention. If students do not feel like their experience is positive and valuable, then they will be less inclined to stay in a program. Also, it was suggested that it may be timely to address systemic issues at the University that may be having an impact on students' choice to stay or apply to Windsor.

Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology

In response to a question raised about possible plans to dissolve the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology it was clarified by the Dean of FAHSS that there have been preliminary discussions about reorganization and restructuring strategies to better align resources to programs, but the Department has not been dissolved. So far, the Dean has only met with the departmental council for preliminary discussions. It was noted that the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology currently offers three main honours programs in Sociology, Criminology and Family and Social Relations. The Anthropology program was discontinued (Fall 2020) as there were no new enrolments since 2013. It was stressed that any Departmental re-structuring or discontinuation would require wide consultation with affected parties and will follow appropriate procedures and approvals.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

M. Abdulaziz/A. Grgicak-Mannion

CARRIED