



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

December 5, 2014

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 56, University Community Centre.

SENATORS: 70

J. Aitken Schermer
M.A. Andrusyszyn
N. Banerjee
D. Belliveau
I. Birrell
P. Bishop
N. Brooks
C. Brown
J. Burkell
S. Camiletti
J. Capone
T. Carmichael
C.L. Chambers
M. Clapton
K. Cole
L. Crich
M. Crossan
J. Cuciurean
J. Deakin
C. Dean
G. Dekaban
D. Dodgson
G. Dresser
J. Eberhard

C. Farber
J. Hatch
B. Hovius
A. Hrymak
G. Hunter
C. Jones
R. Kennedy
J. Lamarche
A. Leschied
J. Malkin
C. McGarvey
K. Mequanint
R. Mercer
M. Milde
J.-F. Millaire
L. Miller
S. Mischler
K. Moser
D. Murdoch
D. Neufeld
C. Nolan
C. O'Connor
C. Olivier
B. Palin

P.P. Pare
B. Paxton
D. Rogers
M. Rothstein
P. St- Pierre
M. Salvadori
I. Scott
K. Siddiqui
R. Sookraj
V. Staroverov
C. Steeves
T. Sutherland
S. Taylor
G. Tigert
B. Timney
J. Toswell
A. Watson
J. Weese
G. Westwood
C. Wilkins
P. Woodford
B.A. Younker

Observers: E. Chamberlain, R. Chelladurai, J. Doerksen, K. Godbout, L. Gribbon, A. Hearn, M. Helfand, J. Inoue, A. Mandich, A. Weedon

By Invitation: P. White

S.14-210

Remembering the December 6, 1989 Montreal Massacre

The Vice-Chair called for a moment of silence to remember 14 young women, 12 of whom were engineering students, who lost their lives 25 years ago on December 6 at the hands of an enraged gunman.

S.14-211 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

In the President's absence, the Provost reported on the following items: Fall Preview 2014, Royal Society gala in Quebec City, Academic All Canadians in CIS, Sexual Assault Policy, budget planning update, funding for Interdisciplinary Initiatives (IDI), and ratification of the UWOFA and PMA collective agreements.

In answer to questions the following points were made:

- New allocations to the IDI would be adjudicated through the Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy and Faculty) with assistance from Distinguished University Professors. There would be an open call for proposals; initiatives would not be limited to those related to the research cluster program.
- The Sexual Assault Policy is quite new and, in some quarters, here and elsewhere, such policies have raised concerns about universities making decisions on issues that are judicial matters. The Vice-President (Resources and Operations) sits on a COU committee working on policy matters and would be able to give early warning of any issues that might be happening across the sector as policies are devised and implemented.
- There is ongoing dialogue between the U15 schools and CIHR about changes to that agency's funding model. It is unfortunately the case that significant changes to CIHR policy have been made without consultation with universities.
- It is clear from a meeting held between Vice-Presidents (Academic) and the ADM at MTCU last week that the government's view is that it is the steward of the university system, not the universities themselves. There are real concerns about the current funding formula review and what may come out of it. It is important that universities speak with one voice as much as possible and be at the right tables when discussions are taking place.

S.14-212 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2014 were approved as circulated.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE [Exhibit I]

S.14-213 **Notice of Motion re Research Clusters** [S.14-209]

At the last meeting of Senate, a notice of motion was received requesting the establishment of an ad hoc Senate committee to disperse research funds. At the time, the President expressed the view that such a motion would be out of order because it is not within Senate's mandate to allocate resources. The Operations/Agenda Committee agreed with the President's comments and has determined that the motion should not be put before Senate.

The UWO Act gives clear authority over financial matters to the Board of Governors not to Senate. The Board, in turn, has delegated general authority for budgetary matters to the administration, and specifically to the Provost and the Vice-President (Research) for expending the \$30 million set aside for research excellence.

The Operations/Agenda Committee noted that while it had determined that the proposed course of action suggested by the notice of motion is out of order, substantive questions with respect to the use of the research infrastructure set-aside or other matters related to research are not and may continue to be raised at any time under Enquiries and New Business.

Senator Belliveau, who had presented the Notice of Motion, distributed a note stating he would not challenge the ruling but noted that the spirit of the notice of motion involved the academic direction of the research reserves already allocated by the administration and the obligation to ensure that adjudication processes were fair and transparent with open and accessible competition for funding across all academic disciplines.

S.14-214 **Student Senator Representation on Faculty Councils**

Senate was informed that last spring, student Senators presented a proposal to the Operations/Agenda Committee seeking to have Senate mandate that each Faculty Council include in its membership a student Senator as a non-voting member. The intent of the proposal was to foster greater understanding of Faculty issues amongst student Senators and to have faculty councils receive information about issues before Senate. The Operations/Agenda Committee sought input from the Deans and, with the assistance of a student Senator, from student leaders in the individual Faculties. In both cases, the response was mixed. Some faculty councils already do this as a matter of course; some were not strongly opposed, but did not see any real benefit; others were concerned that because there is not at least one student seat on Senate for each Faculty, some councils would have students sitting on them who were not students in the Faculty concerned.

Given the range of responses, the Operations/Agenda Committee, was reluctant to recommend that Senate approve the proposal, but agreed that each Faculty Council should be encouraged to consider its student representation and whether the addition of a student Senator to its membership would be something it would like to pursue. The Committee would support recommendations to amend Faculty Council constitutions to codify such an addition.

S.14-215 **Officer of Convocation**

The following Officer of Convocation has been appointed (term to June 30, 2016):
Angie Mandich – Assistant Director of Convocation

S.14-216 **Convocation Statistics 2014**

Senate received for information the convocation statistics relating to the 2014 Spring and Autumn Convocation ceremonies detailed in Exhibit I, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively.

S.14-217 **Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA) Annual Report – 2013-2014**

The Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA) annual report for 2013-14 was received for information as detailed in Exhibit I, Appendix 3.

S.14-218 **Election Schedule Spring 2015**

Senate was informed that information regarding the Election Schedule for Spring 2015 can be found at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate/elections.html>

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE [Exhibit II]

S.14-219 **Nominating Subcommittee to Nominate a Senator from the General Community**

C. Wilkins was elected to replace L. Elliott on the Nominating Subcommittee to Nominate a Senator from the General Community (term to June 30, 2015).

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS [Exhibit III]

S.14-220 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of the Master of Media in Journalism and Communication (MMJC) Program**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by T. Carmichael,

That, pending Quality Council approval, the new Master of Media in Journalism and Communication (MMJC) program be introduced effective January 1, 2015, as shown in Exhibit III, Appendix 1.

CARRIED

S.14-221 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Graduate Diploma in Accounting**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by T. Sutherland,

That, pending Quality Council approval, a Graduate Diploma in Accounting be introduced effective January 1, 2015, as shown in Exhibit III Appendix 3.

CARRIED

S.14-222 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Non-Thesis Option in the MSc in Biochemistry Program**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by A. Watson,

That a new Non-Thesis Option in the MSc in Biochemistry Program be introduced in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies effective January 1, 2015 as shown in Exhibit III, Appendix 4.

CARRIED

S.14-223 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Discontinuation of the Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by D. Belliveau,

That admission to the Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics be discontinued, effective August 31, 2014, and

That the Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics be discontinued effective September 1, 2015.

CARRIED

S.14-224 **MAPP 1.26 - Policy on Establishing International Academic Partnerships**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by L. Miller,

That MAPP 1.26 – Policy on Establishing International Academic Partnerships, attached hereto as Exhibit III, Appendix 5, be recommended to the Board for approval, replacing the Guidelines for Educational Partnerships attached as Exhibit III, Appendix 6.

CARRIED

S.14-225 **Revisions to the Policy on International Dual-Credential Degree Programs (Undergraduate and Doctoral)**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by J. Eberhard,

That effective January 1, 2015, the Policy on International Dual-Credential Programs be revised as shown in Exhibit III, Appendix 7.

CARRIED

S.14-226 **SUPR-G Report: Cyclical reviews of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science**

Senate was advised that SCAPA approved the following cyclical reviews of graduate programs:

Faculty/Affiliates	Program	Date of Review	SUPR-G recommendation
Engineering	Electrical and Computer Engineering	May 15-16, 2014	Good quality with Report in January 2016
Science	Computer Science	June 9–10, 2014	Good quality with Report in January 2016

The detailed Final Summary Reports for each of these reviews is found in Exhibit III, Appendix 8.

S.14-227 **Report of Scholastic Offenses for the period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014**

The Report of Scholastic Offenses for the period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014, prepared by John Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), as set out in Exhibit III, Appendix 9 was received for information.

S.14-228 **New Scholarships and Awards**

SCAPA has approved on behalf of the Senate, for recommendation to the Board of Governors through the President & Vice-Chancellor, the new scholarships and awards shown in Exhibit III Appendix 10.

ENQUIRIES AND NEW BUSINESS

S.14-229 **Canada First Research Excellence Fund** (CFREF)

Mr. Peter White, Executive Director, Government Relations & Strategic Partnerships, said that the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan 2014 had announced the creation of the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) noting that the fund will invest a total of \$1.5 billion over 10 years in research excellence in a three stage funding application process. The fund is intended to help Canadian universities, colleges and polytechnics compete with the best in the world for talent and partnership opportunities, to make breakthrough discoveries and to excel globally in research areas that will create long-term economic advantages for Canada.

The fund was announced in accordance with the release of Industry Canada's new Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Strategy – *Seizing Canada's Moment: Moving Forward in Science Technology and Innovation*. The STI strategy outlines key elements of achievement to date and the long term goals of the Government of Canada in STI. CFREF applications will begin being accepted by Industry Canada beginning with Stage 1 Letters of Intent that are due on February 2, 2015. This is the opening of the first stage of CFREF with a total of \$350 million dollars and the applications are due March 2, 2015. All applications will be based on the STI research strategies outlined in *Seizing Canada's Moment*. The key priorities for the application to

CFREF will be: Environment and Agriculture, Health and Life Sciences, Natural Resources and Energy, Information and Communication Technologies and Advanced Manufacturing.

The applications will be judged on the significant performance elements – judging will be completed in a three stage process including expert panels, a strategic approval board and a final steering committee that will then make recommendations to the Minister. Applications will need to be scientifically elite and be world leading. They must demonstrate the ability to reach global breakthroughs. It is a requirement that the proposal provide strategic relevance to Canada and must be able to demonstrate significant economic development benefits both from a short and long term capability. The proposal must mobilize knowledge and show its strategic significance in accordance with the STI Strategy. A robust quality of implementation plans will be crucial with applications to CFREF. The application must demonstrate significant resources are being applied to the project within the application from the institution. The quality of the business plan will be significant in the review process as will the ability to establish links to Canada industry and relevant partners. The time frame of the project applications can be up to 7 years.

Dr. Capone noted that this is a great opportunity but also a great challenge given the very high bar that has been set. The fact that there are three competitions is helpful although the short time frame for the first competition means that projects must be “shovel ready.” The cluster initiative is helpful because the parameters align with CFREF. Only one application as a lead institution can be submitted per competition but an institution can be a partner in other institutions’ applications. The second competition is \$950 million with the letters of intent due on August 31 and the applications due on October 2. Western has had some communications with other institutions about potential partnership strategies.

S.14-230

Western’s Financial Matters

Responding to UWOFAs suggestion that consideration be given to changing the budget model so that it is not based on enrolment growth, Dr. Deakin said the budget model which has been the same since 1996, cannot be construed accurately as a model based on growth because enrolment growth was capped at 4,350 until recently. At Western 67% of the operating funds flow directly to the faculties, which is a higher percentage than at other universities and 100% of the funding for Research Masters and PhDs will be available for graduate support through the Faculties and SGPS. One of the big issues with respect to government funding is that there is no inflation protection on government grants; the Initial Budget Adjustment (IBA) is meant to recover money to pay for incremental costs. Over the last eight years, costs were mitigated by several factors including moving almost exclusively to 4-year undergraduate programs, increased retention rates with consequently higher flow-through numbers, and a government funding base changed to incremental growth which gave Western an additional \$36 million that flowed to faculties for incremental costs associated with enrolments.

Regarding the \$91 million surplus, she explained that it is almost entirely the result of investment returns. In 2008 when the market crashed, the administration was taken to task by UWOFAs because these soft dollars had been used for operating costs. The Board determined that, henceforward, the investment return funds would not to be used for operating costs but only for one-time expenditures. These funds are not within the Provost’s control. Dr. Hearn thanked the Provost for the response but noted that the problem remained and Western’s reputation could be impacted. Provost agreed that the core mission needs to be protected and noted that the Academic Priorities Fund (APF) is one tool that can be used in the budget process.

S.14-231

Western Science – Fallona Interdisciplinary Science Showcase

On behalf of a graduate science student who recently attended the first annual Fallona Interdisciplinary Science Showcase, Mr. Sutherland thanked the Faculty of Science for hosting this event. The graduate student found it inspirational and encouraging as researchers and graduate students came together to explore novel paths through discussion and research collaborations. Dr. Dean, Dean of the Faculty of Science, concurred that the event was a huge success and that the Fallona family was very pleased with the outcome.

S.14-232 **Student Senators on Faculty Councils** (S.14-214)

Mr. Sookraj, on behalf of the Student Senators, thanked the Secretary and her staff and the Operations/Agenda Committee for the work undertaken to address the inclusion of Student Senators on Faculty Councils as noted in Exhibit I, item 2.

S.14-233 **Notice of Motion regarding Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University**

Senator Toswell presented a Notice of Motion regarding a revision to Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University by inserting a new item (K) Associate Vice-President (Student Experience). The Vice-Chair accepted the Notice of Motion and advised that it will be considered by the Operations/Agenda Committee at its next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

J. Weese
Vice-Chair

I. Birrell
Secretary