

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

APRIL 12, 2019

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1R40, Arts and Humanities Building.

SENATORS: 70

R. Andersen	J. Hatch	W. Pearson
S. Barghi	A. Hearn	P. Peddle
S. Basu	M. Heath	T. Percival-Smith
G. Belfry	A. Holm	A. Pero
A. Bowlus	A. Hrymak	M. Perruzza
D. Brou	P. Jones	V. Radcliffe
C. Burghardt-Jesson	J. Kim	A. Ray
S. Burke	R. Konrad	M. Robinson
J. Capone	G. Kopp	J. Rylett
A. Chakma	K. Kwan	V. Schwean
E. Chamberlain	D. Laird	K. Shuey
A. Chant	A. Leguard	Z. Sinel
D. Cheng	L. Logan	W. Siqueira
K. Clark	D. Macpherson	V. Smye
R. Collins	J. Matthews	C. Steeves
J. Corrigan	M. McDayter	P. Thomlinson
J. Cuciurean	A. Meyer	G. Tigert
V. Dalal	M. Milde	S. Trosow
M. Davison	K. Miller	M. Vandebosch
I. Decoito	L. Miller	J. Wilson
J. Garland	S. Mumm	K. Yeung
R. Garno	O. Nadler	B. Younker
L. Ghattas	M. Novello	
A. Grzyb	D. Olteanu	

Observers: C. Alencar, D. Belliveau, T. Belton, K. Campbell, R. Chelladurai, J. Doerksen, L. Gibbon, J. Massey, J. McMullin, M. Pratt, M. Rose

Land Acknowledgement

L. Ghattas read the Land Acknowledgement.

S.19-57 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2019 were approved as circulated.

S.19-58 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT** [Exhibit I]

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics:

- Distinguished University Professors named.
- Faculty Scholars named.
- Western recognizes teaching excellence.
- USC recognizes teaching excellence.

- Green and WISE award recipients recognized for sustainability efforts.
- Federal budget, announced March 19, includes investments for postsecondary education.
- Western leadership update: David Mallory named as King's Principal, effective July 1.
- Work of selection committees remains underway for the Deans of the Faculty of Engineering and the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.

The President also reported on potential amendments to the Ministry of Education Act.

A Senator noted concerns that smaller universities may be negatively impacted if key performance indicators are implemented as funding measures. The President responded that limited information is available at this time, but that there are indications that the metrics will not be based upon institutional competition.

A Senator requested clarification on whether changes coming forward to the Ministries Act may include the mandatory retirement of faculty members. The President noted that there is insufficient information on the changes to comment at this time.

S.19-59 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA** [Exhibit II]

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That the 16 items listed in the Unanimous Consent Agenda (Exhibit II) be approved or received for information by Senate by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

The Secretary noted that the following items on the Unanimous Consent Agenda were incorrectly presented for approval. These items will be provided for information:

- Senate Membership – Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Senate Membership – Faculty of Science
- Senate Membership – Vacancies filled by Appointments

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE [Exhibit III]

S.19-60 **Senate Nominating Committee – Membership**

Additional nominations were received from the floor. An electronic vote will be conducted following the meeting. The results will be reported to Senate at the May 10, 2019 meeting.

S.19-61 **Appointment of Acting Chair of Senate (May 10, 2019)**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by S. Trosow,

That Senate appoint John Wilson, Vice-Chair of the Operations/Agenda Committee to serve as Acting Chair of Senate for the Senate meeting on May 10, 2019.

CARRIED

Information Items Reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee

Exhibit III, Report of the Operations/Agenda Committee, contained the following items that were received for information by unanimous consent:

- Senate Membership – Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Senate Membership – Faculty of Science
- Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment

S.19-62 **Open Access and Scholarly Communication Issues**

M. Milde, Chair, Operations/Agenda Committee reported on the Open Access and Scholarly Communication Issues, highlighting that the Committee had been advised that the Provost would be supportive of the creation of a Provost's Task Force, comprised of faculty, librarians, students, staff and administration. This working group may be tasked by the Provost to explore a broad array of issues and recommend key matters for consideration.

REPORT OF THE SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE [Exhibit IV]

S.19-63 **Operations/Agenda Committee**

The following members were elected to the Senate Operations/Agenda Committee:

A. Grzyb (FIMS) for a term to June 30, 2020, and K. Mequanint (Engg), A. Meyer (AH), A. Nelson (SS), K. Olson (AH), S. Pitel (Law), A. Rozovsky (UNDG), J. Wilson (Ivey), for a term to June 30, 2021.

S.19-64 **University Research Board**

The following members were elected to the University Research Board:

B. Baruah (SS), R. Bgeginski (Post Doc.), O. Branzei (Ivey), J. Kum (GRAD), J. Lacefield (Engg), R. Limongi (Post Doc.), L. Misener (HSci), I. Paul (AH), N. Wathen (FIMS), for a term to June 30, 2021.

S.19-65 **University Council on Animal Care**

T. Birmingham (HSci) and J. Rylett (Schulich) were elected to the University Council on Animal Care, for a term to June 30, 2021.

S.19-66 **Honorary Degrees Committee**

J. Garland (HSci), M. Jones, (AH), A. Matchen (UNDG), M. McGlynn (SS), B. A. Younker (Mus) were elected as members to the Honorary Degrees Committee, for a term to June 30, 2021.

S.19-67 **Senate Review Board Academic**

The following members were elected to the Senate Review Board Academic:

M. Atkinson (SS), I. DeCoito (Educ), R. Klassen (Engg) D. Lacasse (Law), I. Paul (AH), C. Viger (AH), J. Wilson (Ivey), for June 30, 2021, and S. Birdi (UNDG), J. Broberg (GRAD), M. Garabedian (UNDG), Y. Hassan (UNDG), V. Joe (UNDG), A. Parchizadeh (GRAD), A. Rozovsky (UNDG), P. Thomlinson (UNDG), E. Walsh (GRAD), for a term to June 30, 2020.

S.19-68 **Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee**

M. Crossan (Ivey), R. Stainton (AH) were elected to the Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee, for a term to June 30, 2021.

S.19-69 **Faculty Scholars Selection Committee**

C. Dyck (AH), J. Gilroy (Sci) were elected to the Faculty Scholars Selection Committee, for a term to June 30, 2021.

S.19-70 **Nominating Subcommittee to Elect a Senator from the General Community**

The following members were elected to the Nominating Subcommittee to Elect a Senator from the General Community:

H. Boyi (AH) for a term to June 30, 2020, and K. Miller (Admin), V. Smye (HSci.) for a term to June 30, 2021.

S.19-71 **McIntosh Gallery Committee**

L. Miller was elected as a member to the McIntosh Gallery Committee, for a term to June 30, 2021.

S.19-72 **Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty)**

E. Chamberlain (Law), J. Cuciurean (Mus), and S. Knabe (FIMS) were elected to the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty).

S.19-73 **Committee Memberships Requiring Electronic Elections**

Additional nominations were received from the floor for the following committees:

- Vice-Chair of Senate
- Nominating Committee of Senate
- Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA)
- Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)
- Selection/Review Committee for Dean of Social Science

An electronic vote will be conducted following the meeting. The results will be reported to Senate at the May 10, 2019 meeting.

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

S.19-74 **Change in Designation of “Honors” to “Honours”**

It was moved by J. Hatch, seconded by G. Kopp,

That effective February 2020, the designation of “Honors” be replaced by the designation of “Honours” in all occurrences at Western University, including to be used on all diplomas, and

That the “Convocation; Graduation Diplomas and Certificates” policy be revised as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 1, and

That all previous graduates be permitted to replace their “Honors” diploma with an “Honours” diploma, upon payment of an administrative fee for the replacement diploma.

CARRIED

S.19-75 **Scheduling of a Fall Reading Week and Related Amendments to Academic Policies**

It was moved by J. Hatch, seconded by M. Milde,

That effective September 1, 2019 a Fall Reading Week be introduced during the 9th full week of the Fall term, and

That the “Structure of the Academic Year” Policy be revised as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 2, and

That the “Evaluation of Academic Performance” Policy be revised as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 3.

It was moved by J. Hatch, seconded by M. Milde,

That the motion be amended as follows:

That effective September 1, 2019 a Fall Reading Week be scheduled to begin on the 3rd Monday after Thanksgiving and end at midnight the subsequent Sunday, and

That the "Structure of the Academic Year" Policy be revised as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 2, and

That the "Evaluation of Academic Performance" Policy be revised as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 3.

CARRIED

J. Hatch, Chair of the *ad hoc* Subcommittee on Fall Reading Week provided an overview of the Subcommittee's Report to Senate. He noted that the *ad hoc* Subcommittee had raised concerns regarding the scheduling of the Fall Reading Week in conjunction with the Thanksgiving holiday, as the timing of the holiday changes annually, and feedback from student stakeholders indicated that the timing was too early in the term to provide relief from academic workload.

The *ad hoc* Subcommittee proposed reducing the number of teaching days from 62 to 60 days, to accommodate a Fall Reading Week to begin on the 3rd Monday after Thanksgiving. He noted that this timing would allow for three weekends to be available for the scheduling of mid-term exams.

A Senator asked whether the policy related to the required number of contact hours for undergraduate courses would be revised to reflect the reduction to a 12-week term. J. Hatch responded that this would be referred to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards for consideration.

The vote was taken on the amendment and CARRIED. The motion as amended was CARRIED.

Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures: Revisions to Spanish Modules

S.19-76a Withdrawal of the Major and Minor in Spanish Language and Linguistics

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That effective September 1, 2019, admissions in the Major and Minor in Spanish Language and Linguistics be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in these modules be allowed to graduate until August 31, 2023 upon fulfillment of the requirements, and

That effective September 1, 2023 the modules be discontinued.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-76b Renaming of and Revisions to the Major and Minor in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That the Major in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures be renamed as the Major in Spanish, and that the module requirements be revised as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 5, effective September 1, 2019, and

That the Minor in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures be renamed as the Minor in Spanish, and that the module requirements be revised as shown in Appendix 5, effective September 1, 2019.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

Faculty of Engineering: Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering: Withdrawal of Options

S.19-77a **Withdrawal of the Electrical Engineering – Wireless Communication Option (C), Power Systems Engineering Option (E), and Biomedical Signals and Systems Option (G)**

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That effective September 1, 2019 admission to the Electrical Engineering – Wireless Communication Option (C), Power Systems Engineering Option (E), and Biomedical Signals and Systems Option (G) be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in the programs be allowed to graduate with these Options upon completion of all requirements by August 31, 2023, and

That effective September 1, 2023, the Options be withdrawn.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-77b **Withdrawal of the Software Engineering – Health Informatics Option (E)**

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That effective September 1, 2019 admission to the Software Engineering – Health Informatics Option (E) be discontinued, and that the Option be withdrawn, and

That students currently enrolled in the program be allowed to graduate with this Option upon completion of all requirements by August 31, 2019.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-78 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Master of Arts (MA) in Comparative Literature**

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That the Master of Arts (MA) in Comparative Literature be revised as shown below, effective September 1, 2019.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-79 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Master of Management of Applied Science (MMASc) in Global Health Systems in Africa (GHS-A)**

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That the Master of Management of Applied Science (MMASc) in Global Health Systems in Africa (GHS-A) be revised as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 6, effective September 1, 2019.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-80 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of the New Field “Food Processing” in the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering**

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That the new field “Food Processing” be introduced into the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering program effective September 1, 2019, as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 7.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-81 **Faculty of Social Science, Department of Sociology: Withdrawal of the Major in Sociology of Population, Health and Aging**

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That effective September 1, 2019 admission to the Major in the Sociology of Population, Aging, and Health be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in the module be allowed to graduate until August 31, 2023 upon fulfillment of the requirements, and

That effective September 1, 2023, the Major be discontinued.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-82 **Brescia University College: Introduction of an Honors Specialization in Foods and Nutrition**

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That effective September 1, 2019, an Honors Specialization in Foods and Nutrition be introduced at Brescia University College as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 8.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-83 **Revisions to the “Accommodation for Illness – Undergraduate Students” Policy**

It was moved by J. Hatch, seconded by J. Kim,

That effective September 1, 2019, the “Accommodation for Illness – Undergraduate Students” Policy be replaced with the new “Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs” Policy for a three-year trial period, as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 9.

CARRIED

J. Doerksen, Vice Provost (Academic Programs and Students) presented the new “Accommodation for Illness – Undergraduate Students” Policy. The slides from his presentation are attached as [Appendix 1](#). He informed Senators that the development of this policy involved a lengthy consultation process.

A Senator noted concerns relating to the administration of the policy, requesting clarification on how the increased workload relating to the requests would be addressed. J. Doerksen advised that the working group had acknowledged that there may be an initial increase in requests, but that the requests would likely decrease over time.

Responding to a request for clarification on whether the validity of the accommodation requests would be reviewed and if there would be any investigations into any false reporting, J. Doerksen noted that investigations would not apply to instances of self-reporting. He further advised that the process of self-reporting would be via an online portal.

A Senator requested clarification on the criteria for the accommodation and the rationale behind the 30% threshold proposed in the policy. J. Doerksen responded that a review of similar policies at other institutions found that policies were institution-specific, and a consistent standard was not found.

S.19-84 **Introduction of a New Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

It was moved by R. Collins, seconded by D. Laird,

That effective May 1, 2019 the current policy on “Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities” and the “Faculty Handbook on the Implementation of the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities” be replaced by a new policy, as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 10.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-85 **Revisions to the “Senior Citizens” Policy**

It was moved by R. Klassen, seconded by D. Laird,

That the “Senior Citizens” Policy be revised as shown in Exhibit V, Appendix 11, effective May 1, 2019.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.19-86 **Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards**

Exhibit V, Report of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards, contained the following items that were received for information by unanimous consent:

- SUPR-U Report: Cyclical Reviews of Civil / Environmental Engineering; Mechanical Engineering
- SUPR-G Report: Cyclical Review of Classics
- New Scholarships and Awards

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP) [Exhibit VI]

S.19-87 **2019-20 University Operating and Capital Budgets**

It was moved by L. Miller, seconded by M. Milde,

That Senate provide advice to the Board of Governors, through the President and Vice-Chancellor, recommending the approval of the 2019-20 University Operating and Capital Budgets (Exhibit VI, Appendix 1).

CARRIED

Prior to his presentation, the Provost offered thanks to colleagues across the University for their diligence in the preparation of the budget, noting particularly the work of staff in Institutional Planning and Budgeting.

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), presented the 2019-20 University Operating and Capital Budgets (detailed in Exhibit VI, Annex 1) of \$792.2 million, which included a plan to draw \$14M from reserve funds to help make up a 2.2% drop in revenues. The slides from his presentation are attached as [Appendix 2](#). His presentation highlighted both the internal and external planning and budgetary contexts, operating revenues for 2019-20, new initiatives and priorities, tuition changes, enrolment expectations, operating expenditures, including recommendations for Faculties, and Support Units, university-wide expenditures, one-time expenditures, operating reserve forecast and an overview of the 2019-2020 capital budget.

Items discussed in the presentation to Senate included:

- Total revenues: \$778.2 million (decrease of 2.2%)
- Total expenses: \$792.2 million (increase of 0.3%)
- Endowed Chairs Matching Program (\$12M)
- Space/facilities funding (\$12M)
- Efficiency and Innovation Fund (\$10M)
- Capital spending (\$95.3M)
- Utilities and infrastructure (\$8M)
- General maintenance (\$14.3M)

A Senator requested clarification on the impact of the budget changes to the University's staff.

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), noted that over the two-year planning cycle the total full-time faculty complement will increase to 1,042 (2019) and decrease to 1,041 (2020).

R. Chelladurai (Associate VP (Planning, Budgeting & Information Technology) noted to Senate that in the current year (2018-19), there are 1,021 regular full-time staff in the Faculties – in total. The Faculty Plans project this to grow to 1,042 in 2019-20 and decline by one position to 1,041 in 2020-21.

In response to the question presented by Senator Grzyb (outlined in [Appendix 3](#)) A. Hrymak advised that Maintenance, Modernization, and Infrastructure (MMI) transfer and the FRSF Transfer to Capital is the policy of the Board of Governors and that the transfer amounts were consistent with other budget cycles. He further clarified that the transfers are intended for the maintenance of infrastructure on campus.

In response to the question presented by D. Belliveau, President of UWOFA (outlined in [Appendix 3](#))

A. Hrymak offered to host, if requested, an information session for Senators to further review and discuss the budget.

In response to the question presented by Senator Chant (outlined in [Appendix 3](#)) A. Hrymak clarified that the contributions to endowment funds have been reduced over the previous budget cycles from \$25M to \$12M. He further noted, with respect to the domestic tuition reduction impact to faculties, that the reduction in tuition revenue could be addressed with various methods. Increased enrolment could address the concern of revenue decreases, considering both international and domestic students.

Asked about whether there is the possibility of decreasing capital expenditures or endowments and using a portion of the allocated funds to off-set changes in spending on faculty or staff, A. Hrymak noted that the perceived growth in the Endowment Fund is, in part, due to philanthropic support. The contributions are intended to match the contributions provided via donors to the University.

In response to the question presented by Senator Trosow (outlined in [Appendix 3](#)) A. Hrymak noted that the funds transfers (Transfer of Operating Funds to Capital Funds for Special Initiatives – Table 8) are in place to support the long-term sustainability of the University. The transfers provide funding to future investment initiatives, such as the Endowed Chair matching, Efficiency/ Innovation Fund, long-range space plan, and one-time faculty allocations.

A. Hrymak clarified that the capital for building projects (Capital Budget Sources of Funding – Table 17) outlined in the budget have various funding sources.

A Senator requested further information relating to the April 30, 2018 Combined Financial Statements for the University (Statement 3 and Note 15) relating to the unrestricted assets noted at \$414,715M.

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance) advised Senators that the unrestricted net assets of \$414,715M is a negative number. She clarified that the unrestricted net assets are comprised of provisions for future costs, including operating funds surplus, provisions for vacation pay, provisions for employee future benefits, and losses from University entities.

A Senator requested further details on the balances of current funds, as outlined in Table 14. L. Logan noted that the totals were reported in Table 15. She further clarified that funds transferred to capital funds are moved for use with specific projects that have been approved by the Board of Governors.

A Senator asked whether the budget could have been modelled to absorb all of the funding changes with reserve funding. A. Hrymak clarified that reserve funding would be used to address a one-time revenue short-fall but would not be used on an ongoing basis to offset the revenue decreases relating to the domestic tuition changes.

A motion to close debate was moved by D. Laird, seconded by V. Schwean.

The motion to close debate was called and CARRIED.

The question was called on the main motion and CARRIED.

REPORT OF THE HONORARY DEGREE COMMITTEE [Exhibit VII]

S.19-88 **Information Item Reported by the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee**

Exhibit VII, Report of the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee, contained the following item that was received for information by unanimous consent:

- Honorary Degree Recipients – Spring 2019

S.19-89 **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS** [Exhibit VIII]

Faculty Relations advised of the following academic administrative post(s) approved on behalf of the Board of Governors during the month of March 2019:

- Academic Administrative Appointments

DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTION PERIOD

All questions submitted were addressed earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

A. Chakma
Chair

K. Kwan
Secretary