



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

November 13, 2020

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

SENATORS:

Z. Al-Asamil
L. Archibald
P. Barmby
A. Baxter
J. Baxter
G. Belfry
A. Borchert
L. Briens
D. Brou
S. Burke
C. Burucua
E. Chamberlain
L. Cipriano
K. Coley
J. Compton
J. Corrigan
J. Cuciurean
S. Datars Bere
M. Davison
R. Dekoter
J. Finegan
R. Flemming
L. Frederking
M. Garabedian
B. Garcia
J. Garland
L. Ghattas
K. Gibbons
G. Gifford
T. Granadillo

R. Gros
C. Harasym
L. Henderson
R. Heydon
K. Hibbert
V. Hocke
S. Hodgson
A. Hrymak
D. Jeffrey
P. Jones
G. Kelly
R. Kennedy
J. Kitz
K. Lawless
W. Lehmann
J. Li
D. Mallory
C. McLeod
M. McMurrin
K. Mequanint
A. Meyer
M. Milde
L. Miller
K. Miller
J. Minac
A. Nelson
N. Nestico
C. Nolan
J. Nord
P. Peddle

S. Pitel
S. Powell
V. Radcliffe
G. Read
L. Ricker
S. Roland
A. Rozovsky
G. Santos
I. Savani
A. Shepard
V. Smye
C. Steeves
A. Tan
P. Tarc
P. Thomlinson
G. Tigert
J. Toswell
Z. Train
T. Walters
G. West
S. Whitehead
J. Wilson
K. Yeung
B. Younker

Observers: B. Baron, T. Belton, C. Brunette-Debassige, R. Chelladurai, J. Hutter,
B. MacDougall-Shackleton, J. Massey, M. McGlynn, k. seanor, R. Bgeginski

Land Acknowledgement

Angela Borchert offered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.20-178 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of October 16, 2020 were approved as circulated.

S.20-179 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: COVID-19 update, renewal of the President's Advisory Committee on Environment & Sustainability, Western's recent successes, Strategic Planning Steering Committee update, leadership update and Accolades.

The President additionally commented on the following items:

- Fall preview day will be taking place virtually on November 15, 2020
- Strongest enrollment in history over the past summer and fall terms, without decreasing academic standards
- Five colleagues were elected to the Royal Society of Canada, earning national recognition of scholars who have made great achievements across their careers
- Applauded Betty Anne Younker, Katrina Moser and Geoff Wild on their pandemic planning presentations of how their units are handling the pandemic at the administrative and teaching levels
- Strategic planning process started last week, will provide an update on progress at every Senate meeting
- Winter break extension

A senator asked for updates on provincial and federal funding. The President responded that it is still unclear if the federal government's effort to help Canadians recover from the pandemic will be focused on research, infrastructure, rural communities or green energy. Funding may not be announced until the Spring. The provincial government recently announced new funding for Micro-Credentials, but have not announced any additional funding to post-secondary Colleges and Universities.

A senator asked how the increase in enrollment was spread across the Faculties?

R. Chelladurai responded that enrollment was very strong in the Undergraduate programs, with the highest increases in Social Science, Science, Bachelor of Medical Sciences and Engineering. There were modest increases in the faculties of Health Sciences and Arts & Humanities. Enrollment in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies was slightly lower than the plan. Master's enrollment fell short of plan. Part-time summer enrollment was higher than anticipated. Overall, there was strong growth in domestic student enrollment, and shortfalls in international enrollment.

A. Hrymak announced the new Dean of the Faculty of Education, D. Kotsopoulos, who will begin her term on January 1, 2021. He thanked K. Hibbert for all the work she has done in her role as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Education.

A. Hrymak announced the new Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, N. Harney, who will be joining Western in August 2021. He thanked J. Finegan for her time and work as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Social Science.

S.20-180 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert,

That the items listed in the Consent Agenda, except for ITEM 5.3(b), be approved or received for information by the Senate by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.20-181 **ITEM 5.1(a) – Senate Membership – Graduate Student Constituency**

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert,

E. Sapuridis was acclaimed to fill a graduate student constituency on Senate for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 term on the recommendation of the ad hoc Nominating Committee.

CARRIED

S.20-182 **Information Items Reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee on Unanimous Consent**

The following items reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.1(b) – Senate Membership – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.20-183 **ITEM 5.2(a)(i) – Ivey Business School: Revisions to the Progression and Graduation Requirements of the HBA Program (Research Studies)**

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert,

That the Progression and Graduation Requirements of the HBA Program be revised as shown in Item 5.2(a)(i), effective September 1, 2020.

CARRIED

S.20-184 **ITEM 5.2(a)(ii) – Ivey Business School: Revisions to the Progression and Graduation Requirements of the HBA Program (Non-Business Elective)**

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert,

That the Progression and Graduation Requirements of the HBA Program be revised as shown in Item 5.2(a)(ii), effective September 1, 2020.

CARRIED

S.20-185 **ITEM 5.2(b) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the MA and PhD in Women’s Studies and Feminist Research and revisions to the course code for graduate courses**

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert,

That the MA in Women’s Studies and Feminist Research be renamed as the MA in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, effective September 1, 2020, and

That the PhD in Women’s Studies and Feminist Research be renamed as the PhD in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, effective September 1, 2020, and

That students enrolled in the programs prior to the name change be allowed to graduate with either the old or new program name until August 30, 2023, and

That the course codes for all graduate courses be changed to GSWS effective September 1, 2020.

CARRIED

S.20-186 **ITEM 5.2(c) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the MD Program and the DDS Program (Changes to GPA calculation due to COVID-19)**

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert,

That the admission requirements of the MD Program and the DDS Program be revised as shown in Item 5.2(c), effective July 1, 2020 for the 2020-21 application cycle.

CARRIED

S.20-187 **ITEM 5.2(d) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Anthropology: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Minor in Anthropology**

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert,

That the admission and program requirements of the Minor in Anthropology be revised as shown in Item 5.2(d), effective September 1, 2021.

CARRIED

S.20-188 **Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards on Unanimous Consent**

The following items reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards were

received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.2(e) SUPR-U Report: Cyclical Review of the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities (SASAH)
- ITEM 5.2(f) SUPR-G Report: Cyclical Review of Geology and Geophysics
- ITEM 5.2(g) New Scholarships and Awards

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

S.20-189 Information Items reported through Announcements and Communications on Unanimous Consent

The following items reported through Announcements and Communications were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.3(a) Election Results – Strategic Planning Steering Committee – Staff Representation
- ITEM 5.3(b) Academic Administrative Appointments

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Item 5.3(b) was removed from the consent agenda due to questions about the structure of Schulich leadership. Dr. Yoo, Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, attended to answer questions about the new roles. The previous role of Vice Dean of Education was very expansive and became difficult to manage. Dr. Yoo modified leadership to distribute the large portfolio into more than one role. The new role of Vice Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education was created to oversee the credentialing process, internationalization strategy and the undergraduate medical education at Schulich's various sites. Dr. Tithecott has been appointed as Acting Vice Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education while a search is underway.

The new role of Vice Dean, Education Scholarship and Strategy, was created to focus on faculty development, scholarships, and research. The Vice Dean will also oversee the Centre for Education Research & Innovation. Dr. Watling has been appointed as Acting Vice Dean, Education Scholarship and Strategy. The search will begin after the Vice Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education search has concluded.

Dr. Stein has been re-appointed as the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education, Learner Wellness.

Dr. Foxcroft was appointed as Assistant Dean, Faculty Wellbeing. The new role was created to address the overall physical, psychological and professional wellness of clinical faculty.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.20-190 ITEM 7.1 – Revisions to the Senate Election Procedures

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert,

That the Senate Election Procedures be revised as shown in Item 7.1, effective November 13,

2020.
CARRIED

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.20-191 **ITEM 8.1 – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a part-time registration option for the PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

It was moved by V. Smye, seconded by A. Borchert

That a part-time registration option be introduced for the PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, effective January 2021, as shown in Item 8.1.

CARRIED

S.20-192 **ITEM 9.0 Report of the Academic Colleague**

Senate received the Academic Colleague Report on the September 2020 meeting for information.

S.20-193 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Strategic Planning Process

A. Shepard asked for suggestions on how to engage Senate on the Strategic Planning Process.

A senator advised that due to time constraints, it may be difficult to engage and consult Senate on the Strategic Planning Process during meetings. He suggested using methods that other consultative projects have done previously, such as engaging Senate and other community members outside of the formal period of Senate through virtual town hall sessions.

A senator commented that December is too early to engage Senate on the Strategic Planning Process. They suggest that a timeline is circulated in December, followed by a detailed layout of the plan in February or March. The plan details will provide a better understanding of where Senate fits in the process.

Proctor Track

A senator asked why alternative measures to Proctor Track have not been implemented? When alternate measures are considered, will they be brought forward to Senate for approval? Will there be a formal review process for students who have exceptional circumstances or privacy concern?

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), advised that in person proctoring is available as an accommodation under very specific circumstances, through Exam Central. A. Hrymak noted that the current alternatives for in person proctoring are to request an incomplete standing and to write the assessment in person next time the class is offered, or students can withdraw and replace the course if the program allows it. Western has been actively seeking an alternative to Proctor Track since the summer. An in-house solution is not an option, as it would be too complicated to build, test and ensure

it meets our privacy and data security standards.

J. Hutter, Acting Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), indicated that students will be involved in the process of seeking alternative solutions to Proctor Track. If students are seeking an alternative to Proctor Track due to privacy concerns, the procedure would be to go through Exam Central.

COVID-19

L. Henderson asked about the relationship between rising cases in the province and opening of facilities on campus.

A. Shepard advised that Western is currently operating under a modified phase 3 plan. The President noted that significant calls were received from students with concerns about their mental health and wellness, and requested the opening of the Recreation Center. The President assured that the Recreation Center is following strict controls of hygiene measures. He also noted that the Middlesex-London Health Unit was consulted on the decision of opening the Recreation Center, and they agreed that it was reasonable to remain open under the current conditions.

Readiness Plan

A senator asked if a readiness plan is in place for international students to go home over the holidays?

The President advised the plan is expected to be approved next week. B. Baron, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International), recommended that students stay in Canada during the holidays as a safer alternative.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
Acting University Secretary