

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

September 18, 2020

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

SENATORS:

Z. Al-Asamil	C. Harasym	N. Nestico
P. Barmby	L. Henderson	C. Nolan
A. Baxter	K. Hibbert	J. Nord
J. Baxter	H. Hill	A. Pahargarh
G. Belfry	V. Hocke	P. Peddle
A. Borchert	S. Hodgson	S. Pitel
L. Briens	A. Hrymak	S. Powell
D. Brou	D. Jeffrey	V. Radcliffe
C. Burucua	T. Jenkyn	G. Read
E. Chamberlain	G. Kelly	L. Ricker
L. Cipriano	R. Kennedy	L. Rigg [Lesley]
K. Coley	J. Kitz	S. Roland
J. Compton	J. Langille	A. Rozovsky
J. Corrigan	K. Lawless	A. Shepard
J. Cuciurean	W. Lehmann	V. Smye
M. Davison	J. Li	C. Steeves
R. Dekoter	L. Logan	A. Tan
J. Finegan	C. Mallory	P. Tarc
R. Flemming	M. McMurrin	P. Thomlinson
L. Frederking	L. Melnyk	G. Tigert
M. Garabedian	Gribble	J. Toswell
B. Garcia	K. Mequanint	Z. Train
J. Garland	A. Meyer	T. Walters
L. Ghattas	M. Milde	G. West
K. Gibbons	L. Miller	S. Whitehead
G. Gifford	K. Miller	J. Wilson
T. Granadillo	J. Minac	K. Yeung
R. Gros	J. Mitchell	J. Yoo
	A. Nelson	B. Younker

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

Land Acknowledgement

C. Brunette-DeBassige read a Land Acknowledgement.

S.20-136 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of June 5, 2020 were approved as circulated.

S.20-137 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: Coronavirus update, Parr family gift to support student mental health, special advisors appointed to continue anti-racism efforts, Gray family gift to support mobility research, Bell partnership with Western University on 5G, QS World University Rankings, accolades, and leadership update.

The President additionally commented on the following items:

- The President thanked E. Chamberlain for serving as Vice-Chair of Senate for the 2020-2021 academic year and acknowledged the support provided by A. Bryson, Acting University Secretary
- The University offered courses entirely online for the summer session and noted the highest enrolment for a summer session compared to previous years
- Enrolment projections for the Fall 2020 academic year remain strong
- The University has been preparing for the upcoming semester by sourcing enough supplies and PPE to support a safe campus community
- A number of new grant applications have been submitted supporting research related to the COVID-19 pandemic, with several receiving funding that have yet to be announced
- The University continues to be engaged in a broad range of community service including support for front line workers and other programs support the London community during the pandemic
- Ivey Business School hosted Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland this morning who provided an engaging presentation on leadership

The President concluded his report by noting the high rates of compliance from Faculty, staff, and students in following public health guidelines and thanked the Western community for continuing to support a safe experience for everyone across campus.

A senator commended the President for scaling back activities on campus and for encouraging the adherence to public guidelines by students but queried what level of outbreak would warrant disciplinary action. The President stated that the decision would be based on both the number of cases and the context in which those cases occurred, noting that the numbers are being monitored by senior leadership daily.

A senator commended the respect of students in adhering to the guidelines while in class and queried whether the Anti-Racism Task Force Report could be adopted for the October or November Senate agenda, noting it would be ideal for the report to be adopted across campus. The President acknowledged that the report has not yet come to Senate and stated that the report would come forward at a future Senate meeting.

A senator questioned whether the in-person experience is worth what is happening to the London community and the costs associated with moving to London for on-campus learning due to the fact that on-campus learning is fairly limited. The President confirmed confidence in the in-person experience for students and reported that provided numbers of cases and context permit, the University would be able to continue providing a limited on-campus experience for students.

A senator stated concern regarding the implication of bringing students to campus who may have not wanted to attend in-person programming. The senator queried whether there are programs that mandate in-person attendance. The President reported that there are several programs that require in-person programming however the understanding is that faculties will be as flexible as possible in providing programming to students.

A senator queried what options are available for students, faculty and staff who are no longer comfortable attending in-person classes in light of recent events. The President reported that the decision to make mid-course corrections would be left to the Deans and departments unless the number of positive cases increase significantly.

S.20-138 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

That the items listed in the Unanimous Consent Agenda (ITEM's 6.0 and 7.0) except ITEM 6.2(c) be approved or received for information by Senate by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.20-139 **ITEM 6.1(a) Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment**

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

L. Archibald (CSD) was acclaimed for the Senate seat for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022 term by appointment at the recommendation of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.20-140 **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 6.1(b) Officers of Convocation

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.20-141 **ITEM 6.2(a) School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Master of Clinical Science (MCISC) in Speech-Language Pathology, the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MScOT), and the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT)**

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

That the Master of Clinical Science (MCISC) in Speech-Language Pathology, the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MScOT), and the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) be revised as shown in ITEM 6.2(a), effective for new admissions beginning September 1, 2020.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.20-142 **ITEM 6.2(b) School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Masters of Arts (MA) in Popular Music and Culture**

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

That admission into the Master of Arts (MA) in Popular Music and Culture be discontinued effective September 1, 2020, and

That students currently enrolled in the program be allowed to graduate until August 31, 2021 upon fulfillment of the requirements, and

That effective September 1, 2021 the Master of Arts (MA) in Popular Music and Culture be discontinued.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.20-143 **ITEM 6.2(d) Faculty of Social Science, Department of Geography: Renaming of Geography Modules**

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

That effective September 1, 2020, the geography modules listed below be renamed as shown to reflect the new department name of Geography and Environment.

Honours Specialization in Geography – BA

Change to: Honours Specialization in Geography and Environment – BA

Honours Specialization in Geography – BSc

Change to: Honours Specialization in Geography and Environment (BSc)

Honours Specialization in Geography and Commercial Aviation Management – BA

Change to: Honours Specialization in Geography and Environment and Commercial Aviation Management – BA

Honours Specialization in Geography/HBA

Change to: Honours Specialization in Geography and Environment/HBA

Honours Specialization in Geography

Change to: Specialization in Geography and Environment

Specialization in Geography and Commercial Aviation Management – BA

Change to: Specialization in Geography and Environment and Commercial Aviation management -BA

Major in Geography

Change to: Major in Geography and Environment

Major in Physical Geography

Change to: Major in Physical Geography and Environment

Major in Geography

Change to: Minor in Geography and Environment

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.20-144 **ITEM 6.2(e) Brescia University College: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the Diploma in Management Studies and the Diploma in Management Studies with Work Placement**

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

That the admission requirements of the Diploma in Management Studies and The Diploma in Management Studies with Work Placement at Brescia University College be revised as shown below, effective September 1, 2020.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.20-145 **6.2(f) Huron University College: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the Management and Organizational Studies (MOS) Modules**

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

That the admission requirements of the following Management and Organizational Studies (MOS) modules at Huron University College be revised as shown in ITEM 6.2(f), effective September 1, 2020:

Honours Specialization in Accounting
Honours Specialization in Finance and Administration
Honours Specialization in Organizational Studies, Policy, and Ethics
Specialization in Accounting
Specialization in Finance and Administration
Specialization in Organizational Studies, Policy, and Ethics
Major in Accounting
Major in Management and Organizational Studies

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.20-146 **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 6.2(g) SUPR-G Report: Cyclical Review of the Molecular Imaging Collaborative

Specialization and the Master of Financial Economics

- ITEM 6.2(h) Undergraduate Sessional Dates for 2021 and 2022
- ITEM 6.2(i) Faculty-Specific Undergraduate Sessional Dates for 2021 and 2022
- ITEM 6.2(j) New Scholarships and Awards

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

S.20-147 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 7.1 Senate Committee Election Results – June 2020
- ITEM 7.2 Academic Administrative Appointments
- ITEM 7.3 Report from the Board of Governors (June 25, 2020)

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.20-148 ITEM 6.2(c) Faculty of Social Science, Department of Geography: Revisions to the Certificate in Geographic Information Science

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

That the Certificate in Geographic Information Science be revised effective September 1, 2020, as shown in ITEM 6.2(c) as amended.

J. Cuciurean, Chair (SCAPA) noted an error in the progression and graduation requirements as included in the last sentence of ITEM 6.2(c) of the Senate agenda stating that there are only 3.0 to 3.5 required courses and not 4.0 as currently listed. As a result, an amendment was proposed for the motion to approve ITEM 6.2(c) to conclude with “a minimum of 60% in the required courses.”

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.20-149 **ITEM 8.1 Senate Nominating Committee - Membership**

G. Kelly (Research Compliance) and J. Kitz (GRAD) were acclaimed to the Senate Nominating Committee.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.20-150 **ITEM 9.1 University Research Board (URB)**

L. Finger (Schulich) was acclaimed to the University Research Board (URB).

S.20-151 **ITEM 9.2 Nominating Subcommittee – Senate Representative from the General Community**

J. Li (Education) was acclaimed to the Nominating Subcommittee – Senate Representative from the General Community.

S.20-152 **ITEM 9.3 Selection Committee for the Secretary of Senate**

V. Smye (HS), K. Yeung (SCI/SCHULICH), P. Barmby (SCI), K. Mequanint (ENG) were acclaimed to the selection committee for the Secretary of Senate.

S.20-153 **ITEM 9.4 Selection Committee for the Vice-President (University Advancement)**

T. Ahrens (ENG), J. Burkell (FIMS) and S. L. Roland (MUSIC) were acclaimed to the selection committee for the Vice-President (University Advancement).

An additional nomination was received for the student representative. An electronic vote was held following the meeting. R. Kennedy (UNDERGRAD) was elected to the committee.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

S.20-154 **ITEM 10.1 Strategic Planning Steering Committee and Speaker Series**

ITEM 10.1, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and Speaker Series including the committee structure and terms of reference, was received for information.

A senator queried how insistent the Board is for the timeframe that is being articulated, stating that the messaging may be considered insensitive due to the challenges being experienced by the pandemic. The President reported that the Board may take a different view following the recent events but stated that he could not guarantee a revision of timing.

A senator requested clarification as to what a research leader is. The President clarified that a

research leader is someone who is fully engaged with research at Western citing examples of directors at a research institute at Western and researchers from within faculties. He noted the importance of a high level of engagement with the University's research endeavors was required to represent research on the committee.

A senator commended the President for reconsidering the position and involvement of Senate in the selection of candidates for the Strategic Planning Committee. It was noted that an open survey was suggested as an early measure that could be implemented to assist in drafting the initial strategic plan.

A senator queried whether the strategic plan for research would be separate to the University's strategic plan. The President advised that the University's strategic plan would be inclusive of strategic plans for research at Western. L. Rigg [Lesley], Vice-President (Research) echoed the President's sentiments, citing the importance of aligning research priorities with the strategic plans of the University.

REPORT TO SENATE OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE, COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

S.20-155 ITEM 11.0 Report of the Academic Colleague

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

A senator queried the amount of funding allocated to micro-credentials. E. Chamberlain, Dean (Law) reported that information regarding provincial funding allocated to micro-credentials has not been provided.

S.20-156 DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTION PERIOD

Operating and Capital Budgets

A Senator (S. Pitel) provided the following question in advance:

The Operating and Capital Budgets for 2020-21 were presented to Senate in April 2020. What material changes since the meeting of Senate on June 5, 2020, is Western aware of that impact the accuracy and reliability of the assumptions and allocations in those budgets? How has the pandemic and its effect on revenues and expenses affected the budgets for 2020-21?

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Budgeting, Planning & Information Technology) reported that the University has been monitoring enrolment over the summer, noting that summer enrolment was higher than projected. He stated that fall enrolment numbers will not be finalized until November, however the University is on track to meet projected targets for undergraduate enrolment. He noted that graduate level enrolment is expected to be slightly below projected targets namely for international enrolment.

He stated that as a result of the overall enrolment, the University is not expecting any changes to revenue. He reported no changes to grant funding are expected but noted an increase in expenditures associated with the pandemic including staffing, IT infrastructure, space and planning, health and safety supplies, which add up to a one-time fee of \$22 million. He reported that as a result of

unexpected expenditures, the Board is projecting a \$14 million dollar reduction in the operating reserve but noted that the operating reserve will still remain above minimum requirements.

Strategic Plan Steering Committee

An Official Observer (B. MacDougall-Shackleton) provided the following question in advance:

Regarding the terms of reference and selection process for the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, I note that most committee members are to be appointed by the President from the slate of nominees, rather than democratically elected from the slate of nominees by their colleagues or other relevant group. Can the administration justify this approach? UWOFA is concerned that this process undermines the spirit of collegial self-governance.

The President stated that the strategic planning discussions require a robust set of discussions over a period of time and noted the appetite and desire of the Western community to engage in these discussions. He reported that the strategic planning process was intended to begin in the spring but was postponed due to the pandemic. He advised Senate of the desire from the Board of Governors to renew discussions around strategic planning and to initiate the strategic planning process beginning with the development of a committee. He reported that a draft strategic planning steering committee structure had been developed and he highlighted the desire to create a committee with a broad range of individuals that is inclusive and representative of the diverse groups and areas that exist across campus. The President acknowledged the request from Senate to be engaged in the nomination process and agreed to bring forward the proposed slate of nominees to the October Senate through the nominating committee.

A Senator (J. Toswell) provided the following question in advance:

Why is the president circumventing Senate and its democratic procedures in the development of the strategic planning steering committee? This committee will be responsible for bringing to Senate the document that will underpin the university's planning and budgeting for at least the next five years and set the agenda for research and teaching at Western for much longer than that. Should Senate not have a serious voice in the membership of the steering committee--which is notably not even the committee that will write the plan?

The President welcomed the opportunity for Senate to be engaged in the nomination process and reported that the process would be revised to permit Senate to vote on a slate of nominees for the academic positions on the committee at the October Senate meeting. He reported that administrative and community positions would remain appointed and not elected. He reported that a call for nominations had been drafted and will be released once finalized.

Proctor Track

A Senator (P. Thomlinson) provided the following question in advance:

Western Student Senators would like to inquire about the policies surrounding examinations conducted via Proctor Track. We are curious to hear whether certain settings will be mandated, to allow for washroom breaks for example, and if there are alternative options that are being provided to

students, biometric readings being taken, and having a recording made of their writing of exams.

J. Hutter, Acting Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), reported that Proctor Track has a number of settings, with some listed as default settings and the remaining as optional settings that the instructor can choose to initiate. He stated that should a student leave the room for any purpose during an exam, it would generate a flag for the proctor to review, citing the similarity to a proctor recording a student in person leaving the room for any purpose during an exam, indicating the purpose and duration. He advised that it would be preferable for students not to take a washroom break during an exam if possible. He stated that the Office of the Registrar has developed a template that will outline the rules for completing an online exam via Proctor Track and noted that washroom breaks are referenced within the document.

A Senator (L. Ghattas) queried whether there would be additional options for students who do not want to use proctor track.

J. Hutter reported that no defined options have been outlined at this point in time and stated that arrangements for students would be made on an individual basis as required.

A Senator (R. Flemming) queried how students can request an accommodation through Proctor Track.

J. Hutter reported that students requiring accommodated exams would request the accommodation through Accessible Education. He stated that Accessible Education would provide the instructions to the instructor who would adjust the settings in Proctor Track to complete the accommodation request.

International Pathway College

A Senator (S. Pitel) provided the following question in advance:

What negotiations, discussions or other communications have happened between Western and Navitas since June 1, 2020? What is the current status of those negotiations, discussions or other communications? Have any Faculties other than Arts and Humanities passed resolutions addressing a possible relationship between Western and Navitas?

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) stated that the work since June 1, 2020 has been primarily internal to review interest within departments and faculties on creating pathways and undertaking the necessary due diligence that would be required.

Strategic Mandate Agreement

A Senator (J. Toswell) submitted the following question in advance:

We've heard some quite unusual numbers about first-year students this year: that domestic acceptances were up 23%, then 23%, that international acceptances were down but not by as much as expected. The first-year contingent is rumoured to be around 6000 students, which does mean a significant rise from 2019-20 with its 5322 first-year students (according to the IPB summary of enrolment). Without suggesting that we need to know the exact number before the November 1 lockdown, could we have some clarity on the first-year entry? Domestic vs international? Breakdown by faculty? Ontario and other provinces?

If indeed the domestic numbers are vastly increased, is there any reason for this? Rumour has a few, but it would be useful for Senators to know why our numbers are up so high, and whether this is to continue (it's pretty rare that a university, once it has gotten used to all that lovely tuition money) will reduce its numbers.

Are there any implications for the Strategic Mandate Agreement (2 or 3)? That is, are we over our enrolment corridor and about to return to the delightful days of "unfunded students"?

A. Hrymak stated that it was too early to project the Faculty specific breakdown but noted that some faculties are likely to be over target citing Social Science, Dan Management, Health Sciences and Engineering. Regarding first-year enrolment, A. Hrymak reported an increase in first entry and domestic students due to a larger number of offers than usual earlier in the year, along with promotion of services and ongoing engagement with students. He reported additional staff were hired to support ongoing engagement of incoming and current students and new financial supports were promoted to students to encourage students to attend or remain at Western.

Regarding whether domestic numbers will continue to remain high, A. Hrymak reported that the University focuses on growth where there is student demand, program capacity and the infrastructure to support student needs while reviewing budgetary impacts. He noted that the University has reduced first-year enrollment in previous years when it was considered appropriate.

A. Hrymak reported that the University does not anticipate any implications for the Strategic Mandate Agreement 3 citing the robust agreement that was developed and signed. He stated that the University will have to review how to support unfunded enrolment positions, if any, through the budgetary process. He advised that all enrolment planning is completed in consultation with the Deans as part of the budget planning process and is taken into consideration when reviewing revenue that would come from tuition and grant funding.

Academic Appeals and Code of Conduct Violations

A Senator (J. Toswell) submitted the following question in advance:

Given the difficulties with the end of term, I am wondering what the situation was in terms of both academic appeals and code of conduct violations. Could the chair of the Senate Review Board Academic provide Senate with any guidance as to how that committee's workload has fared from March to September 2020. And, as a courtesy, could Senate learn from the chair of the Board committee University Discipline Appeal Committee as to its workload, and also as to whether it has considered any policy changes in response to code of conduct violations during the pandemic?

A. Hrymak reported that the number of appeals received are in line with the number of appeals that have been received in previous years. He cited that COVID-19 was listed for a number of appeals but not a significant number were associated with the pandemic. A. Bryson, Acting University Secretary (University Secretariat) stated that there were no appeals to UDAC.

FOCO

A senator (L. Ricker) queried the University's approach to large street parties and gatherings such as FOCO in the midst of the pandemic. The President reported that the University has limited capacity to

regulate student conduct off-campus but reported that the University continues to work with the City of London and London Police Services to dissuade students from engaging in large gatherings and parties. He noted the responsibility of students to follow public health guidelines to ensure the safety of the Western community.

A senator (M. Garabedian) queried whether the University can implement further restrictions to off-campus student conduct within the student code of conduct, citing changes implemented last year in relation to off-campus street parties. The President reported that it would be difficult for the University to monitor off-campus behavior on a routine basis and stated that students need to exercise their social responsibilities to ensure the safety of themselves and others in the Western and greater London communities.

Self-Funded International Students

A senator discussed the challenges in funding relating to the admittance of PhD students within the Faculty of Education and queried whether the University can admit self-funded international PhD students noting the practice is common at other Universities globally.

L. Miller, Vice-Provost (Graduate & Post-Doctoral Studies) reported that the School of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies does not determine who is admitted, noting the decision is made at the program level. She stated that different programs and faculties have different strategies on determining who will be admitted. She reported that Western University has a guaranteed funding package for PhD students and stated that in previous years, students who have been admitted without funding typically inquire why they are not receiving funding when they become aware of the University's guaranteed funding package. As a result, she stated that it has not been in the best interest of the student to admit self-funded students noting that she was not aware of many students who remained self-funded beyond the first term.

Residence Capacity

A senator queried at what capacity the University's residences are operating.

L. Logan Vice-President (Operations & Finance) reported that the University currently has 3,746 students in residence, representing approximately 70% capacity, with one student who chose to return home.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
Acting University Secretary