

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

December 04, 2020

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

SENATORS:

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
T. Jenkyn
G. Kelly
J. Kitz
J. Langille
W. Lehmann
J. Li
D. Malloy
C. McLeod
M. McMurrin
L. Melnyk Gribble
K. Mequanint
A. Meyer
M. Milde
L. Miller
K. Miller
J. Minac
A. Nelson
C. Nolan
J. Nord
A. Pahargarh

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

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

Land Acknowledgement

J. Wilson offered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.20-194 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2020 were approved as circulated.

S.20-195 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: COVID-19 updates, accolades, and leadership updates.

The President additionally commented on the following items:

- The Middlesex-London Health Unit has declared that London will move into Orange Level on December 7, 2020
- Western is currently operating under all of the requirements of the Orange Level. There will be no changes to current operations, as we are already adhering to a higher standard of safety
- There have been no cases of COVID-19 transmission related to academic activities or research settings on campus
- Christine Elliot, Minister of Health, announced the members of a task force that will advise the government on the distribution of the vaccine. Professor Maxwell Smith, from the Faculty of Health Sciences, and our Chancellor Linda Hasenfratz have been selected to be part of the panel
- The Strategic Planning Committee has met twice as a group, alongside individual and small group meetings. There will be opportunities in January for widespread participation
- Western Speaker Series

S.20-196 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.20-197 **ITEM 5.1(a) – Revisions to the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University – Change of Title in Section U: Secretary of Senate**

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

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors, that the title of "Secretary of Senate" in the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University (Section U) be changed to "University Secretary".

CARRIED

S.20-198 **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) – 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Senate Review Board Academic

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.20-199 **ITEM 5.2(a)(i) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Faculty of Social Science, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies: Renaming of the “Women’s Studies” Subject Area**

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

That the subject area of “Women’s Studies” be renamed as the subject area of “Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies”, effective September 1, 2021.

CARRIED

S.20-200 **ITEM 5.2(a)(ii) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Faculty of Social Science, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies: Renaming of the Honours Specialization, Specialization, Major, and Minor in Women’s Studies**

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

That effective September 1, 2021, the Honours Specialization, Specialization, Major and Minor in Women’s Studies be renamed as the Honours Specialization, Specialization, Major, and Minor in Gender and Women’s Studies.

CARRIED

S.20-201 **ITEM 5.2(b) – Faculty of Engineering: Introduction of a New Subject Area in “Engineering Leadership and Innovation” (ELI)**

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

That effective September 1, 2021, “Engineering Leadership and Innovation” be introduced as a new subject area and included in Category C for Breadth Requirements for Graduation.

CARRIED

S.20-202 **ITEM 5.2(c) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Withdrawal of the Thesis-Based Master of Music (MMus) in Literature and Performance**

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

That the thesis-based Master of Music (MMus) in Literature and Performance be withdrawn, effective September 1, 2021.

CARRIED

S.20-203 **ITEM 5.2(d) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of History: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization in American Cultural Studies, the Major in American Studies, and the Minor in American Studies**

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

That effective September 1, 2020 the admission and program requirements of the Honours Specialization in American Cultural Studies, the Major in American Studies, and the Minor in American Studies be revised as shown in Item 5.2(d).

CARRIED

S.20-204 **ITEM 5.2(e)(i) – Brescia University College: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the Major in Leadership Studies**

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

That the admission requirements of the Major in Leadership Studies at Brescia University College be revised as shown in Item 5.2(e)(i), effective September 1, 2020.

CARRIED

S.20-205 **ITEM 5.2(e)(ii) – Brescia University College: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the Family Studies and Human Development Modules**

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

That the admission requirements of the Family Studies and Human Development modules at Brescia University College be revised as shown in Item 5.2(e)(ii), effective September 1, 2021.

- Honours Specialization in Nutrition and Families – BA (Human Ecology)
Specialization in Nutrition and Families – BA (Human Ecology)
- Major in Nutrition and Families – BA (Human Ecology)
Honours Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BSc (Human Ecology)
- Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BSc (Human Ecology)
Honours Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BA (Human Ecology)
- Specialization in Family Studies and Human Development – BA (Human Ecology)
- Major in Family Studies and Human Development – BA (Human Ecology)
- Minor in Family Studies and Human Development (to be combined with any eligible degree)

CARRIED

S.20-206 **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(f) – Report on Scholastic Offences (2019-2020)
- ITEM 5.2(g) – Revised Sessional Dates – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, MD Program (2020-21)
- ITEM 5.2(h) – New Scholarships and Awards

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

S.20-207 **ITEM 5.3(a) – Guidelines on the Use of Digital Resources**

Item 5.3(a) Guidelines on the Use of Digital Resources was removed from the consent agenda due to the following questions raised by a senator in advance:

Why is this presented to Senate for information since it is obviously policy and as such should be voted by Senate? Who formulated these guidelines and who has approved them? How are they being disseminated across the university? How would decisions not to implement these guidelines be received by relevant Associate Deans?

J. Hutter advised that this is not Western's policy. Our ability to collect fees is governed by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and they explicitly address digital learning materials in a document called the "Tuition Fee Framework and Ancillary Fee Guidelines". J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), wrote the memo providing guidelines for the use of digital resources. It was done in consultation with Senior Administration at other Universities and the University's Legal Department. The guidelines are an interpretation of the provincial policy, not a policy itself.

J. Hutter advised that all Associate Deans and Deans have received this information. How it is disseminated after that is going to be dependent on the context of the faculty. This information will go to the Board of Governors since it is related to fees.

A senator expressed concerns that it is not clear from the guidelines document which parts are mandated by the province, and which parts of it are our choice.

A. Hrymak responded that we are providing these guidelines to meet the Ministry's policy requirements. If we need to refer to the full policy, we would do so through the appropriate units, IPB or the Registrar's Office. In conclusion, the guidelines are meant as an aid to help the instructors and the academic unit leaders to interpret the policy.

J. Hutter agreed to an amendment that would make it clear that this is not a Western policy, but guidelines to ensure we are consistent with the Ministry policy.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.20-208 **ITEM 7.1 – Policy Amendment: Structure of the Academic Year**

Senate received the Policy Amendment to the Structure of the Academic Year for information.

S.20-209 **ITEM 7.2 – Revisions to the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University – Addition of the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)**

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

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors, that the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University be amended to include the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) as shown in Item 7.2.

CARRIED

S.20-210 **ITEM 7.3 – Revisions to the Adopted Policies and Procedures of Senate – Section 4: Discussion and Question Period**

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

That the Adopted Policies and Procedures of Senate – Section 4: Discussion and Question Period be revised as shown in Item 7.3, effective December 4, 2020.

CARRIED

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.20-211 **ITEM 8.1 – Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC) Membership**

Inaara Savani (Student) was acclaimed to the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC) committee.

S.20-212 **ITEM 8.2 – Selection Committee for the Provost & Vice-President (Academic)**

M. Garabedian (Student) was acclaimed to the selection committee for the Provost & Vice-President (Academic).

A senator nominated J. Garland for a position on the selection committee. An election was held following the Senate meeting. The Senate representatives on the Selection Committee for the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) are: C. Steeves, E. MacDougall-Shackleton, J. Burkell and J. Garland.

S.20-213 **REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS**

J. Cuciurean, Chair (SCAPA) provided an oral update on the work of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

S.20-214 ITEM 10.1 – Budget Planning Guidelines

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Planning, Budgeting & Information Technology) presented ITEM 10.1, the Budget Planning Guidelines.

A senator asked how the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) tier one and tier two are allocated.

A. Hrymak advised that the CRC's are allocated on a formula basis. The CRC website lists the pattern of how they are distributed based on the tri-council funding that Western has received over a three-year window. Therefore, tier one and tier two allocations are pre-determined. Western is currently only advertising for tier two because they are vacant. There were opportunities to split a tier one into two tier twos, or to combine two tier twos and make them into one tier one. We are only allowed a certain number of changes within the CRC window. A. Hrymak recommends that we proceed with the allocation given by the CRC Secretariat.

A senator asked why the Budget Planning Guidelines document is presented to Senate in December, as opposed to either in September or October after it is released.

A. Hrymak responded that the information in the document was presented during the budget town halls in October. The guidelines were also internally circulated within the faculties by the Deans to their unit leaders. However, earlier distribution of the document to Senate will be considered in the future.

S.20-215 ITEM 10.2 – Western Libraries Annual Report 2019/20

C. Steeves, Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian presented ITEM 10.2, the Western Libraries Annual Report 2019/20.

A senator asked for updates on the Learning Commons project.

C. Steeves advised that is anticipated that the Learning Commons construction will begin in May and continue until August.

S.20-216 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

A. Shepard thanked A. Hrymak for all his outstanding work as Provost. He congratulated A. Hrymak on his new role commencing January 2021 as Special Advisor on industry partnerships, the green economy and sustainability.

A senator asked when Professor Donna Kotsopoulos will begin her term as Dean of the Faculty of Education.

A. Hrymak responded that Professor Donna Kotsopoulos will begin her term on January 1, 2021.

Technology Enhancements

A senator raised a question about the implications of technology enhancements and the obligation to provide software and computing requirements to allow students to acquire the technology needed on their computers.

J. Hutter responded that most of the technology required is web based and does not require software. There may be courses where the entire course is based on a software package that needs to be installed. Presumably, students would be aware prior to starting the course of the software needed and requirements to run it. It is advised that students consult their instructors on these matters.

Winter Break

A Senator submitted the following question in advance:

Will assessments for full-year courses that were originally due during the first week back (Jan 4th) still be due during that week? Or does the extension of the break push all due dates back until classes start on the 11th?

J. Hutter responded that instructors were requested to specify new dates to their courses by December 18 if possible, to give students clarity on what to expect in January.

Strategic Mandate Agreement

A Senator submitted the following question in advance:

The Strategic Mandate Agreement for Western (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2020-2025-strategic-mandate-agreement-western-university>) states as follows: "Faculty activity - Information regarding Western University faculty activity will be publicly available in Year 3 (2022–23)." What does Western understand is meant by or covered by the term "faculty activity"? What information is going to be made available to the public?

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Budgeting, Planning & Information Technology) responded that the Ministry changed the terminology from "faculty workload" to "faculty activity" as they were originally interested in faculty teaching activity. There was discussion between the Ministry and COU to define faculty activity. Due to the pandemic, the Strategic Mandate Agreement discussion has come to a halt, and it is expected to resume sometime in February or March.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
Acting University Secretary

