MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

September 17, 2021

The meeting was held at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

SENATORS:

A. Shami
K. Arora
P. Barmby
A. Barnfield
A. Baxter
J. Baxter
I. Berry
E. Boussoulas
D. Brou
S. Burke
C.Burghardt-Jesson
C. Burucúa
E. Chamberlain
J. Chazi
M. Cleveland
K. Coley
J. Compton
S. Constas
J. Corrigan
J. Cuciurean
S. Datars Bere
M. Davison
G.De Viveiros
R. Dekoter
M. Fahmida
L. Frederking
C. Gallant
J. Garland
K. Gibbons
R. Gros
A. Haque
N. Harney
L. Henderson
R. Heydon
S. Hodgson
V. Jaremek
T. Jenkyn
T. Joy
S. Kadish
E. Kalaydjian
S. Karky
R. Kennedy
M. Kim
D. Kotsopoulos
J. Lacefield
D. Laird
J. Langille
M. Lebo
D. Lee
L. Lewis
J. Li
L. Logan
M. Longtin
D. Malloy
M. Milde
L. Miller
J. Minac
K. Mooney
S. Morrison
A. Nelson
J. Nord
J. O'Hagan
A. Pahargarh
M. Patel
T. Peace
P. Peddle
S. Powell
S. Prichard
D. Purcell
A. Pyati
V. Radcliffe
G. Read
L. Rigg
A. Robin
S. Roland
J. Schermer
A. Schuurman
A. Shepard
Z. Sinel
V. Smye
B. Sriharan
C. Steeves
L. Stephenson
L. Stoyles
G. Tigert
J. Watson
K.Yeung
J. Yoo
S. Zivkovic

Observers: P. Barmby, V. Bhat, C. Bressette, J. Doerksen, Z. Fakirani, R. Isard, M. McGlynn, N. Narin, k. seanor,

The start of the Senate meeting was delayed to 2:30 pm in respect of the student-led walkout.

Land Acknowledgement
C. Bressette offered a Land Acknowledgement.

A moment of silence was offered for the loss of first-year student Gabriel Neil.

S.21-176 **Minutes of Prior Meeting**
The minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2021 were approved as circulated.

S.21-177 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**
The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: COVID-19 update, accolades, and leadership updates.

The President additionally commented on the following items:

- Senate will continue virtually under provincial guidelines as social distancing measures have only been lifted for post-secondary classroom settings.
- Expressed sorrow and extended condolences to Gabriel Neil's family.
- Acknowledged the student-led walk out to protest against gender-based sexual violence. The President noted he attended the walk-out and commended the students for organizing a safe event.
- No comment can be provided at the current time on the social media reports of sexual assaults at Medway-Sydenham Hall, as an independent police investigation has been launched.
- Confirmed four separate complaints of sexual violence from students were filed during the previous week.
- Acknowledged students' concerns over the recent events and announced the launching of the student safety action plan and task force on sexual violence and student safety in response.
- The Board of Governors overwhelmingly approved the University Strategic Plan at its previous meeting, following Senate's recommendation.
- Welcomed Opiyo Oloya as the first Associate Vice-President of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, effective August 30, 2021. The President thanked Bertha Garcia and Lisa Highgate, who served as Special Advisors to the President on Anti-Racism.
- Congratulated Philosophy professor Carolyn McLeod, elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and Earth Sciences professor Catherine Neish, named a member of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.
- The Provost search is ongoing.
- Welcomed newly appointed Deans, Nick Harney, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, and Michael Kim, Dean of the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

The President concluded his report by applauding the collective efforts of the Western Community to ensure a COVID-safe return to an in-person academic experience.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.21-178 **ITEM 5.1 – Announcement of a Vice-Chair of the Operations/Agenda Committee**

E. Chamberlain announced the Vice-Chair of the Operations/Agenda Committee (Sophie Roland) and gave an overview on the work of the Committee.

S.21-179 **ITEM 5.2 – Senate Observer: Lecturer**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That an Observer seat on Senate be assigned effective immediately for a Lecturer Representative.

CARRIED

A Senator voiced the disappointment of Lecturers, as an Observer seat will not allow them to vote on Senate. The Senator requested to pursue alternatives to amending the Act to allow voting rights.

The USC representative noted the USC is in support of the motion, as it will allow for more diversity on Senate.

S.21-180 **ITEM 5.3 – Update on the OAC ad hoc Working Group re: SCAPA and its Subcommittees**

E. Chamberlain provided a verbal update on the OAC ad hoc Working Group re: SCAPA and its Subcommittees.

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.21-181 **ITEM 6.1 – Announcement of the Senate Nominating Committee Chair and Vice-Chair**

K. Yeung announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee (Ken Yeung and Mark Cleveland, respectively), and gave an overview of the work of the Committee.

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.21-182 **ITEM 7.1 – Announcement of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards**

J. Cuciurean announced the Chair and Vice-Chair of SCAPA (John Cuciurean and Mark Workentin, respectively), and gave an overview of the work of the Committee.

S.21-183 **ITEM 7.2 – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Information and Media Studies and Don Wright Faculty of Music: Introduction of a Major in Creative Arts and Production**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That effective September 1, 2022, a Major in Creative Arts and Production be introduced jointly by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the Faculty of Information and Media Studies and the Don Wright Faculty of Music, subject to Quality Council approval.

CARRIED

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

S.21-184 **ITEM 8.1 – Announcement of a Chair of the Senate Committee on University Planning**

M. Davison announced the Chair of SCUP (Matt Davison), and gave an overview of the work of the Committee.

S.21-185 **REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD**

L. Rigg (Chair of the University Research Board) provided an overview of the work of the Committee.

S.21-186 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That the items listed in the Consent Agenda, be approved or received for information by the Senate by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.21-187 **Information Items Reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee on Unanimous Consent**

- 11.1(a) Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment

ITEM 11.1(b) – Ivey Business School Council Constitution

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

That effective September 17, 2021, the Ivey Business School Council Constitution be revised as shown.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.21-188 **ITEM 11.2(a) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the Major in Medical Sciences**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

That effective September 1, 2021, the admission requirements of the Major in Medical Sciences, offered by Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, be revised as shown.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-189 **ITEM 11.2(b)(i) – Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to Medical Sciences First Entry**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

That effective September 1, 2021, Medical Sciences First Entry, offered by the Faculty of Science, be revised as shown.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-190 **ITEM 11.2(b)(ii) – Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to Admission to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

That effective September 1, 2021, Admission to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program, offered jointly by the Faculty of Science and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, be revised as shown.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-191 **ITEM 11.2(b)(iii) – Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Modules Offered in the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That effective September 1, 2021, the Modules Offered in the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program, offered jointly by the Faculty of Science and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, be revised as shown.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-192 **ITEM 11.2(b)(iv) – Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That effective September 1, 2021, the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program, offered jointly by the Faculty of Science and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, be revised as shown.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-193 **ITEM 11.2(c) – Faculty of Science, Department of Physics and Astronomy: Introduction of a Minor in Astrophysics**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That effective September 1, 2021, a Minor in Astrophysics be introduced by the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the Faculty of Science.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-194 **ITEM 11.2(d) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of History: Withdrawal of the Major in Middle East Studies**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That effective September 1, 2021, admission to the Major in Middle East Studies be discontinued, and
> That students currently enrolled in the module be allowed to
> graduate upon fulfilment of the module requirements until
> August 31, 2025, and That the module be withdrawn effective September 1, 2025.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-195 **ITEM 11.2(e) – Huron University College: Introduction of a Minor in Environmental Stewardship**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That effective September 1, 2021, a Minor in Environmental Stewardship be introduced at Huron University College

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-196 **ITEM 11.2(f)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioner Graduate Diploma (GDip)**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That effective September 1, 2022, a Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioner Graduate Diploma (GDip) be introduced as shown.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-197 **ITEM 11.2(f)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Master of Clinical Science (MClSc) in Speech-Language Pathology**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That effective September 1, 2021, the Master of Clinical Science (MClSc) in Speech-Language Pathology be revised as shown.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards

S.21-198 The following items reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 11.2(g) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U): Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Languages and Cultures and English and Cultural Studies (Huron University College)
- ITEM 11.2(h) – New Scholarships and Awards

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

S.21-199 **ITEM 11.3(a) – Heart & Stroke/Barnett-Ivey Chair**

It was moved by J. Garland, seconded by V. Radcliffe,

> That Senate approve the name and terms for the Heart & Stroke /Barnett-Ivey Chair be amended as provided.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

S.21-200 **Information Items Reported through Announcements and Communications on Unanimous Consent**

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

- ITEM 11.4(a) – Election Results - Subcommittee for Western Approved Micro-credentials (SWAM)
- ITEM 11.4(b) - Academic Administrative Appointments

S.21-201 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

The full text of questions submitted in advance of the meeting were posted in the Agenda at Item 13.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below.

1. A Senator shared concerns of how questions for Questions Period are reflected in Senate minutes, as they appear summarized and are no longer reproduced verbatim.

A. Bryson responded that Senate's Adopted Policies and Procedures provide that reporting of discussion is to be limited to point form general statements relating to concerns, objections or benefits of a proposal that are not otherwise found in the agenda material. On a Senator's request and with the Chair's permission, the full text of a statement made at Senate will be included in the minutes if doing so appears desirable as a means of clarifying the intended interpretation of a motion. The summarized questions align with the treatment of all other Senate matters by providing summaries and general statements, which provide enough context to provide a basic understanding of the question asked.

The Senator asked whether a statement could be included in the minutes pointing readers to the Agenda package for the full text of the questions and whether, if requested, short questions could be included verbatim.

A. Bryson advised that reference to the Agenda package could be included and that short questions could be reproduced in the minutes, if requested.

[Secretary's note: this would be done in keeping with the provisions of the Adopted Policies and Procedures.]
The Senator also inquired if the minutes could reflect that questions were asked on behalf of the representative's constituents.

A. Bryson responded that, if requested, the description of how questions are presented can be altered to indicate the questions are asked on behalf of a constituency.

2. A Senator requested clarification on the reasoning behind starting Senate meetings with a land acknowledgment, and if the practice may evolve into other formats of observance. The Senator noted a concern that the practice can become a repetitious act with limited self-reflection and without substantive change of institutional practices.

C. Bressette, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives), responded that land acknowledgements are relational indigenous practices rooted in traditional protocols. They can be utilized in various capacities, to serve as a reminder of decolonization, indigenization, recent events that have transpired, and the mandate under the indigenous strategic plan and Western's renewed strategic plan. C. Bressette noted the Office of Indigenous Initiatives recommends that land acknowledgments not be used as a formality, but continuously to help shape how we think about these issues on a daily basis.

C. Bressette advised to visit the Indigenous Initiatives website (https://indigenous.uwo.ca/) for additional resources to help move beyond rote repetition of scripts.

3. A Senator submitted a series of questions on behalf of their constituency, relating to Homecoming, the recent gender-based violence events, safety measures and the culture at Western.

A. Shepard responded to the questions:

- Homecoming will be primarily virtual this year. There will not be a football game on campus and the USC has also cancelled its Homecoming programming.
- At the current time, students are not screened for records of offences. If students had committed crimes as juveniles, those records would be sealed. The task force may consider possible options for screening or requiring disclosure.
- The broken links on the emails about available supports have been fixed.
- Key points to highlight from the new student safety action plan announced on September 16, 2021, in response to concerns about student safety and sexual violence on campus are:
    - All students in residence to take mandatory in-person training on sexual violence prevention, consent and personal safety. This training will be mandatory for all students subsequently. Additional training will be developed for faculty and staff.
    - Increased number of special constables.
    - New safety ambassador program to support students in residence, consisting of upper-year undergraduates and graduate students to be on duty from the evening into the early morning.

- The no-visitors policy in residences is stern, as cards must be swiped to enter residence halls. Additional Code Blue Emergency Phones have been added across campus. Foot patrol, a student-led initiative to provide safe escorts, has restarted for this year. Programming on sexual consent was not removed from orientation, as "One-Love" has continually provided a presentation to thousands of students each year. Additional emergency counselors have been hired, but they are not stationed in the Mustang lounge due to privacy.

- Decisions following a disclosure or a complaint are decided on an individual case by case. If the case involves criminal charges, the assailant is typically trespassed and prohibited from entering campus.

The Senator questioned implementations that followed the 2020 report on gender-based violence at Western, which laid out a framework for education and prevention of sexual violence on campus.

A. Shepard responded that results of the report formed changes to policies regarding reporting and disclosure of sexual violence, which has been ratified by the Board of Governors. He noted the task force will include looking at the report.

A Senator voiced concerns of his colleagues about the recent events and questioned if the University will conduct an external and independent review.

A. Shepard responded the University would support an independent review to identify any gaps.

A Senator noted the London Free Press and the Gazette published a joint investigative report based on interviews with residents of Medway-Sydenham Hall, suggesting the events are not merely allegations on social media. The Senator asked the President if the recent events are a fallout from Western's long-standing reputation as a party school.

A. Shepard acknowledged the article and would like to wait for the police investigation and independent review regarding the events in the residence on that evening before drawing any conclusions. With respect to reputation, it is a complicated question and requires considering how to set a system of values as an academic community for how students should engage in the teaching and research functions of the institution, while having fun that is still safe. The task force will be asked to consider what kind of cultural change we want to try to induce in the Western University experience. The tag line of "Best Student Experience in a research-intensive University" is quite old and is appropriate to revisit.

The Senator followed up noting that there are elements of toxic masculinity and entitlement in the culture on campus and feels that collectively, we have not done enough for change.

A. Shepard noted that today's walk-out was a call for change with thousands turning out. He noted that a cultural change that endures is a lengthy process and involves a collective commitment from the University community, and indicated that he feels there is goodwill to move forward.

4. A Senator asked whether information on ventilation measures in office spaces can be made available.
A. Shepard advised an update can be provided at the next Senate meeting.

S.21-202 **ITEM 14.0 – New Business: Autumn Convocation (#318)**

A. Shepard announced that in light of ongoing developments and recommendations associated with COVID-19, the Convocation Board approved for virtual convocations to be held for this fall for graduating students.

S.21-203 **ITEM 14.0 – New Business:**

A Senator presented two motions from the floor of Senate:

1. That effective September 17, 2021 until September 24, 2021, the Adding and Dropping Courses Policy be temporarily amended as shown in the details today presented to the University Secretary in recognition that recently, Western University has experienced a number of unfortunate events, including but not limited to the passing of a first-year Health Sciences student and the investigation of a number of Gender-Based and Sexual Violence incidences in residences and,

That the authority to amend the dates for any Senate policies impacted by this temporary change to the Adding and Dropping Courses Policy be delegated to the Office of the Registrar for the period noted above and,

That Faculties be encouraged to demonstrate compassion and provide leniency when considering requests for special permission to add a course past the current add deadline of September 16th, 2021 and,

That effective September 25, 2021 the previous version of the policy, “Last Revised 2017 09” be reinstated.

2. That effective September 17, 2021 until December 8, 2021, the “Academic Consideration for Student Absences – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs” policy be temporarily amended as shown in the details today presented to the University Secretary in recognition that recently, Western University has experienced a number of unfortunate events, including but not limited to the passing of a first-year Health Sciences student and the investigation of a number of Gender-Based and Sexual Violence incidences in residences and,

That effective December 9, 2021 the previous version of the policy, “Last Revised 2019 10” be reinstated.

A. Shepard received the two Notices of Motion and referred them to SCAPA for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

A. Shepard Chair	A. Bryson University Secretary