MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

June 9, 2023

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

SENATORS:

M. Adler
G. Arku
P. Barmby
A. Baxter
F. Beier
M. Bordignon
A. Bryson
S. Burke
C. Burucúa
M. Cleveland
K. Coley
M. Davison
G. De Viveiros
D. Ferri
R. Forrester-Jones
L. Frederking
A. Fremeth
T. Granadillo
A. Haque
L. Henderson
R. Heydon
A. Hodgson
M. Joanisse
T. Joy
M. Kim
K. Kirkwood
D. Kotsopoulos
J. Lacefield
Y. Laforet-Fliesser
D. Laird
J. Langille
D. Lee
A. Liu
M. Milde
L. Miller
J. Minac
M. Modeski
K. Mooney
S. Morrison
I. Namukasa
B. Neff
A. Nelson
C. Nicholls
T. Orchard
T. Peace
K. Pollock
S. Powell
A. Pyati
A. Robin
C. Robinson
S. Roland
B. Rubin
H. Samson
A. Schuurman
A. Shami
Z. Sinel
D. Smith
C. Steeves
L. Stephenson
F. Strzelczyk
J. Sutton
J. Toswell
R. Ventresca
J. Watson
S. Whitehead

Observers: C. Bressette, J. Doerksen , S. Lewis, N. Narain, J. Weststar

Vice-Chair Sophie Roland acted as Chair of the Senate.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A. Haque offered a Land Acknowledgement.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

The Vice-Chair outlined the procedures to be used during the Zoom meeting and while voting

on motions.

S.23-131 **ITEM 2.0 – Minutes of the Meeting of May 19, 2023**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

That the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2023, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

S.23-132 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: launching of the new mentorship network by Western Research, Western ranking of ninth in the world overall among over 1,700 universities in the Time Higher Education 2023 Impact Rankings, Ivey executive education ranked top in Canada, the spring Convocation, recent accolades, and leadership updates.

There was no verbal report.

S.23-133 **REPORT OF THE PROVOST**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) provided a verbal report. As part of her remarks, F. Strzelczyk highlighted the various activities and initiatives accomplished by the Office of the Provost in the last academic year. Sincere appreciation was extended to colleagues around the campus, Senators, and committee members for their efforts and time.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.23-134 **ITEM 6.1 – Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian**

Manina Jones, Donna Kotsopoulos and Sophie Roland were acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian as faculty members.

Matheus Sanita Lima was acclaimed to the Selection/Review Committee for the Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian as a student representative.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

S.23-135 **ITEM 7.1 – Introduction of an "Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Option" Policy**

M. Milde invited L. Miller to address questions and provide context. She provided an overview of the proposal to introduce the Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Option policy.

L. Miller stated that the proposed option for the combined PhD, which was piloted with a small number of students, will be a unique opportunity in Canada offered by Western.

A Senator raised concerns regarding contradictions in the document with respect to supervisor's support. L. Miller proposed a friendly amendment to the wording in item 2.1 to change it to "The student shall have two supervisors – one supervisor with doctoral membership in each graduate program" and to eliminate item 3.3.

In response to a question on the time required to complete a combined PhD program, L. MIiller explained that this is meant to be a unique program and would be designed with an individual plan for each student that aligns with their interests and goals.

A Senator expressed concerns that it might be difficult to attain the same level of expertise while gaining a broader understanding of multiple fields, as one who specializes solely in one field.

A Senator raised concerns with respect to employment opportunities for students with a combined degree. L. Miller noted that one of the factors in bringing this forward was to address new areas of study and potential future demand of candidates with these skills.

In response to a comment regarding comprehensive exams, L. Miller noted that because comprehensive exams are highly varied in and across programs, they will be customized for each student and may not combine the programs.

A Senator expressed support for the proposal and stated that pursuing a combined degree in the intersection of existing disciplines offers various advantages, including a wider range of career opportunities and innovations.

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective July 1, 2023, an "Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Option" policy be introduced as shown in Item 7.1 as amended.

CARRIED

S.23-136 **ITEM 7.2 – Revisions to the "Accommodation for Religious Holidays" Policy**

M. Milde provided an overview of the proposed changes to the "Accommodation for Religious Holidays" policy.

A Senator raised concerns with respect to the appeal process described in the policy. M. Milde provided an explanation regarding the current appeals process.

In response to a concern regarding the notification process M. Milde stated that with respect to human rights, accommodation for religious holidays should be considered as a notification rather than a request.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the proposed changes to the "Accommodation for Religious Holidays" policy. During the debate on the motion the following points were raised:

- Concerns with respect to multi-day accommodation, especially for short-term courses.
- A suggestion to not specify major religious holidays in a list. When a policy identifies certain religions while excluding others, it leads to discrimination and and does not reflect human rights principles.
- A concern regarding the requirement to not schedule the final exams during religious holidays, as being too broad.
- A suggestion to use the term "accommodation" which refers to a legal obligation rather than "academic consideration" and to reflect that in the policy.
- An observation that it is important to take into consideration the observation of multiple religions.

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the "Accommodation for Religious Holidays" policy be revised as shown in Item 7.2.

DEFEATED

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP)

S.23-137 **ITEM 9.1 – Global Engagement Plan**

M. Davison provided an overview of the proposal and invited F. Strzelczyk to present the Global Engagement Plan for approval. F. Strzelczyk expressed the gratitude to those members who contributed to final edits.

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That Senate recommend the approval of Western's Global Engagement Plan to the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

S.23-138 **REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD**

ITEM 10.1 – Vice President (Research) Annual Report

B. Neff, Acting Vice-President (Research) presented his annual report to Senate for information and outlined the major accomplishments of the Western research community over the past academic year.

B. Neff continued his report with relevant statistics regarding the University's research funding performance, including Tri-Agency funding. Towards the end of his report, B. Neff outlined the plans for the upcoming year.

During the discussion, B. Neff addressed questions regarding the collection of information on research applications in light of security concerns. He acknowledged that this is an ongoing

conversation at the provincial level. He stated that applications denied funding due to security concerns are not flagged by Western.

In response to questions regarding Western's approach to educating faculty and staff, he informed Senators that the University has launched a webpage called "Safeguarding Research" which contains best practices and various resources on research security. He also encouraged Senators to provide feedback, as work on this portfolio is ongoing.

A Senator commented on the achievement of the Western Research community and expressed gratitude to Faculties and colleagues for their support.

A Senator commented on research growth and Tri-Agency funding. One-time startup funding was suggested as a means of complementing faculty recruitment efforts. B. Neff acknowledged that this suggestion should be considered and noted that retention and mentorship are critical issues that also need to be addressed.

In response to a question regarding the role and purpose of security agencies' activities on campus, B. Neff stated that an agent was assigned to the whole region of Southern Ontario rather than particularly to Western University and described the nature of this assignment.

B. Neff addressed a question regarding the primary approach to protecting academic freedom in the context of research security threats. He announced the upcoming release of a document which aims to protect Ontario research.

A Senator suggested including as an important resource the Laskin-Pearson Accord which aimed to limit security agency activities on campus with respect to academic freedom (Appendix).

A Senator acknowledged the importance of support to attract professionals with additional funding.

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE

S.23-139 **ITEM 11.0 – Report of the Academic Colleague**

P. Barmby presented the Report of the Academic Colleague referring to materials in the agenda for information.

S.23-140 **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS / AGENDA COMMITTEE (OAC)

S.23-141 The following item reported through the OAC was received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.1(a) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

S.23-142 **ITEM 12.2(a) – Revisions to the "Athletic Financial Awards (AFA)" Policy**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Senate approve that effective July 1, 2023, the "Athletic Financial Awards (AFA)" policy be revised as shown in Item 12.2(a).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND AWARDS (ACA)

S.23-143 **ITEM 12.3(b) – Ivey Business School and Faculty of Social Science, Department of Economics: Revisions to the Program Requirements of Combined Degree Programs**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the program requirements of the following combined degree programs, offered by the Ivey Business School and the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Science, be revised as shown in Item 12.3(b): HBA/Honours Specialization in Economics, HBA/Honours Specialization in Politics, Philosophy and Economics – Economics Concentration (PPE- E), HBA/Honours Specialization in Politics, Philosophy and Economics – Politics and Philosophy Concentration (PPE-P).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-144 **ITEM 12.3(d) – Faculty of Information and Media Studies: Introduction of a FIMS Internship Module**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, a FIMS Internship Module be introduced by the Faculty of Information and Media Studies as shown in Item 12.3(d).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-145 The following item reported through ACA was received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.3(e) – Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Kinesiology: Correction to the Effective Date for Previously Approved Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization in Clinical Kinesiology, the Honours Specialization in Kinesiology – BA, the Honours Specialization in Kinesiology – BSc, and the Major in Kinesiology

S.23-146 **ITEM 12.3(f) – Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Weighted Average Chart in the "Admission to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program" Policy**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the Weighted Average Chart in the "Admission to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program" policy be revised as shown in Item 12.3(f).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-147 **ITEM 12.3(g) – Brescia University College: Introduction of a Major in Nutrition Management**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, a Major in Nutrition Management be introduced by Brescia University College as shown in Item 12.3(g).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-148 **ITEM 12.3(h)(i) – Huron University College: Introduction of a Subject Area in East Asia Studies**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, a subject area in "East Asia Studies" be introduced by Huron University College and included in Category B for Breadth Requirements for Graduation as shown in Item 12.3(h)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-149 The following item reported through ACA was received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.3(h)(ii) – Huron University College: Huron EnRoute Program

S.23-150 **ITEM 12.3(i)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Electrical and Computer Engineering**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Electrical and Computer Engineering be revised as shown in Item 12.3(i)(i).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-151 **ITEM 12.3(i)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Major Modification to the Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, the Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics be revised as shown in Item 12.3(i)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.23-152 **Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards on Unanimous Consent:**

- ITEM 12.3(j) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U): Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Sociology and Philosophy (Huron University College)
- ITEM 12.3(k) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Review of the Graduate Program in Nursing
- ITEM 12.3(l) – Revised Sessional Dates for the Faculty of Education (2023-24)
- ITEM 12.3(n) – New Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING (SCUP)

S.23-153 The following item reported by SCUP was received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 12.4(a) – Faculty Scholar Awards

S.23-154 **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- ITEM 12.5(a) – Election Results – Senate Committees
- ITEM 12.5(b) – Academic Administrative Appointments

S.23-155 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

ITEM 12.1(b) – Report from Convocation Board

A Senator commented on the composition of the Convocation Task Force and noted the need to include a faculty representative. A. Bryson, University Secretary, addressed this question and stated that the Task Force's composition would be broadened to include an additional faculty member and as may be needed, as consultation is conducted and expertise needed is determined.

ITEM 12.3(a) – Ivey Business School: Introduction of a Certificate in Entrepreneurship

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2023, a Certificate in Entrepreneurship be introduced by the Ivey Business School as shown in Item 12.3(a).

CARRIED

ITEM 12.3(c) – Faculty of Education: Major Modification to the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Program

A Senator expressed support and congratulated the Faculty on the launch of the new program.

In response to a question regarding the modification to the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Program, D. Kotsopoulos stated that as of 2015, faculty advisors had become master teacher mentors to support students during their transition from the university to practice.

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Pollock,

> That on the recommendation of ACA, Senate approve that effective September 1, 2024, the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) program, offered by the Faculty of Education, be revised as shown in Item 12.3(c).

CARRIED

ITEM 12.3(m) – Report of the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Academic Courses

A Senator raised a concern that the first report of the newly created Subcommittee was on the Consent agenda.

D. Kotsopoulos addressed a question and provided comments on the work of the Subcommittee in its first year, including the workload, number of reviews, and main challenges it faced. She clarified that there are no Senate rules on reports and noted other first Subcommittee reports had been on the Consent agenda.

ITEM 12.4(a) – Faculty Scholar Awards

A Senator raised concerns regarding the eligibility of clinical faculty members from Schulich for Faculty Scholar Awards.

M. McGlynn, Vice-Provost, Academic Planning, Policy and Faculty, addressed this question and confirmed that clinical faculty are eligible for Faculty Scholar Awards.

S.23-156 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

The full text of questions submitted in advance of the meeting were posted in the Agenda at Item 14.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below.

1. An Official Observer to Senate raised a concern as to whether the Information regarding research applications that would be rejected by CSIS due to security concerns would be collected and distributed, including the explanation for the rejection?

2. An Official Observer to Senate asked as to whether guidance on contact with Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) could be provided to the campus community?

3. A Senator raised a question concerning potential educational activities regarding interactions with CSIS agents in the absence of a legal obligation.

B. Neff, Acting Vice-President (Research), addressed each of these questions during the discussion under Item 10.0 of this agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

The Vice-Chair expressed gratitude to the outgoing Senators for their service.
F. Strzelczyk thanked Michael Milde for serving in his role as a Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

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S. Roland
Vice-Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary