



MINUTES

Thursday, March 11, 2020

Virtual via Zoom

Present: D. Antonowicz, G. Ashoughian, H. Beaudry, G. Brockett, P. Bryden, M.L. Byrne, M. Cantalini-Williams, K. Carter, J. Casey, K. Chahal, S. Chamberlain, L. Chu, A. Clarke, J. Coolman, A. Dang, K. Dowler, J. Empey, S. Ensign, A. Ferenc, C. Francis, S. Ghamat, B. Glencross, A. Goodrum, L. Hawton Kitamura, J. Hennebry, C. Hiebert, J. Holm, M. Hron, S. Isotupa, P. Jamalof, Ma. Kelly, Mi. Kelly, G. Kim, V. Kitaev, H. LeBlanc, K. Lund, D. MacLatchy, D. Maoz, B. McKay, L. McLeod, K. Menon, I. Musa, J. Newman, A. Ngo, L. Noronha, S. Ramsay, M. Reesor, K. Rice, J. Schwieter, K. Shankardass, D. Smith, M. Straub, M. Sweedler, B. Vale, A. Vannelli, M. Wilson, M. Woodford, W. Wu, G. Yun.

Regrets: M. Ahmed, R. Ame, D. Buzza, D. Deutschman, L. Eisler, P. McLaren, E. Mercier, D. Monod, K. Yri.

Absent: S. Cameron, I. Joseph, M. McDonald, J. Smith.

Secretariat: R. Barnes, S. Kelly, A. Juhik, A. Kornobis, A. Lukin.

A. Introduction

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Consent Agenda

D. MacLatchy called the meeting to order, reminded senators of housekeeping information, acknowledged the traditional territory on which the university is situated, and made a call for honorary degree and order of Wilfrid Laurier nominations. J. Newman provided details about the external research partners and award recipient materials provided in the consent portion of the agenda.

MOTION (M. Byrne/S. Chamberlain) **that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item C.9.** **CARRIED.**

2. Leadership Update

a) Report of the President

D. MacLatchy provided a verbal report in addition to the written material, noting: update on Indigenous Initiatives staffing; pandemic updates, with one confirmed case in residence; vaccine clinic being run out of One Market; opportunity to participate in vaccination clinic as part of a secondment; EDI updates, including Black History month, with virtual lectures offered; government relations updates, including COU strategy working group looking at financial viability of the sector, and doing advocacy work on behalf of the university sector as a result of the pandemic; international students unlikely to be able to enter the country in September 2021; and Laurier continues to work with MCU and Milton to finalize Milton Campus.

b) Report of the Provost & VP Academic



A. Vannelli provided a verbal report in addition to the written material, noting: the upcoming pandemic CR credit recommendation from SAPC to next Senate meeting; fall and winter planning; senior search updates; work to align the academic mission planning with budget planning; and updates will be provided to the April meeting of Senate on budget planning progress.

c) Board of Governors Update

A written updated was provided.

d) Question Period: Written or Verbal

One written question was sent in advance by three faculty senators:

“The Administration has communicated its goal of offering ‘as many undergraduate and graduate courses in person as possible within public health guidelines’ for Fall 2021.

Deadlines for assigning courses are fast approaching and yet the faculty still need guidance to make decisions about their course planning. When will the Administration provide more detailed information to faculty about Fall 2021 that includes specific, recommended processes and guidelines?

For example, how should class size be planned in advance? Will there be staggered starts to classes in the same building? Is there a preferred class size? Under what circumstances, such as an acceleration of the vaccine roll-out, might the Administration require all faculty to teach on-campus?”

A. Vannelli responded, noting: all Faculties have submitted preliminary plans for fall and winter terms; Laurier is presuming maximum class sizes for Fall 2021; analysis continues on fall and winter planning; continue to closely monitor public health guidelines and vaccine roll-outs; ongoing consideration of principles for return-to-campus. Further information will be circulated to the Laurier community tomorrow.

Additional questions or comments included: concerns around academic advising by email only for LSBE students, with A. Vannelli noting that leadership is looking at addressing specific needs and complex cases; concerns around students working in different time zones; concerns around switching course requirements once the term has started, with A. Vannelli noted that once a course has started, the class size will not change, and it will not be changed from online to in-person mid-year; and concerns from faculty members about needing to move back in-class with short notice.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising beyond what had been discussed in leadership updates.

B. Discussion



4. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

a) Senate Executive and Finance Committee

i. Recommendation of 2021-2022 Tuition Fee Report

A. Vannelli provided a presentation on the 2021-2022 tuition fee report, noting: an overview of the recommendations; consultation process; process for evaluating international tuition rates and costs of offering the programs; domestic tuition to be frozen at a 0% increase; international tuition to increase by 5-10% for undergraduate programs, and 0-10% for graduate programs, with a maximum increase for returning students at a 5% increase; cost-recovery program rates increase by 0-5%; and non-credit program fees increase by 0-18%.

MOTION (M. Cantalini-Williams/D. Deutschman) **on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, that Senate recommends the Board of Governors approve the 2021-2022 Tuition Fee Report, as proposed. CARRIED. (3 abstentions)**

b) Senate Academic Planning Committee

i. GES Faculty Affiliation Recommendation

A. Vannelli provided an overview of the history leading to the Faculty change recommendation from Arts to Science, noting vision, mission and guiding values; pedagogical approaches; alignment with strategic plans; and opportunities for the GES department as they evolve in the Faculty of Science, and in a multi-campus and international environment. Questions and comments were shared, including: that a realignment to Science is not a divorce from Arts, and collaboration will be maintained with Arts.

MOTION (M. Byrne/A. Goodrum) **on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the change in Faculty affiliation for Geography and Environmental Studies from the Faculty of Arts to the Faculty of Science. CARRIED. (1 opposed, 2 abstentions)**

c) Senate Governance Committee

i. Annual Reports to Senate

Ma. Kelly provided an overview of the recommendation to eliminate the annual reporting from Senate Committees and Divisional Councils to the annual meeting of Senate, noting: thanks to the University Secretariat for the research and work; the history of annual reports coming forward prior to access online; the burden of drafting the reports for administrative staff; that Guelph University is also hoping to eliminate their annual reporting this year; and that eliminating the annual reports requires a change to the Senate By-laws with a 2/3 majority vote. A question was asked on where the Divisional Council information can be found online, with Ma. Kelly noting that the Governance Committee discussed the concern,



and that work needs to be done to ensure this information is available, but that it is a separate issue from the annual reports requirement.

MOTION (Ma. Kelly/M. Byrne) **on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee, that Senate approve the elimination of the Annual Reports to Senate and approve the resulting updates to Senate By-law 5.1.** **CARRIED. (1 abstention)**

5. Planning for Fall/Winter Terms

A. Vannelli shared a presentation on planning for Fall 2021 and Winter 2022, noting: it is a multi-faceted planning approach; objectives and context include planning a safe and staged return to in-person teaching; complementing courses with safe in-person activities; evolving context and planning under volatile and uncertain conditions; various fall scenarios based on social context of the pandemic; prioritization factors; and timelines over the next few weeks. A question was asked around whether information would be provided to support departments in the roll-out, and A. Vannelli responded that yes, everyone will be aware and working together.

6. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

No items were brought forward for discussion.

7. Other Business

A question was asked about whether an announcement about St. Patrick's Day activities would be shared with the university community, and J. Coolman and I. Joseph noted that messaging has been sent directly to students and posted to social media, and the university continues to monitor activity with partners across the region, with not much activity being seen around plans for a large gathering on Ezra Street

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus.