



MINUTES

Monday, April 12, 2021

Present: M. Ahmed, D. Antonowicz, G. Ashoughian, H. Beaudry, P. Bryden, D. Buzza, M.L. Byrne, S. Cameron, M. Cantalini-Williams, K. Carter, J. Casey, K. Chahal, S. Chamberlain, L. Chu, A. Clarke, A. Dang, D. Deutschman, L. Eisler, J. Empey, S. Ensign, C. Francis, S. Ghamat, B. Glencross, A. Goodrum, J. Hennebry, C. Hiebert, J. Holm, I. Joseph, Ma. Kelly, G. Kim, V. Kitaev, H. LeBlanc, K. Lund, D. MacLatchy, D. Maoz, S. Matthews, B. McKay, P. McLaren, L. McLeod, K. Menon, D. Monod, I. Musa, J. Newman, A. Ngo, S. Ramsay, M. Reesor, K. Rice, J. Schwieter, D. Smith, J. Smith, M. Straub, M. Sweedler, D. Treleaven, B. Vale, A. Vannelli, M. Wilson, M. Woodford, W. Wu, K. Yri, G. Yun.

Regrets: G. Brockett, J. Coolman, A. Ferenc, L. Hawton Kitamura, S. Isotupa, Mi. Kelly, E. Mercier, K. Shankardass.

Absent: R. Ame, P. Jamalof, M. McDonald.

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

Resource/Guest: P. Cant, D. Carlin, J. Casey, M. Cox, Z. Danis, S. Heath, K. Keihl, P. Popp.

A. Introduction

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Consent Agenda

D. MacLatchy welcomed senators, provided a land acknowledgement, commented on the recent news from Laurentian University, and congratulated Dr. K. Lund on her permanent role as Principal-Dean of Martin Luther University College. D. MacLatchy noted that an additional briefing note was circulated to Senate late last week with a motion pertaining to the Laurentian University Senate. If Senate wishes, this can be added to today's agenda under "Other Business" for discussion.

MOTION (S. Chamberlain/J. Newman) **that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item C.11., with an amendment to the April 12, 2021 Senate agenda to include "Motion in Support of Collegial Governance and Laurentian University Senate" under Other Business.**

CARRIED (1 abstention)

2. Leadership Update

a) Report of the President

D. MacLatchy provided a number of updates in addition to the written report, noting: the province is currently in a third state of emergency and stay-at-home order; university continues to comply with provincial requirements, provide updates on the pandemic for the university community, and continue vaccine conversations with public health; a Town Hall for students was hosted to answer questions about Fall 2021, with similar sessions for faculty, staff and graduate students upcoming; a thank you to everyone during this uncertain time; Special Constable Service review is now complete with a



report to be submitted in the coming weeks; government update that micro-credentials will now be OSAP eligible to allow a greater number of students to access these programs; risk guidelines for integrating national security considerations into the evaluation and funding of research partnerships; updates on provincial budget, government grants and funding announcements that are relevant to post-secondary education; and temporary Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit was announced to allow upskilling and reskilling to be eligible for income tax credit.

b) Report of the Provost & VP Academic

A. Vannelli provided a number of updates in addition to the written report, noting: planning for Fall 2021 is well underway, with update emails circulated to the university community last week; further details will be available in upcoming presentations; partnership with Navitas International was formally announced, with a soft launch of 20 students planned for Fall 2021; challenges driving the budget preparation this year; and senior search updates with the final three decanal searches upcoming this spring.

c) Question Period: Written or Verbal

Two written questions sent in advance that will be addressed later in the meeting; no verbal questions were posed.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None noted.

B. Discussion

4. *In Camera* Session

MOTION (J. Newman/D. Buzza) **to move *in camera*.**

CARRIED

The meeting later returned to open session.

5. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

a) Senate Executive and Finance Committee

i. Recommendation of 2021-2022 Non-Tuition Fee Report

Z. Danis provided a brief overview of the Non-Tuition Fee Report, with an overview of the committee membership, how the report was created, changes in fees, and items for referendum as noted within the report.

MOTION (A. Goodrum/D. Smith) **on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, that Senate recommends the Board of Governors approve the 2021-2022 Non-Tuition Fee Report, as proposed.**

CARRIED (1 abstention)



ii. Financial Outlook and Budget Update

Presentation slides were shared in advance. L. Noronha and A. Vannelli provided an update on the budget to date as well as the upcoming financial outlook. Questions or comments were posed, including: whether or not deficits will be covered by the departments in debt, with a response provided that the overall budget rolls all debt together, but it is tracked separately and debt will be repaid by the ancillaries post-pandemic; and that a surplus in salary spending means fewer faculty members causing concern that surplus is not being reinvested in the faculty complement, with a response provided that discussions continue around filling positions with equity-seeking groups, and that tenure-track positions are limited this year due to budget limitations.

b) Senate Academic Planning Committee

i. Pandemic-Related CR Grade Option

A. Vannelli provided an overview of the proposed pandemic-related grading option, including: Laurier has continued to show compassion during the pandemic toward students; SAPC looked at a permanent option landing on a response to the pandemic as a permanent solution; considerations discussed by SAPC included the long-term impacts of CRs on transcripts; and the pandemic CR option would continue until the academic disruption is declared ended. J. Casey noted a thank you to students for their input and consultation, and that communications will be shared with all students in the next few days around roll-out of this option. Questions and comments included: whether student with academic misconduct findings can utilize the CR option for the course, with a response being provided that specific details will be provided in the FAQs; whether the academic disruption will continue to apply to students in the fall term; and what percentage of students are using this CR option, with a response being provided that 7.4% of the grades have been converted at the undergraduate level, and 0.3% of grades at the graduate level.

MOTION (A. Vannelli/J. Casey) on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve, commencing with the Winter 2021 term forward until the academic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is declared ended as per Policy 2.5 on Academic Disruption, the availability and usage of a COVID-related CR grade option of up to 0.5 credits per term to a total maximum of 1.0 credits for an undergraduate or graduate degree. CARRIED (1 opposed)

ii. Duolingo English Test for Undergraduate Admissions

J. Casey presented information on the Duolingo English Test, which would be utilized for undergraduate admissions for the 2021 admissions cycle. Questions were posed, including: whether Languages faculty members were consulted on the use of the platform, with a response being provided that calculation of GPAs is being used as strong evidence that it is performing as an



accommodating tool during the pandemic disruption for international students; and whether consideration was given for using this tool for graduate admissions, with a response provided that it was not considered a good fit for graduate studies at this time.

MOTION (J. Casey/M. Cantalini-Williams) on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the continued use of the Duolingo English Test (DET) to meet the English Language Proficiency requirement for undergraduate admissions for the 2021 admissions cycle.

CARRIED (1 abstention)

6. Fall Planning Update

P. Cant, I. Joseph and A. Vannelli provided an update on Fall 2021 planning, noting: objectives for Fall and Winter; planning for a return to campus within public health guidelines; an evolving context of planning with a number of scenarios; prioritizing courses for in-person delivery; next steps for academic planning; timeline for assignment of faculty workload for both in-person and online; focus on activities that help students connect; getting students into the Laurier culture who missed first year; residence rates to try to increase to get back on budget within the public safety guidelines; aligning administrative and in-person activities to support student needs; staff to be given at least a month's notice before returning to work in-person; consideration of accommodations needed for family or medical care; and plans for a more flexible working environment in the future. A comment was shared that those not following public-health measures will hinder the ability to get back to the student life experience that students want.

7. Access Copyright Update

G. Ashoughian and S. Rowe shared an update on enhanced rights for access copyright, including: an overview of renewal terms; an update to the contract that affects the remote environment; transactional licensing and clearance services that save time and money for Laurier; flat administrative fee; students will continue to cover a certain amount per term; a consultative process was completed; and the University Library has responsibility as the copyright clearance centre for the university. A concern was shared that half of Ontario universities have discontinued their license and that the agreement is not in the best interest of faculty and students, and a question was posed around the amount of material per work that can be utilized, with further conversations and questions to be followed up on with S. Rowe and G. Ashoughian.

8. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

There were no items brought forward from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

9. Other Business



Senate

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i. Motion in Support of Collegial Governance and Laurentian University Senate

D. Monod withdrew the motion, noting recent updates shared from Laurentian University on faculty layoffs, resulting in the motion for collegial support no longer being relevant.

10. Adjournment

Adjourned by consensus.