



# MINUTES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Present: M. Ahmed, R. Ame, D. Antonowicz, G. Ashoughian, H. Beaudry, G. Brockett, P. Bryden, D. Buzza, M.L. Byrne, S. Cameron, M. Cantalini-Williams, K. Carter, J. Casey, S. Chamberlain, K. Chahal, A. Clarke, L. Chu, J. Coolman, A. Dang, D. Deutschman, J. Empey, S. Ensign, A. Ferenc, C. Francis, S. Ghamat, B. Glencross, A. Goodrum, L. Hawton Kitamura, J. Hennebry, C. Hiebert, J. Holm, S. Isotupa, I. Joseph, Ma. Kelly, Mi. 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, A. Vannelli, B. Vale, M. Wilson, M. Woodford, W. Wu, K. Yri, G. Yun.

Regrets: L. Eisler, P. Jamalof, E. Mercier.

Absent: M. McDonald, K. Shankardass.

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

Resource/Guest: P. Cant, A. Gulka Armstrong, J. Fraser, L. Tayler, S. Pepper, N. Petkovik, R. Reid.

## A. Introduction

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Consent Agenda, D. MacLatchy

D. MacLatchy welcomed senators and thanked continuing and outgoing senators, provided a land acknowledgement, commented on changes in the secretariat staff and noted items in consent coming for approval. Although Senate meeting dates for 2021-22 were previously approved by Senate in September 2020, the updated dates were included for re-approval with changes to better accommodate the Senate and Board governance timelines. D. MacLatchy also noted that there will be one or two ad hoc Senate meetings called during the summer months on the three remaining decanal recommendations.

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

2. Leadership Update

a) Report of the President, D. MacLatchy

D. MacLatchy provided a number of updates in addition to the written report, noting: an update on an issue with a Laurier student that included an offensive video on TikTok with an incitement of antisemitic violence; Laurier will work with the student and harm community to address the impact and consequences; pandemic recovery update with currently no active Covid19 cases at Laurier; an update on vaccination requirements noting that Council of Ontario Universities (COU) sought legal opinion on mandatory vaccination for university students and staff; province opened vaccinations to



everyone 18+ and Laurier will focus on awareness and benefits of getting vaccinated by working with external relations on a communications campaign in advance of Fall 2021 term start; provincially, Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) announced support for 400 projects at colleges and universities noting that Laurier will receive \$450K in funding; extension of tuition freeze for an additional year; out of province students will return to same framework with option to increase up to 3%; efforts at COU have now turned to advocacy on the tuition freeze; and that Laurier continues to work with City and province on finalizing Milton Campus approval process.

b) Report of the Provost & VP Academic, A. Vannelli

A. Vannelli provided a verbal report, in addition to the written report in the agenda package, noting: Fall and Winter planning is proceeding on target with a scaled Fall return to full face-to-face engagement while ensuring return to campus is safe for students, staff and faculty; Inclusive Excellence Initiative, was released and Laurier is looking to hire 6 Indigenous and 6 Black faculty members; working through process at looking at expressions of interest across the university to hire to break down barriers and hire faculty members from equity seeking groups; Wilfrid Laurier International College (Navitas) is working toward a Fall 2021 soft launch with 20 students anticipated to be on campus, with 60 offers of admission that have been made; budget proposed to be a balanced budget, and opportunities for what will be looked at in the next few years will be matters that are related to fiscal and academic sustainability; and an update on the status of the remaining decanal searches.

c) Board of Governors Update, P. McLaren

P. McLaren noted there is a full update provided in the material. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Board of Governors approved the non-tuition fee report. New and revised policies were approved, including the move of Geography from Faculty of Arts to Faculty of Science.

d) Question Period: Written or Verbal

None noted.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

No business arising.

## B. Discussion

4. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

a) Senate Executive and Finance Committee, D. MacLatchy



- i. 2021-2022 Budget Report, L. Noronha, A. Vannelli  
L. Noronha and A. Vannelli provided an overview of the budget for 2021-2022, noting a comprehensive approach and looking at overall financial health and sustainability. Summary of operating budget was highlighted noting that last year budget was at \$4.5M deficit and this year \$2.8M deficit before budget balancing options. Members were taken through savings such as pandemic related, central gapping adjustments etc. and essential requests approvals (which were limited), ancillary operations (which is in a deficit position and forecasting a deficit); annual capital budget and projected costs (with portions coming from major donors and other funding sources). Original structural deficit was eliminated through a combination of initiatives and budget targets. Budget targets were met over the past couple years, but with tuition freezes and increases in salary costs, the budget challenge remains. Multi-year projections and assumptions were outlined for Senators under 3 scenarios; estimated range to balance the budget under the three scenarios range from \$6M to \$18.4M; revenue generation and efficiency/cost mitigation ideas were highlighted (e.g. credential innovation; cost reduction targets). Question raised focused around taking a conservative approach to the re-evaluation of the pension and what percentage is funded.

**MOTION (M. Byrne/D. Buzza) on the recommendation of the Senate Executive and Finance Committee, that Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the 2021-2022 Budget Report, as presented.**

**CARRIED. (1 abstention)**

- b) Senate Academic Planning Committee, A. Vannelli

Overview of the items that were sent through Senate Academic Planning Committee;

- i. Revisions to Credential Innovation Framework, M. Wilson  
One of the themes under the Laurier Strategy is Future Readiness and this initiative will help operationalized the strategy. Information about the credential innovation framework and discussion paper developed by M. Mancuso was shared. M. Wilson presented the revisions, and an overview of micro-credentials. It was noted that there is still work necessary for Laurier's strategy and that this is an important first step. Question posed included: if students had been consulted on the micro-credentials; and if individuals will have the same access to resources as other students.

**MOTION (M. Wilson/D. Buzza) on on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the revisions to the Credential Innovation Framework, as proposed.**

**CARRIED. (2 abstentions)**



ii. Revisions to Policy 2.7: Policy on Non-Credit Programming, M. Wilson

M. Wilson provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Policy 2.7, previously non-credit certificates, now brought in to include all non-credit programming. This policy hasn't been revised in quite some time and the revisions will: enable more consistent processes; revive and reconstruct the committee, which would become a sub-committee of the SAPC; allow for greater transparency and information shared and collaborative possibilities with for-credit programming.

Senate members discussed: the resources needed (i.e. who will be doing the hiring and who will be teaching these); how will curriculum be developed; and the need for ties to faculty structures once these programs are developed. Discussion concluded by D. MacLatchy proposing to table this until Fall to allow for further consultation about resources and coordination.

**MOTION** (M. Wilson/M. Cantalini-Williams) on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the revisions to Policy 2.7, Non-Credit Programming, as proposed.

POSTPONED TO FALL 2021

iii. Proposed Changes to Progression Requirements for Honours BA, BSc, BDes and BFAA Programs, K. Maly

K. Maly provided an update regarding the proposed changes noting that Laurier students are held to a higher standard than other universities by requiring all students to maintain a C average to stay in their program. Once a student is pushed into a general program, students may face accessibility and success issues, resulting in advisory and a bureaucracy burden.

**MOTION** (A. Goodrum/G. Yun) **on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve a change to the minimum progression requirements for honours BA, BSc, BDes, and BFAA programs from the current GPA of 5.0 overall and 5.0 in the major to an overall GPA of 4.0. CARRIED. (3 abstentions)**

K. Maly provided an overview of the proposed changes to alternate graduation requirements to be consistent with other Ontario universities. A question posed included how many students will be impacted on average per year.

**MOTION** (S. Ramsay/A. Goodrum) **on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve a change to the alternate (non honours) graduation requirements for BA, BSc, BDes and BFAA programs to an overall GPA of 4.0 and major GPA of 4.0. CARRIED. (1 opposed)**



iv. Update to Adult Student Admission Policy, J. Casey

J. Casey provided an update to adult student admission policy including: shortcomings associated with the policy as is; opportunity for applicants who do not meet minimum for admissions to University, can be admitted to the policy; limits for OSAP and band support; Laurier is not competitive within the marketplace given the restrictions; does not align with priority to increase enrolment of non-traditional students; changes to the name of policy; and detailed expansion of pathway options.

**MOTION (J. Casey/G. Yun) on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the changes to the current Adult Student Admission Policy, including a renaming to Mature Student Admission Policy and an update to the criteria used to admit non-traditional applicants under this policy. CARRIED.**

v. Undergraduate Admissions Policy to Unclassified Studies, J. Casey

J. Casey provided an overview of the undergraduate admissions policy to unclassified studies noting: identified policy gap, not an easy way to admit students who are interested in taking a course for upgrading, professional development; barriers associated with being admitted to a degree program; applicants may not have minimum admission requirements; Laurier not competitive in the marketplace; recommend a pathway to unclassified studies.

**MOTION (J. Casey/B. Vale) on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the creation of an undergraduate admissions pathway to unclassified studies. CARRIED. (1 abstention)**

vi. Undergraduate Transfer Credit Policy, J. Casey

There are a number of institutions across Canada that offer a CR for students; aligning to allow input for students during pandemic. Senate members discussed: the number of credits that will be accepted now that there is a limit; and if this will also hold for students transferring in the same as for existing students. Motion was amended to include a .5 CR to make transfer students equivalent to existing students ensuring consistent approach for all students

**AMENDED MOTION (J. Casey/M. Byrne) on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approves, for university courses completed from Spring 2020 through to the end of Spring 2021, where a final grade notation of pass/credit is presented, that transfer credit be awarded and considered in addition to other criteria for undergraduate admission to a maximum of 0.5 CR per academic term for each of the terms to maximum of 2.0 credits.**

**CARRIED. (2 abstention)**



c) Reports/Recommendations from Divisional Councils

- a. Lazaridis School of Business and Economics, Mi. Kelly
  - i. Substantive Minor, BBA/FinMath

**MOTION** (Mi. Kelly/P. McLaren) **on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the deletion of MA455 and the addition of MA306 as a requirement for the BBA/FinMath double degree program. CARRIED.**

- b. Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, D. Deutschman
  - i. Major Modification, Kinesiology

MKin designation was adopted to align programs; since has come to reflect a 'professional program' approach to graduate studies rather than research-based approach; change to MSc will reflect the research-based approach, influence recruitment, and suit the needs of graduate students once they graduate.

**MOTION** (D. Deutschman/J. Newman) **on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the degree designation change for the KPE Masters program to a Master of Science (MSc) in Kinesiology. CARRIED.**

- ii. Substantive Minor, Kinesiology

D. Deutschman provided an overview of the two proposed substantive changes: first to decrease course credit requirements from 4.0 to 3.5 and second to remove the statistics course as a requirement. It was noted that many master's degrees are course heavy which ultimately takes away from research time.

**MOTION** (D. Deutschman/S. Isotupa) **on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve program requirement changes for the Department of Kinesiology Masters program as outlined in the calendar description. CARRIED. (1 abstention)**

d) Senate Governance Committee, Ma. Kelly

- i. Approval of Senate Agenda by Chair of Senate, Ma. Kelly, A. Kornobis

Approval is sought to have Senate chair approve the Senate agenda instead of the Senate Executive & Finance Committee (SEFC) as specified in the Senate By-Laws. It was noted that timing is an issue as divisional councils haven't finalized their work yet when SEFC meets making the Senate agenda brought forward full of placeholders. Going forward, SEFC will still have an input on the annual Senate work plan. Prior to Senate, any senator can raise concerns with the agenda, allowing oversight.

**MOTION** (Ma. Kelly/D. Deutschman) **on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee,**



that Senate approve a change to Senate By-law 4.7.a., moving approval of the Senate agenda from the Executive Committee to the Chair of Senate. **CARRIED. (1 opposed, 3 abstentions)**

ii. Faculty Apportionment of Senate, Ma. Kelly, A. Kornobis

Ma. Kelly and A. Kornobis provided an overview of the proposed apportionment of faculty Senators. This follows Hamilton Method, as outlined in the Senate By-laws. It was noted that the Senate By-laws did not take into account a change in Faculty affiliation of an entire department. Hence to ensure good governance and follow best practice, the proposed apportionment is based on: the number of faculty members by Faculty as of July 1, 2020; and the Board approved change of the Faculty affiliation for Geography and Environmental Studies (GES) from Faculty of Arts to Faculty of Science. In general, all Faculties are assigned two seats, and the larger Faculties are apportioned remaining seats. The proposed apportionment accounts for the GES department as members of Science. Hence the number of Faculty of Arts Senate seats falls from 10 to 8; LSBE and Science each gain 1 seat; all other Faculties see no change.

**MOTION (Ma. Kelly/S. Ramsay) on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee, that Senate approve the Faculty apportionment of Senate for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years, as presented. CARRIED. (2 abstentions)**

e) Senate Committee on Research and Publications, J. Newman

J. Newman provided an overview of the five motions coming forward under items B.4.e.i and B.4.e.ii of the agenda noting that: these centres are active; have strong participation; operating in a fiscally responsible manner; and support relevant deans for Faculty centres.

**OMNIBUS MOTION (J. Newman/M. Byrne) on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the continuation, with review in three years, of the university and Faculty research centres as presented.**

i. Faculty Research Centre/Institute Reviews, J. Newman

**MOTION on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the continuation, with review in 3 years, of the faculty research centre, the Manulife Centre for Community Health Research (MCCHR), as presented.**

**MOTION on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the continuation, with review in 3 years, of the faculty research centre, the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community (LCMC), as presented.**



ii. University Research Centre/Institute Reviews, J. Newman

**MOTION on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the continuation, with review in three years, of the university research centre, the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa (Tshepo), as presented.**

**MOTION on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the continuation, with review in three years, of the university research centre, the International Migration Research Centre (IMRC), as presented.**

**MOTION on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the continuation, with review in three years, of the university research centre, the Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Mathematical and Statistical Modelling in Scientific Discovery, Innovation and Sustainability (MS2Discovery), as presented.**

**CARRIED. (1 abstention)**

J. Newman provided an overview for termination of Movement Disorders Research and Rehabilitation Centre (MDRC) noting: limited participation; lack of governance; succession plan; lack of support of Faculty of Science; should not be seen as a comment on the quality of research conducted; it is a research program of a single faculty member, and would be better positioned as a lab.

Senate members discussed: whether funding will be impacted; merit in having processes for when initiatives no longer fit the bill on what a centre is; and importance of designation.

**MOTION (Jonathan/Douglas) on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the termination of the faculty research centre, the Movement Disorders Research and Rehabilitation Centre (MDRC), as presented. CARRIED. (5 abstentions)**

5. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

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

6. Other Business

No other business.

7. *In Camera* session



**MOTION** (M. Byrne/D. Maoz) **to move *in camera*.**

**CARRIED.**

The meeting later moved out of *in camera*.

8. Adjournment

Adjourned by consensus.

**C. Consent**

The following items were provided for approval or information. The Agenda, Minutes and items noted for Approval were approved by consent.

9. Items for Approval:

- a) Agenda
- b) Draft Minutes of the April 12, 2021 Senate Meeting
- c) Editorial Changes to the Senate By-laws and Regulations
- d) Senate and Senate Executive Meeting Dates, 2021-2024

10. Items for Information:

- a) Report of the Senior Executives
- b) Report of the COU Academic Colleague
- c) Student Teaching Awards 2020-2021
- d) Laurier Strategy: 2019-2024, Spring 2021 Report Back