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## SENATE MINUTES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

**Present:** M. Ahmed, N. Amanullah, G. Ashoughian, G. Brockett, M. Brolley, P. Bryden, R. Buehler, S. Cameron, M. Cantalini-Williams, J. Casey, S. Chamberlain, L. Chu, A. Clarke, J. Coolman, A. Dang, D. Deutschman, J. Empey, S. Ensign, A. Essaji, C. Francis, S. Ghamat, B. Glencross, J. Hennebry, A. Herman, P. Ironstone, C. Johnston Turner, I. Joseph, V. Kitaev, S. Lachapelle, H. LeBlanc, L. Luccisano, K. Lund, D. MacLatchy, B. McKay, P. McLaren, L. McLeod, J. McMurray, K. Menon, C. Miyata, K. Montero, J. Newman, A. Ngo, A. Noriega, L. Noronha, A. Parker, J. Popham, S. Ramsay, K. Shankardass, C. Smith, D. Treleaven, B. Vale, A. Vannelli, M. Walton-Roberts, K. Werbin, M. Wilson, M. Woodford, J. Zhan.

**Regrets:** R. Ame, C. Eni-McLean, K. Hogarth, L. Hawton Kitamura, M. Kelly, D. Law, E. Mercier, J. Smith.

**Absent:** D. Antonowicz, H. Beaudry, P. Jamalof, L. King, D. Maoz, I. Musa, M. Reesor, J. Schwieter, K. Yri, G. Yun.

**Secretariat:** A. Arnold, A. Juhik, A. Kornobis.

### A. Introduction

- 1. Call to Order & Approval of the Consent Agenda, D. MacLatchy**  
D. MacLatchy welcomed all new and returning members, reminded members of housekeeping information, and acknowledged the traditional territory on which the university is situated. It was noted that September 30<sup>th</sup> has been implemented as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and to commemorate the Day, Laurier will share videos that were created to raise awareness of the legacy of residential schools. These will provide an opportunity for the Laurier community to reflect on this country's colonial past and the continual legacy of colonial trauma. There will also be a safe place offered at the Indigenous Student Centres in Waterloo and Brantford for Indigenous students only, to gather in support of one another given the emotions experienced by the revelations and discoveries of mass and unmarked graves at Indian Residential Schools across Canada. Other university events include: a fundraising concert in recognition of Orange Shirt Day as part of the Music at Noon series; a contemplative pause hosted by Martin Luther University College as part of its multi-faith Thursdays; and selling orange shirts at bookstores on both campuses with proceeds from the sales being donated to the Save the Evidence Campaign.

There was a request to bring consent items C.1.c., and consequently C.1.d. as it may be affected, to the main agenda for full discussion.

**MOTION (S. Chamberlain/ K. Menon) that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item C.1. 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: it's been a busy summer in preparation for the fall's gradual and phased return of students, faculty, and staff to more in-person activities; there were no large street gatherings over the Homecoming weekend, although there were a number of house parties resulting in some arrests and tickets issued related to disturbances; Pandemic Response Steering Group (PRSG) has been reviewing and updating resources to support safe return to campuses; update on vaccine mandate noting that all Laurier policies are in compliance and that MCU requires report on vaccination rates; over 90% employees have been vaccinated and close to 90% of students that are in person; working on closing the gaps by mid-October; currently those that are not vaccinated have to do rapid testing program; two confirmed independent COVID cases with no known spread and public health responsible for tracing; daily self-assessment will continue to be required; update to flexible work policy noting requests from approximately 600 employees and that policy will be in effect till August 2022; the EDI Strategic Plan is currently in its final stages of review and will soon be circulated to other university leaders and stakeholder groups for approval; Government updates including return to campus planning and financial sustainability priorities; provincial cabinet shuffle; and that the Milton campus was announced by the provincial government on June 17, 2021 with priority focus now on master campus planning.
- 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: gradual return to normalcy and continuation to offer safe environment; student safety ambassadors have been hired and are being trained so that they can enforce masking in common areas; Winter 2022 planning looking at pre-pandemic levels of in person attendance and development of contingency plans; Inclusive Excellence Initiative with focus on hiring 6 indigenous and 6 black faculty members; it was noted that 46 expressions of interest have been received and reviewed by inclusive Excellence Steering Committee; update on searches that have been finalized over the summer; update on Navitas with current remote course delivery and in person delivery planned for Winter term noting additional 80 students to start in winter; approved creation of Milton new campus with focus on planetary health and STEAM programming; currently programs are being developed with both academic steering committee as well as Milton steering committee looking at these; update to AI Assessments software where VPAC has completed comprehensive review

noting privacy and quality issues; unable to find another AI solution that will address the concerns; discontinuation of the AI Assessment software with new options provided to students.

Senate members discussed: the Inclusive Excellence program including the decision criteria that were used by the Excellence Steering Committee to review and rank expressions of interest received; and the consideration that some positions may be unfilled and the timing of how long they would stay open.

- c. Board of Governors Update  
P. McLaren provided an update on Board activities in June and September which included the approval of: the Budget; Audited Financial Statements; pursuing divestment opportunities; and revisions to policy 6.1, Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination and policy 12.3, Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct.
- d. Question Period: Written or Verbal  
Written question that was received was addressed during the report of the Provost & VP Academic.

- 3. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**, D. MacLatchy  
No business arising.

## **B. Discussion**

- 1. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees
  - a. Senate Executive and Finance Committee, D. MacLatchy
    - i. Enrolment and Budget Update, A. Vannelli / L. Noronha  
A. Vannelli provided an enrolment update noting that based on November 1st registration projection, there is an increase of about 800 undergraduate domestic students. Year over year growth has been 18%; highest in the sector. The graduate enrolment is down about 100 students in total, but this was not due to lack of applications which have been up year over year. The graduate numbers are slightly higher on international students but down on the domestic students. These numbers did not include the Martin Luther University College enrolments.

L. Noronha provided the budget impact of the increase in the undergraduate domestic enrolment on this year's fiscal year. The impact on scholarships was noted due to an increase of highly qualified students. The net impact is predicting surplus of \$1.5M after GAAP adjustments are done; continue to monitor this and will compare actual to anticipated; overall cautiously optimistic. Questions raised focused on if the \$10M deficit was in the original budget estimate or part of the last quarter estimate.

- ii. Finance & Budget Update & Orientation, A. Vannelli / L. Noronha  
A. Vannelli and L. Noronha provided an update on the finance and budget. This included: Audited Financial Statements which provides a snapshot of how our financials are organized; the internal statements which include unrestricted funds consisting of the operating and ancillary funds (majority of all our expenses and revenues) that are reported on quarterly bases; the external funds were also discussed which include capital (i.e. for construction of buildings), endowment (i.e. scholarships and bursaries), and research funds; year-end as of April 30, 2021 was shared, including the surplus, due to cost savings and slight increases in revenues, and commitments against the surplus which is spoken for; budget process and timelines, including budget at a glance with \$310M in revenue and \$313M expenses noting that tuition and grants make up 89% of revenue and that salaries make up 74% of expenses; external and internal budget drivers; budget development approach and timelines; and that budget council makes the tough decisions makes recommendation to the president.

Senate members discussed: what are central expenses; reasons for two accounting systems (i.e. one on cash basis and one on accrual basis); and why cash flow is not included in reports.

- b. Senate Committee on Research and Publications, J. Newman
  - i. Voluntary Closure of Faculty/University Centres - Centre for Memory and Testimony Studies (CMTS) and Laurier Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience (LCCN)

J. Newman provided an overview for closing the Center for Memory and Testimony Studies (CMTS) noting that this center has been defunct for last couple years consisting of only 2 faculty members from Laurier. It was also noted that the closure was due to the director retiring and the faculty member not interested to take over the center.

**MOTION** (J. Newman/P. Ironstone) **that on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the closure of the University Research Centre, the Centre for Memory and Testimony Studies (CMTS), as presented.**

**Carried. (1 opposed, 1 abstention)**

J. Newman also provided an overview for closing Laurier Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience (LCCN) noting that this is a faculty based center that has a variety of faculty members that belong to it; faculty members decided to voluntarily close this center but this closure took a while

due to the lack of formal procedures on how to proceed; the procedures have now been developed as part of policy 11.1, Establishment, Operations and Review of Research Centres allowing the center to close.

**MOTION** (J. Newman/A. Dang) **that on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, that Senate approve the closure of the University Research Centre, the Laurier Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience (LCCN), as presented.**

**Carried.**

2. Matters from the Consent Section of the agenda  
Senate discussed item C.1.c. 2022-2023 Academic Calendar Dates which may also affect item C.1.d. 2022-23 Academic Calendar Dates for the Bachelor of Education Program, if changes are made. These were brought out of the consent in order to consider different start date for the Winter term 2023. The suggestion was to change guideline number two to specify that winter term was to start on Monday no earlier than January 6<sup>th</sup>. The suggested change was due to a need for academic advising and office hours to allow for prep after the holiday break.

Senate members discussed: positive effect the delay in term start date may have on students' mental health; need to start the classes on Monday for some faculties; how the delay in start of the term will impact the online courses; and the need to look at what other universities are doing regarding the winter term start dates.

Both motions were delayed until the next Senate meeting to allow: more time to explore a different start date for the winter term 2023; and to ensure time for consultation with University of Waterloo in order to align academic activity due to the double degree students.

3. Other Business  
No other business.
4. Adjournment  
Adjourned by consensus.

### **C. Consent Items**

The following items are provided for approval or information. The Agenda, Minutes and Nominating Report were approved by consent.

1. **Items for Approval**
  - a. Agenda
  - b. Draft Minutes of the May 19 Senate Meeting

- c. 2022-23 Academic Calendar Dates  
**MOTION that Senate approve the 2022-23 academic calendar dates as presented.**
- d. 2022-23 Academic Calendar Dates for the Bachelor of Education Program  
**MOTION that Senate approve the 2022-23 academic calendar dates for the Bachelor of Education program; and the changes to the Senate guideline #1, as presented.**
- e. Senate Governance Nominating Report  
**MOTION that on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee, the Senate approve the Nominating Report as proposed.** **Carried.**

## 2. Items for Information

- a. Record of July 16, 2021 E-Vote: Nominations Report
- b. Report of the Senior Executives
- c. Spring Convocation Report
- d. Sprummer Enrolment Report
- e. New Centre Fellow Nominations
- f. Senate Meeting Dates 2021-2022 & 2022-2023
- g. Robert's Rules Reference Sheet
- h. BoardEffect Tip Sheet

*Note: If you need assistance or have a question about this agenda or the Senate, please contact the University Secretariat office, by email to [ajuhik@wlu.ca](mailto:ajuhik@wlu.ca) or 519-884-0710 x4277.*