



SENATE MINUTES

Monday, October 25, 2021, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Present: M. Ahmed, G. Ashoughian, H. Beaudry, M. Brolley, R. Buehler, M. Cantalini-Williams, J. Casey, L. Chu, A. Clarke, J. Coolman, A. Dang, D. Deutschman, J. Empey, C. Eni-McLean, B. Glencross, J. Hennebry, K. Hogarth, P. Ironstone, C. Johnston Turner, M. Kelly, L. King, V. Kitaev, S. Lachapelle, D. Law, H. LeBlanc, L. Luccisano, K. Lund, D. MacLatchy, D. Maoz, P. McLaren, L. McLeod, J. McMurray, C. Miyata, K. Montero, J. Newman, A. Ngo, A. Noriega, L. Noronha, A. Parker, S. Ramsay, M. Reesor, J. Schwieter, C. Smith, D. Treleaven, B. Vale, M. Walton-Roberts, K. Werbin, M. Wilson, M. Woodford, K. Yri, G. Yun.

Regrets: N. Amanullah, R. Ame, G. Brockett, S. Cameron, A. Essaji, C. Francis, A. Herman, P. Jamalof, L. Hawton Kitamura, B. McKay, E. Mercier, J. Popham, A. Vannelli, J. Zhan.

Absent: D. Antonowicz, P. Bryden, S. Chamberlain, S. Ensign, S. Ghamat, I. Joseph, K. Menon, I. Musa, K. Shankardass.

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

A. Introduction

1. **Call to Order**, D. MacLatchy

D. MacLatchy called meeting to order and acknowledged the traditional territory on which the university is situated. Senators were encouraged to think of and nominate worthy individuals for Honorary Degrees noting November is a deadline for spring convocation and February is a deadline for fall convocation.

a. Approval of the Consent Agenda

MOTION (A. Noriega/A. Dang): **that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item C.1. Carried.**

2. **Leadership Update**

a. Report of the President, D. MacLatchy

In report of the president, D. MacLatchy provided the following information: students that are taking in-person classes this fall are approximately 96% vaccinated or have an approved exemption; those that are not in compliance will be emailed about deregistration and petition process; significant reminders regarding the vaccination mandate and deadlines were sent via email, social media and the web

with a phone campaign launched as a follow up with students that haven't uploaded their status; Human Resources is following up with staff and faculty to determine who is non-compliant versus those that haven't uploaded their status; approximately 98% of employees are in compliance with the vaccine mandate; focus now will be on those returning to campus in January and who have not provided proof of vaccination with a deadline to upload their info by December 22; Pandemic Recovery Steering Group (PRSG) has been actively working with affiliate partners and contractors over the past several weeks to get documented compliance of vaccination and to date there have not be any significant issues; working on setting on-campus visits for all three campuses for the new and returning MPs; COU continues to focus on tuition framework and frozen government funding for universities; discussions regarding proposal by the colleges to move to the three-year degrees and a request for approval of applied master's degrees; Laurier is advocating for additional BEd spaces that would bring a Laurier concurrent BEd program to the Brantford campus; and the focus of COU and MCU regarding the financial sustainability of the sector where the auditor-general is requesting to see detailed financial and other records.

Senators discussed: implications if colleges are approved to grant 3 year undergraduate degrees; and the potential for difficulty of interpreting the advanced diplomas in different provinces.

- b. Report of the Provost & VP Academic, A. Vannelli
A. Vannelli was unable to attend the meeting but senators had a chance to ask questions to those that were present from the VPA office. Senators discussed: the issues with the annual reviews that were completed using Qualtrics; how the results will be used and if this will be reported to Senate; and the need for software solution to standardize the process, to automate the data and not create unnecessary burden on faculty.
- c. Question Period: Written or Verbal
None received.

3. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**, D. MacLatchy

D. MacLatchy noted that approval of Academic Calendar Dates including those for Bachelor of Education program were being brought back from the previous meeting.

- a. 2022-23 Academic Calendar Dates, J. Casey

J. Casey provided an update noting that questions were raised at the September Senate meeting regarding the Academic Calendar Dates that were brought forward. It was requested to consult with the sector and to model out a later start date to winter 2023. Registrar's Office has spoken with other Ontario universities learning that majority of university are starting later in 2023 with University of Waterloo (UW) and Laurier starting the week earlier as per the Senate guidelines. Extensive consultations took place at both institutions, noting that UW will be bringing their dates for approval in November. J. Casey proposed to still have the university officially open on January 3rd, but for classes to start on January 9th. This will push everything by a week meaning that the spring term will also need to be moved to May 8th and there will be a need to adjust the intersession. In order to do these changes, exceptions to guideline #2 and #3 were requested. Potential permanent changes to Senate guidelines will be looked at in more detail this coming year due to many different variables that need to be considered. Motion was adjusted to reflect what was included in the briefing note.

Senate discussed: potential to change guideline #2 permanently; and how Canada Day stat holiday would affect the summer session start.

MOTION (J. Casey/J. McMurray): that Senate approve the 2022-23 academic calendar dates and the relevant exemptions to Senate guidelines as presented. Carried. (1 abstention)

- b. 2022-23 Academic Calendar Dates for the Bachelor of Education Program, J. Casey

J. Casey reviewed the Senate guidelines for Faculty of Education. Alternations to guidelines #1 and #2 were proposed due to operational issues resulting from program changes from one year to a two year program. Motion was adjusted to reflect what was included in the briefing note.

MOTION (J. Casey/A. Clarke): that Senate approve the 2022-23 academic calendar dates for the Bachelor of Education program; and the changes to the Senate guideline #1 and 2, as presented. Carried.

B. Discussion

1. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

- a. Senate Executive and Finance Committee, D. MacLatchy
- i. Overview of Audited Financial Statement and Fiscal 2020-2021 Year-end, L. Noronha / Z. Danis

Z. Danis provided a high level overview of the audited financial statement as a continuation of the financial update of the last couple of meetings. It was noted that it was a fairly smooth year-

end process and results have been good. High points shared included: Laurier received a clean audit; \$6.9M combined deficit from operating and ancillary funds (\$9.6M surplus in operating fund and \$16M deficit in ancillary fund); internal statements are provided on quarterly basis while external statements are provided once a year; difference between internal and external statements is minor resulting in slight GAAP adjustments; and that internal statements will be shifting to accrual approach which will be more aligned with the external statements.

ii. 2022-2023 Budget Process Update, A. Vannelli / L. Noronha

L. Noronha provided a budget process update noting: internal and external budget drivers (i.e. tuition framework freeze, tuition cut by 10%, etc.); pandemic pressures mostly felt on ancillary side; RCM not in full effect just yet but will be implemented again; ancillary, capital and operational budgets should be all looked at the same time as they are interrelated; parallel processes that occur as budget gets developed; need to identify essential requests; importance of enrolment for both domestic and international students; looking for departmental efficiencies; and that SMA may come into play within next couple of years. L. Noronha noted that the timeline will be a bit diffident then last year as last year budget process ended in June and now looking to end in April. It was noted that January and February will be heavy analytical months. By March, full budget report will come to Senate Executive & Finance Committee, in April to Senate and then to the Board for approval.

Senators discussed: difference between budget council vs budget leaders; if there are members of the budget council that are not budget leaders; and how the members of the budget councils are selected.

It was noted that budget council is made of budget leaders however at the budget leader stage members have departmental/unit level viewpoint versus when at the budget council, members have to look at corporate wide view putting strategic priorities of university to the forefront.

iii. Winter Planning Update, A. Vannelli

Mary Wilson, on behalf of A. Vannelli, provided an update to winter planning noting that all signs show a return to normal and to the pre-pandemic levels. It was also noted that contingency plan is in place if things were to change by the public health before the start of the term.

b. ***In Camera Session***

MOTION (M. Kelly/L. McLeod): **to move the meeting *in camera*. Carried.**

c. Senate Academic Planning Committee, A. Vannelli

i. Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, D. Deutschman

a. Substantive Minor Modification, Master of Education (MEd) in Student Affairs

D. Deutschman presented program requirement changes noting: removal of the mental health requirements due to students already being mental health experts, and moving mental health to an elective as some are already familiar with the content.

MOTION (D. Deutschman/M. Cantalini-Williams): **on the recommendation of Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the change to the program requirements for the Master of Education, Student Affairs field. Carried.**

b. Substantive Minor Modification, Master of Environmental Studies (MES) in Geography

Items B.1.c.i.b and B.1.c.i.c were presented as an omnibus. D. Deutschman provided revisions of the program requirements stating changes in number of electives needed for both the MES and MSc in Geography.

MOTION (D. Deutschman/M. Brolley): **on the recommendation of Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the changes to the course requirements for the Master of Environmental Studies in Geography Program. Carried.**

c. Substantive Minor Modification, Master of Science (MSc) in Geography

MOTION (D. Deutschman/M. Brolley): **on the recommendation of Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the changes to the course requirements for the Master of Science in Geography Program. Carried.**

d. Substantive Minor Modification, Master of Social Work

D. Deutschman presented a suite of coherent changes from Master of Social Work including: reducing field placement hours;

aligning full-time track program with part-time online program;
and adding a required course.

MOTION (D. Deutschman/D. Moaz): on the recommendation of Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve program requirement changes for the Master of Social Work program. Carried.

ii. Faculty of Education, M. Cantalini Williams

a. Substantive Minor Modification

M. Cantalini Williams presented new admissions requirements based on work requirements to teach French as a Second Language (FSL).

MOTION (M. Cantalini Williams/C. Eni-McLean): on the recommendation of Senate Academic Planning Committee, that Senate approve the new admissions requirements, for the Primary Junior French Focus in the Bachelor of Education program. Carried. (1 abstention)

d. Senate Governance Committee, S. Ramsay

i. Overview of 2020-2021 Senate Engagement Survey Results and Recommendations, A. Kornobis

A. Kornobis provided an overview of the results from the Senate Engagement Survey noting this was the second time the survey has been provided to Senate and that there was an increase in responses to this survey. Each year, feedback from senators is sought as part of governance best practice while it also gives idea of how Senate is doing, what is done well and where improvements are needed. Secretariat Office looked at the results over summer focusing on dynamics of senate and what can be done in the year ahead. Questions have been kept the same as the previous year with couple of additional questions to reflect the current situation i.e. timing of senate; using zoom for virtual meetings etc. Six (6) themes/areas of enhancements and ideas were identified and information was provided on how to achieve them. Secretariat Office will report back at the end of the year the changes that were implemented noting that the use of briefing notes have been started to help with the package materials. Overall it was noted that comments were very positive.

D. MacLatchy thanked Secretariat Office for the work done noting that a lot of work was involved to run the survey and to look at the qualitative and quantitative questions.

2. **Matters from the Consent Section of the agenda**
None.
3. **Other Business**
None.
4. **Adjournment**
By consensus.

C. Consent Items

The following items were provided for approval or information. The items noted for approval were approved by consent.

1. **Items for Approval**
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Minutes, Senate, September 28, 2021
 - c. 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. Report of the Senior Executives
 - b. COU Academic Colleague Report
 - c. New Fellow Nominations
 - d. DBRS Rating Report