



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## Senate Council Minutes of the Friday, April 26, 2024 Meeting

**Present:** Peter Meehan (Chair), Carol Ann MacGregor (Vice Chair), Michelle Atkin, Steven Bednarski, Kieran Bonner, Honor Brabazon, Serena Catania, Tristanne Connolly, Andrew Deman, Jesse Hutchison, Alysia Kolentsis, Carlie Leroux, Diana Lobb, Clayton McCourt, Andrew Moore, Saphron Moule, Carl Rodrigue, BJ Rye, Mark Spielmacher, Andrew Stumpf, Sylvia Terzian, Bruno Tremblay, Cristina Vanin, Denise Whitehead, David Williams

**Recording Secretary:** Christine Schwendinger

**Absent:** Chris Burris, Roberta Cauchi-Santoro\*, Fred Desroches, Maureen Drysdale, Stephanie Gregoire\*, Norm Klassen, Scott Kline\*, Jane Nicholas, John Rempel, David Seljak\*, Toni Serafini\*, Siobhan Sutherland, Ryan Touhey\*, Chad Wriglesworth, Saman Zaidi, Nikolaj Zunic

*\*regrets*

**On Sabbatical/Leave:** Carol Acton, Veronica Austen, Susan Brophy, Carm De Santis, Anastasia Tataryn

*Note: This meeting was held using the online video conferencing platform, Zoom.*

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### **Open Session**

#### **1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Prayer/Reflection**

A. Deman opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement, followed by a reading of a poem on depression and being kind to others.

#### **2. Chair's Remarks**

The final Lectures in Catholic Experience (LCE) for 2023-2024 was held on April 15, 2024, with Br. G. Consolmagno, SJ, a planetary scientist and Director of the Vatican Observatory, speaking on science and faith. There was a good audience (in person and online) and it was a great way to end our season. The 2024-2025 LCE season is being finalized and will be announced soon.

Thank you to A. Deman and his family for once again preparing a memorial installation on our campus for Red Dress Day on May 5, 2024, the day to commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. We are grateful for the time they put into this, which helps to show SJU's commitment to reconciliation.

The Chair has been providing regular updates on the meetings with the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) heads and the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) Associate Vice-President, Academic Operations regarding our overall relationship. The Chair will bring the final draft of the framework agreement to Senate Council for information. Such an agreement is common with federated/affiliated university relationships. It is a high-level constitution on how we will relate to each other with our legal agreements, principles that express UWaterloo's commitment to us and ours to them, the value we each bring. UWaterloo has indicated that the current equity agreement will be honoured for 2024-2025, with the normal transfer payment coming to SJU. However, for 2025-2026 they are going to be working with the AFIW, per the equity agreement, to understand the differences between our teaching and student numbers and how that relates to the equity transfers. The Chair expects the next year to be spent discussing the equity agreement.

#### **3. Agenda Review, Declare Conflicts, Additions, Changes**

No additions or changes to the agenda were declared. C.A. MacGregor declared a conflict of interest on item #11.

**Motion:** To approve the agenda as presented.

**Moved:** A. Deman, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.**

### Consent Agenda

#### 4. Minutes of the March 22, 2024 Senate Council Meeting

#### 5. Governance Committee Report

- a. Call for Nominations: 2024-2025 Committees

**Motion:** To approve by consent item 4 and to receive for information item 5 above.

**Moved:** A. Deman, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.**

### Regular Agenda

#### 6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the March 22, 2024 Meeting

There was no business arising from the minutes.

#### 7. Governance Committee Report

- a. *Call for Nominations:* The chair of the Governance Committee referred members to the Committee's report under the consent agenda with the call for nominations for 2024-2025 committee vacancies. Members were encouraged to consider putting their names forward.
- b. *Academic Operations Manual (AOM) Policies:* One AOM policy from Academic Committee and one from the Governance Committee were brought forward for second readings and approval. As well, one policy from Academic Committee was brought forward for a first reading.

- i. *Appointment and Reappointment of the Associate Dean*

**Motion 1:** To give the changes to the *Appointment and Reappointment of the Associate Dean* policy a second reading and to approve the *Appointment and Reappointment of the Associate Dean* policy for the SJU Academic Operations Manual.

**Moved:** T. Connolly, **Seconded:** C.A. MacGregor, **Carried.** (21 Votes: 19 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

- ii. *Senate Council Conflict of Interest*

**Motion 2:** To give the new *Senate Council Conflict of Interest* policy a second reading and to approve the *Senate Council Conflict of Interest* policy for the SJU Academic Operations Manual.

**Moved:** T. Connolly, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (21 Votes: 19 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

- iii. *Rescheduling of Cancelled Classes:* This policy is being updated to inform instructors what to do in the event they want to reschedule a class due to emergency or non-emergency cancellations. The policy is expected to be seldomly used, but there is equivalent language at UWaterloo.

**Motion 3:** To give the changes to the *Rescheduling of Cancelled Classes* policy a first reading.

**Moved:** T. Connolly, **Seconded:** A. Stumpf, **Carried.** (21 Votes: 21 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

- c. *Senate Council Terms of Reference (TOR): Governance Committee's Duty to Meet with Auditor:* The Governance Committee raised the two tabled motions from the February 9, 2024 Senate Council meeting, the first to change its duty to meet instead with the Executive Director, Finance and Administration (EDFA) instead of the University auditors (original motion from April 28, 2023 meeting) and the second with a suggestion on how to change the proposed TOR language. The Committee took that suggestion and brought forward reworded language to reflect what we know after speaking with the Board of Governors and the EDFA about working with the

auditors and what their standards of practice are, keeping Senate Council's interests relevant if they have any concerns. One friendly amendment was made to delete the final sentence.

**Motion 4:** To change the TOR language to "meet with the University auditors **unless the auditors solicited explicitly refuse to do so. In the case of such an explicit refusal, the Executive Director, Finance and Administration will...**" **Withdrawn** by mover, A. Stumpf.

**Motion 5:** To give the change to the Senate Council Terms of Reference a first reading, as amended.

**Moved:** T. Connolly, **Seconded:** S. Bednarski, **Carried.** (21 Votes: 19 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)

## 8. Committee on Research and Scholarship Report

The Research Officer reminded members of the Committee on Research and Scholarship's second call for the 2024-2025 Faculty Research Grant competition. Applications are due April 30, 2024, and members were encouraged to apply. The Committee is looking to support research and innovation at the University.

## 9. Vice President Academic and Dean Report

The Vice President Academic and Dean (VPAD) referred members to her written report. She added the following additional items:

A reminder to faculty to submit their annual Activity Report. The VPAD looks forward to reading them.

The VPAD has been giving small updates in her reports throughout the year on various initiatives in the Academic Plan. She is looking forward to giving a more substantive update at the next meeting and thanking those involved in these initiatives.

A lot of important conversations are happening with chairs at Academic Committee around equity and putting ourselves in a strong position since the equity agreement will be looked at in the coming year for the first time since 1991.

## 10. President Report

The President highlighted the items in his written report.

The Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) had another good meeting last week continuing the generative discussion around SJU's commitment to reconciliation, how SJU's mission fits within UWaterloo's mission, and other contexts to help members understand SJU. The President is grateful to the community members on this group as well as the faculty and staff serving as resource members. The IAC is now discussing an Indigenous Strategic Plan for SJU related to our mission and has come up with a long list of priorities; the hope is to have one more meeting before breaking for the summer to trim the list to a manageable number and begin working on objectives. The President will keep Senate Council updated on the different ideas that the IAC is coming up with.

As announced previously, the Resurrectionists gave SJU the Louis Hall building with the understanding that it would be used for mission purposes. The building needs basic maintenance and so our plans are to go year by year for now. To help build ancillary revenue, we are looking at renting it as a graduate student residence for the next couple of years, to be reviewed annually.

The last time our SJU website was completely overhauled was 10 years ago. SJU is the only AFIW whose website is not on the UWaterloo WCMS platform. The decision has been made to move to this platform for several reasons (e.g., software operating our site is retiring, cost and liability of maintaining an independent website including website security, potential for increased search results). The costs of migrating to a different software to retain our own independent website was

noted, whereas the cost to host with UWaterloo is \$0. Phase 1 will be identifying what webpages need to be weeded and what need to be migrated. Phase 2 will be collaboration with Marketing and Communications and other areas to ensure that what is currently on the website is replicated as best as possible on the new website. It will be a gradual transition and work will be done to identify pathways of links that need to be redirected or updated. The intention is to involve faculty in the process. Concern was raised about maintaining SJU's independent sju.ca url and also about being subsumed under UWaterloo's banner (looking like a UWaterloo department and not our own entity). Our url will be figured out as the migration process moves forward. It was noted that in large part, most incoming students are going first to YouTube, Instagram, or other areas to find out information about a university, which does not negate having a good website but is something to consider.

A broad array of people attended Br. G. Consolmagno's lecture on April 15, 2024, the final LCE for 2023-2024. It was an engaging talk where he captured a wide scope of understanding relating the topics of faith and science.

C.A. MacGregor left the meeting.

#### **11. Board Appointment/Reappointment of Vice President Academic and Dean Policy**

Senate Council had a good discussion on this policy at the last meeting. The Board heard Senate Council's concern and understands that faculty have a strong interest in who is going to be the VPAD. The Board has added a third faculty member to the VPAD Evaluation Committee; with the contract academic staff member, this brings the representation to four members of teaching constituency. It was clarified that it was changed for the one staff member to be elected, not appointed by the chair.

C.A. MacGregor returned to the meeting.

#### **12. Indigenization and Decolonization**

This agenda item can be in held in case there are initiatives and topics people may want to raise in a future meeting. Senate Council can discuss whether the work of the IAC, once it becomes clearer and there is more to talk about, could use this space.

#### **13. Updates from Academic Departments**

The Acting Director of Health Humanities announced that the program will be launching a new speaker series. The first lecture will be held on September 27, 2024. The speaker is the founder of Canada's first undergraduate program in Health Humanities, Dr. A. Charise, Associate Professor, University of Toronto Scarborough. Members were asked to mark the event in their calendars.

#### **14. New Business**

There was no new business.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Moved:** C. Rodrigue, **Seconded:** A. Deman, **Carried.**

April 26, 2024

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