

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

October 16, 2020

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

SENATORS:

Z. Al-Asamil	C. Harasym	N. Nestico
L. Archibald	L. Henderson	C. Nolan
P. Barmby	R. Heydon	J. Nord
A. Baxter	K. Hibbert	P. Peddle
J. Baxter	H. Hill	S. Pitel
G. Belfry	V. Hocke	S. Powell
A. Borchert	S. Hodgson	V. Radcliffe
L. Briens	A. Hrymak	G. Read
D. Brou	D. Jeffrey	L. Ricker
S. Burke	T. Jenkyn	L. Rigg
C. Burucua	P. Jones	S. Roland
E. Chamberlain	G. Kelly	A. Rozovsky
L. Cipriano	R. Kennedy	G. Santos
K. Cole	J. Kitz	A. Shepard
K. Coley	J. Langille	V. Smye
J. Compton	K. Lawless	C. Steeves
J. Corrigan	W. Lehmann	A. Tan
J. Cuciurean	L. Logan	P. Tarc
S. Datars Bere	M. McMurran	P. Thomlinson
M. Davison	L. Melnyk Gribble	J. Toswell
R. Dekoter	A. Meyer	Z. Train
J. Finegan	M. Milde	T. Walters
R. Flemming	L. Miller	G. West
L. Frederking	K. Miller	S. Whitehead
M. Garabedian	J. Minac	J. Wilson
J. Garland	J. Mitchell	K. Yeung
L. Ghattas	S. Morrison	J. Yoo
T. Granadillo	A. Nelson	B. Younker
R. Gros		

Observers: B. Baron, R. Bgeginski C. Brunette-Debassige, R. Chelladurai, J. Hutter,
B. MacDougall-Shackleton, J. Massey, M. McGlynn, M. Reesor, K. Seanor, D. Smith

Land Acknowledgement

L. Ghattas delivered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.20-157 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2020 were approved as circulated.

S.20-158 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: Coronavirus update, new anti-racism and EDI initiatives, accolades and leadership update.

The President additionally commented on the following items:

- The President thanked students, staff and volunteers for their continued commitment to the University in navigating the challenges of the pandemic
- A virtual homecoming will take place this weekend for students, staff and alumni
- The University has not received additional funding beyond \$400,000 from the provincial government to support expenses incurred by the pandemic
- The University is reviewing micro-credentials and will be monitoring provincial funding opportunities regarding the implementation of micro-credentials
- The advertisements for Secretary of Senate and Vice-President (University Advancement) will be posted shortly

The President concluded his report by thanking K. Cole, Vice-President (University Advancement) for her contributions to the University during her time at Western.

K. Cole, Vice-President (University Advancement) thanked the President and the Western community for the kind words and wished the University continued success in the future.

S.20-159 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by L. Gribble, seconded by S. Burke,

That the items listed in ITEM 5.0, the Unanimous Consent Agenda be approved or received for information by Senate by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.20-160 **ITEM 5.1(a) Senate Membership**

It was moved by L. Gribble, seconded by S. Burke,

Inaara Savani was acclaimed to fill an undergraduate student "At Large" Senate seat for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 term on the recommendation of the University Students' Council.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.20-161 **Information Items Reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee on Unanimous Consent**

The following items reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.1(b) Candidates for Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates – Fall 2020

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.20-162 **Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards on Unanimous Consent**

The following items reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.2(a) New Scholarships and Awards

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD

S.20-163 **Information Items Reported by the University Research Board on Unanimous Consent**

The following items reported by the University Research Board were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.3(a) MAPP 7.9 Establishment, Governance and Review of Research Institutes, Centres and Groups – Procedures

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

S.20-164 **Information Items Reported through Announcements and Communications on Unanimous Consent**

The following items were reported through Announcements and Communications and were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.4(a) Election Results – Selection Committee for the Vice-President (University Advancement)
- ITEM 5.4(b) Report from the Board of Governors (September 22, 2020)

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.20-165 **ITEM 7.1 In Absentia Convocation – October 2020**

It was moved by L. Gribble, seconded by S. Burke,

To approve the establishment of an in absentia convocation to be held October 23, 2020 for students who complete their degree requirements and would normally have their name put forward as part of the October 21-23 Fall Convocations, and for the awarding of faculty awards.

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

S.20-166 **ITEM 7.2 Fall Convocation (#316)**

Information regarding Fall Convocation (#316) was provided to Senators in ITEM 7.2.

S.20-167 **ITEM 7.3 Final Report of the President's Anti-Racism Working Group**

It was moved by L. Gribble, seconded by S. Burke,

That the President's Anti-Racism Working Group Final Report and Western's Response to the Anti-Racism Working Group Recommendations is received and endorsed by Senate.

CARRIED

The President thanked the Anti-Racism Working Group for their work in engaging the campus community and developing the final report. He reported that the report outlines both historical and recent incidences of racism along with twenty-two recommendations to reduce incidences of racism in the Western community.

S.20-168 **ITEM 7.4 Review of Senate Committee Composition: Ex Officio and Senate-Elected Membership**

An oral update on committee discussions regarding a review of Senate committee composition with respect to ex officio and senate-elected membership was provided in ITEM 7.4 for information.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.20-169 **ITEM 8.1 University Research Board (URB)**

Harvi Hart (Post-Doc) was acclaimed to the University Research Board (URB).

S.20-170 **ITEM 8.2 Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA)**

Charlotte Nau (Graduate Student) was acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA).

S.20-171 **ITEM 8.3(a) Strategic Planning Steering Committee- Elected by Senate**

V. Hocke (Schulich) was acclaimed to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

S.20-172 **ITEM 8.3(b) Strategic Planning Steering Committee- Elected by Open Nomination**

W. Pearson (AH), S. Roland (Music), J. Brown (EDU), C. Robinson (ENG), J. Orange (HS), A. Hearn (FIMS), D. Sandomierski (Law), D. Lee (Ivey), C. Watling (Schulich), B. MacDougall-Shackleton (SC), I. Luginah (SS), K. Van Hedger (Post-Doc), A. Lawendy (Research), N. Wathen (Research), K. Arora (USC), E. Oladejo (USC), A. Pacyga (USC), C. Bonn (SOGS) were acclaimed to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

A senator nominated A. Chant for a staff position on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. An election was held following the Senate meeting. As a result, the following 3 nominees who received the most votes were elected to staff positions on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee: D. Kibilds, C. Lengyell and J. Robinson.

S.20-173 **REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS**

J. Cuciurean, Chair (SCAPA) provided an oral update on the work of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

S.20-174 **ITEM 10.1 Data Strategy**

M. Daley, Special Advisor to the President (Data Strategy), presented the University's Draft Data Strategy as provided in ITEM 10.1 for information.

A senator asked whether all the programs will be launched simultaneously for 2020/2021 or if it will be a phased approach. M. Daley reported that some of these courses are already being offered now, with the intent to roll-out the course infrastructure as quickly as possible with the goal of Fall 2021.

A senator asked whether there will be courses targeted at ethics in artificial intelligence and ethics data. M. Daley reported that the intent would be to have ethics woven through all the courses and programming that will be offered.

A senator queried whether the data science module will give students the option to take the statistics course that is a requirement for most programs or whether they could take the light module from the data science program that is being discussed. M. Daley reported that the decision would remain with the program developers.

A senator asked M. Daley to comment on how the data strategy would work in connection with the Bell 5G research initiative. M. Daley said this would be a decision made by the Western community once the data governance framework was in place.

S.20-175 **ITEM 10.2 Revised Strategic Planning Committee Structure**

The revised Strategic Planning Committee Structure was provided to Senators in ITEM 10.2 for information.

A senator noted that the information provided on pages four and five is already noted in pages two

and three. It was recommended that the strategic planning committee documents are reviewed and consolidated to reduce duplication of information.

S.20-176 **REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD**

L. Rigg, Vice-President (Research) provided an oral update on the work of the University Research Board and an update on research at Western.

S.20-177 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Course/Program Delivery

A senator (J. Toswell) provided the following question in advance:

We have heard much mention of Western's hybrid model for this academic year, with some in person elements to some courses, some courses that require being taught in person, some blended courses, and many courses that are entirely online. In the spring we also heard about a fairly complicated system according to which resources were being offered to put different courses online in different ways, including for a select few courses the outsourcing of the project of placing those courses online. Could we have some kind of update as to where we landed on this front?

I know we have some first-year courses that offer tutorials in person and also online, and that we also have first-year courses with required in person labs, and other first-year courses with required online labs. How many of our courses are online? blended? In person? There is some information in the academic calendar but it takes a lot of gleaning to dig out the golden wheat of knowledge, and I feel certain that more information must have been assembled on these questions.

A. Hrymak Provost & Vice-President (Academic) reported that the Online Instructional Support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was initiated in March/April and deployed in June through the summer. The framework consisted of a four-tier approach. The tiers are:

- Contracted online course development with an external partner, Knowledge One. 7 half-courses developed for fall, 5 half-courses in development for Winter.
- Tier One: Design teams. Instructors as subject matter experts, work with interdisciplinary design teams comprised of instruction designers, educational technologies, eLearning specialists and others. More than 10 additional eLearning specialists in CTL were contracted by Western and over 25 additional summer positions in WTS. 27 half courses and 10 full courses.
- Tier 2: Supported Course Redesign. Instructors participated in a 3 month community of practice led by CTL eLearning specialists and members of the WTS eLearning Technology team to redesign an existing face-to-face course to an online modality. 15 half courses and 4 full courses.
- Tier 3: Faculty development. Instructors and departments build their capacity to design, create and teach online courses through self-selected resources and learning opportunities facilitated by CTL and WTS.
- Tier 4: Independent planning. Instructors access resources available online at the CTL, WTS and OWL websites.

For Winter Tier 1 course development, approximately 13-14 courses, plus the full courses still in development from the fall. The total is lower because (i) the ITRC capacity is lower in winter when students are in classes and (ii) many instructors worked to develop their courses over the summer.

There will be no "Tier 2" in the current round as it's too instructor-intensive to manage during a teaching term, and even Tier 1 will be modified to meet instructor needs and capacity.

The deployment of courses as on-line and blended has proceeded close to plan. The deployment very much varies by Faculty and program year, as per decisions made based on the academic needs.

Some example metrics for 2020-21 constituent undergraduate courses in first entry programs:

- Approximately 1% of student enrolment course activities are in-person only, 57% are virtual only, and 42% are a mix of virtual and in-person across the university.
- Music has the highest proportion of blended virtual and in-person course activities with 97% of overall students with activities across all years, followed by FIMS at 66% overall of students mostly in years 1 and 2, and Engineering at 56% overall mostly in Years 1 and 4.
- Social Science has 75% of student enrolment overall as Virtual only, followed by Arts & Humanities with 58% overall student enrolment as Virtual only.

Proctor Track

A senator (S. Pitel) provided the following question in advance:

A professor in the Faculty of Law notes that over the past few weeks there has been quite a bit of discussion here at Western and elsewhere about the use of remote-proctoring programs including Proctor-Track which is used on this campus. Documentation such as the Western Online Proctoring Notice and Guideline and the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy from Proctor-Track are available for review.

An online petition is being circulated by Western students. The professor asks:

1. How was the use of Proctor-Track approved? Who authorized it and how was it vetted? Why was no Senate policy adopted in respect of it?
2. Does the mandated use of Proctor-Track under the conditions stated both in Western's policy and in the Proctor-Track Privacy Policy violate PIPEDA on several grounds? The most serious is the lack of consent, a fundamental underpinning of the other privacy rights in PIPEDA, because consent has not been freely given in this situation. Perhaps that particular problem would be resolved if students were given an alternative, the ability to opt out. Will students be given this opportunity?

A. Hrymak provided a contextual background as to why Proctor Track was adopted by the University for online assessments. He noted that academic integrity, privacy, and security were reviewed prior to the adoption of Proctor Track and its use is as a temporary tool, due to extenuating circumstances, with limited alternatives to performing student assessments. Proctor Track is a digital service available for use by the faculty, and they are not required to use it. For courses that faculty deem require proctored online

assessments, Proctor Track helps to ensure that the academic integrity of the exam is maintained while students are taking the assessment in unsupervised remote locations.

A. Hrymak reported that students are not permitted to opt out, unless they require accommodations due to significant medical, technical or personal obstacles. Students who have legitimate privacy concerns about disclosing their location can request an incomplete standing so that they can write the assessment in person next time the class is offered, or they can withdraw with a refund.

A. Hrymak responded that the use of Proctor Track does not violate PIPEDA, as Western's academic activities are not subject to PIPEDA. Western's academic activities are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Information Act (FIPPA). For information on how Western has complied with these obligations, A. Hrymak advised to visit the remote proctoring website at <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca/>.

J. Hutter, Acting Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) reported that there was a security incident recently involving Proctor Track. He stated that the University has been notified that no breach of data occurred, however the University will investigate further before determining the continued use of Proctor Track. He reported that assessments will continue in a modified format or deferred to a later date and noted that this will be determined on a course by course basis by the instructors administering the course.

A senator noted concern regarding the limited availability of alternative options in lieu of Proctor Track for students who raise privacy concerns. A. Hrymak reported that options are limited, however all faculty are encouraged to consider alternative options to student assessments.

International Pathway College

An official observer (B. MacDougall-Shackleton) provided the following question in advance:

Since the September meeting of Senate, motions opposing Navitas have passed overwhelmingly at Science and FIMS Faculty Councils. I understand that discussions with Navitas are currently on hold. What is the earliest time that such talks might resume?

A. Hrymak reported that conversations with Navitas have been deferred at this point in time stating the need for the University to decide internally if the International Pathway College is a model to pursue. He noted that the model of an agreement between a University and a private entity is well established in the United States and the United Kingdom but has not been adopted as broadly in Canada. The internal discussions have not advanced sufficiently to re-engage with Navitas at this time.

Self-Funded International Students

A senator (J. Li) raised concerns regarding the limitations of admitting self-funded international students and queried whether the University could provide a statement within the guaranteed funding package that Western is unable to provide funding for all expenses, similar to the University of Toronto, in order to increase admittance of post-doctoral international students.

L. Miller Vice-Provost (Graduate & Post-Doctoral Studies) reported that there has been discussion previously regarding whether there is merit in dissolving the guaranteed funding package. She stated that typical discussion around attracting more post-doctoral international students involve increasing

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funding amounts, however the proposal made regarding the guaranteed funding package and admittance of self-funded international students could be presented to Graduate Education Council for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
Acting University Secretary