



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

February 12, 2021

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

SENATORS:

Z. Al-Asamil	C. Harasym	A. Nelson
L. Archibald	L. Henderson	C. Nolan
P. Barmby	H. Hill	A. Pahargarh
A. Baxter	V. Hocke	J. Nord
J. Baxter	S. Hodgson	P. Peddle
G. Belfry	D. Jeffrey	S. Pitel
L. Briens	T. Jenkyn	S. Powell
D. Brou	C. Jensen	S. Prichard
C. Burghardt- Jesson	P. Jones	V. Radcliffe
S. Burke	G. Kelly	G. Read
C. Burucua	R. Kennedy	L. Ricker
E. Chamberlain	J. Kitz	L. Rigg
L. Cipriano	D. Kotsopoulos	G. Santos
K. Coley	J. Langille	E. Sapuridis
J. Compton	K. Lawless	I. Savani
J. Corrigan	W. Lehmann	A. Shepard
J. Cuciurean	L. Lewis	V. Smye
S. Datars Bere	J. Li	C. Steeves
M. Davison	D. Malloy	P. Tarc
R. Dekoter	C. McLeod	P. Thomlinson
J. Finegan	M. McMurrin	G. Tigert
R. Flemming	L. Melnyk Gribble	J. Toswell
L. Frederking	K. Mequanint	Z. Train
M. Garabedian	A. Meyer	T. Walters
J. Garland	M. Milde	S. Whitehead
K. Gibbons	L. Miller	J. Wilson
G. Gifford	K. Miller	K. Yeung
T. Granadillo	J. Minac	J. Yoo
	S. Morrison	B.A. Younker

Observers: B. Baron, R. Bgeginski, C. Brunette-Debassige, R. Chelladurai, J. Doerksen, B. MacDougall-Shackleton, J. Massey, M. McGlynn, M. Reesor

Land Acknowledgement

L. Briens offered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.21-26 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

A Senator noted B. Craig's (President, Huron University College) response regarding Huron's academic partnership with Harvard was not reflected in the minutes.

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by M. Milde,

That the minutes of January 15, 2021 be approved with the amendment to include the response regarding Huron's academic partnership with Harvard University.

CARRIED

S.21-27 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report, distributed with the agenda, contained information on the following topics: COVID-19 update, accolades, and leadership updates.

The President additionally commented on the following items:

- In-person instruction for courses previously planned to be delivered in this format will resume on February 21. Roughly 25% of courses currently offer an in-person component.
- Spring and summer term courses are anticipated to follow a similar structure of the winter term. Courses will be primarily online, with limited exceptions.
- Convocation: The goal is to preserve the personal experience; however, plans may be re-evaluated with different options if scheduling does not allow to make up for missed convocations.
- International Engagement: The President noted that he has been interacting with the Canadian Ambassador to China and the High Commissioner to India to enhance Western's international relations.
- Filomena Tassi, the Minister of Labour, visited Western's Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children.
- Enrollment continues to be very strong.
- The London Economic Development Corporation has entered into a partnership with the Faculty of Social Science to support and retain Western graduates to stay and help build this region.

The President concluded his report by providing leadership updates. The search for Vice President (University Advancement) is in the final stages. The searches for University Secretary and the Provost are underway. The search for Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) will begin today. The Dean of Faculty of Music search is continuing. C. Bressette will join Western on March 1st as the first Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives).

S.21-28 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by M. Milde,

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

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.21-29 **ITEM 5.1(a) – Faculty of Engineering: Withdrawal of Green Process Engineering/HBA (Option B) and Green Process Engineering/Law (Option C)**

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by M. Milde,

That effective September 1, 2021, admission to Green Process Engineering/HBA (Option B) and Green Process Engineering/Law (Option C) be discontinued, and That students enrolled in the Options prior to September 1, 2021 be permitted to graduate with these Options upon completion of all requirements by August 31, 2024,
and

That effective September 1, 2024, the Options be withdrawn, and all registration discontinued.

CARRIED

S.21-30 **ITEM 5.1(c) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Program Reviews of the Graduate Programs in French Studies and the Collaborative Specialization in Musculoskeletal Health Research**

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by M. Milde,

That the course-based option for the MA in French Studies be eliminated, and That the five existing fields for the MA in French Studies be withdrawn (Linguistique théorique et appliquée, Littérature et culture françaises modernes, Littérature et culture françaises prémodernes, Littératures et cultures québécoises et francophones, Théorie littéraire et culturelle et l'histoire des idées), and

That the two new fields of Literature and Linguistics be introduced.

CARRIED

S.21-31 **Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards**

The following items reported by the Senate Committee on University Planning were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 5.1(b) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U): Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in French Studies, Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, History, and Religious Studies (King’s University College)
- ITEM 5.1(c) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Program Reviews of the Graduate Programs in French Studies and the Collaborative Specialization in Musculoskeletal Health Research
- ITEM 5.1(d) – New Scholarships and Awards

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

S.21-32 **REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE**

E. Chamberlain (OAC) provided an oral update on the work of the Operations/Agenda Committee.

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

S.21-33 **ITEM 8.1 - Selection Committee for Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)**

R. Kennedy (Undergraduate Student), T. McQuaid (Staff), E. Sapuridis (Graduate Student), J. Seijts (Faculty), J. Yoo (Faculty, Dean) were acclaimed to the selection committee for the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion).

A Senator queried why Postdoc Scholars were not represented in the committee. A. Bryson responded that the composition of selection committees is set out in the appointment procedures. There was no determination at the time the appointment procedures were established for the committee to include Postdoc Scholars.

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.21-34 **ITEM 9.1 – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine: Introduction of a Major in One Health**

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by M. Milde,

That effective September 1, 2021, a Major in One Health be introduced in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

CARRIED

S.21-35 **ITEM 9.2 – King’s University College: Introduction of a Certificate in the Study of Law and Public Policy and Introduction of Political Science 2101A/B**

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by M. Milde,

That effective September 1, 2021, a Certificate in the Study of Law and Public Policy be introduced at King’s University College, and That Political Science 2101A/B: Introduction to Law and Public Policy be introduced at King’s University College.

CARRIED

S.21-36 **ITEM 9.3 – Revisions to the “Academic Consideration for Student Absences – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs” Policy**

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by M. Milde,

That effective February 13, 2021 until April 12, 2021, the “Academic Consideration for Student Absences – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs” policy be temporarily amended as shown in Item 9.3 in recognition of the extenuating circumstances caused by the COVID-19 world pandemic, and,

That effective April 13, 2021 the previous version of the policy, “Last Revised 2019 10” be reinstated.

One Senator abstained from voting.

CARRIED

S.21-37 **ITEM 9.4 – Update on Remote Proctoring**

S. Prichard, Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic), J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), and G. Tigert, University Registrar, provided an update on remote proctoring.

G. Tigert advised that the eCampus Ontario agreement to provide Proctor Track will end in April. The process of finding a long term remote proctoring solution for Western began in the fall. A remote proctoring advisory team was established, composed of three Undergraduate students, a representative from SOGS, USC and a student Senator, as well as three Associate Deans (Academic), and three staff from WTS and the Office of the Registrar.

Six software solutions were rated according to criteria related to security, privacy, functionality, technical requirements, support, reputation and experience. Two vendors were identified as primary and secondary vendors, and there are ongoing confidential contract negotiations with the suppliers.

A Senator queried why Western has not provided an alternative option for students who cite security concerns with Proctor Track, such as external or private exam administration services.

G. Tigert responded that alternative solutions such as loan computers or a bursary to purchase a new computer that meets the software requirements of the remote proctoring tool have been provided as a solution if needed. There have also been conversations with Associate Deans and Instructors about

alternative assessments or an alternative proctoring process when required.

J. Doerksen responded that it has been common practice to offer some flexibility and accommodations around proctored exams. Faculties may face challenges if requests for alternative assessments happened at a large scale, but J. Doerksen advised the suggestion should be taken into consideration.

A guest was given leave to speak and raised a concern regarding consent from students on the alternative vendors, and stated students should have a clear opt-out option. He also noted there should have been Faculty representation on the advisory committee.

A Senator commented that students' financial abilities should be taken consideration, as many students may not be able to afford the high costs associated with alternative forms of assessments, such as external or private exam administration services. She noted this may cause students to cede their privacy, and financial assistance should be made available to students who require accommodations due to accessibility or privacy concerns.

The President advised that the University is mindful of the financial burdens students face, particularly during the pandemic. The President noted financial aid for Undergraduate students increased by 44% this academic year, while also increasing financial aid for graduate students.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

S.21-38 Strategic Plan Update

M. Davison, Chair of SCUP, provided an oral update on the Strategic plan.

The Strategic Plan Steering committee is currently engaged in consultation sessions across the seven theme groups. The themes and the membership for each theme group are available on the website <https://president.uwo.ca/strategic-planning-20-21/>. M. Davison noted that there is positive engagement on the social media content, and excellent responses have been received for the survey.

S.21-39 ITEM 10.1 – Subcommittee on Enrolment Planning and Policy (SUEPP) Report

It was moved by G. Santos, seconded by M. Milde,

That Senate approve the plans and processes for first-year first-entry undergraduate enrolment for the University and Affiliated University Colleges as outlined in ITEM 10.1(a),

And,

That Senate approve the 2021-22 enrolment projections/plans as shown in ITEM 10.1(b) be used for University budget planning purposes.

CARRIED

S.21-40 **ITEM 10.1(c) Report on Entering Averages & First Year Grades**

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Planning, Budgeting & Information Technology) presented information regarding the Fall 2020 First-Year Class and Associated Metrics.

A Senator asked for clarification on the rationale for the plan estimate set at 5600 first-year direct-entry program students.

R. Chelladurai responded that in the planning process, Deans of direct entry programs were asked to do an assessment of their preferred class size, maximum class size, and the capacity they have in terms of teaching and support resources. The number of applications that are received by the Ontario University Application Center is also taken into consideration. The information collected from the Deans is summarized and reviewed by the Provost, the Registrar's office, Western International and the office of Institutional Budget & Planning. The combined data from the Deans assessment and the preliminary number of student applications received provides an estimate of a realistic target number, and the projection was 5600 students.

The Senator followed up by enquiring if residence space availability has any implication on the estimated number.

R. Chelladurai responded that an assessment is also done on residence space, and it plays a role in the final estimated number.

A Senator voiced a concern regarding the increase in first year Social Science students. He noted this would cause larger class sizes, affecting Faculty members' experience and interaction with students, and the overall student experience.

R. Chelladurai responded that the surge of first year enrollments was due to the pandemic. The Dean of Social Science has requested a decline to the target enrollment number for the plan next year.

S.21-41 **ITEM 10.2 - Update on Budget and Planning**

S. Prichard, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Planning, Budgeting and Information Technology) provided a verbal update on the budget and planning cycle process.

A Senator requested more information on the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) budget unit.

A. Shepard responded the budget will include the salary of the new Associate Vice-President and potentially other salaries, as there will be an education component in the unit.

A Senator queried if the carryover budget cuts due to the tuition freeze from the previous year, in addition to the IBA cuts anticipated from this year have been resolved into the budget.

R. Chelladurai responded that the previous two-year plan had incremental cuts to respond to the tuition rollback of 2.5% in each of those two years, in addition to cuts from IBA. As a result, only the IBA cut is in place for this coming year.

SS.21-42 **REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD**

L. Rigg, Vice-President (Research) provided an oral report on the work of the University Research Board committee.

S.21-43 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Senators submitted the following questions in advance:

Convocation

As we contemplate a return to in-person campus activities, one of the most anticipated events will be our next Convocation. This ritual traditionally unites the Western community. How can Convocation be successful when the current Chancellor remains an object of division for many faculty, staff, and students following her flouting of COVID-19 public health guidelines?

A subsequent question was received from the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS) regarding Chancellor L. Hasenfratz's international travel over the holidays. A member of SOGS read a public statement addressed to Chancellor L. Hasenfratz, calling for her to resign from her position as the Chancellor for Western.

A. Shepard responded that when Chancellor L. Hasenfratz travelled, Ontario was not under a "stay at home" order, but under the guidance to stay home, therefore she did not violate any Federal or Provincial laws. He also noted that she followed all protocols and remained in quarantine as public health guidelines require. The President acknowledged that the Chancellor is sincerely apologetic and regretful over her travel, and has stepped down as a volunteer member of the provincial COVID-19 vaccine panel. She has also released an apology letter addressed to the community.

A. Shepard highlighted the Chancellor's community work and engagement for the Western community for over 20 years. He noted that she is an advocate for women in Engineering, Science, and Business, and has represented Western on a number of advisory committees prior to becoming Chancellor. She has made contributions to two scholarships. She is the Chief Executive Officer of Linamar, which hosts a successful co-op program for Western's students.

The matter of whether the Chancellor should resign from her role at Western was addressed by the Board of Governors in a closed session. After very careful discussions and considerations, the Board weighed all of the Chancellor's work and support to Western, and came to the conclusion that the Board would issue a public reprimand of the Chancellor, and she would continue in her role as Chancellor for Western.

The Senator followed up her question and requested an elaboration on the Board of Governors' statement that stated the Chancellor will begin seeking opportunities to repair the trust of the community. The Senator noted the statement did not give any examples of such remedies.

A. Shepard responded that he had discussions with the Chancellor and she is continuing to discuss ideas and opportunities with some Deans.

A Senator raised a concern that during the fall term, students were threatened with academic discipline for not following health and safety guidelines. She noted that students do not consider that the outcome of the Chancellor's actions equate with the consequences that students might have faced in the fall.

The President advised that the previous charges laid in the fall against students were code of conduct violations in residence halls due to large parties, gatherings and other activities that violated the law limits on the size of gatherings. He noted this is a different scenario than breaking public health guidelines.

Senate Elections

Under the UWO Act, “The election of a member of the Senate under clause 24(1)(b) or (d) shall be by secret ballot of the members of the academic unit or affiliated college to be represented who hold the rank of assistant professor or higher, but in all other respects such an election shall be in accordance with the manner and procedures established and determined by the Senate.”

This week, many faculty members holding the rank of Lecturer were disheartened to be reminded that this language prevents them from participating in elections to select their representative in Senate. Undergraduate students, graduate students and full-time staff are all eligible to vote for their Senator, but full-time faculty with the rank of Lecturer - many of them long-serving - are not. Will Western commit to attempting to fix this disenfranchisement, in the interest of collegial governance?

P. Eluchok (Legal Counsel) responded that the issue is created by Western’s Governing Act, which limits who can serve on Senate. He advised the suggested solution of a letter will not resolve the issue. He noted that the solution is only accomplished by amending the act, which is a significant undertaking. If the decision is made to amend the act, it would likely result in a comprehensive review to determine if other updates are required. To amend the Act, an application is submitted to the Government, and it would then be left to the legislative process to determine to table a bill with the amendment. P. Eluchok noted the process could be lengthy. The decision to open the Act is a critical decision and timing is important. This issue can be brought forward in future when a decision is made to pursue changes to the Act.

A Senator suggested that the issue should be resolved at an internal level without the need to amend the Act. He noted the language in the Act is outdated, and recommended drafting appropriate language that would handle the issue at an internal level. A. Shepard thanked the Senator for the suggestion, but reminded we have to follow procedure.

Online Course Delivery

The Western Student Senators have received a lot of really positive comments from students, thanking their professors for taking their feedback from last semester and applying it to courses this term to create the best learning environment for students. However, one concern that still exists is accessibility for students requiring accommodation. With this shift to online learning, many students receiving accommodations struggle to learn content without lectures being closed captioned. Are there support systems currently in place to aid professors and lecturers so that they can add closed captioning as an accessibility feature to their lectures?

J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) responded that during the rapid transition to remote learning in the summer, the Center for Teaching and Learning developed a series of videos around accessibility practices available to faculty members. They also developed a website that details the captioning resources that are available. J. Doerksen noted that this week Zoom introduced a live captioning function that is implemented at Western. The following link to Western Technology Services describes how to enable live captioning on Zoom:

https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/special_features/live_transcription.html

A Senator provided the following comment: “Is it equitable to make students pay for more secure services? Many students and their families have been facing financial insecurity during this pandemic. A lot of this insecurity is faced by students of colour and of lower socioeconomic status who already face challenges accessing education.”

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
Acting University Secretary