



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

March 12, 2021

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

SENATORS:

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

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

Land Acknowledgement

G. Belfry offered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.21-44 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2021 were approved as circulated.

S.21-45 **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:

- Congratulated A. Bryson on assuming the role of University Secretary.
- Welcomed C. Bressette, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives) who assumed the role on March 1, and thanked C. Brunette-Debassige for her work in the Acting role.
- Congratulated M. McGlynn as the incoming Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty), and thanked K. Campbell for all her work while previously serving this role.
- Applauded Professors S. Wei and A. Park (Faculty of Music), co-founders of the "Ensemble Made in Canada", a piano quartet in residence at Western. Their Mosaïque album has been nominated for a Juno Award.
- The President acknowledged the Faculty of Music for being one of the leaders in Canada to safely coordinate making music in person in the midst of the pandemic.
- Twenty-two confirmed cases of COVID-19 cases have been linked to off-campus gatherings. Two of the cases are students in residence, and they have been isolated in off-campus locations. The President urged students to avoid Saint Patrick's Day celebrations to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- Western plans to return to in-person classes this September. Further details regarding safety protocols will be announced once they are definitive.
- The President noted that the number of International students applying to Western has declined, however, the number of Canadian domestic students applying has increased by 10%.
- Strategic Planning consultations have been very well attended and received by the University community. Key findings will be announced in April, a draft of the Strategic Planning framework will be shared in May, and a final form will be presented for approval in June.

The President concluded his report by recognizing the challenges of remote work and employee exhaustion during the pandemic. To acknowledge the Western community's collective efforts, the President announced two additional days of holiday: May 21 to create a four-day Victoria Day weekend, and June 30 to create a five-day Canada Day weekend.

S.21-46 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That the items listed in the Consent Agenda, except for ITEMS 5.2(c)(i) and 5.3(a), be approved or received for information by the Senate by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.21-47 **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(a)-Results of the Spring 2021 Elections for Membership on Senate
- ITEM 5.1(b)-Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment
- ITEM 5.1(d)-Candidates for Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates – Spring Convocation (#317)

S.21-48 **ITEM 5.1(c) – In Absentia Convocation for May and June 2021**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That the Senate approve the establishment of four in absentia convocations to be held May 13, 2021, June 5, 2021, June 11, 2021 and June 18, 2021 for students who complete their degree, diploma and certificate requirements and would normally have their name put forward as part of:

- the May 13, 2021, Huron Theology Convocation,
- the June 5, 2021, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry (MD) Convocation,
- the June 11, 2021, Richard Ivey School of Business (Graduate Programs Spring) Convocation,
- the June 14-18 and 21-25, 2021, Spring Convocations,

And that all students who have their degree or diploma conferred and certificate awarded in absentia be given the opportunity to participate in a future celebration.

CARRIED

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.21-49 **5.2(a) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of the MD Program**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That the admission requirements for the MD program be revised as shown, effective July 1, 2021 for the 2021-22 application cycle.

CARRIED

S.21-50 **ITEM 5.2(b)(i) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine: Introduction of a New Subject Area in “Medical Bioinformatics” and Withdrawal of the Subject Area in “Medical Health Informatics”**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2021, “Medical Bioinformatics” be introduced as a new subject area by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, and included in Category C for Breadth Requirements for Graduation, and That effective September 1, 2022, “Medical Health Informatics” be withdrawn as a subject area.

CARRIED

S.21-51 **ITEM 5.2(b)(ii) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the Faculty of Science: Introduction of an Honours Specialization in Medical Bioinformatics and Revisions to the “Admission to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program and Modules Offered in the BMSc Program” Policy**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2021, an Honours Specialization in Medical Bioinformatics, leading to an Honours Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) degree, be introduced by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and the Faculty of Science, and

That effective September 1, 2021, the “Admission to the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMSc) Program and Modules Offered in the BMSc Program” policy be revised to include the Honours Specialization in Medical Bioinformatics in the Weighted Average Chart.

CARRIED

S.21-52 **ITEM 5.2(b)(iv) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the Faculty of Science: Withdrawal of the Honours Specialization in Medical Health Informatics**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2021, admission to Honours Specialization in Medical Health Informatics be discontinued, and

That students currently enrolled in the module be permitted to graduate until August 31, 2024 upon fulfilment of the requirements, and

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

CARRIED

S.21-53 **ITEM 5.2(c)(ii) – Faculty of Science, Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences: Introduction of a Certificate in Data Science**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2021, a Certificate in Data Science be introduced by the Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences in the Faculty of Science.

CARRIED

S.21-54 **ITEM 5.2(c)(iii) – Faculty of Science, Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences: Revisions to the Admission and Program Requirements of the Honours Specialization, Major and Minor in Data Science**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2021, the admission and program requirements of the Honours Specialization, Major and Minor in Data Science be revised as shown.

CARRIED

S.21-55 **ITEM 5.2(d) – Faculty of Social Science, Department of Geography and Environment: Revisions to the Admission Requirements of all Modules**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2021, the admission requirements for the modules listed below be revised to include Geography 1200A/B (Climate Change Emergency).

Honours Specialization in Geography and Environment – BA
Honours Specialization in Geography and Environment – BSc
Honours Specialization in Geographic Information Science – BA
Honours Specialization in Geographic Information Science – BSc
Honours Specialization in Geography and Environment and Commercial Aviation Management–BA
Honours Specialization in Urban Development – BA
Honours Specialization in Geography and Environment/HBA
Honours Specialization in Urban Development/HBA
Specialization in Geography and Environment – BA
Specialization in Geography and Environment and Commercial Aviation Management – BA
Major in Environment and Health
Major in Geography and Environment
Major in Geographic Information Science
Major in Physical Geography and Environment
Minor in Geography and Environment

CARRIED

S.21-56 **ITEM 5.2(e)(i) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Master of Science (MSc) in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That the Master of Science (MSc) in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences be revised as shown, effective May 1, 2021.

CARRIED

S.21-57 **ITEM 5.2(e)(ii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Revisions to the Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MSc) in Geography**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That the Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MSc) in Geography be revised as shown, effective September 1, 2021.

CARRIED

S.21-58 **ITEM 5.2(e)(iii) – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of an Online Stream for the Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Public Administration**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2021, an online stream be introduced for the Graduate Diploma (GDip) in Public Administration.

CARRIED

S.21-59 **ITEM 5.2(f) – Policy Amendment: Structure of the Academic Year (Guidelines for the Organization of the Academic Year: Dentistry) and Revised Sessional Dates for the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, DDS Program (2020-21)**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective January 1, 2021 until August 31, 2021, the Structure of the Academic Year Policy be temporarily amended as shown in recognition of the extenuating circumstances caused by the COVID-19 world pandemic, and,

That the authority to amend the dates for any Senate policies impacted by this temporary change to the Structure of the Academic Year be delegated to the Office of the Registrar for the period noted above (e.g., grade submission deadlines, add/drop dates, deadline to apply for February In Absentia Graduation), and,

That effective September 1, 2021 the previous version of the policy, “Last Revised 2020 04” be reinstated.

CARRIED

S.21-60 **ITEM 5.2(h)(ii) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Reviews of the Engineering in Medicine Collaborative Specialization and the Graduate Programs in Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics identified areas for program changes as part of the cyclical review process and is seeking approval for those changes below.

CARRIED

S.21-61 **Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards**

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

- ITEM 5.2(b)(iii) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine: DAP Proposals to Introduce Medical Bioinformatics 3100A/B, 4850G and 4980E
- ITEM 5.2(c)(iv) – Faculty of Science, Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences: DAP Proposals to Introduce Data Science 1000A/B, 1200A/B, 2000A/B, 2100A and 3000A/B
- ITEM 5.2(g) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Undergraduate (SUPR-U): Cyclical Reviews of the Undergraduate Programs in Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, English (Brescia University College), History (Huron University College), Philosophy (King’s University College)
- ITEM 5.2(h)(i) – Report of the Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate (SUPR-G): Cyclical Reviews of the Engineering in Medicine Collaborative Specialization and the Graduate Programs in Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- ITEM 5.2(i) – New Scholarships and Awards

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

S.21-62 **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) – Academic Administrative Appointments

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

S.21-63 **ITEM 5.2(c)(i) – Faculty of Science, Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences: Introduction of a New Subject Area in “Data Science”**

A Senator requested the removal of ITEM 5.2(c)(i) from consent agenda, noting it is a new initiative and should be acknowledged during the Senate agenda period.

M. Daley (Special Advisor to the President on Data Strategy) addressed the introduction of the new subject area in Data Science, advising it is a system of two streams. One of the streams is intended for students who want to pursue careers in Data Science. The second stream is for students from any discipline, who want to supplement their education with Data Science. The streams are combined in second year, to allow the expert tool makers and the perspective tool users to work together in a manner of experiential team-based learning.

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That effective September 1, 2021, "Data Science" be introduced as a new subject area and included in Category C for Breadth Requirements for Graduation.

CARRIED

S.21-64 **ITEM 5.3(a) – Vice-Provost’s Annual Report of Faculty Recruitment and Retention**

A Senator submitted the following questions in advance:

a) Over the past decade the number of tenured and probationary faculty members has declined by about 8% (page 168). During the same period student enrollment has increased to record high levels. In order to fulfill its mission of providing high-quality education to all students, will Western commit to increasing the number of tenured and probationary faculty members in each of the next five years?

b) In 2020-21 women who were shortlisted for tenured and probationary positions were notably less successful in obtaining those positions than in the previous two years (page 171). Has Western identified and evaluated the reasons for this change? What steps does Western propose to take to reverse this change?

S. Prichard, Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic) acknowledged that student population numbers have increased, meanwhile the faculty numbers have not increased at an analogous pace. S. Prichard noted this may be the result of a number of recent retirements due to the faculty retirement proposal. She advised that Western is currently in a new phase of faculty renewal, where it is anticipated that between 60 to 70 new tenure probationary appointments will be made in the coming year. S. Prichard emphasized that notwithstanding the change in the student and the faculty numbers, Western retains the lowest ratio of students per faculty member of all the U6 in Ontario.

M. McGlynn, Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty) addressed the shortlisted women applicants for tenured and probationary positions in 2020-2021. She noted that the figures for women who were successfully hired in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 were higher than the following year due to new hires in the faculty of Health Sciences. M. McGlynn noted this is a female dominant faculty, as shown on page 173 of the agenda package. The hires in Health Sciences influenced the unusually high number of females hired into tenured and probationary positions for those years, and that is the recognizable reason for the difference.

E. Chamberlain (Dean, faculty of Law) addressed the relatively low number of part-time faculty in Law. She noted the faculty frequently hires practitioners to teach courses. Most practitioners join on the basis of visiting contracts, as opposed to limited duties contracts, therefore they are not reflected in the part-time figures. The number seven, as shown on page 194 of the agenda package, reflects faculty who primarily have standing appointments and are hired as limited duties faculty.

A Senator inquired if there were disproportionate resignations from particular faculties, and requested reasonable explanations.

M. McGlynn responded that according to page 204 of the agenda package, the resignations vary from one and a half percent to three and a half percent of the faculty. She advised mobility and the varying size play a large role in the figures. She noted there are a number of slides in the report that provide reasons for resignations from a gender equity lens.

A Senator requested more clarification on the response provided by M. McGlynn on the shortlisted women applicants for tenured and probationary positions. He noted that if the two previous years were anomalous, it is more the norm that women are not getting hired at the level that they are being shortlisted. He inquired if Western has any plans to address this gap.

M. McGlynn agreed that it is a concern that women are not being hired at a higher desired number, and acknowledged the current process will not achieve the target in the desired timeframe. She advised the solution starts at the appointment committee level, noting that under the collective agreement, the committee must seek a representative pool. M. McGlynn noted the appointments process may need to be reevaluated to identify where the process can be improved.

A Senator inquired if there were comprehensive analytics in terms of minoritized or faculty of colour.

M. McGlynn responded the data on minority groups is very limited. A. Shepard noted work is underway on a voluntary survey that would collect that data on a voluntary basis.

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING

SS.21-65 ITEM 10.1 – Indigenous Strategic Plan Progress Report

C. Brunette-Debassige, Special Advisor to the Provost (Indigenous Initiatives) presented the Indigenous Strategic Plan progress report.

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD

SS.21-66 ITEM 11.1 – Revisions to MAPP 7.12 (Policy and Procedures for the Use of Animals in Research and Teaching) and Elimination of MAPP 7.10 (Institutional Animal User Training Program) and MAPP 7.15 (Post Approval Monitoring Program)

It was moved by G. Read, seconded by J. Garland,

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors revisions to MAPP 7.12, Policy and Procedures for the Use of Animals in Research and Teaching and,

The elimination of MAPP 7.10 Institutional Animal User Training Program and 7.15 Post Approval Monitoring (PAM) Program as Senate level policies, effective March 12, 2021.

CARRIED

SS.21-67 ITEM 12.0 – Report of the Academic Colleague

Senate received the Academic Colleague Report on the March 2021 meeting for information.

A Senator inquired if the results of the College and University Strategic Mandate Agreements performance metrics are provided prior to the public posting on the Ministry's website.

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Planning, Budgeting & Information Technology) responded that Western has received the results, however, we must comply with the Ministry's timeline of publishing the performance metrics.

S.21-68 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Senators submitted the following questions in advance:

Follow-up Regarding Senate Elections

I would like an update on the question that was asked about Lecturers and the right to vote in Senate elections at the previous meeting.

P. Eluchok (Legal Counsel) responded that the Act sets out a requirement to designate which faculty can serve on Senate and vote on its elections. The Act states that in order to participate, faculty must hold the rank of Assistant Professor or higher. During the previous Senate meeting, members proposed putting forward a letter of understanding to allow lecturers to participate and serve on Senate. P. Eluchok noted the proposal was reviewed, and there are concerns with potential risks. He proposed to continue exploring other means to allow Lecturers to participate in Senate.

University Webpages

First, for various reasons I have been enjoying the university website, and I clicked on "Academics" and then on "Departments.Faculties.Affiliates" where I came to a website entitled "Academics." This website lists 95 "academic entities" at Western. Since there are double that many programs, I found myself consumed with curiosity as to which programs achieved the cachet of being entities and which did not. Things got interesting. My colleagues in Law clearly know how to trumpet their programs, as they have "Business Law," "Criminal Law," "JD Academic Programs," and finally "Law Grad Programs." In addition six "teaching hospitals" are listed as part of Western's academic structure. FIMS, another heavy hitter in the cachet department, has an impressive 9 (including "Linguistics" which would be a surprise to my colleagues in the French Studies department). To summarize on the other faculties: Social Science has 10 entries, Science 10 (including Psychology), Arts and Humanities 9, Schulich a stonking 25 (+ those hospitals), Health Sciences a paltry 7, Engineering a miserly 5, Education a sad and sorrowful one (listed as "Continuing Teacher Education" not even "Education").

Clearly some sweeping and cleaning is necessary. However, the entry that struck my attention, given that this is an "Academics" website, was "Ivey Academy." This link led to thirty individual programs, and to what appears to be a site of micro-credentials (though I am admittedly hazy on exactly what these might be). Are these programs "academic programs" at Western? As such, should they be going through the usual approvals process? When did the Ivey Academy start up, and how did it arrive on this slightly creaky landing-page? These are questions.

For those who want it, here is the page: <https://www.uwo.ca/academics/index.html>

J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) responded that due to the increasing interest in micro-credentials, the Ministry has extended student financial assistance to micro-credential programs.

The Ministry currently does not have a policy framework or conclusive definition of micro-credentials.

J. Doerksen noted that the "Ivey Academy" has numerous micro-credential programs offered, and that Western Continuing Studies has participated with provincial E-Campus Ontario pilot projects around micro-credentials. J. Doerksen expressed Western will have more clarity on micro-credentials in the near future, as the Ministry is developing the regulatory framework.

A. Blackburn-Evans (Chief Communications Officer/AVP, Communications and Public Affairs) attended as a guest to respond to the question. The "Academics" page referenced in the question was established over a decade ago, however, the system in place to update the page has proven ineffective over the years. A. Blackburn-Evans noted there is a plan to redesign the Western homepage this year, and the pages identified will be part of the of the redesign.

Huron University College

Huron University College declared its intention to secede from Western in mid-February, on local and national media. The stated intent is to use the new Huron University College Act to establish a new Board of Governors (28 members announced later in February, with pictures provided), and to take control of the academic endeavours of Huron, including conferring its own degrees, not Western degrees.

As the person who asked a question about Huron's new governance structure in January, and asked for the item clarifying the relationship to Harvard to be added to the minutes in February, I feel it is my responsibility to follow up with a few more queries.

First, could we have some clarification of the ethical situation at the moment? Given Huron's public position that it will withdraw from Western and compete with main campus and with Brescia and King's, will its representatives withdraw now from all academic-related committees and processes at Western? It seems bad business practice to announce a secession and then to remain present, gathering information and voting on academic decisions.

Next, I still have questions about the relationship with Harvard. The video at the top of the "Future Students" website at Huron shows an image of Harvard and describes an "academic partnership." Later there is more specificity about an online program in core business competencies. If Huron is seceding from us, then perhaps my concerns are irrelevant, but I would like someone versed in the current affiliation agreement to take a look at this connection and determine if it falls under that agreement.

Third, among the fifteen programs Huron advertises itself as offering (on the front of its website) is "Ivey Business School." Ivey, for its part, indicates on its website Combined Degree Programs with two Huron programs (Global Studies and Psychology). The Western Academic Calendar has only Psychology, although it seems likely that the Global Culture and Global Studies programs there are exclusively Huron programs. Huron on its website advertises that students can attend Ivey and combine with any Huron program. Could we have some coordination among these rather different public statements?

I have more questions. I hate to think about Huron leaving Western. I also have some hope. When the initial announcements came out in February, the plan was to implement the new autonomous Huron in September 2022. Today, as I search the Huron website looking for information, I see that the proposed implementation date is now 2023, and some internal consultation is happening. As a former marshal for Convocation, I enjoyed attending the Divinity Convocation at Huron in early May

and I enjoyed watching Huron graduates come across the stage at Western (including at least one family member). I would hate to see this end.

G. Read (Provost and Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Huron University College) responded to the question.

“Thanks for the question. I say thank you, because it gives us the opportunity to clear up some of the misunderstandings that were created, particularly when the story broke in the media. As a starting point, Huron has not declared its intention to request approval to grant its own degrees at this point. What we have done is started a conversation with our community about the possibility of doing that. It is something that our leadership is keen on. This was their advice that we should do this, I do not want to hide that. There will be an internal consultation process, faculty votes on the matter at the Council levels, and then ultimately it is a Board decision, which will take place in June. Just to be clear, we have not publicly announced that we are doing this, as we have publicly announced, in a sense that we are talking about doing this. I would also like to reframe it from the way that it is framed in the question, as I do not actually see this as us seceding per se. In one sense, yes, we are exploring the possibility of seceding from Western Senate, and establishing our own Senate and granting our own degrees, but that does not mean that we foresee the ending of the partnership with Western. Rather, I would frame it as an exciting opportunity, potentially, if it happens, to build a renewed partnership between Western, King’s and Brescia. There is a long history between Huron and Western. For those who do not know, Western actually emerged out of Huron, as Huron is the founding institution. Our partnership goes right back to the moment that Western was founded. We have a strong relationship, we get lots of good things from the relationship with Western, we continue to think that the Western degree has value. It is not that we think it does not have value. In the vision that we have, this is not an end of affiliation with Western, but just a revised affiliation with Western, where we would have an affiliation between two autonomous degree-granting institutions rather than both granting the same degree.

It is not Huron’s public position that it will make these changes yet because that decision has not been taken. And that decision will not be taken until June. At that point, there would still be many hurdles to overcome before it actually happens. Even after the decision is taken, if it is to go ahead and try and do this, that does not necessarily mean it will happen.

As for the question as to whether Huron will withdraw this time from Senate, SUPR-U, SCAPA, and other bodies, I will be honest and say I think that question is a bit inappropriate. Those bodies approve new programs, courses, they govern curriculum, they look over program reviews. We are subject to all of those things, so of course we will continue to be represented on those bodies. Until such time, potentially, that a new Senate is created. Then we would leave those bodies. Our programs are governed by those bodies, so we need to be represented on there just like any other faculty or affiliated college, until such time as that changes.

It would be my hope that Huron would still have non-voting representation at Western Senate, and that Western would also have non-voting representation at a future Huron Senate, if such a thing comes to exist.

Again, we value Western as a partner and will continue to do so going forward, regardless of whether or not we end up seeking this greater degree of autonomy or not.

As to some of the specific questions, the Harvard video referred to has been taken down and it is being edited to remove reference to it being an academic partnership. In my understanding, that actually fits well with the sort of thing that Alan was referencing just a few minutes ago. This is a kind of online business summer camp, that our students have a pathway to take. It is non-academic in nature. We always run new partnership ideas and proposals past the Provost at Western, and if it is determined that the new partnership is academic in nature, then it does come to Senate for approval.

I am not sure what you are referring to on the website about Ivey, but if there was language that said we had an Ivey program, that was the result of some sloppy work by somebody on the website. We do have partnerships with Ivey of course, that are actually the same as the partnerships that Ivey has with Western faculties, and the other affiliate colleges. For example, we do have AEO students, those are students who are pre-approved for admission to Ivey after their second year, provided that they meet the requirements. Then we also do have the joint degree programs or the dual degree programs. I think you saw a vestige of an older framework. Huron actually pioneered the dual degree framework. We had Global Studies and Psychology, which you could do dual degree with, and then go on and do an Ivey degree as well. That usually took students five years. The framework that was established has now been expanded to any program that has an Honours Specialization with the exception of MOS. I think that also applies at Western and I believe the other affiliates as well. So yes, a student can come to Huron and do a degree in history and also get the dual degree at Ivey, if of course, they get admission to Ivey. If there is a statement on the website that states you can combine any Huron degree with Ivey, that is not quite true. Again, there has been a mistake made there, you cannot do a MOS degree at Huron and do an Ivey degree. You cannot do just a major, it has to be an Honours Specialization, and of course, you do have to qualify to get into Ivey so I think the partnership itself is actually the same partnership that exists with Western faculties.

Just to conclude, again, I would really, strongly emphasize the value that we do place on the Western relationship. As Alan said in his recent interview in the Gazette, there is actually quite a strong relationship between the leadership of the two institutions. I find everyone is very collegial on the committees I serve on. It is not that there is an unhealthy relationship here or an animosity towards Western or anything like that. It is simply that the analysis of the senior leaders of the institution, they think, in the long term, Huron will be better positioned as an independent degree granting institution but still affiliated with Western in a variety of ways.”

Fall Plans

A Senator raised a concern about the announcement released by Western on the plans to return to in-person classes this September. He noted it is in contrast with the approach other Ontario Universities are following. The Senator queried Western’s plans on class sizes and other safety protocols.

A. Shepard responded that the return to in-person in the fall will only be possible based on the guidance of Public Health experts and the availability of vaccines. Plans for class sizes and other protocols will need to be evaluated closer to the fall, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Chief Medical Officer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary