MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

November 12, 2021

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

SENATORS:

K. Arora
P. Barmby
A. Barnfield
A. Baxter
J. Baxter
I. Berry
E. Boussoulas
D. Brou
S. Burke
C. Burghardt-Jesson
C. Burucua
E. Chamberlain
J. Chazi
M. Cleveland
K. Coley
J. Compton
S. Constas
J. Corrigan
J. Cuciurean
S. Datars Bere
M. Davison
G. De Viveiros
R. Dekoter
L. Frederking
C. Gallant
J. Garland
K. Gibbons
R. Gros
A. Haque
N. Harney
L. Henderson
R. Heydon
S. Hodgson
V. Jaremek
T. Jenkyn
S. Kadish
E. Kalaydjian
S. Karky
G. Kelly
R. Kennedy
M. Kim
D. Kotsopoulos
J. Lacefield
D. Laird
J. Langille
M. Lebo
D. Lee
L. Lewis
J. Li
L. Logan
M. Longtin
D. Malloy
M. Milde
L. Miller
J. Minac
K. Mooney
S. Morrison
A. Nelson
J. Nord
J. O'Hagan
A. Pahargarh
M. Patel
T. Peace
P. Peddle
S. Powell
S. Prichard
D. Purcell
A. Pyati
V. Radcliffe
G. Read
L. Rigg
A. Robin
S. Roland
G. Santos
E. Sapuridis
J. Schermer
A. Shami
A. Shepard
Z. Sinel
V. Smye
B. Sriharan
C. Steeves
L. Stephenson
L. Stoyles
G. Tigert
J. Watson
K. Whitehead
K. Yeung
S. Zivkovic

Observers: P. Barmby, V. Bhat, C. Bressette, J. Doerksen, Z. Fakirani, M. McGlynn, N. Narin, R. Pilling, k. seanor

Land Acknowledgement

G. Santos offered a Land Acknowledgement.

S.21-224 **Minutes of Prior Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2021 were approved as circulated.

S.21-225 **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:

- Thanked the organizers of the Walk Against Islamophobia and Racism. The President noted he attended the walk and applauded the organizers and speakers for their efforts to call attention to Islamophobia and discrimination.
- Update on Western athletics sports teams.
- Thanked the Western community for their compliance of masking and social distancing measures which has led to a very low number of COVID-19 cases on-campus.
- No update on the independent police investigation regarding Medway-Sydenham Hall allegations.
- Western will sign the Scarborough Charter following consultations at the upcoming Board of Governors meeting. The Charter's principles, actions, and accountabilities for addressing anti-black racism are consistent with Western's strategic plan goals.

The President concluded his report with a reminder of the available mental health and wellness resources and support available to all members of the Western community.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.21-226 **ITEM 5.1 – Consultation on the Draft Western University Open Access Policy**

C. Steeves (Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian) presented the draft Open Access policy and invited Senators to provide feedback on the draft as consultations continue for the development of the policy.

A Senator submitted a question in advance, inquiring if Western Libraries plan to find a non-profit, non-corporate partner for its open access repository. He also noted the draft policy does not address the control commercial publishers have on academic publishing and inquired how this issue will be addressed.

C. Steeves advised that when the institutional repository was originally implemented, it was with bepress, a small company that provided strong solutions, which has since been acquired by Elsevier in 2017. Western Libraries has been reviewing reliance on their platform and searching for alternative non-profit or community source platforms to provide the level of service needed.

Discussions were initiated with partners in the Ontario Council of University Libraries for the possibility of adding repository services to their shared services, however, they were delayed due to the pandemic. Discussions will resume to develop a project proposal for a consortium platform that is owned and operated by University Libraries as opposed to by a commercial publisher.

C. Steeves noted that Western Libraries negotiate licenses collectively through a national group called the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), advocating for a sustainable scholarly publishing model that aims to address the stranglehold commercial publishers have. Open access principles have been integrated into the negotiations, advocating for transformative agreements. In 2020, CRKN formed a Stakeholder Alignment Group, in which the President participated, along with leaders from other research institutions. As a result, the negotiated deal with Elsevier was reduced significantly by 12.5% in costs, and a 20% discount in article processing charges for authors.

A Senator presented a series of questions on the draft policy, on behalf of their constituency:

- Definitions: What constitutes open access?
- Scope: Which students and what work is covered under the policy?
- Opt-out policy: Consequences for choosing not to deposit in the open access depository?

C. Steeves responded that the definition suggestion is very important and will be considered by the task force. Scholars have the option to opt-out with no consequences, as it follows the core principle that it is the scholars' academic freedom and choice of where to publish.
Different funding bodies have different definitions of what constitutes open access in relation to their policies and practices. Scholars would need to understand the terms of the research funding they receive, whether or not depositing in Western's repository meets their requirements. Western's policy does not mandate depositing or making work accessible through Scholarship@Western, if it had been made available through another repository, platform or journal.

A Senator inquired if the task force discussed the availability of the official French language on the platform.
C. Steeves responded that languages were not a matter of discussion on the task force, but it is the expectation that the platform will work with multiple languages, including French. She advised that languages will be taken into consideration to be reflected in the policy.

A Senator requested more clarification on the reasoning of the opt-out choice form, as many scholars at Western maintain the opinion that commercial publishers are extremely important for preserving the integrity of the scholarly work and for the production of knowledge.

C. Steeves responded there are no immediate consequences to those who choose to opt-out. It has been suggested by the task force as a way to emphasize the intention of the policy to encourage participation in open access publishing. She noted that open access publishing is also available through commercial publication platforms, should scholars choose to publish on those platforms, to maintain compliance with the policy. She noted the task force will take the opt-out form into consideration.

REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD

S.21-227 **ITEM 9.1 – Research Park Plans**

L. Rigg, (Vice-President, Research) provided an update on the Western Research Park Strategic Framework.

S.21-228 **ITEM 9.2 – Research Strategic Plan**

L. Rigg presented the draft Mobilize for Impact Strategic Research Plan for information and discussion.

A Senator submitted a question in advance, requesting clarification on what decolonization means in the context of the plan. The Senator also noted that many documents about research impact highlight "success", however, "failure" is also an important part of knowledge discovery.

L. Rigg noted that equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization are fundamental to research. It is the intention at Western Research to be responsive to the full range of impacts of colonization through work with various groups, including the Office of the Associate Vice President (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, to address issues within the context of decolonization.
L. Rigg agreed that failure is the essence of success, as it is the key to continuing research and innovation.

A Senator inquired what metrics are used to measure the achievement of goals of the strategic plan.

L. Rigg advised there are 26 measures of success. An implementation plan for the strategic priorities will be created, and each of the targets and goals within the implementation plan will have a specific set of metrics or measures of success to be reported on. A working group will be formed to consult broadly across campus, to map the process and create the goals for the implementation plan.

S.21-229 **ITEM 10.0 - Report of the Academic Colleague**

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

S.21-230 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by S. Roland, seconded by G. Santos,

> 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 OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE

S.21-231 **Information Items Reported by the Operations/Agenda Committee on Unanimous Consent**

- ITEM 11.1(a) – 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Senate Review Board Academic
- ITEM 11.1(b) – Senate Election Schedule for 2022
- ITEM 11.1(c) – Senate Membership – Vacancies Filled by Appointment
- ITEM 11.1(d) – Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Amendment of the Faculty Council Constitution

REPORT FROM THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS

S.21-232 **ITEM 11.2(a)(i) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the DDS Program**

It was moved by S. Roland, seconded by G. Santos,

> That effective September 1, 2022 the DDS program be revised to reallocate the content of the third-year course Fixed Prosthodontics 5322 into the second-year course Fixed Prosthodontics 5222, applicable to students entering year two of the DDS Program, as shown in Item 11.2(a)(i), and,
> That effective September 1, 2023 the third-year course Fixed Prosthodontics 5322 be withdrawn from the DDS Program.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

S.21-233 **ITEM 11.2(a)(ii) – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Revisions to the Structure of the Academic Year Policy (Guidelines for the Organization of the Academic Year: Dentistry)**

It was moved by S. Roland, seconded by G. Santos,

> That effective July 1, 2022 the Structure of the Academic Year Policy (Guidelines for the Organization of the Academic Year: Dentistry) be revised as shown in Item 11.2(a)(ii).

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards

S.21-234 The following items reported by the Senate Committee on University Planning were received for information by unanimous consent:

- ITEM 11.2(b) – Report on Scholastic Offences (2020-21)
- ITEM 11.2(c) – New Scholarships and Awards
- ITEM 11.2(d) – New Scholarships and Awards Funded by Operating

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

S.21-235 **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 11.3(a) – Academic Administrative Appointments
- ITEM 11.3(b) – Election Results – University Research Board

S.21-236 **DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

The full text of questions submitted in advance of the meeting were posted in the Agenda at Item 13.0 prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized below.

1. **New Identification System**

Three Senators and one Observer submitted questions and concerns in advance of the meeting regarding the new identification system announced November 4, 2021. The following concerns and comments were also highlighted during the Senate meeting:

- Continuity of access and relationship between Western and its affiliated institutions
- Consultations with members of the campus community
- Non-Western community members access to important public services on campus
- Concerns that the system compromises personal security and privacy
- Authority of the system implementation
- FAQ's on the website
- Visitor registration

A. Shepard noted the new identification system is not a policy, and at this point in time it is voluntary to participate in wearing the lanyard. Planning for the identification system was initiated over the summer in preparation for a potential health and safety directive that would have required verification that all individuals on campus be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and to identify presence at a particular space and time for case and contact management, similar to dining and entertainment requirements, through presentation of the Western ONECard. Wearing a lanyard was intended to allow ease of access to the Western ONECard.

Following the return to an in-person learning environment, this directive was not requested for instructional settings, and it was announced that this is a non-mandatory identification system. It is not intended to be a tracking or a security system. A. Shepard advised the FAQ section on the website has been removed.

A Senator from the Faculty of Information and Media Studies shared a motion that passed at the FIMS faculty council:

> Whereas the campus lanyard initiative recently announced by the Acting Provost is antithetical to academic ideals of openness, academic freedom, shared knowledge

production and public connection; works against the core values of EDID and militates against community-building; and violates privacy rights by exposing personally identifiable information
and whereas the lanyard initiative bypassed the governance oversight of the Senate, Board of Governors and Faculty Councils and failed to consult with student groups, UWOSA or UWOFA
… be it resolved that FIMS Faculty Council opposes its implementation and asks Western administration to discontinue the initiative immediately.

L. Logan advised the visitor registration program has not been launched and visitors currently do not need to register, however, they must comply with the visitor procedure under the vaccination policy (MAPP 3.1.1).
A. Shepard noted that students, faculty and staff from the affiliated University Colleges are not considered visitors under the vaccination policy.

Consultations were not carried out with members of the campus community, as it falls under the administration's authority for campus safety and security, similar to the vaccination policy.

A. Shepard apologized to the Western community for the miscommunication about the intentions of the identification system.

S.21-237 **ITEM 14.0 – New Business**

A Senator presented a Notice of Motion from the floor of Senate:

That effective January 1, 2022 until August 31, 2022, the Structure of the Academic Year Policy be temporarily amended as shown in the attachment in recognition of the extenuating circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the mental health toll associated with numerous cases of gender-based and sexual violence over the course of the Fall semester, 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, 2022 the previous version of the policy, "Last Revised 2020 04" be reinstated.

A. Shepard received the Notice of Motion and referred it to SCAPA for consideration at its upcoming meeting in November.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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A. Shepard
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary