



SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC)
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020
Time: 2:30pm – 3:30pm
Room: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Reem Bahdi, Pascal Calarco, Rick Caron, Linden Crain, Jill Crossman, Biane Deghaiche, Jess Dixon, Mitch Fields, Robert Gordon (Chair), Mitul Kansodariya, Douglas Kneale, Maureen Muldoon, Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine, Jacqueline Stagner, Bonnie Stewart.

ABSENT: Ed King.

IN ATTENDANCE: Danny Anger (Senate Governance Officer), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary)

1 Approval of the agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

Calarco/Stagner
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the Meeting of May 5, 2020

(see document SGC200505M for more details.)

MOTION: That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of May 5, 2020 be approved.

Fields/Caron
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding Business

Nothing to report.

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Consideration of Bylaw on Associate Vice Presidents Reporting to the Provost

(see document SGC200915-5.1 for more details.)

NOTED:

- The proposal to develop a bylaw to govern the Associate Vice President(s) (AVP) who report to the Provost was put forward with the goal of ensuring all appointments relating to the academic side of the University be subject to the same hiring processes.
A lengthy discussion ensued.
It was argued that SGC should not and cannot consider this Bylaw as it is a matter that lies outside the mandate of Senate. Senate's role is one of academic policy-making and oversight and not management or executive decision-making.
Specifically, it was argued that the University of Windsor Act restricts the development of a Senate bylaw for all AVPs: (University of Windsor Act: Section 27) – The Senate has the power to make

regulations regarding the academic qualifications for appointment and promotion of the members of the academic staff of the University. To this end, there are Senate Bylaws for Heads of Departments, Deans, Associate Deans, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, AVP Student Experience, AVP Academic, Provost, Vice-President, Research, AVP Research.

- It was argued that the Senate does not have bylaws for, and no jurisdiction over, non-academic administrative positions. For example, there are no Senate bylaws for Directors of ITS and Continuing Education, both of whom report to the Provost, because they are non-academic roles.
- The exception is with the AVP, Student Experience position which is governed by a Senate bylaw. The latter was revised a few years back to allow the hiring of non-academic professional staff who has expertise in student affairs and the student experience.
- The consideration of the new bylaw comes down to the AVP Enrolment Management position. It was noted that it is not the title that determines whether there should be a Senate bylaw but whether it is an academic administrative position, rather than primarily a non-academic administrative position.

AGREED:

- Members will review the position profiles for the AVP, Enrolment Management and the AVP, Student Experience at the next meeting to determine whether one or both of these positions fall within Senate's purview.

## **5.2 COVID- 19 Fall Semester Update and Winter Academic Planning**

*(See SGC200915-5.2 for more details.)*

NOTED:

- As with Fall 2020, it is anticipated that Winter 2021 will see approximately 95-98% of classes online due to limitations/space constraints on campus as a result of required COVID-19 health and safety measure.
- The concern is around the buildup of a viral load in a classroom. The trend across classrooms in Ontario is to social distance within the classroom and wear a facemask for the duration of the lecture.
- Credits in certain Faculties require students to be in a class, a lab, or in a clinical setting. For these 2-5% of courses, all COVID-19 health and safety measures are in place.
- Discussion ensued regarding the challenges of hosting a lecture in a classroom with the current restrictions/protocols due to COVID-19.
- An announcement regarding the academic plan for the Winter 2021 semester will be made within the next few days.

## **5.3 Update on Key Priorities**

*(including, Addressing Anti-Black Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Review)*

NOTED:

- Efforts are underway to populate the Anti-Black Racism (ABR) Task Force which will be mandated to identify a number of key actions and next steps to address systemic racism at the University. The ABR Task Force will operate somewhat autonomously from the University, but will report to the Board and Senate.
- A training framework is being developed focusing on racism and, in particular, Anti-Black Racism. AT minimum, all University administrators and Board of Governor members will be required to receive training on racism issues.
- A focus will also be on the development of a comprehensive approach to collecting meaningful racialized data for both academic and non-academic purposes, to help set goals and monitor progress.
- A website will be developed to articulate the number of the Anti-Black Racism initiatives and provide links to ABR resources. The website will be the point of reference for information, new developments, and updates on the work of the ABR Working Group and ABR Task Force.

- In addition to the work of the ABR Working Group and ABR Task Force, the University is also embarking on a broader external review of the equity, diversity, and inclusion policies, processes, structures, and practices at the University.

**\*5.4 Senate Standing Committee Membership**

*(see document SGC200915-5.4 for more details.)*

**MOTION: That the Senate Governance Committee recommend to Senate the approval of the following Senate Standing Committee membership:**

**Dr. Cheryl Collier – Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences – Senate Governance Committee**

**CARRIED\***

**6 Question Period/Other Business**

Nothing to report.

**7 Adjournment**

**MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.**

Caron/Crain

**CARRIED**