SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC)
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2020
Time: 2:01pm – 3:43pm
Room: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Majid Ahmadi, Reem Bahdi, Rick Caron, Cheryl Collier, Jill Crossman, Jess Dixon, Mitch Fields, Robert Gordon (Chair), Dave Johnston, Maureen Muldoon, Hussein Samhat, Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine, Bonnie Stewart, Mahabuba Sultana, Patti Weir, Stephen Weir.

ABSENT: Mitchell Hajnal (regrets).

IN ATTENDANCE: Danny Anger (Senate Governance Officer), Clinton Beckford (Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary)

1   Approval of the agenda

   MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

Ahmadi/Dixon
CARRIED

2   Minutes of the Meeting of May 4, 2021
   (see document SGC210504M for more details.)

   MOTION: That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of May 4, 2021, be approved.
Caron/ Collier
CARRIED

3   Business arising from the minutes
   Nothing to report.

4   Outstanding Business
   Nothing to report.

5   Reports/New Business
   5.1   COVID-19: Fall Semester Update and Winter Academic Planning
      (see SGC210914-5.1&5.2 for more details.)

      NOTED:
      • An update on the Fall semester was provided including: the process for the gradual return of staff to campus which began the week of August 2nd; an overview of the campus spaces which have been re-opening for in-person services, such as the Forge Fitness Centre, the Leddy Library, Bookstore, and the CAW store; information on the University's proof of vaccination policy, the vaccine encouragement campaign, antigen testing sites, and pop-up clinics; and Senate's extension of the COVID-19 Emergency Action Plan to April 30, 2022 (including the alternate grading policy and the choice to include SET scores in the performance review process).

- Given the high local case counts and the commitment made to faculty and students, the University will not be changing the capacities in classroom for the Fall semester. The safety protocols in classrooms and on campus have been well received by students and parents.
- Staff are working to resolve issues with building access during lecture hours and after hours.
- Winter 2022 planning is dependent on the Reopening Act of Ontario. A more thorough update will be available in October.
- In response to a question raised regarding the return of international students and their compliance with Canadian vaccine protocols, it was noted that immigration has adopted the Health Canada definition of vaccine which lists which vaccines are eligible in Canada. If a student does not have a Health Canada sanctioned vaccine, they are referred immediately for their first COVID-19 vaccine and must quarantine under the protocols provided by Health Canada.

5.2 Update on Key Priorities
(including, Addressing Anti-Black Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Review)
(see SGC210914-5.1&5.2 for more details.)

NOTED:
- An update on the key priorities of the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for 2021-2022 was provided including: conducting a comprehensive external review of equity, diversity, and inclusion ("EDI"); developing a comprehensive EDI strategy; implementing a Student Racialized Data Collection Project; implementing the recommendations from the ABR Task Force; collaborating in the launch of the Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (B-IDE) Institute; etc.
- In response to a concern that the University has not taken the appropriate steps to recruit international students from the African nations, it was noted that a collective effort needs to be made by Faculties, Departments, the Office of Enrolment Management, and the International Student Centre to recruit not only the top students from African nations by all international countries.
- In response to a question regarding the decision to have the University's EDI week on March 21-25, 2022, instead of following Canada's EDI recognition of emancipation on July 31st-August 1st, it was noted that the University's EDI Week and Initiatives are broader in context (i.e, Indigenous and anti-black racism activities, celebrating all gender identities, accessibility, etc.).
- It was noted that a part-time project manager has been retained to help guide strategic planning and the direction the University is heading in the next 5-10 years. From the University's strategic plan will flow the Indigenous, International, Faculty, etc. strategic plans and framework.
- An update on partnerships with external partners was provided.

5.3 Strategic Items for Senate Discussion
(see document SGC210914-5.3 for more details.)

NOTED:
- In response to a question regarding a discussion at Senate on online course delivery (i.e. hyflex), it was noted that a broader perspective on how the University will prioritize online/on-campus courses at the strategic planning level would be helpful. Consideration might be given to having the Deans or a faculty member report on the experience with online teaching in their Faculty. Additionally, consideration might be given to having Faculties present on current and initiatives.
- A question was raised regarding building into the process opportunities that are not topic focused but offer collaboration across Faculties, departments, and staff and the opportunity to broadly discuss institutional initiatives at Senate.
- A discussion on the future of the learning management systems (LMS) could be considered given the concern raised by a student member over the lack of communication from Faculty and departments to students.
- In response to a question regarding the evolution of non-lecture spaces (i.e., library and study spaces), it was noted that the University is actively involved in the COU Task Force on University Space Transformation.

- Concern was raised regarding the number of students (1st and 2nd year) who have not had the opportunity to have in-person courses and the supports and services the University is providing to make the transition to campus easier. In response, it was noted that this concern will be brought to Deans' Council for discussion.

5.4 Senate Feedback/Meeting Evaluation Scorecard
(see document SGC210914-5.4 for more details.)

NOTED:
- The evaluation scorecard/feedback form is being used to review Board of Governors meetings and has been well received by Board members.

AGREED:
- SGC members supported the development of a similar meeting evaluation scorecard for Senate.
- The Senate Feedback/Meeting Evaluation Scorecard would be issued every approximately 4 months (*i.e*, end of December for the Fall semester and in the early/mid Spring for the Winter semester).

5.5 Senate Agenda: Order of Business
(see document SGC210914-5.5 for more details.

NOTED:
- It was noted that the best option for the order of business for Senate meetings is to leave the agenda as is, but with the inclusion of the Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion's report after the President's report.
- It was also noted that presenters at Senate should be well prepared and provide more concise reports to reduce presentation time and provide more time for questions.

5.6 Bylaw Business

NOTED:
- The Bylaw Review Committee is considering changes to Bylaws 54 and 55 relating to break days and asynchronous online course; drafting bylaws for the Vice-President, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Management; drafting change; and drafting changes to bylaw 1 to add the Vice-President, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as a member of Senate.
- Following consultation with the President, a proposal from the chair of UCAPT for a bylaw 22 change will be sent to the new Acting Associate Vice-President, Academic for assessment and follow-up, as needed.

6 Question Period/Other Business
Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

<div align="right">Ahmadi/Fields
CARRIED</div>