



**SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC)
Minutes of Meeting**

Date: Monday, March 21, 2022
Time: 9:03am – 10:34am
Room: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Majid Ahmadi, Reem Bahdi, Lori Buchanan, Rick Caron, Cheryl Collier, Mitchell Fields, Robert Gordon (Chair), Nancy Martinez Salas, Maureen Muldoon, Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine, Bonnie Stewart, Patti Weir, Stephen Weir.

ABSENT: Dave Johnston (regrets), Mitchell Hajnal (regrets), Jess Dixon (regrets), Stephen Weir (absent).

IN ATTENDANCE: Danny Anger (Senate Governance Officer), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary), Debbie Kane (Equity Assessor)

Although items were not discussed in sequential order, the minutes do reflect the agenda order of business.

1 Approval of the agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

Fields/Sheppard - LeMoine
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the Meeting of February 28, 2022
(see documents SGC220228M)

MOTION: That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of February 28, 2022, be approved.

Ahmadi/Caron
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding Business

Nothing to report.

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Strategic Items for Senate Discussion
(see SGC220321-512 for more details.)

NOTED:

- It was noted that on April 1, 2022, the first pilot 'Senate information session' on Microcredentials will be offered. The information session will then help inform the discussion at the next Senate meeting.
- In terms of strategic items for discussion for the May or June Senate meetings, it was suggested that a deeper discussion on continuing education may be beneficial following the information provided on Microcredentials.

- A session on data, which should include institutional and research data, provided through a data ethics lens, should also be at the top of the list.
- In response to a question regarding institutional data, specifically applicant EDI data, it was noted that the Ontario Universities Registrars Association has undertaken a project related to applicant data collection.

AGREED:

- The next Senate Information Session(s) might be on continuing education or institutional data.

5.2 Bylaw Business

5.2.1 Discussion Relating to Proposed Revision to Bylaw 5

(see SGC220321-5.2.1 and SGC220321-5.2.1a for more details.)

AGREED:

- Following a detailed review of the proposal for changes to Bylaw 5, members agreed that the issues and concerns raised did not necessitate revisions to the Bylaw. The issues are either already addressed in the current language or are matters of implementation or performance issues with the Head which should be taken up with the Dean or by Council.
- An AAU Heads Council is being established and will be meeting regularly. This will provide ongoing professional development and support to AAU Heads.

5.3 Distinguished University Professor and Professor Emeritus *(In-Camera)*

MOTION: That the meeting move *in-camera*.

Ahmadi/Dayal
CARRIED

NOTED:

- The criteria and process for selecting Distinguished University Professor candidates were reviewed.
- A synopsis of each of the proposed candidates' lifetime achievements was provided.

MOTION: That Dr. Siyram Pandey be appointed Distinguished University Professor.

Ahmadi/Caron
CARRIED

MOTION: That Dr. Lisa Porter be appointed Distinguished University Professor.

Ahmadi/Sheppard-LeMoine
Abstention: Buchanan
CARRIED

MOTION: That Dr. Chris Tindale be appointed Distinguished University Professor.

Ahmadi/Bahdi
CARRIED

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed.

Caron/Ahmadi
CARRIED

MOTION: That the meeting move out of *in-camera*.

Caron/Fields
CARRIED

5.4 External Engagement – Office of the Registrar

(see SGC220321-5.4 for more details.)

NOTED:

- At the March 11, 2022 Senate meeting, it was agreed that an ad hoc committee would be comprised of SGC and Senators to provide advice on an external review of the Office of the Registrar.
- The engagement will be conducted by three external practitioners, Ray Darling (U of Guelph), Ange Saweczko (U of T) and Geraldine Jones (Brock University).
- In response to concern raised at Senate that this engagement was being withheld from members of the University, it was noted that over 130 individuals have been identified as key stakeholders with whom to consult, including Deans, Associate Deans, Heads, Office of the Registrar staff, staff in administrative roles closely connected with the office, etc.
- Concern was raised over the decisions which impact faculty workload, specifically technical issues with the UWinsite and the academic appeal process which has increased the workload of faculty and staff.
- A question was raised regarding the purpose of this committee if the External Engagement has already been approved to move forward. It was noted that Senators felt that the engagement was never brought to their attention and is missing oversight from Senate.

AGREED:

- It was noted that the main function of the ad hoc committee would be advisory in nature and to have the committee meet with the external reviewers. The engagement is an administrative review with human resources, financial, and collective bargaining impacts. It is not academic in nature though, like all service units, the work of the Registrar's Office impacts and upholds the academic mission. It was suggested that an email be initiated to provide Senators the opportunity to email their thoughts and concerns. This email will be forwarded the external review team.
- Volunteers from Senate and SGC would be welcome to sit on the advisory committee.

MOTION: That SGC support the creation of an ad hoc advisory committee for external engagement of the Office of the Registrar.

Dayal/Buchanan
CARRIED

6 Question Period/Other Business

NOTED:

- Concern was raised over the length of the Senate meeting(s). In response, it was noted that efforts are being made to address timing issues. For example, providing written reports and limiting the number of VP presentations in a Senate meeting.
- A question was raised regarding the size of Senate membership and if it should be reduced. It was noted that the size and composition of Senate is reviewed every 5 years.
- In response to a question regarding setting an earlier time for Senate, it was noted that an earlier time will conflict with religious practices.
- It was noted that additional Senate meetings on Mondays (as a continuation of the Friday meeting) could be scheduled for each month and used in place of extending past the allotted time on Friday.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Weir/Stewart
CARRIED