

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

Date: Monday, April 18, 2022
Time: 9:03am – 10:16am
Room: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Majid Ahmadi, Reem Bahdi, Clinton Beckford, Lori Buchanan, Rick Caron, Cheryl Collier, Jess Dixon, Robert Gordon (Chair), Dave Johnston, Maureen Muldoon, Alanna Olteanu, Bonnie Stewart, Patti Weir, Stephen Weir.

ABSENT: Mitchell Fields (regrets), Mitchell Hajnal (regrets), Nancy Martinez Salas, Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine (regrets),

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

1 Approval of the agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

L. Buchanan/J. Dixon
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the Meeting of March 21, 2022
(see documents SGC220321M)

MOTION: That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of March 21, 2022, be approved.

P. Weir/M. Ahmadi
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes
Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding Business

4.1 Bylaw 22 and RTP Committee Composition for Non-Departmentalized Faculties – Update

AGREED:

- While Deans in non-departmentalized Faculties have different roles and responsibilities in the RTP process based on the different parts of the process (Chair reporting for the Committee or reporting as Dean from the broader university community), this does not represent a conflict. They would and should have different perspectives depending on the part of the process to which they are responding. Therefore, no revisions are required regarding this.

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Strategic Items for Senate Discussion
(see SGC220418-5.1 for more details.)

NOTED:

- It was noted that the second Senate Information Session will take place in early May. Some topics of interest are Curriculum Development, Indigenization and Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs). The

information session will then help inform the discussion at the next Senate meeting.

- Given the SET discussion at the April Senate meeting, it was noted that the SET Task Force is ready and prepared to provide an information session in May to members of Senate. The session will include data from the recent faculty and student surveys on SETs.
- A question was raised regarding the uncertainty of when PDC forms will be sent back for review in relation to the response to the Indigenous question(s) and whether the PDC forms is the best forum to have areas report on their efforts towards Indigenizing their curricula. While having an Indigenous member on PDC to review the forms prior to Senate, this could place an undue burden on the member.
- It was noted that a consultation/engagement framework is being developed and will be ready for preliminary discussion in June, though it will not be a panacea as there is not always going to be full agreement by all members on what is sufficient.
- The Senate Information Session on institutional and research data and data ethics will be slotted for Fall 2022.

AGREED:

- The next Senate Information Sessions should be on Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs) and an Indigenous Engagement Framework for Curriculum Development (PDC Forms).

5.2 Bylaw Business

5.2.1 Revisions to Bylaws 54 and 55 – Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline

(see SGC220428-5.2.1 and for more details.)

MOTION: That the proposed revisions to Bylaws 54 and 55 be approved.

R. Caron/P. Weir

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: The following was added under Bylaw 54 section 2.15 and Bylaw 55 section 1.10: *“Eighteen-week course – within three weeks of the beginning of the second term”* and minor editorial changes were made.

NOTED:

- In response to a concern raised regarding academic misconduct and the student’s ability to drop a course prior to a sanctioning, it was noted that these bylaws changes do not address academic integrity issues. However, bylaw 31 speaks to students ability to withdraw from a course regardless of whether they have been charged with an academic misconduct but does state that the University still has the jurisdiction to pursue the allegation and issue sanctions.
- A question was raised regarding professors not adhering to providing 20% of the feedback prior to the voluntary withdraw date and what can be done to ensure professors are complying. It was noted that students who are affected should contact their Associate Dean to ensure that feedback on 20% of their grade is provided prior to the posted timeline. Additionally,, students can file a Bylaw 32 petition against the professor based on procedural irregularities. It was also noted that Department Heads and Deans need to play a larger role to ensure that instructors are aware of the Bylaws.
- At the last Academic Policy Committee meeting, a concern was raised that extending the VW date to the last date of classes could result in a higher number of students withdrawing. In response, it was noted that over the last 5 years, there have been ~3000 course withdrawals per semester and during COVID there was no increase in VWs, rather an extension of time over which they occurred.
- In response to a question, it was noted that if a student is found to not have committed a misconduct, there is no record held within the Secretariat.

CARRIED, as amended

6 Question Period/Other Business

NOTED:

- Ongoing concern has been raised regarding the 'chat function' on Senate Teams meetings, specifically discussions that do not add value to the item being discussed and inappropriate language being used that violates the standards of appropriate conduct at the University and brings Senate into disrepute.
- It was noted that the discussion in the chat is not added to the minutes of the meeting.
- It was noted that the chat function provides individuals who do not feel comfortable speaking publicly the opportunity to voice their opinions. While it was suggested that a solution may be to have a moderator who can monitor the discussion and silence any individuals who are speaking off topic or inappropriately, it was unclear who would undertake this function.

AGREED:

- The purpose and appropriate use of the chat needs to be relayed to Senators and a reminder issued to members about civility and decorum.
- Senate meetings will return to in-person in Fall 2022, removing the issues with the chat.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

D. Johnston /B. Stewart
CARRIED