

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

Date: Monday, May 18, 2022
Time: 9:03am – 10:17am
Room: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Majid Ahmadi, Reem Bahdi, Clinton Beckford, Lori Buchanan, Rick Caron, Cheryl Collier, Jess Dixon, Mitchell Fields, Robert Gordon (Chair), Dave Johnston, Maureen Muldoon, Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine, Bonnie Stewart, Patti Weir.

ABSENT: Laila Albalkhi, Muthukeethana Kaliappan, Adam Pillon, Hussein Samhat, Stephen Weir.

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

1 Approval of the agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

M. Ahmadi /J. Dixon
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the Meeting of April 18, 2022
(See documents SGC220418M)

MOTION: That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of April 18 2022 be approved.

B. Stewart/D. Johnston
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes
Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding Business

4.1 Revisions to Bylaws 54 and 55 – Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline
(See SGC220518-4.1 for more details.)

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

P. Weir/B. Stewart
CARRIED

NOTED:

- The proposed revision will allow students in first-entry undergraduate programs and all graduate programs except Law to voluntarily withdraw from courses up to the last day of classes for the term. The rationale for these revisions is student-centric as it provides students more time to assess progress. This comes at no financial cost to the institution, and it does not impact the instruction of the course. This provision has been in place during the two-year pandemic.
- Of 14 Ontario universities surveyed by the University Registrar: three institutions (Carleton, Guelph and OCAD U) have their voluntary withdrawal date as the last day of classes; Brock University has the VW day at week 14 (after the grades are known); and three institutions (Ottawa, Ontario Tech and TMU) have

VW dates at the end of week 10 (which is later than UWindsor). These institutions are in direct competition with the University of Windsor.

- In response to a concern raised regarding students receiving a portion of their tuition fees back if they choose to VW, it was noted that students must adhere to the financial withdrawal date to receive money back for courses.
- In response to a concern regarding the concern from Faculty of Science surrounding medical school applications, it was agreed that the issue of not visibly retaining the VW on the student's transcript should be decoupled from the proposal to move the VW date.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: The following was removed from Bylaw 54 section 2.15 and Bylaw 55 section 1.10: *"The withdrawal will be recorded as a dropped course in the student's record but will not appear on the transcript."*

CARRIED, as amended

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Memberships

5.1.1 Senate Standing Committees

(See document SGC220518-5.1 for more details)

MOTION: That the Senate Governance Committee recommend to Senate that the Senate Standing Committees membership for 2022-2023 be approved.

P. Weir/D. Johnston

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: The following member was added to the Senate Standing Committee Membership: Program Development Committee - Faculty of Human Kinetics: Patti Millar (2022-2024).

CARRIED, as amended

5.1.2 Discipline Appeal Committee, Procedures and Discrimination Committee, SGC Nominating Committee, SGC Special Appointments Committee, SGC Bylaw Review Committee

(See document SGC220518-5.1.2 for more details)

MOTION: That the Discipline Appeal Committee, Procedures and Discrimination Committee, SGC Special Appointments Committee, SGC Nomination Committee, and SGC Bylaw Review Committee memberships be approved.

M. Ahmadi/D. Johnston

CARRIED

5.1.3 Senate Membership (2022-2023)

(See document SGC220518-5.1.3 for more details)

NOTED:

- There were two amendments to the Senate Membership: Wissam Aoun and Ruth Kuras will hold terms for the Faculty of Law (2022-2024).

5.2 Strategic Items for Senate Discussion

(See SGC220518-5.2 for more details.)

NOTED:

- The Senate Information Session for the June 3rd session will cover the topic on Indigenous Engagement Framework for Curriculum Development [PDC Forms]. This discussion will engage members in a broader

consultative process and framework for Indigenous curriculum development. The information session will then help inform the discussion at the next Senate meeting.

- The Senate Information Session on institutional and research data/ data ethics should be presented in Fall 2022.
- The Senate Information Sessions were well-received by Senators, and it was agreed that the information sessions have made Senate more efficient and productive.
- A question was raised regarding the potential to have an information session on the purpose of higher education and what it means to be an educational institution. The discussion could include topics such as concepts of rigour, what is the purpose of education, and what does student success mean.

AGREED:

- The September Joint Board/Senate retreat will start the 2022/2023 academic year and should focus on university governance more broadly.

5.3 Senate Meeting Scorecard – Results from Winter / Spring 2022 Meetings

(See SGC220518-5.2 for more details.)

NOTED:

- The Winter 2022 Senate meeting scorecard had 40 Senators respond with common concerns and feedback as follows: the Senate Information sessions were well received and should continue in 2022/2023; the engagement of Senators outside of a select few who are dominating discussion, and some feel discouraging participation, should be addressed; and the length of Senate meetings needs to be reduced.
- In response to a question raised regarding the distribution of the scorecard results to Senators, it was noted that SGC will provide a summary of the report to Senators to reduce the identification of Senators. Concern was raised regarding the tone, content, and length of discussion from the Senators who are speaking at Senate, and it was suggested the scorecard data is an opportunity to address the issue.
- In response to a question regarding monitoring the chat function in Senate meetings, it was noted that comments in the chat should be reflective of the current conversation taking place at Senate and Senators will be reminded at the beginning of the meeting by the Chair of the purpose and guidelines for the chat function. It was noted that potential solutions to monitor the chat are to have members of Senate voice their concern to their colleagues if their comment is inappropriate, to set up guidelines to monitor the chat and a meeting code of conduct, and/or to introduce a moderator/parliamentarian role.
- While some of these issues were present in a more limited way prior to the pandemic, the online environment exacerbated them. Many of these issues likely will dissipate with the return to in-person meetings, as body language is also an effective form of engagement.

6 Question Period/Other Business

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

D. Sheppard-LeMoine/C. Collier

CARRIED