

SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC)
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Time: 2:30pm – 3:37pm
Room: 203 Toldo Health Education Centre & MS Teams

PRESENT: Clinton Beckford, Cheryl Collier, Beth Daly, Jess Dixon, Mitchell Fields, Laurie Freeman, Ofelia Jianu, Dave Johnston, Debbie Kane, Darren Stanley, Andrew Swan, Andrew Ward, Patti Weir (acting Chair), Stephen Weir.

ABSENT: Laila Albalkhi, Reem Bahdi (regrets), Robert Gordon (regrets), Muthukeethana Kaliappan, Mitra Mirhassani, Hussein Samhat.

IN ATTENDANCE: Danny Anger (Senate Governance Officer), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary). For item 5.1: Fazle Baki (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.

M. Fields/D. Kane
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the Meeting of February 15, 2023

(See document SGC23215M)

MOTION: That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of February 15, 2023, be approved.

C. Collier/L. Freeman
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes.

3.1 Search Committees and Senate

NOTED:

- SGC members were reminded that the changes to Bylaws 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 were a result of a request from Senate to remove the redundancy of seeking feedback from Senate on recommended appointments. Senate approved the changes at its March 2023 meeting, which means that Search Committee recommendations now will be submitted directly to the President or Board, as appropriate.
- There was some concern expressed at Senate that presenting the candidate at an *in-camera* meeting is a critical part of the process as it provides Senators with the opportunity to share feedback as a collective body, as well as being informed of the name of the candidate in advance. A discussion ensued on Senate's role in the search processes.
- In response to a proposal to amend the bylaws to require Search Committee to provide updates, it was noted that this provision is already in the bylaws and that Search Committees have, and will continue to, provide progress reports to Senate; however the step to provide feedback on the recommended candidate has been removed from the Bylaws.
- Some members argued that, as these committees included members elected by Senate, they should be reporting back to Senate with an assessment of the process as well as informing Senate of the

recommended candidate. Others noted that reporting back to Senate on the recommended candidate could still potentially delay the process and does not improve or advance the process.

- As noted at Senate, the role of Senate is to elect members to the Search Committee, which is then charged with reviewing and assessing candidates in-depth, and the role of the Board is to approve the candidate.

MOTION: That Bylaws 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 include a final report back to Senate on the search process and information on the recommended candidate.

L. Freeman/D. Kane
DEFEATED

Outstanding Business

Nothing to report.

5 Reports/New Business

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

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

C. Collier/M. Fields
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. Ahmet Alpas be appointed Distinguished University Professor.

O. Jianu/D. Johnston
CARRIED

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed.

L. Freeman/J. Dixon
CARRIED

MOTION: That Dr. Jonathan Wu be appointed Distinguished University Professor.

D. Stanley/O. Jianu
CARRIED

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed.

O. Jianu/C. Collier
CARRIED

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

D. Johnston/L. Freeman
CARRIED

5.2 Recommendation for Changes to Senate Bylaws on Search Committee Membership for the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, the Vice-President, People, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Vice-President, Research and Innovation

(see document SGC230419-5.2 for more details.)

NOTED:

- The SGC Subcommittee on EDID is proposing changes to Senate Bylaws that would ensure diversity and inclusive practices in executive-level searches.
- In response to a question raised, it was noted that these changes only apply to racialized representation

as the spirit of the changes is to increase representation of Indigenous and racialized persons. There are already provisions in the bylaw with respect to gender representation.

- Concern was raised regarding the number of racialized faculty members on Senate, noting that care must be taken not to overburden these members with heavy service workloads to satisfy these proposals.
- In response to a question raised regarding the opportunity to have the Board and Senate select eligible members from the broader university or external community to fill racialized membership requirements, it was noted that this would fit within the spirit of the proposal to ensure diverse and inclusive membership and there is precedent for so doing in the VPRI bylaw.

AGREED:

- The proposal will be submitted to the Bylaw Review Committee for drafting, including the following possible amendment to 2.2.1: “There shall be a representative and racially inclusive Search Committee...”.
- Representation and racial inclusiveness has to start at the Faculty level. Faculties need to consider the composition of their Senate membership from a racial and diverse lens.

5.3 Bylaw 1- Review of Composition and Size

(see SGC230419-5.3 for more details)

AGREED:

- Given the lack of consistency from the feedback received, members concurred with the Bylaw Review Committee that no changes to Senate’s composition and size be proposed at this time.

6 Question Period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

M. Fields/D. Kane

CARRIED