

**SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC)
Minutes of Meeting****Date:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024**Time:** 2:02-3:42pm**Room:** Room 209 Assumption Hall & MS Teams**PRESENT:** Robert Aguirre, Reem Bahdi, Nick Baker, Clinton Beckford, Selinda Berg, Dave Bussiere, Cheryl Collier, Jess Dixon, Laurie Freeman, Robert Gordon (Chair), Ghallia Hashem, Ofelia Jianu, Luis Rueda, Harbal Deep Sindhu, Darren Stanley, Stephen Weir.**ABSENT:** Debbie Kane, Husam Morra (regrets).**IN ATTENDANCE:** Danny Anger (Senate Governance Officer), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary)**1 Approval of the agenda****MOTION:** That the agenda be approved.Dave Bussiere/Cheryl Collier
CARRIED**2 Minutes of the Meeting of December 13, 2023***(See document SGC231213M)***MOTION:** That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of December 13, 2023 be approved.Jess Dixon/Selinda Berg
CARRIED**3 Business arising from the minutes**

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding Business

Nothing to report.

5 Reports/New Business**5.1 Senate Meeting Scorecard – Results from Fall 2023 Meetings***(see document SGC240124-5.1 for more details.)***NOTED:**

- The feedback on Senate's functionality and overall effectiveness of Senate meetings was largely positive, acknowledging improvements in the level of member engagement.
- The prevailing concern noted in the responses was Senate's tendency towards operational rather than governance matters, with a request for more concise presentations and a greater focus on the academic mandate. The overlap between the Senate Information Sessions (SIS) and Senate meetings was also raised as a concern, suggesting a need to better integrate the information that is shared with Senate meetings following the SIS.
- It was noted that survey fatigue might be contributing to continued low response rates. The discussion also touched on the potential inadequacy of relying on such low response rates for meaningful feedback.
- The difficulty in extracting themes from aggregated data was mentioned, indicating a need for a more

strategic approach to the analysis of survey results. Now that the survey has been in place for a few semesters, this could be done through the creation of a time series chart to compare the results against past Senate feedback surveys, thereby facilitating a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of implemented changes and areas requiring further improvement. The importance of tracking the progression of satisfaction levels, areas of concern, and the impact of measures taken in response to feedback was highlighted.

AGREED:

- Members agreed on the importance of encouraging active participation and refining meeting formats to increase meeting efficiency with a focus on: continued prioritization of actionable outcomes; streamlining of presentations; and limiting speakers to new comments or questions.
- Student presidents from GSS, UWSA, and OPUS should submit written reports in advance of meetings, to be included in the packages, ensuring streamlined discussions and comprehensive consideration of student issues and providing a documented record of student body initiatives and contributions.
- To address SIS presentation redundancy and improve accessibility and engagement with the Senate Information Sessions (SIS), a link to the recorded sessions will be included directly in the meeting agendas, with SIS presenters being invited to Senate to be available to answer questions. This will allow Senators easy access to the content of these sessions, enhancing preparation and understanding of discussed topics. This approach also encourages self-guided review of the SIS content, fostering more focused inquiries and discussions.
- Adjustments might be needed to both the survey's content and the method of analyzing responses to ensure that the feedback is meaningful and can lead to actionable insights.

5.2 Proposed Bylaw Revisions and Discussion of Staff Voting on Decanal Appointments

[Bylaws 54, 15, 16, 18, 3]

(see document SGC240124-5.2 for more details)

MOTION 1: That the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 54 be approved.

Dixon/Bussiere

AGREED:

- The proposal will be sent back to the Bylaw Review Committee for further revisions, as follows: 1) there appears to be redundancy in the first paragraph and the last paragraph regarding not permitting one evaluation to be worth the entire course, 2) it is unfair and inequitable to allow policies where one evaluation is effectively worth 100% of the course, regardless of the modality, and 3) review of the use of the term “accommodations” in this context.

WITHDRAWN

MOTION 2: That the proposed revision to Senate Bylaws 14, 15, 16, 18 be approved.

Dixon/Bussiere

AGREED:

- A clear definition of ‘racialized’ should be posted on the VPPEI website to ensure consistency of application and use.
- Given that the revisions specifically address representation from Indigenous or racialized persons and not all designated groups, the composition of the search committees cannot be said to be fully representative or inclusive. This wording should be removed.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Delete the proposed change to 2.2.1 in Bylaw 14 (Provost), Bylaw 16 (VPRI), Bylaw 18 (VPPEI) and to 4.1.1 in Bylaw 15 (President).

CARRIED, as amended.

MOTION 3: That the proposed revision to Senate Bylaw 3 be approved.

Dixon/Freeman

AGREED:

- The selection of the faculty member by the Dean should be not limited to senior researchers, CRCs, and directors of institutes.
- Because there are faculty involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning across campus, the selection of the regular faculty member engaged in scholarship of teaching and learning should be by the Provost.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: That the name of the Committee be changed to Senate Advisory Committee on Research and Innovation and that 2.3.1 be revised as follows:

2.3.1 Membership (Minimum number of members is eighteen):

- Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI) or designate (Chair)
 - Eleven regular faculty members as follows:
 - ~~one faculty member, preferably the Director of a University Research Centre or Institute, a Canada Research Chair, or a senior researcher,~~ from each of the Faculties of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Law, Human Kinetics, Nursing, Science, and Graduate Studies, to be selected by the Dean of the Faculty
 - one regular faculty member engaged in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning selected by the ~~Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning~~ Provost
- [...]

CARRIED, as amended.

Item 4 : OSB Motion re: Staff on Council Voting on Decanal Appointments

This item was deferred to a future agenda.

***5.3 SGC Subcommittee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization**

(See document SGC240124-5.3 for more details)

MOTION: That the Senate Governance Committee approve the following appointment to SGC Subcommittee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization membership:

Dr. Selinda Berg Librarian – Senate Governance Committee Member

***CARRIED**

5.4 Senate Emergency Academic Plan

(See document SGC240124-5.3 for more details)

AGREED:

- Taking a proactive 'student-centred' approach to risk management and safeguarding the academic mission against potential emergency disruptions is critical.
- The importance of preparedness and flexibility in responding to unforeseen disruptions was emphasized.

MOTION: That the Senate Emergency Academic Plan be approved.

Aguirre/Bahdi

CARRIED

6 Question Period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Bahdi/Bussiere
CARRIED