



SENATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC) Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Time: 2:06-3:40pm
Room: Room 209 Assumption Hall and MS Teams

PRESENT: Robert Aguirre, Reem Bahdi, Selinda Berg, Dave Bussiere, Jess Dixon, Laurie Freeman, Robert Gordon (Chair), Ghallia Hashem, Ofelia Jianu, Husam Morra, Stephen Weir.

ABSENT: Nick Baker (regrets), Clinton Beckford (regrets), Cheryl Collier, Debbie Kane, Husam Morra (regrets), Luis Rueda (regrets), Harbal Deep Sindhu (regrets), Darren Stanley (regrets).

IN ATTENDANCE: Shanthi Johnston, Grace Liu (Equity Assessor), Sherri Lynne Menard; Danny Anger (Associate University Secretary (Senate), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary)

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.

Jess Dixon/Selinda Berg
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the Meeting of January 24, 2024 (See document SGC240124M)

MOTION: That the minutes of the Senate Governance Committee meeting of January 24, 2024 be approved.

Laurie Freeman/Reem Bahdi
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes
Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding Business
Nothing to report.

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Black Studies Institute – Name Change (see document SGC240327-5.1 for more details.)

MOTION: That the Black Studies Institute be renamed the Black Scholars Institute.

NOTED:

- The name change is more inclusive and focuses on a community building among Black scholars as knowledge producers irrespective of their subject area.
Members of the Black Studies Institute fully support the name change.

Selinda Berg/Reem Bahdi
CARRIED

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

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

Jess Dixon/Laurie Freeman
CARRIED

NOTED:

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

MOTION: That Dr. Narayan Kar be appointed Distinguished University Professor.

Jess Dixon/Selinda Berg
CARRIED

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed.

Reem Bahdi/Selinda Berg
CARRIED

MOTION: That Dr. Charlene Senn be appointed Distinguished University Professor.

Laurie Freeman/Stephen Weir
CARRIED

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed.

Laurie Freeman/Jess Dixon
CARRIED

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

Selina Berg/Reem Bahdi
CARRIED

5.3 Discussion of Staff Voting on Decanal Appointments

(See document SGC240327-5.3 for more details)

NOTED:

- In response to the Odette School of Business Faculty Council request that full-time OSB staff be permitted to vote on the recommended decanal candidate at Council, members noted that this raises a number issues:
 - Although Deans oversee operational matters, they are primarily academic appointments.
 - Such a change cannot be made for one Faculty and not others. Providing an exception for OSB staff to vote on decanal appointments would be inequitable, as members within the same unions would not have the same provision across all Faculties. Extending it to all Faculties would not be appropriate as the faculty:staff ratio varies across Faculties. In some areas, this could provide a voting majority to staff members for what is an academic appointment.
 - While faculty members remain in their appointed AAU/Faculty for most, if not all, their careers, staff changes and turnover are frequent which would raise issues of fairness in the voting process.
 - Such a change would set a precedent and could have a domino effect, with requests to vote on Associate Dean appointments, Head appointments, etc.
- With regard to the exception provided for HK, this is due to its unique structure whereby the Dean is the head of the academic department of Kinesiology and the non-academic division of Athletics and Recreational Services. Further, the provision for staff voting rights for HK is not extended to all staff, but rather to AAS coaches, team leads, and to their managers.
- There are other ways to provide staff with opportunities to participate in the decanal appointment

process, including by providing feedback on public presentations, and encouraged areas to provide staff with the flexibility to attend such public presentation sessions.

AGREED:

- Appreciating the sentiment behind the request, it was agreed that Bylaw 10 be revised to require staff membership on the Decanal Search Committees (rather than leaving it to the Search Committee to decide), noting that this provides a greater voice to staff as the ratio of faculty:staff on a Search Committee is smaller.

5.4 Bylaw Revisions

5.4.1 Proposed Revision to Bylaws 54, 40, 44

(see document SGC240327-5.4.1 for more details)

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

Jess Dixon/Laurie Freeman

NOTED:

- In response to a question raised, it was noted that there is an option for instructors to seek exceptions through the Dean for courses that require a different pedagogical approach.

CARRIED

MOTION 2: That the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 40, 44 be approved.

Jess Dixon/Dave Bussiere

NOTED:

- Revisions to Bylaws 40 and 44 aim to clarify language and align these bylaws with the language in Bylaws 5,8 and 10.

CARRIED

5.4.2 Proposed Revision to Bylaws 31

(see document SGC240327-5.4.2 for more details)

MOTION: That the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 31 be approved.

Jess Dixon/Laurie Freeman

NOTED:

- The revisions streamline the process and address redundancies between the roles of the head and the adjudicator.
- The intent is to allow heads to adjudicate cases where a student admits to misconduct in assessments weighted at no more than 10% of the final grade, potentially ending the process without escalation to an adjudicator.
- Clarifications were added to the bylaw differentiating 'teachable moments' from 'admonitions', due to previous confusion between these terms and sanctioning guidelines were revised to restrict the types of sanctions heads can impose, with more severe sanctions reserved for adjudicators.
- The changes ensure that minor academic integrity issues can be resolved swiftly and proportionately while maintaining rigorous standards for more significant violations.

AGREED:

- Education and training will be required to help heads understand their revised roles.
- If approved by Senate, the revisions to Bylaw 31 would be effective Fall 2024 to provide time for training.

CARRIED

5.5 Senate Emergency Academic Plan

(See document SGC240327-5.5 for more details)

NOTED:

- The draft policy received early feedback from the Deans and was circulated to the broader academic community through a survey conducted by WUFA as well as an email to Senators.
- It was recognized that while the University has historically managed without a formal emergency plan, the recent crises highlighted the need for structured emergency management processes.
- The plan aims to provide a framework for academic flexibility in emergency situations. It is one piece (a sub-plan) of a broader institutional emergency plan which will define levels of emergency and include additional emergency operational sub-plans.
- The policy would provide flexibility to instructors and students.
- Not all emergencies that would fall under the same category would result in the same academic provisions. It would depend on the length of time and extent/impact of the emergency (portion or all of the campus). (Eg., a tornado may impact one building or the entire campus).

AGREED:

- Based on feedback received, members agree that further refinement of the policy is needed, including:
 - clarifying that work stoppages are not emergencies.
 - having Senate confirm or amend the academic plans shortly after the declaration of an emergency, by way of a meeting or e-vote depending on the nature of the emergency.
 - providing examples of emergencies and possible academic plans associated with them.

5.6 Strategic Enrolment Management Plan

(See document SGC240327-5.6 for more details)

MOTION: That the Strategic Enrolment Management Plan be approved.

Dave Bussiere/Laurie Freeman

NOTED:

- The Strategic Enrolment Management Plan is a cascading under the institution's Aspire Strategic Plan. The plan emphasizes not only student recruitment but also retention and success, marking a shift in strategic enrolment management philosophy.
- Faculty enrolment targets should be met by a mix of recruitment and retention initiatives.
- Five strategic opportunities were identified to reach enrolment goals, focusing on expanding domestic outreach, increasing transfer student involvement, and enhancing the student experience through services like a one-stop student services hub and an early alert system.

AGREED:

- The use of semester enrolment units is confusing and should be revisited or clarified. The tables and data points should be reviewed to better align with headcounts and to ensure clarity in reporting.

CARRIED, as amended

6 Question Period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Reem Bahdi/Stephen Weir

CARRIED