

**SENATE OF BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY
538th SENATE MEETING**

Date: Monday, October 24th, 2011
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place Tomlinson Hall, McGreer # 100

AGENDA

- 538/ 1 Approval of Agenda
- 538/ 2 Approval of Minutes –
537th Senate Meeting
- 538/ 3 Communications from the Chair
- 538/ 4 Business Arising
- 538/ 5 Committee Items
 - 5.1 Academic Standing & Admissions Policy (ASAP) motion / M. Childs
 - 5.2 Senate Nominating Committee / G. Gagné
 - 5.3 Dean's follow-up SPARC report for Physics / B.-A. Bacon
 - 5.4 Senate Planning Committee Report / M. Childs
- 538/ 6 Other Matters
 - 6.1 Course codes motion / M. Childs
- 538/ 7 Recommendations
 - 7.1 Williams School of Business / S. Harvey
 - 7.2 Arts and Science / J. Crooks
 - 7.2.1 Division of Humanities
 - 7.2.2 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
 - 7.2.3 Division of Social Sciences
 - 7.3 School of Education / C. Beauchamp
 - 7.4 Continuing Education

538/ 8 Brief Information / M. Childs

- 8.1 Sabbatical reports available for consultation at the Vice-Principal's office from:
D. Bardati, M.E. Donnan, J. Savage, M. Scarlete, A. MacDonald, M. Murray,
A. Taseen, C. Gosselin

C. Doucet – Oct. 21, 2011



**MINUTES OF THE 538TH MEETING OF THE SENATE
OF BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY**

The 538th meeting of Senate took place on Monday, October 28th, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in McGreer 100.

Chair: Principal Michael Goldbloom

Present: Dr. Madjid Allili, Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon, Ms Stephanie Battistin, Dr. Claude Charpentier, Dr. Michael Childs, Dr. Gilbert Gagné, Mr. Bruno Gnassi, Dr. Trevor Gulliver, Dr. Rebecca Harries, Mr. James Laing, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Dr. Daniel Miller, Dr. Darren Millington, Mr. Dale Miner, Ms Jordan Morneau, Mr. Alexander Rossignol, Mr. Hans Rouleau, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Dr. Lourdes Zubieta.

Regrets: Dr. Catherine Beauchamp, Prof. Chad Gibbs, Dr. Steve Harvey, Ms Jordan Morneau, Dr. Ross Osmun, Dr. Elizabeth Prusak Mr. Daniel Taggart-Hodge.

Secretary: Ms Victoria Meikle

ITEM 537/1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rebecca Harris moved approval of the agenda; Lourdes Zubieta seconded.

The Agenda was adopted as circulated.

ITEM 537/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 537TH MEETING OF SENATE

Dr. Zubieta moved approval of the minutes of the 537th meeting of Senate; Dale Miner seconded.

Dr. Zubieta pointed out that the minutes indicate that Senator Jordan Morneau both attended and regretted the meeting. Mr. Gnassi asked that the reference to the Library on page 3 be to the John Bassett *Memorial* Library. Dean Benoit-Antoine Bacon suggested that the motion directing the Divisions to abandon the practice of approving contract hires where the Instructor recommended by the

Department holds a Master's degree should refer to the relevant discipline rather than the relevant subject, and the Secretary General agreed to verify this point.

The minutes were approved subject to the noted corrections.

ITEM 538/3 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Research performance

Three Canada Research Chairs within the research clusters identified in the University's Strategic Research Plan had been announced, an example of what can be accomplished by setting goals and working collaboratively to achieve them. The Principal added that the University has seen increases in overall research funding.

Campus Master Plan

Progress is being made on the Master Plan. The architects leading the process will consult within the University community in December.

Top 10 after 10

Nine of the ten members of the second 'Top 10 after 10' group had a very successful two-day visit to the campus. Both students and graduates have expressed to the Principal their wish to interact with each other, and he will look for ways to involve members of the Top 10 going forward.

ITEM 538/4 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

ITEM 538/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

5.1 Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee Report - M. Childs

The Vice-Principal Academic explained that a certain number of changes to admissions and registration practices needed to implement the new Student Information System would be coming to Senate for approval. The first of these is a modification to current admission practices to admit all students for first degrees to a 120-credit program. Degree requirements would then be adjusted in order to recognise the student's previous educational experience.

The Vice-Principal moved that, beginning with the fall 2012 entering class, the University establish a common 120 credit requirement for first degrees, it being understood that the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee will regulate advanced, transfer and exemption credits with respect to the candidate's basis of admission (e.g. CEGEP, High School applicant, University transfer). Mr. Miner seconded the motion.

The motion carried, none opposed, no abstentions.

5.2 Report of Senate Nominating Committee - G. Gagné

Dr. Gilbert Gagné, chair of Senate Nominating Committee, introduced the report of the Committee and moved approval of motions as set out below nominating sixteen individuals to nine Senate Committees. Daniel Miller seconded the nominations.

The motions carried, none opposed, no abstentions.

	Committee	Nominee	Representing	Term
1.	Senate Committee on Academic Integrity	Dale Miner	Part-time students	
2.	Senate Committee on Continuing Education	Akanksha Bedi	Williams School of Business	
3.	Senate Committee on Continuing Education	Dr. Ross Osmun	Humanities	
4.	Senate Committee on Continuing Education	Dale Miner	Part-time students	
5.	Senate Committee on Experiential Learning	John Thomas Page	Student Services	
6.	Senate Library Committee	Dale Miner	Part-time students	
7.	Senate Library Committee	Caroline Talbot	Williams School of Business	
8.	Senate Nominating Committee	Dale Miner	Part-time students	
9.	Senate Planning Committee	William Robson	Williams School of Business	3 rd
10.	Senate Planning Committee	Virginia Stroehrer	Natural Sciences	
11.	Senate Prizes Committee	Denise Fortier	Williams School of Business	3 rd
12.	Senate Prizes Committee	Trevor Gulliver	Faculty Council	
13.	Senate Prizes Committee	Jean Levasseur	Faculty Council	
14.	Senate Program Academic Review Committee	Mark Gandey	Williams School of Business	3 rd
15.	Senate Committee on Students with Disabilities	Dale Miner	Part-time students	
16.	Senate Committee on Teaching Evaluations	Dale Miner	Part-time students	

During the course of discussion, the Chair of the Nominating Committee pointed out that we don't have all necessary procedures in place to signal a need to replace Committee members who have left the university or are for other reasons no longer available to serve on a Senate Committee.

5.3 Dean's follow-up Senate Program Academic Review Committee - B.-A. Bacon

Senate received Dean Bacon's follow-up report on the SPARC review of the Physics Department. Dean Bacon noted that the report had been extremely positive, but that reviewers had nonetheless made ten helpful recommendations. Several of these have been implemented, including increased help centre hours in the evening, an increased supplies budget, the maintenance of a strong relationship with the recruitment office and a significant increase in lab hours so as to give students more exposure to experimental Physics.

The Department responded to a recommendation that an apparent gender imbalance among Physics students be addressed by pointing out that women usually make up about 30% of Physics students. Four remaining recommendations had not been implemented because they have resource implications.

The Dean closed by suggesting that additional teaching resources be allocated to the Physics Department in light of its strong performance of in both teaching and research.

5.3 Senate Planning Committee - M. Childs

In 2007, Senate had approved quantitative criteria in the form of student-to-faculty ratios to determine how priorities are set among Departments that require additional resource. These criteria were modified in 2009, in order to allow Senate Planning Committee to take into account issues of program integrity. Along with retirements of faculty members, these criteria were applied by Senate Planning Committee to set priorities among requests from Departments to hire for the 2012-13 academic year.

Over the course of the 2011-12 academic year, Senate Planning Committee is analysing longer-term student enrolment and faculty complement to assess what would constitute full staffing at different levels of student enrolment.

Seventeen Departments submitted requests for the approval to hire for the 2012-13 academic year. These requests totalled 20 faculty hires, including some shared or half positions.

The observations that the Committee made in setting priorities were:

- ♦ The School of Education has reached a stage where it is close to its maximum enrolment and complement. It should be understood that the addition of another program profile would require another tenure-stream position.
- ♦ Registrations in the Williams School of Business continue to increase; they need additional resources and have program integrity issues.

- ♦ A recommendation for a position in Classics and Liberal Arts was not implemented last year due to resource constraints; this position should be recommended again.
- ♦ The Drama Department needs a position to deal with the technical Drama, which is an important aspect of its program.
- ♦ The English Department may have a retirement within the next year or two.
- ♦ No additional tenure-stream positions will be allocated to the Fine Arts Department until after the next SPARC review.
- ♦ The Department of History must hire one new faculty member under the terms of the Canada Research Chairs program to replace Dr. Cristian Berco. The half position in History shared with the *Université de Sherbrooke* has now gone to Sherbrooke, and must be replaced for program viability reasons.
- ♦ Philosophy and Political Studies have the numbers to support a case for a position.
- ♦ There has been growth in the Natural Sciences, particularly in the Biology Department, thus making an additional position necessary.
- ♦ An Instructor is retiring from the Mathematics Department, and since the Department provides important service courses for a number of other departments, this position must be replaced.
- ♦ Physics hasn't yet seen the growth in student numbers that would support an additional tenure-stream position, but given quality of the program and the research carried out in the Department, it should get support through part-time staff.
- ♦ There is a strong argument for additional resources for International Studies in the Political Studies Department.
- ♦ The Psychology Department continues to grow. The Vice-Principal suggested that some pressure on class sizes might be alleviated if students were to take additional courses outside of the Department.
- ♦ There is a strong argument for additional resources in the Sociology Department both in terms of number and of program integrity, especially in relation to Criminology.
- ♦ The Sports Studies program requires resources should be shared within the Psychology or the Sociology Department.

The Vice Principal moved, and Mr. Miner seconded, that Senate approve thirteen tenure stream appointments for 2012-13 in order of priority, and that these positions be converted into sessional positions should the Board of Governors decline to approve the funding for them. This motion presupposes the allocation of a position to the History Department to replace a Canada Research Chair.

The motion for the approval of thirteen tenure-stream positions in the following order of priority carried, none opposed, no abstentions.

1. one position in Political and International Studies
2. one position in the Williams School of Business
3. one position in Sociology
4. one position in Biology
5. one position in Mathematics at the Instructor rank
6. one position in Classics/Liberal Arts
7. one position in Psychology
8. one position in the Williams School of Business
9. one half-position in History
10. one joint position in Sports Studies and Sociology, with possible placement in another high enrolment Department
11. one half position in Drama
12. one joint position in Political Studies and Philosophy
13. one position in Psychology

Senate Planning Committee declined to make any additional specific recommendations for sessional positions until it is known how many of the recommended tenure-stream positions are approved by the Board of Governors.

It was suggested during the course of discussion that, since most of the recommended positions are occupied by sessionals, the cost to the University of filling them would be less than it would be to hire an equivalent number of new tenure-stream hires. A long-term commitment to faculty is regarded as critical to the University. Where student enrolment in a program decreases, there is some, but limited, capacity for adjustment, by having faculty members offer service courses or by redesigning programs. Though it is not possible to predict teaching needs reliably over a period of time equivalent to an academic career, there is some flexibility resulting from a turnover of faculty members through attrition and retirement.

One mechanism for preventing a mismatch between teaching needs and the expertise of faculty is to plan for growth in student numbers, thus avoiding, to the extent possible, a tendency for growth to overshoot sustainable numbers. Senate Planning Committee is now looking to be proactive, determining what the maximum sustainable numbers in different programs are, and then limiting growth.

ITEM 538/6 OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Course Codes - M. Childs

The implementation of the new Student Information System requires a change to four letter/four digit course codes. In order to facilitate these changes, an excel file be provided by the Records Office with suggested letter codes, and a “zero” added to each existing course code.

The Vice-Principal Academic moved that Departments will have one month (to December 1, 2011) to inform the Registrar whether they accept the suggested course codes or to provide alternate four letter/four digit codes for approval by Senate Planning Committee (SPC). Rebecca Harries seconded the motion.

The motion carried, none opposed, no abstentions.

ITEM 538/7 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEANS

7.1 Williams School of Business

There were no recommendations from the School of Business.

7.2 Faculty of Arts and Science

7.2.1 Division of Humanities

Dean Benoit-Antoine Bacon had no recommendations from the Division of Humanities.

7.2.3 Division of Natural Sciences

Dean Bacon had no recommendations from the Division of Natural Sciences.

7.2.3 Division of Social Sciences

Dean Bacon had no recommendations from the Division of Social Sciences.

7.3 School of Education

There were no recommendations from the School of Education.

7.4 Continuing Education

The Vice-Principal Academic had no recommendations from Continuing Education.

ITEM 538/8 INFORMATION

8.1 Sabbatical Reports - M. Childs

- ♦ D. Bardati
- ♦ C. Gosselin
- ♦ M.E. Donnan
- ♦ MacDonald

- ♦ M. Murray
- ♦ J. Savage
- ♦ M. Scarlete
- ♦ A. Taseen
- ♦ C. Gosselin

There being no further business, the 538th meeting of Senate adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Michael Goldbloom, Chair

Victoria Meikle, Secretary