

**657<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF SENATE**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023, 2:30 P.M.**  
**MCGREER 100 AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**Chair:** Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

**Present:** Dr. Hafid Agourram, Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Sonoma Brawley, Martina Berkers, Julien Collin, Bruno Courtemanche, Dr. Julie Desjardins, Dr. Alexandre Drouin, Dr. Kerry Hull, Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Christina Lépine, Élodie Lescure, Sienna Longo, Dr. Jean Manore, Dr. Patrick McBrine, Dr. Matthew Peros, Dr. Jessica Riddell, Hans Rouleau, Dr. John Ruan, Chelsea Sheridan, Dr. Jordan Tronsgard, Dr. Marianne Vigneault, Dr. Yanan Wang, Dr. Andrew Webster, Dr. Brad Willms, Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Cleo Wulder

**Regrets:** Dr. Michael Teed

**Guests:** Dr. Stine Linden-Andersen, Dr. Valerio Faraoni

**Secretary:** Denise Lauzière, LL.B.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier called the 657<sup>th</sup> meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

**657/0.1 SENATE VOTING**

Principal Lebel-Grenier referred Senators to Document 657/0.1 and the proposal for Senate's decision.

He explained that the method of filling Divisional representation on Senate and its committees for the three new faculties has been confirmed as compliant with the method in the Statutes for the former Faculty of Arts and Science, which continues to be the formal structure listed in the Statutes. He confirmed that the faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences & Mathematics each held nominations processes to renew, nominate or elect their representatives under the established terms for such nominations. Nonetheless, it continues to be the case that under existing Statutes, only a single vote on Senate is accorded to the Dean of Arts and Science—a role which was divided between two Deans for 2020-23, with a single vote on Senate being designated to the Dean of Arts, and which is now planned to be divided among three Deans covering three new faculties.

**Motion:**

THAT, until such time as the Statutes are duly modified by the Board of Governors, Senate agrees to the following:

- All Faculty Senators be considered in good standing and that Senators from the three Divisions and the two Schools have the number of votes outlined in the Statutes;
- A single Dean from among those representing the three Divisions comprising the former Faculty Arts and Sciences be selected by Senate to exercise the vote outlined in the Statutes—decided to be the Dean of Natural Science and Mathematics;
- The remaining two Deans representing the three Divisions comprising the former Faculty Arts and Sciences be accorded full rights to intervene in all Senate discussions but not have a right to vote until such time that the Statutes are duly modified;
- A second Senator from the School of Education be elected by their colleagues and have the right to intervene in all Senate discussions but not the right to vote until such time that the Statutes are duly modified.

Moved by: Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

Seconded by: Andrew Webster

**Motion carried with one abstention (Dr. Riddell).**

**Motion:**

Furthermore, THAT:

All motions approved at the 656<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate held on September 15, 2023, as recorded in the Minutes of the 656<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate be reaffirmed and duly approved today (October 20, 2023) by Senate.

Moved by: Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

Seconded by: Andrew Webster

**Motion carried with one abstention (Dr. Riddell).**

657/1 AGENDA

Moved by: Bruno Courtemanche

Seconded: Julien Collin

The agenda was approved as presented.

## 657/2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the 656<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting held on September 15, 2023 were adopted per the second motion noted in 657/0.1 above.

Moved by: Andrew Webster  
Seconded: Reena Atanasiadis

**Motion carried with three abstentions (Dr. Riddell, Dr. Vigneault, Dr. Wiseman).**

## 657/3 BUSINESS ARISING

The Chair reviewed the status of some of the items from the September 15, 2023 Senate meeting.

He noted that work is ongoing regarding changes to the University Statutes. The Board of Governors engaged in a long discussion on this topic at its September 22, 2023 meeting. However, the October 13, 2023 announcement by the Quebec Government regarding proposed tuition increases for out-of-province and international students (see point 657/4 below) has been the main preoccupation since then.

Dr. Andrew Webster noted the constitution of the Task Force on Generative AI is in progress and that some vacancies remain to be filled.

With respect to the second Senator from the School of Education, Dr. Dawn Wiseman noted that as the Senate Nominating Committee was unsure of the status of that Senator following the September 15, 2023 meeting, they did not proceed with the nomination. With the clarification provided at the current meeting, they will proceed with the nomination.

Dr. Andrew Webster noted that the Committee for the Review of Senate Committees is still being populated.

## 657/4 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

### Tuition increase announcement by the Quebec Government

Principal Lebel-Grenier explained that he would focus his remarks on the October 13, 2023 announcement by the Quebec Government to implement new measures with respect to tuition fees charged to out-of-province and international students.

He began by noting that the Board of Governors had held a special meeting that morning on this topic, that he had sent out a notice to the campus community on October 19, 2023 and that a Principal's Town Hall would be held on October 23, 2023, which he encouraged Senators to attend.

The Principal elaborated on the general proposition from the government, what it means for Bishop's, what the University's strategy is to address the proposed measures, and what the next steps will be.

Ministers Pascale Déry (Higher Education) and Jean-François Roberge (among other portfolios, Minister of the French Language) jointly announced the following summary changes to university tuition on October 13, 2023, effective September 2024:

- First, that the tuition charged by Quebec universities to Canadian out-of-province students would increase from approximately \$9,000 to \$17,000 per year; and
- Second, that the tuition charged to international students would be regulated at a minimum of \$20,000 per year, from which the provincial government would retain approximately \$17,000, with no upper limit on the amount that could be charged.
- The government has stated that its objectives are twofold:
  - The additional revenue from the increased tuition for out-of-province and international students (estimated by the government at \$110 million) will be redistributed to the francophone universities.
  - These measures are also intended to counter what the government describes as a negative impact on the vitality of the French language in Montreal due to the presence of students attending anglophone universities.

If the proposed measures are applied as announced by the government, they stand to have a catastrophic impact on Bishop's both financially and in terms of our institution's identity as a university that welcomes students from across Canada and around the world.

The Principal reminded Senators that current students who are continuing their studies are not impacted by these changes and have five years to complete their studies under the existing tuition model. Students from France and Belgium, as well as research-based Master's students, will be exempt.

However, many questions remain about how the policy will apply to specific groups of students (e.g., francophone students from out of province, Indigenous students from out of province, students adding a second major during the course of their studies, students who take time off and then resume their studies, etc.).

The Principal went on to note that one of his primary concerns following the announcement was that Bishop's would go unnoticed in the larger discussion of the policy change. He therefore put a focus on sharing Bishop's reality in the media and ensuring that the implications for our institution are publicized widely. He has also spoken to influential ministers in the Quebec Government and other allies to communicate the serious and detrimental impacts of this policy change on Bishop's.

The Principal stated that Bishop's stands in solidarity with McGill and Concordia on this policy issue but the government's attempt to solve a 'Montreal problem' with these measures will incur the most detrimental consequences on a non-Montreal institution.

The Principal commended the Students' Representative Council for their hard work in sharing Bishop's story, working closely with their colleagues in the Quebec Student Union and with the University's administration.

Further, the University has been working to mobilize local business and community leaders as well as putting pressure on Members of the National Assembly who represent ridings in the Estrie region.

While the government has said that it will not rescind these measures, we have been effective in getting the government to concede that the reality of Bishop's is much different from that of McGill and Concordia. The government has also said that it will not let Bishop's close. In terms of a solution, Bishop's is actively seeking an exemption from these new measures.

The Principal reiterated the important message that Bishop's supports the Quebec Government's objective to increase and protect the vitality of the French language. We are supportive of giving students the French-language skills they need to stay in Quebec if they so choose.

Finally, the Principal concluded his remarks by emphasizing that Bishop's University is here to stay and we are all working hard to ensure that it remains a vibrant, inclusive and diverse community.

### EDI Task Force

The Principal noted that he is still getting acquainted with the work of the EDI Task Force and will provide an update on this topic at a future meeting of Senate.

## 657/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

### 5.1 SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dr. Dawn Wiseman presented the report of the Nominating Committee, noting an amendment, as follows: the report's summary sheet (document 657/5.1i) should include the updated names of the students on the Senate Academic Appeals Committee for 2023-24 as Sophia Stacey (primary) and Bryn Empey (alternate). Dr. Wiseman will provide an updated summary sheet to the Secretary General.

There being no objections to the amendment, Dr. Wiseman presented the motion.

#### **Motion:**

THAT Senate approve the new membership of the Senate committees for the 2023-24 academic year as presented on October 20, 2023.

Moved by: Dawn Wiseman

Seconded: Alexandre Drouin

#### **Motion carried.**

### 5.2 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Webster presented an interim report of the Senate Planning Committee. The Committee's main focus currently is the consideration of requests for tenure stream appointments for the next academic year. The Committee has received 11 requests from eight departments. Over its last two meetings the Senate Planning Committee has met with the relevant department Chairs and Deans for each submission. Dr. Webster emphasized the Committee's gratitude to the Chairs and Deans for their collaboration in this process. The Committee will bring forth its recommendation for tenure stream appointments to next meeting of Senate.

### 5.3 SENATE PROGRAM ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (SPARC)

Dr. Webster noted that SPARC had approved the request of the School of Education to delay their review for a year. The School of Education has been through several major changes since its last SPARC review, including to its curriculum as accredited at the provincial level, and SPARC agreed it would be appropriate to undertake the review next year when a proper set of graduates from the full program is available to inform the assessment.

Dr. Webster next asked Senate to approve an additional list of external reviewers for the Departments of Biochemistry and Biological Science.

#### **Motion:**

That Senate approves the proposed reviewers for the Departments of Biochemistry and Biological Science, noting that the two (2) selected reviewers should not come from the same institution.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by: Alexandre Drouin

#### **Motion carried.**

### 5.4 SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

#### **Policy for the Calculation and Allocation of Indirect Research Costs**

Dr. Kerry Hull began by noting that Bishop's University does not have a current (or past) policy regarding the calculation and allocation of the indirect costs of research. Dr. Hull presented the Senate Research Committee's proposed policy (Document 657/5.4i) for discussion which will be presented for Senate approval at the November 17, 2023 meeting.

Dr. Hull provided a brief overview of indirect research costs and a summary of the proposed policy, including the proposed allocation of indirect funds.

It was noted that current contracts would be grandfathered in under the proposed new policy. As this item will be brought forth for a vote at the November 17, 2023 meeting of Senate, Senators were encouraged to contact Dr. Hull in case of additional questions.

#### **Proposed Revision to the Senate Research Committee Composition**

To account for the increasingly important role of information technology in research, the Senate Research Committee would like to add a representative from Information Technology Services (ITS) as a voting member of the Committee who does not participate in faculty submission adjudications.

Dr. Hull noted that she had spoken to the Chair of Senate before the meeting and was proposing a slightly modified motion for Senate's approval, such that the ITS representative be the Chief Information Officer.

Dr. Darren Bardati suggested a further change, adding the wording 'or their delegate'.

Following discussion, in which it was emphasized that the Chief Information Officer would be voting on policy and not individual faculty submissions, the revised motion was put forth as follows:

**Motion:**

THAT Senate approve the addition of the Chief Information Officer or their delegate to the Senate Research Committee as a voting member who does not participate in faculty submission adjudications.

Moved by: Kerry Hull

Seconded by: Andrew Webster

**Motion carried with two opposed (Dr. Riddell, Dr. Wiseman) and one abstention.**

The revised composition of the Senate Research Committee is as follows:

The Senate Research Committee is composed of one representative from each division and school, the Vice-Principal Academic and Research (or a designated academic officer), one librarian, the Director of Research and Graduate Studies, two (2) student representatives (one undergraduate and one graduate), and the Chief Information Officer (ITS) or their delegate. The students and the ITS representative are voting members, but do not participate in adjudications of faculty submissions. In order to ensure an unbiased review process, all members of the Senate Research Committee involved in adjudications shall complete EDI training.

**COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

- ◆ Vice-Principal Academic and Research (ex officio, voting member)
- ◆ One (1) representative from each division/school (voting members)
- ◆ One (1) Librarian (voting member)
- ◆ Director of Research and Graduate Studies (ex officio, voting member)
- ◆ One (1) representative from Information Technology Services (ITS) (voting member). The ITS representative will not participate in adjudication of faculty submissions.
- ◆ Two (2) Student representatives (one undergraduate and one graduate), as named by the Students' Representative Council (voting members). The student representatives will not participate in adjudication of faculty submissions.

[At this point, Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier left the meeting and Vice-Principal Academic and Research Andrew Webster assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.]

6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Dr. Webster presented his academic report.

Strategic enrolment

Enrolment numbers are close to where they were last year at this time. However, following the Fall add/drop deadline, enrolment numbers are not as far ahead of last year as projected. This is largely due to a drop in the number of international students enrolled for Fall 2023. There was also a drop in the number of students enrolled in the Spring and Summer 2023 terms, which are part of the 2023-24 enrolment data.

Dr. Webster noted that the University's strategic enrolment goal of 3000 students by 2027-28 is now complicated by the Quebec Government's October 13 tuition increase announcement.

With the appointment of an Associate Vice-Principal for Recruitment, Marketing and Communications, a more targeted recruitment strategy will identify priority areas for growth and expansion.

Dr. Brad Willms inquired about the melt rate for undergraduate students in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics (68%). Dr. Webster noted that within this group, there may be a higher number of international students who ultimately did not attend this fall.

A discussion ensued about the importance of the full conversion process, from recruitment efforts and earlier offers of admission, to targeted communications to get as many students as possible to accept their offers, to retention efforts once they are enrolled.

Student Senator Sienna Longo noted that she would be glad to support activities to encourage prospective students to accept their offers, particularly in the Natural Sciences.

Dr. John Ruan inquired whether the lower number of international students could be due to visa processing issues. Dr. Webster replied that while still possible, that may have been less of a factor as compared to last year when visa delays were a highly publicized barrier for international students. He also noted that institutions globally with high numbers of international students may have several intake points throughout the year, whereas Bishop's main intake period is solely the fall semester.

Administrative leave: Dean of Natural Science and Mathematics and Associate Vice-Principal Research

Dr. Webster noted that Dr. Hull will be taking administrative leave for the Winter 2024 semester. In order to appoint an Interim Dean of Natural Science and Mathematics for a six-month period, Dr. Webster will put forth a call for expressions of interest from members of faculty and constitute a consultative group to advise him on this appointment.

Dr. Webster will resume the main duties as Vice-Principal Research role for the period of Dr. Hull's leave, to be supported by Dr. Matthew Peros, Dean of Social Sciences, who will assist as an Interim Associate Vice Principal Research as needed.



## 6.2 RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT

Dr. Hull presented her report, which provided an overview of the many ways in which the Office of Research and Graduate Studies supports research and scholarly activity. The office is expanding its work to make more policies and guidelines available, particularly online.

She noted that more policies would be presented by the Senate Research Committee at the next Senate meeting.

Finally, Dr. Hull congratulated those involved in the recent announcement of the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology and Dr. Webster recognized the many research successes highlighted in Dr. Hull's report.

## 6.3 AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR PROGRAM-SPECIFIC FRENCH TERMINOLOGY FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

Dr. Webster explained that under the terms of the *Charter of the French Language*, the University adopted in June 2023 a Policy on the Use and Quality of the French Language.

Article 88.3 of the new law states that “... *la politique d'un établissement d'enseignement collégial ou universitaire anglophone doit traiter... de la maîtrise du français exigée à la fin des études des étudiants domiciliés au Québec, dont celle de la terminologie française appropriée selon les programmes;*”

Given the potential for its impacts on curricula, work to further define this requirement of the policy and identify a set of outcomes was to have been undertaken later this year for implementation beyond the 2023-24 academic year. This timeline has necessarily been accelerated due to the Quebec Government's tuition increase announcement.

Dr. Webster proposed the creation of a Senate Committee to be tasked with proposing to Senate mechanisms by which Bishop's can fulfill its obligations under this policy and therefore under the law. The approach the University ultimately undertakes should demonstrate genuine commitment to French while respecting existing curricula and programs at the University.

### **Motion:**

In order to develop a comprehensive and coherent plan for how the University can implement the provisions of this policy and remain compliant with governmental requirements around the French language,

THAT Senate establish an ad hoc committee to prepare a plan for graduating students to have appropriate French terminology specific to their programs for Senate's approval.

The proposed composition of the Committee:

- Vice-Principal Academic and Research, as Chair
- One Dean
- Five Departmental Chairs, to be appointed by the Vice-Principal Academic and Research, representing a range of disciplinary approaches, student numbers and languages
- One Student Senator.

Moved by: Julie Desjardins  
Seconded by: Alexandre Drouin


**Motion carried.**

Dr. Willms brought forth a question from the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics, inquiring whether anyone has been charged with collecting data for Senate's evaluation of Student Success Week.

Dr. Webster thanked Dr. Willms and asked that the Minutes reflect that this item should have been included in his academic report. He confirmed that a faculty survey on Student Success Week will be circulated by him on Friday, October 27, such that results are available approximately 10 days after the end of the 2023 Student Success Week.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

  
Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair

  
Kylie Côté, Acting Interim Secretary General, for:  
Denise Lauzière, LL. B. Secretary General (Interim)