



**621<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF SENATE**

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

**Chair:** Principal Michael Goldbloom

**Present:** Dr. Hafid Agourram, Ms. Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Dr. Jim Benson, Mr. Yotam Baum, Mr. Samy Cauvet, Mr. Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon, Dr. Claire Grogan, Dr. Corinne Haigh, Ms. Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Ms. Grace McArthur, Mr. David Piperno, Dr. Elizabeth Prusak, Dr. Jessica Riddell, Mr. Hans Rouleau, Ms. Hannah Sommerville, Dr. Michael Teed, Dr. Miles Turnbull, Dr. Marianne Vigneault, Dr. David Webster, Dr. Brad Willms, Dr. Dawn Wiseman

**Regrets:** Dr. Gregory Brophy, Mr. Mark Gandey, Mr. Eric Gendron, Mr. Bill Robson, Ms. Emma Story

**Guests:** Dr. Nicole Riley, Dr. Dale Stout

**Secretary:** Dr. Trygve Ugland

The Chair called the 621<sup>st</sup> meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**ITEM 621/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Secretary General Dr. Trygve Ugland noted that this meeting was the 621<sup>st</sup> meeting of Senate, not the 620<sup>th</sup> as was indicated on some of the meeting documents. He said the documents would be corrected and archived as belonging to the 621<sup>st</sup> meeting of Senate. The approval of the agenda of the 621<sup>st</sup> meeting of Senate was unanimous.

**ITEM 621/2 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**

Principal Goldbloom thanked everyone for their efforts in working through these challenging

times. He spoke to a draft memo he distributed to Senators for comments. The memo gave an update of the University's progress and plans since the Town Halls held in May and would be sent to faculty, librarians and staff in the coming days.

At its May 1, 2020, meeting, the Board of Governors approved a revision of the University Statutes which included an update of the Bishop's Council mandate and composition. The primary role of the Bishop's Council is to provide support and guidance to the Board of Governors through the Principal. The Bishop's Council mandate includes recommending to the Board who should be named as the University's Chancellor and recommending names to be given to significant infrastructure on the campus.

#### ITEM 621/3 COMMITTEE ITEMS

##### 3.1 SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chair of the Committee, University Librarian Catherine Lavallée-Welch, said that the Committee recommended the replacement of a permanent full-time librarian who is retiring after 45 years at the University. The Committee was also requesting Senate's approval for a sessional librarian position for 2021 to support both students and faculty in 2020-21.

##### Motion:

That the University Senate endorse the motion of the Senate Library Committee to support the hiring of a permanent librarian and the appointment of a sessional librarian for 2021.

Moved by: Catherine Lavallée-Welch

Seconded by: Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon

**Motion carried.**

##### 3.2 TIMETABLE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Principal Academic & Research Miles Turnbull presented the Senate Timetable Committee report. Due to the pandemic the Committee discussed the need to accommodate the challenge of offering online, hybrid and in-person courses.

Dr. Turnbull introduced the Associate Registrar – Admissions, Dr. Nicole Riley, who worked with the Academic Deans and drew on the work of the three fall scenario working groups as well as the analyses completed which determined the physical capacity of the University's classroom inventory following public health guidelines to propose guidelines for the 2020-21 timetable.

Dr. Riley presented proposed revisions to the timetable for 2020-21 to faculty for feedback on several occasions in June 2020. A recording of one of these presentations was made available to Senators who were encouraged to view it prior to this June 22<sup>nd</sup> Senate meeting.

Dr. Brad Willms asked Dr. Riley what 'safe spaces' were. Dr. Riley said these spaces would allow students to remain on campus in between classes. Dr. Willms suggested that perhaps the gyms

could be set up as wifi hot spots where students could study. Dr. Turnbull said that this would depend on the needs of athletics and health and safety guidelines.

Dr. Hafid Agourram asked if some of the small classrooms could be dedicated for faculty wanting to teach fully online as they have blackboards. He also asked if faculty could add office time to support online students. Dr. Turnbull said that access to faculty is important to the University.

Dr. Jessica Riddell said that adding office time could enhance student engagement. She said that the 2020-21 timetable was being proposed due to the exceptional circumstances the University is navigating. She said that Saturday teaching is challenging for faculty with small children.

Dr. Riley said that faculty would be able to indicate their availabilities and would not be forced to teach on Saturdays. Dr. Turnbull said that the motion and intent is that this timetable would only apply for the 2020-21.

Dr. Elizabeth Prusak asked how a three-hour lab would be accommodated in the proposed timetable. Dr. Riley said that two 90-minute blocks would be joined.

**Motion:**

That Senate approve the modified COVID-19 timetable grid for the 2020-21 academic year, as attached to this Memo (Document 621/3.2i) and presented at Senate on June 22, 2020.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Reena Atanasiadis

**Motion carried.**

**3.3 ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Principal Goldbloom invited the co-Chairs of the Committee, Dr. Dale Stout and Dr. Trygve Ugland to present the Committee's report.

Dr. Stout spoke of the necessity of acting and of putting in place an academic administrative structure that would support the University in responding agilely to the shifting conditions brought about by the pandemic. He also spoke of the cost and risk of doing nothing.

Dr. Trygve Ugland gave a summary of the Academic Administrative Structures Committee's (AASC) deliberations which concluded with the Committee's unanimous recommendation that the creation of an Associate Vice-Principal Academic position and a Dean of Science position, on a provisional basis for a three-year term, would be beneficial to the University. It was further recommended that the positions be filled by internal candidates and reviewed after two years.

Senators were invited to comment or ask questions.

Dr. Hafid Agourram said that he agreed with the Committee's recommendation. He said that there was an enormous amount of work that would need to be undertaken in the next few years.

Dr. Jessica Riddell said that the Collective agreement expires on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 and asked whether these new positions would affect the Faculty Complement. Dr. Stout said that it was clear to him that the administration was very serious about supporting faculty. He mentioned that the Principal recently signed six new tenure-stream contracts.

The Principal said that tenured faculty are one of the University's main strengths and that he hoped to continue to support a strong Faculty Complement in the future.

Dr. Riddell said that if these new positions were added to Senate, the balance of administration/faculty would be changed.

Dr. Uglan said the Committee recommended that during the three-year trial period, the two new individuals would be non-voting members of Senate. He said that any change to the composition of Senate would require the University's Statutes to be amended.

The Principal said that the Committee would present its report and recommendations to the Board of Governors.

#### ITEM 621/4

##### 4.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Vice-Principal Academic & Research Miles Turnbull said that the admission numbers are generally lower than last year, except for an increase in the number of Quebec applications.

The Recruiting and Admissions departments have intensified their efforts in converting interested individuals into enrolled students by contacting each prospective student.

#### ITEM 621/5 INFORMATION ITEMS

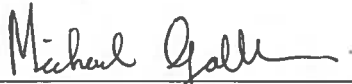
Dr. Hafid Agourram asked that the University recommend the use of a single software for videoconferencing – either Zoom, BlueJeans or Teams but not all three at the same time. Dr. Turnbull said that the University's Information Technology Services was evaluating the options and that the decision would be communicated as soon as it had been made.

#### ITEM 621/6 RECOMMENDATIONS

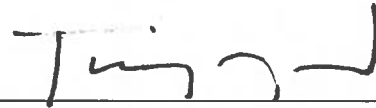
- 6.1 Williams School of Business – no recommendations
- 6.2 Arts and Science
  - 6.2.1 Division of Humanities – no recommendations
  - 6.2.2 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics – no recommendations
  - 6.2.3 Division of Social Sciences – no recommendations – no recommendations
- 6.3 School of Education – no recommendations

6.4 Continuing Education – no recommendations

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.



Michael Goldbloom, Chair



Trygve Ugland, Secretary General