



623RD MEETING OF SENATE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27TH 2020
11:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Michael Goldbloom

Present: Ms. Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Mr. Yotam Baum, Dr. Jim Benson, Dr. Gregory Brophy, Mr. Samy Cauvet, Mr. Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon, Mr. Eric Gendron, Dr. Corinne Haigh, Ms. Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Dr. Michele Murray, Mr. David Piperno, Dr. Elizabeth Prusak, Dr. Jessica Riddell, Mr. Hans Rouleau, Dr. Miles Turnbull, Dr. Marianne Vigneault, Dr. Yanan Wang, Dr. David Webster, Dr. Brad Willms, Dr. Dawn Wiseman

Regrets: Mr. Mark Gandey, Ms. Grace McArthur, Ms. Hannah Sommerville, Ms. Emma Story, Dr. Michael Teed

Guests: Dr. Stine Linden-Andersen, Mr. Jeffery MacDonald

Secretary: Dr. Trygve Ugland

The Chair called the 623rd meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. He welcomed the new Student Representatives' Council (SRC) Senators and invited SRC Vice-President Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon, SRC Social Sciences Representative Eric Gendron, SRC Business Representative Samy Cauvet and SRC Graduate Student Representative David Piperno to introduce themselves.

ITEM 623/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

ITEM 623/2 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Principal Goldbloom thanked students, faculty, and staff for their collaboration in navigating these extraordinary times. He asked for everyone's continued collaboration, engagement and good faith in the coming months.

Principal Goldbloom congratulated the Student Representatives' Council for planning a safe, welcoming and creative Orientation Week.

The Principal advised Senate that the first component of the 2020 Convocation would be streamed at noon on Saturday, August 28th. He expressed his appreciation to everyone who was working to make it a memorable event for the graduating students. He informed Senate that Mr. Daniel Fournier will be installed as Bishop's 20th Chancellor during the ceremony.

ITEM 623/3 INFORMATION ITEMS

3.1 COVID-19 TASK FORCE – ACADEMIC PROTOCOL

Vice Principal Academic and Research Miles Turnbull spoke of the process involved in the development of the University's COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocol for Academics and in-person Learning. Dr. Turnbull invited the Chair of the COVID-19 Task Force, Dean of Student Affairs, Stine Linden-Andersen, and Health and Safety Coordinator Jeff MacDonald to address Senate.

Dr. Linden-Andersen reported that the Covid-19 Task Force meets frequently and that the University's response to the pandemic required the whole Bishop's community to be vigilant and flexible as the situation evolves.

Mr. MacDonald said that the SafeGAITER Squad composed of 26 student ambassadors has received training on how to engage and educate students about safety both on- and off-campus.

Dr. Dawn Wiseman asked about the security of the data collected by the SafeGAITER self-assessment that each member of the Bishop's Community is required to provide before they arrive on campus. Mr. MacDonald said that access to the information is controlled and the data would only be consulted in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 on-campus.

ITEM 623/4 COMMITTEE ITEMS

4.1 ACADEMIC STANDING AND ADMISSIONS POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Registrar Hans Rouleau, the Chair of the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy (ASAP) Committee, said that the Committee had met several times over the summer to discuss how best to support students and faculty during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ASAP Committee proposed four motions for Senate's consideration and approval.

Course Outline Policy:

Dr. Dawn Wiseman asked if faculty would need to revise a syllabus that was already posted online to comply with the policy. Registrar Rouleau said that he encouraged professors to review the sections on online exams. Vice-Principal Academic and Research Miles Turnbull said that additional elements could be added to an appendix of the course outline.

Dr. Jessica Riddell asked if the syllabi should be forwarded to Department Chairs or Deans. Dr. Turnbull said that this had not been discussed by the ASAP Committee. Mr. Rouleau asked if Dr. Riddell was advocating for the vetting of the syllabus by Department Chairs or Deans. Dr. Riddell clarified that her recommendation was that faculty continue to maintain their independence in creating their syllabi.

Dean of Arts and Science Michele Murray said that at the beginning of each semester, Arts and Science faculty are encouraged to send their syllabi to the faculty assistants. This practice has served the University in instances where the professor falls ill and is unable to teach.

Dr. David Webster thanked the ASAP Committee for its work and said that the Course Outline guidelines were useful.

Motion:

On behalf of the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee, I move that Senate approve the following course outline policy (Document 623/4.1 – Course Outline Policy), applicable to all courses at Bishop’s University, effective immediately. This policy will be revised once the COVID pandemic has subsided.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Michele Murray

Motion carried.

Fall 2020 Evaluations – online proctoring:

The ASAP Committee recommended that students enrolled in an online course in Fall 2020 would not be required to return to campus for a final evaluation. In-person course evaluations would be proctored by the professor. Faculty teaching an online course would be consulted to see what type of final evaluation their course requires. The ASAP Committee requested that Senate approve online proctoring for Fall 2020 as one option for course evaluation of online courses.

Dr. Webster said that in his view, online proctoring was an unethical practice and a violation of students’ human rights. However, he noted that the University had engaged in an extensive discussion on the offering of online proctoring and he acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic was causing the University to explore options it would not otherwise have entertained.

Dr. Brad Willms asked what options were available for a student enrolled in a hybrid course. He asked if a professor could offer an in-person exam on campus and require off-campus students to find someone to invigilate the exam at their location and expense, for example at a local university. Dr. Willms noted that the use of the gymnasiums for exams was being suspended for Fall 2020 and asked what options were available for faculty holding an exam with several sections or where online students might choose to come to campus for an exam (for instance if they are studying online but living locally).

Dr. Turnbull said that some faculty had expressed the view that if they offered an online evaluation component, it would have to be offered to everyone including the in-person students. Dr. Turnbull said that the details would need to be worked out on a case-by-case basis.

SRC Vice-President Academic Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon said that it could be difficult for a student registered in an online course to find and pay for a physical invigilator, especially if the student lived in a small town. Dr. Turnbull said that faculty was encouraged to consult the various alternative methods of evaluating students that had been compiled by the Committee.

Mr. Gadoury-Sansfaçon asked if Senate should discuss the implications of online exam proctoring on academic freedom. He considered online proctoring to be an infringement of human rights.

Dr. Turnbull said that due to the extraordinary situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, online proctoring of exams needs to be an option for professors. The University would inform students about the possibility of online proctoring and ask for their consent. He said there is also the possibility of exam proctoring at other locations such as at a local high school for example.

Motion:

On behalf of the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee, I move approval of the following policy for quizzes and examinations during the fall academic semester of 2020 at Bishop's University (Document 623/4.1 – Fall 2020 Examinations).

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Reena Atanasiadis

For: 18

Against: 0

Abstained: 2

Motion carried.

Dr. Jim Benson asked what would happen if the University was required to close as happened in March 2020. Dr. Turnbull said that if campus were closed for in-person teaching activities, Senate would be consulted.

Fall 2020 Evaluations – Return to numerical grading system

Registrar Hans Rouleau said that most universities have reverted to the numerical grading system for Fall 2020.

SRC Graduate Representative David Piperno asked how many students had requested the Pass/Fail mention on their transcripts rather than a grade. Dr. Turnbull said that for Winter 2020, 1143 students requested that their numerical grade be converted to a Pass/Fail mention.

Dr. Dawn Wiseman said that the COVID-19 pandemic and related health and safety measures, including the move to additional online activities, has caused stress for both students and faculty. She said that some students may feel more stress if they do not have the option of changing their numerical grades to Pass/Fail.

Motion:

In fall, 2020, the University will return to its normal numerical grading practices as outlined in the academic calendar.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Elisabeth Prusak

For: 11

Against: 4

Abstained: 5

Motion carried.

The Principal suggested that the Vice-Principal Academic and Research consider whether the topic should be discussed by Senate at a later date as significant concerns had been raised. Dr. Miles Turnbull said that he would consider whether to return the subject to the ASAP Committee before bringing it back to Senate.

Dr. David Webster said that sharing alternatives to numerical grading would facilitate the discussion.

Revised 2020-21 Sessional dates

The Registrar presented the revised 2020-21 Sessional dates.

ITEM 623/5 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 NOMINATIONS TO THE JOINT BOARD AND SENATE TASK FORCE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Principal Goldbloom said that Dr. Jenn Cianca has been leading the efforts to populate the joint Board and Senate Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The Principal reminded Senators that at the 622nd meeting of Senate, faculty members of Senate were asked to consider putting their name forward to represent Senate on the Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. He noted that Dr. David Webster and Dr. Darren Bardati had manifested their interest

in serving on this Task Force.

Motion:

Senate hereby nominates Dr. David Webster and Dr. Darren Bardati to the Joint Board and Senate Task Force on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity.

Moved by: Gregory Brophy

Seconded by: Jessica Riddell

Motion carried.

Ms. Catherine Lavallée-Welch left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

5.2 AD-HOC SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR AN ASSOCIATE VICE-PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC

Principal Goldbloom, Chair of the ad-hoc Search Committee for an Associate Vice-Principal Academic, spoke to the process which led the University to create the interim position of Associate Vice-Principal Academic. He said that it was a very positive development for the University that four senior faculty members had submitted their candidacies.

The Principal stated that the Committee's final recommendation, while not unanimous, reflected the University's need to fill the position with a person who could immediately assume the role and provide support to faculty and to the Vice-Principal Academic and Research. He noted that this appointment is for three years with a planned review of the position in two years.

The Principal said the depth and breadth of experience that Dr. Claire Grogan brings to the position make her uniquely positioned to assuming this important role.

There were no questions or comments. Principal Goldbloom said that the appointments for the Associate Vice-Principal Academic and the Dean of Science would be presented to the Board of Governors on August 31, 2020.

ITEM 623/6 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

6.3 School of Education – no recommendations

6.4 Continuing Education – no recommendations

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.



Michael Goldbloom, Chair



Trygve Ugland, Secretary General