



625<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF SENATE  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020  
12:30 P.M.

MINUTES

**Chair:** Principal Michael Goldbloom

**Present:** Ms. Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Dr. Gregory Brophy, Mr. Samy Cauvet, Mr. Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon, Mr. Eric Gendron, Dr. Claire Grogan, Dr. Corinne Haigh, Dr. Kerry Hull, Ms. Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Dr. Michele Murray, Mr. David Piperno, Dr. Elizabeth Prusak, Dr. Jessica Riddell, Mr. Hans Rouleau, Ms. Hannah Sommerville, Ms. Emma Story, Dr. Miles Turnbull, Dr. Marianne Vigneault, Dr. David Webster, Dr. Dawn Wiseman

**Regrets:** Mr. Yotam Baum, Dr. Jim Benson, Mr. Mark Gandey, Dr. Michael Teed, Dr. Yanan Wang, Dr. Brad Willms

**Secretary:** Dr. Trygve Ugland

The Chair called the 625<sup>th</sup> meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

ITEM 624/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

ITEM 624/2 WINTER 2021 DELIVERY METHOD

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Miles Turnbull said he was requesting support for maintaining the current <blended/mixed> approach for academic program delivery in the Winter 2021 semester. The <blended/mixed> approach includes courses that are delivered only in-person, in a hybrid way or exclusively online.

Dr. Turnbull asked Senators if they had any questions or comments about his proposal.

Student Representatives' Council (SRC) Vice-President Academic Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon asked if the University could remove the in-person only courses.

Dr. Elizabeth Prusak said that most labs could not be offered online. SRC Natural Sciences Representative Emma Story said the labs could still be offered in-person, but that offering courses exclusively in-person discriminated against the students who could only attend classes remotely.

Dr. Jessica Riddell asked for clarification on who determined whether a course was offered in-person, hybrid or online. She said that in discussions regarding the Fall 2020 course delivery method, Senate had said that faculty would determine the best delivery method for their course based on the best pedagogical outcome. Dr. Riddell said that some subsequent memos seemed to suggest that the decision was based on a discussion between Department Chairs in consultation with the faculty and the Dean.

Dr. Turnbull said that his proposal stated that: "the details of the (Winter 2021) plan would unfold over the coming weeks and would involve detailed consultations among Deans, Chairs, Faculty, Librarians, support staff, student leaders and the APBU."

Dr. Riddell said she supported the motion and that having choices, offering flexibility and goodwill were key factors going forward.

Dr. Gregory Brophy said that the University has asked faculty to be ready to pivot online in case Public Health directives require the campus to be closed. He said that his department had not consulted with individual contract faculty members about the delivery method for their courses.

The Principal called for the vote.

Motion:

That Senate endorse the University's moving forward with an overall blended/mixed approach to plan the Winter 2021 academic semester.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Jessica Riddell

For: 9

Against: 4

Abstained: 3

**Motion carried.**

Dr. Jessica Riddell asked when the University would be discussing a possible revision of the

start date of Winter 2021 and the 2021 Spring Break. Vice-Principal Academic and Research Turnbull said that the issue would be brought to Senate at its next regularly scheduled meeting on October 23, 2020.

Dr. Gregory Brophy asked whether faculty could be consulted about the possibility of a delayed start in January 2021. He also asked whether the practice of holding classes on Saturday could be discussed before the Winter 2021 timetable is created as faculty might have other creative solutions to offer.

ITEM 624/3 OTHER BUSINESS


Dr. David Webster said that the practice of online proctoring requires a faculty-wide discussion. Dr. Webster said that he objected to the use of any surveillance software. He said there are facial recognition software issues and reported cases of gender mis-identification.

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Turnbull said he agreed that more discussion on methods of assessment should be held.

Dr. Webster said that departments should be required to pay for the online proctoring services from their own department budgets rather than the University budget.

The Principal wished everyone a safe long weekend and said that the University was supporting local celebrations rather than travel during the heightened level of COVID-19 alerts in most parts of the province.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

  
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Michael Goldbloom, Chair

  
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Trygve Ugland, Secretary General

