

**651<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF SENATE**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 2023, 2:30 P.M.**  
**MCGREER 100 AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**Chair:** Dr. Andrew Webster

**Present:** Ms Sandra Aneke, Ms Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Ms Sonoma Brawley, Dr. Gregory Brophy, Mr. Julien Collin, Mr. Bruno Courtemanche, Dr. Julie Desjardins, Dr. Alexandre Drouin, Ms Tiffany Farouse, Dr. Claire Grogan, Dr. Kerry Hull, Ms Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Mr. Gaby Loupiac, Dr. Michele Murray, Mr. Joshua Prentice, Dr. Elizabeth Prusak Dr. Jessica Riddell, Mr. Hans Rouleau, Dr. Michael Teed, Dr. Jordan Tronsgard, Mr. Nick Vestra, Dr. Marianne Vigneault, Dr. Yanan Wang, Dr. Brad Willms

**Regrets:** Dr. Hafid Agourram, Mr. Michael Goldbloom, Ms Victoria Perak, Dr. Dawn Wiseman

**Guests:** Ms Caroline Homet, Ms Victoria Marquez-Pacheco

**Secretary:** Ms Denise Lauzière, LL.B.

Principal Michael Goldbloom was unable to attend the meeting. In accordance with the University Statutes, Division I, section 5.6, the Vice-Principal Academic and Research, Dr. Andrew Webster chaired the meeting.

Chair Andrew Webster called the 651<sup>st</sup> meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

**651/1 AGENDA**

The Chair said that to allow Senators the time to review the document, Item 2 - approval of the minutes of the 650<sup>th</sup> Senate, would be tabled to the next Senate meeting. The agenda was approved unanimously as revised.

**Motion carried.**

**651/2 MINUTES – POSTPONED TO NEXT MEETING**

### 651/3 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Jerad Fishman gave a well-attended and appreciated Donald Lecture in Centennial theatre.

### 651/4 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

### 651/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

#### 5.1 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Senate Planning Committee, Vice-Principal Academic and Research Andrew Webster presented the 2023-24 part-time course allocations:

- 35 Spring-Summer term courses, previously approved by Senate
- 28 courses available for duties under the Collective Agreement
- 214.5 courses in general pool for Fall & Winter semesters
- five courses for Continuing Education

#### Motion 1:

Dean Julie Desjardins moved approval of the allocation of 282.5 part-time courses for the 2023-24 Academic year.

Seconded by: Michael Teed

**Motion carried.**

#### Motion 2:

Dean Michele Murray moved approval of one 10-month fixed-term contract position for Psychology to replace the Vice Principal Student Affairs and one 12-month fixed-term contract position for Arts Administration.

Seconded by: Alexandre Drouin

**Motion carried.**

#### Motion 3:

Dean Reena Atanasiadis moved approval of the requests for conversion of seven part-time courses to 10-month fixed-term contract positions for Williams School of Business, English, Études françaises et québécoises and Psychology. Dr. Andrew Webster also moved that any other academic departments and programs be required to make a formal request to SPC for approval of conversion of seven part-time courses from this allotment to a 10-month fixed-term contract position on a yearly basis.

Seconded by: Gregory Brophy

**Motion carried.**

#### 5.2 SENATE TIMETABLE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Senate Timetable Committee, Dr. Andrew Webster presented two communications prepared by the Committee to explain the timetabling process. The first communication is an email which was sent to department chairs regarding the scheduling of courses taught by contract faculty and the second is an email for full-time faculty regarding scheduling preferences and availability.

### 5.3 SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Integrity, Dean of the Williams School of Business Reena Atanasiadis informed Senate on the reports of cheating that were received by the Registrar's Office.

Registrar Hans Rouleau said that the data from the Registrar's Office did not include instances where professors dealt directly with students.

Dean Julie Desjardins suggested that it would be helpful to have clear guidelines for faculty on how to report cheating.

Dean Reena Atanasiadis said that the Committee's final report will include recommendations as well as best practices at other universities on handling academic dishonesty.

### 5.4 ACADEMIC STANDING AND ADMISSIONS POLICY COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee, Registrar Hans Rouleau reported that the Committee met on February 15, 2023 to review:

- International Baccalaureate Career-related Program (IBCP)
- Student Scholarship Appeals
- English Writing Proficiency (EWP) Test
- Archway Program

#### Motion:

That Senate approves the admission criteria for an International Baccalaureate Career Program (IBCP) for a trial period of three years as detailed in document 651/5.4.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by: Reena Atanasiadis

#### **Motion carried.**

Registrar Rouleau said that there are issues with the legacy requirement that: "all students who entered Bachelor degree programs at Bishop's University prior to Fall 2020 must satisfy the English Writing Proficiency requirement".

Currently there are approximately 40 current students who began their studies prior to Fall 2020 and have yet to satisfy the English Writing Proficiency requirement. The Committee will investigate the situation and recommend an exit strategy for these students. A small working group including the Vice-Principal Academic and Research (or designate), the Registrar, and the SRC VP Academic, in consultation with the Writing Centre, will draft a plan for Senate's approval.

Dr. Michael Teed said that he felt the quality of his students' English had decreased in recent years. He asked that Senate be presented with statistics on how many students are asked to take remedial English courses, whether the targeted students satisfactorily complete the courses and what their outcomes are.

Dean Michele Murray said that ENG 116 had been replaced by six writing intensive courses and that a survey would be carried out in Fall 2024 with faculty to evaluate the success of the new program.

Registrar Hans Rouleau said that at the 650<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate, the three-credit course “Creating a Foundation for Success in University and Career” (UNI101) was approved. UNI 101 is an expansion of the Archway Program, a four and a half-day intensive (non-credit) program teaching proven learning skills and strategies. Going forward the Archway Program will no longer be offered and students will be encouraged to register for UNI 101.

#### 5.5 SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dr. Jessica Riddell, a member of the Nominating Committee, reported on minor changes to committee memberships.

#### Motion:

That Senate approves the committee changes as brought forward by the Senate Nominating Committee on February 24, 2023.

Moved by: Jessica Riddell

Seconded: Brad Willms

#### **Motion carried.**

Dr. Riddell thanked Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Chair of the Nominating Committee, for her efforts to track and replace members on Senate Committees.

#### 651/6 OTHER BUSINESS

##### 6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Andrew Webster presented an update of Fall 2022 enrolment data that was aggregated for new and returning students and by academic program. A Full-Time Equivalent students report and a student retention report were also included in the Academic Report.

Dr. Webster thanked Nicole Riley and the Registrar’s Office data management team for their assistance in extracting the data.

At the February 3, 2023 meeting of the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of Dr. Webster, the Principal advised the Board of his intention to appoint Dr. Kerry Hull Associate Vice-Principal for Research, on an interim basis until the end of the current academic year. Dr. Webster said that Dr. Kerry Hull would continue to provide clear and experienced faculty-led direction and oversight to Research during a time of extensive transition. Dr. Hull is continuing in her role as Dean of Science.

##### 6.2 JOINT BOARD AND SENATE WORKING GROUP ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Dr. Michael Teed, a member of the working group which was tasked by the Board of Governors and Senate to propose a committee mandate, structure and composition for a joint Board and Senate Committee on EDI matters, reported on the working group’s recommendation.

#### Motion:

THAT Senate approves the creation of the Joint Board and Senate Working Group on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with the mandate, structure and composition set out in document 651/6.2.

AND THAT Senate requests the Senate Nominating Committee seek out and nominate a Senator to represent Senate on the Joint Board and Senate Working Group on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Moved by: Michael Teed  
Seconded by: Reena Atanasiadis  
**Motion carried.**

At its meeting on February 4, 2023 the Board of Governors also approved the Working Group's recommendation.

### 6.3 CONSULTATION ON CONTENT ADVISORIES

Students' Representative Council Senator Sonoma Brawley invited Caroline Homet and Virginia Marquez-Pacheco, members of the Sexual Culture Committee, to speak.

Ms Homet and Ms Marquez-Pacheco said that the use of content advisories will help to make classrooms safer spaces and therefore spaces of richer learning.

The Sexual Culture Committee's goal in recommending content advisories in syllabi and in classrooms is to decrease the number of students who might be confronted with material that is triggering to them. Often, professors are made aware of the triggering nature of the class or course content only after the lecture or the reading. The goal of a content advisory is to give notice to students of subjects they may find traumatic before confronting them in a class.

A content advisory is the mention of a potentially triggering subject before it is discussed in the course. It can pertain to readings, viewings, lectures, video lectures and micro-lectures, guest lectures, or student presentations. A content advisory can be given verbally and/or be written either in the syllabus, on Moodle, or in an email.

Content advisories do not mean that professors should avoid talking about uncomfortable or difficult topics. The aim is not to eliminate discomfort but rather to reduce harm. A content advisory gives students the agency to choose for themselves how they are most comfortable.

The reference document entitled "Content Advisories in the Classroom" (document 651/6.3) has two main purposes:

1. To make professors aware of the value of content advisories and why they are important for meaningful learning.
2. To provide a reference for professors who are unsure of how to implement these warnings in their course.

Ms Homet and Ms Marquez-Pacheco said they would bring a final version of the reference document to Senate at a later date.

Dr. Gregory Brophy thanked the Sexual Culture Committee for its work on preparing the reference document.

Chair Andrew Webster thanked Ms Homet and Ms Marquez-Pacheco for their presentation.

Mr. Julien Collin left the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

6.4 WORKING GROUP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM  
Vice-Principal Academic and Research Andrew Webster reported that the Quebec government had passed “*An Act respecting academic freedom in the university sector*”. Each university in the province is required under the language of this Act to develop and adopt a stand-alone policy on academic freedom no later than June 8, 2023.

Dr. Webster and Ms Denise Lauzière, the interim Secretary General, requested that Senate establish a Working Group to develop a draft of the required policy for consultation with the community with the intention that this policy should be based directly upon, and remain completely consistent with, the University’s existing statements on academic freedom in its Statutes and its Collective Agreements.

Dr. Webster requested that the Vice-Principal Student Affairs be added to the Working Group composition.

Motion:

THAT Senate establishes a Working Group to develop a draft of the required policy on Academic Freedom for consultation with the community with the mandate and composition as detailed in document 651/6.4, with the addition of the Vice-Principal Student Affairs.

THAT the Senate Nominating Committee is tasked to seek interested members to participate in this short-term Working Group for its work to begin immediately following Reading Week.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by: Gregory Brophy

**Motion carried.**

The composition of the Working Group on an Academic Freedom Policy is as follows:

- Vice-Principal Academic and Research, as Chair
- Vice-Principal Student Affairs
- A Faculty Senator
- A Student Senator
- Two representatives of Faculty Council
- The Ombudsperson
- A representative of the APBU
- A Faculty member from the Senate Research Committee
- Interim Secretary General

Dr. Webster said that the Working Group’s goal is to have a draft policy ready for consultation during April, and to submit a final version of the Policy to Senate for approval in May.

ITEM 651/7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Williams School of Business

The Dean of the Williams School of Business, Reena Atanasiadis, moved approval of an Individualized Thesis-based Master’s Program as detailed in document 651/7.1.1.

Seconded by: Michele Murray

**Motion carried.**

## 7.2 Arts and Science

### 7.2.1 Division of Humanities - No recommendations.

### 7.2.2 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

The Dean of Science, Dr. Kerry Hull, reported that at the January 22, 2007, the 490<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate the following requirement had been approved:

*“At least two days between the end of classes and the beginning of final examinations except for courses of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics which would keep 4 days.”*

Dr. Hull said that the Division of Science deemed that this requirement should be changed and be the same as for all other students (*two days*). However, the Division of Science also acknowledged that there may be circumstances where the four days would be preferable for pedagogical reasons, particularly in content-heavy courses.

#### Motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Division of Science, that the special requirement of having four days between the end of classes and the beginning of final examinations for courses in the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics be removed, and that all instructors have the option of requesting a four-day gap between the end of classes and their final exam for pedagogical reasons.

Moved by: Michele Murray

Seconded by: Julie Desjardins

**Motion carried.**

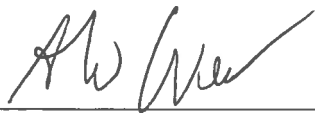
### 7.2.3 Division of Social Sciences - No recommendations.

## 7.3 School of Education - No recommendations.

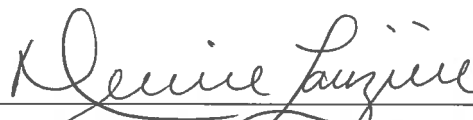
### ITEM 651/8 INFORMATION ITEMS

The Interim Secretary General, Ms Denise Lauzière presented the 2023-24 Senate meeting dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.



Andrew Webster, Chair



Denise Lauzière, LL.B. Secretary General  
(Interim)

