

660TH MEETING OF SENATE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024, 2:30 P.M.
MCGREER 100 AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier

Present: Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Martina Berkers, Sonoma Brawley, Julien Collin, Bruno Courtemanche, Dr. Julie Desjardins, Dr. Anthony Di Mascio, Dr. Valerio Faraoni, 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. Michael Teed, Dr. Jordan Tronsgard, Dr. Marianne Vigneault, Dr. Yanan Wang, Dr. Andrew Webster, Dr. Brad Willms, Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Cleo Wulder

Regrets: Dr. Hafid Agourram, Dr. Alexandre Drouin

Secretary: Kylie Côté

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier called the 660th meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

660/1 AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

660/2 MEMORIAL MINUTE – DR. OPHRA BENAZON

Dean of Humanities Dr. Jean Manore read a Memorial Minute for Dr. Ophra Benazon, retired Faculty in the Department of Fine Arts.

As a member of faculty in the department of Fine Arts, Ophra taught primarily courses in printmaking as well as painting.

Notably, she fully participated in the development and growth of the department from its beginnings in the late seventies to her retirement roughly 15 years ago. Additionally, she was particularly engaged in the activities of the local artistic community, not only as an artist, but also as a board member of a number of artistic and cultural organizations.

While in her late fifties, she took on the task of acquiring her PhD in Art Education. She served as a mentor to both students and her younger colleagues.

We will remember her as a cherished friend, and for her dedication to the artistic development of students in Fine Arts.

Submitted by James Benson and Darren Millington

660/3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the 659th meeting of Senate held on December 8, 2023 were approved as presented.

Moved by: Catherine Lavallée-Welch

Seconded by: Jean Manore

Motion carried.

660/4 BUSINESS ARISING

ITEM 660/4.1 SPRING/SUMMER SESSION NAMING CONVENTION

Registrar Hans Rouleau said at the 659th meeting of Senate, the Registrar's Office was tasked with reviewing the possibility of renaming the semesters which occur over the Spring and Summer months.

Registrar Rouleau presented the history of the naming convention and spoke of the difficulty of changing the names of the semesters due to software constraints and the impact on government reporting.

In order to provide clarity on terms and semesters, improved communication will be shared with students and made available on the University's website.

660/5 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Tuition rates

On December 14, 2023, the Minister of Higher Education Pascale Déry formally announced the changes that the Quebec government will implement with respect to tuition fees for non-Quebec resident students which included special measures to limit the negative impacts of this new policy on our University.

Starting in Fall 2024, newly enrolled Canadian non-Quebec resident students will see their tuition fees increase from roughly \$9,000 per year to \$12,000 per year. However, Bishop's will receive an allotment of exemptions which will allow us to keep welcoming students from the Rest of Canada at the current tuition of roughly \$9,000 per year (subject to normal annual indexation). In other words, there will be no increase in tuition for students coming to Bishop's from the Rest of Canada.

Principal Lebel-Grenier credited the global mobilisation of Bishop's community (alumni, SRC, students, faculty, staff and management) as well as community members from Lennoxville, Sherbrooke, and the Eastern Townships, and the local MNAs- especially Mme Geneviève Hébert- for the special measures that were announced for Bishop's.

On December 18th, the Principal held a Town Hall to update the Bishop's community about the tuition announcement.

Recruitment drive

Principal Lebel-Grenier said that the Student Recruitment and Retention Office had implemented an aggressive recruitment plan and that some gains had been noticed. However, the enrolment targets for International and Rest of Canada students were lagging and would continue to be followed closely.

French language skills – required for 2029 graduates

On December 14, 2023, Minister Déry also announced that, starting in 2025, English-language universities will be mandated to ensure that 80% of their non-Quebec resident undergraduate students attain level 5 on the Quebec scale of French proficiency for oral proficiency by the time they complete their degree. Level 5 is the first of four levels in the intermediate proficiency category.

Importantly, Minister Déry has also declared that, considering the unique circumstances and situation of Bishop's, no financial penalties would be imposed on Bishop's if it is unable to reach this target.

Dr. Brad Willms remarked on the importance of measuring incoming Rest of Canada students' level of French as a baseline for measuring their improvement in French.

Principal Lebel-Grenier said that the University will expand its offer of French courses for students and will seek to expand it as well for faculty and staff.

Dean of Humanities Jean Manore said that the *Département des études françaises et québécoises* has developed a Micro-certificate in Business French and is expanding the offer of internships in French.

Dr. Anthony Di Mascio asked if efforts were still being made to reverse the tuition increase and new French language requirements.

Principal Lebel-Grenier said that the University is working through the *Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire* (BCI) to advocate for universities to retain their identity and autonomy.

Dr. Jessica Riddell asked about the Consortium of English-Language CEGEPs, Colleges and Universities of Quebec (Consortium) and what its plan was with regard to the recent announcements.

Principal Lebel-Grenier said that in the past it was difficult for the Consortium to achieve a consensus and that the tuition crisis had served to unite the members.

Donald Lecture – Farah Alibay, Aerospace engineer – January 26, 2024

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier invited Senators to the Donald Lecture which will be given by Farah Alibay, and aerospace engineer and member of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She is currently part of the Mars 2020 mission, and is working on the Perseverance rover, which landed on Mars in February 2021, and the Ingenuity helicopter, which performed the first powered flight on another planet in April 2021.

Principal Lebel-Grenier asked faculty to encourage students to attend.

660/6 COMMITTEE ITEMS

ITEM 660/6.1 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

2024-25 Part-Time Courses

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Andrew Webster said that over the past three years, the aggregate (funded) course offering of the University had been in the order of 750 courses 'for pay' per year.

At its December 15, 2023 meeting, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of three new tenure-stream positions for the 2024-25 academic year and also approved Senate's recommendation for a 3-year limited term appointment in Arts Administration as well as a 10-month limited term appointment in Sociology.

Dr. Webster said that the University's overall enrolment picture and recent efforts to control costs in the academic budget were contributing factors which allowed the University to continue to offer a stable number of part-time courses each year.

For the 2024-25 Part-Time course allocation, the SPC recommended:

- 31 courses for 2024 Spring-Summer semester courses
- 34 courses available for duties under the Collective Agreement
- 214.5 courses for Fall 2024 & Winter 2025 semesters
- 3 courses for Life-Long Learning

The SPC also recommended the following other teaching allocations:

- Approval for the Williams School of Business to convert 7 part time courses into one 10-month fixed-term contract positions (teaching 6 courses)
- Approval for the School of Education to convert 7 part-time courses into one 10-month fixed-term contract position (teaching 6 courses)
- Approval for Classical Studies to convert 7 part-time courses into one 10-month fixed-term contract position (teaching 6 courses)
- Approval for *Études françaises et québécoises* to convert 7 part-time courses into one 10-month fixed-term contract position (teaching 6 courses)
- Approval for Environment, Agriculture and Geography to convert 7 part-time courses into one 10-month fixed-term contract position (teaching 6 courses)
- Approval for Politics and International Studies to convert 4 part-time courses into one 5-month-fixed term contract position (teaching 3 courses)
- Approval for Psychology to convert 14 part-time courses into two 10-month fixed-term contract position (teaching 6 courses each)

Dr. Webster explained the methodology the SPC used to arrive at its recommendations.

Motion 1

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, I move approval of the allocation of 214.5 part-time courses for the 2024-25 Academic year.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by Reena Atanasiadis

Motion carried.

Motion 2

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, I move approval of the requests for conversion of part-time courses to fixed-term contract positions for Williams School of Business, School of Education, Classical Studies, *Études françaises et québécoises*, Environment, Agriculture and Geography, Politics and International Studies, and Psychology.

I also move 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.

Moved by: Andrew Webster

Seconded by Jessica Riddell

Motion carried.

Senate Planning Committee mandate

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Andrew Webster said that the document he had prepared to guide the discussion about the SPC's mandate was divided in two parts:

- Part 1 - outlines some core elements of SPC's work and poses a series of questions for Senate to consider in its discussion on how the committee might best function.
- Part 2 - provides some historical background on the evolution of the guidelines provided to SPC since 2007.

Dr. Webster said that he hoped the discussion on SPC's mandate would continue through Senate's February meeting in the hope of a revised SPC mandate being presented to Senate for approval at its April 2024 meeting.

Several Senators suggested that the topic of SPC's mandate be raised at Department or Divisional meetings and that Senators could bring the resulting suggestions or comments to the next Senate.

Dr. Jessica Riddell suggested that the University's mission be used as a starting point for the discussion on SPC's mandate.

Dean Jean Manore said that the RAM score should still be considered, but that the value of the Humanities should be recognized and a fairer distribution of resources should be allocated to it.

Dr. Dawn Wiseman suggested that Senate lead its discussions with values.

Dr. Anthony Di Mascio suggested that the programs giving up resources should be compensated.

Dr. Patrick McBrine suggested that Senate decide collectively on values and hopes.

Dr. Andrew Webster said that the University needed to have a costing model and hoped that Senate could move towards a longer-term approach to the allocation of resources.

Dr. Jordan Tronsgard said that the need to maintain a higher RAM score might disincentivize collaborations between programs.

Dr. Brad Willms suggested that each department could be evaluated on how well it meets Bishop's mission and values.

Sonoma Brawly said that graduate Humanities students spoke of the benefits of their education: critical thinking, getting and keeping jobs, moving up the corporate ladder, etc.

Dean Reena Atanasiadis said Humanities are important for all business degrees, that integration of the Humanities into Business programs is important, and that it was important that Humanities courses dealt with issues relevant to students entering the job market in 2024.

Dr. Patrick McBrine said that Departments and Divisions needed to make decisions and filter the requests before they are submitted to the SPC.

Dr. Valerio Faraoni suggested that there were other metrics that could be used including a value for excellence – teaching, research, community service – and that by increasing excellence there would also be an increase in donations to the endowment fund, which would bring benefits to Bishop's in the long-term.

Dean Jean Manore asked about Senate's involvement in the creation of the University's Strategic Plan.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier said that work on the Strategic Plan had been put on hold due to the tuition crisis.

Dr. Jessica Riddell suggested that the University could draft a Strategic Academic Plan in parallel to the new Strategic Plan.

Principal Lebel-Grenier suggested that Senators could propose reference documents to aid the discussion on SPC's mandate.

660/7 OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 660/7.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Andrew Webster said that other than the preceding discussions he had no other business to share with Senate.

ITEM 660/7.2 RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES REPORT

Dean of Social Sciences Dr. Matthew Peros said that his report included highlights of research and scholarly activities and he encouraged Senators to read the report for full details.

The Senate Research Committee had started working on a strategic plan. The Postdoctoral Fellow Policy, Visiting Scholars Policy and Adjunct Professors Policy are being reviewed by the Senate Research Committee and will be brought to a future Senate for consideration and approval.

ITEM 660/7.3 APPROVAL OF DEGREES

Registrar Hans Rouleau presented the names of 137 students who completed their programs.

Undergraduate degrees

It is moved by Dean Atanasiadis that the University Senate receive the list of candidates for the following undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education, as presented by the Registrar, and that these candidates be awarded their degree(s).

Moved by: Reena Atanasiadis

Seconded by: Catherine Lavallée-Welch

Motion carried.

Graduate degrees

It is moved by Dean Desjardins that the University Senate receive the list of candidates for the following graduate degrees: Master of Education and Master of Science, as presented by the Registrar, and that these candidates be awarded their degree.

Moved by: Julie Desjardins

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

Certificates

It is moved by Dean Manore that Senate receive the list of candidates for Certificates as presented by the Registrar, and that this candidate be awarded their certificate.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Jessica Riddell

Motion carried.

660/8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Williams School of Business

On behalf of the Williams School of Business, that Senate approve the curriculum changes included in documents 660/8.1.1 and 8.1.2.

Moved by: Reena Atanasiadis

Seconded by: Jessica Riddell

Motion carried.

8.2 Division of Humanities

On behalf of the departments of Arts Administration, Classical Studies, Drama, *Études françaises et québécoises*, Fine Arts, History and Global Studies, Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Music, Philosophy and Liberal Arts, and Religion, that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 660/8.2.1 to 8.2.65.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Patrick McBrine

Motion carried.

8.3 Division of Social Sciences

On behalf of the departments of Economics, Environment, Agriculture and Geography, and Sociology that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 660/8.3.1 and 660/8.3.3 to 8.3.19.

Moved by: Jean Manore

Seconded by: Jessica Riddell

Motion carried.

Dr. Andrew Webster, Chair of the Senate Planning Committee, advised Senate that 8.3.2 - Scientific Diving and Freshwater Environmental Assessment Certificate, was not being presented for approval at this time and that it had been withdrawn from the motion. The Scientific Diving and Freshwater Environmental Assessment Minor, however, is still being presented for approval.

8.4 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

On behalf of the departments of Biology and Biochemistry, Chemistry and Brewing Science, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy and Pre-Medicine, that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 660/8.4.1 to 8.4.19.

Moved by: Jean Manore
Seconded by: Christina Lépine

Motion carried.

8.5 School of Education

On behalf of the School of Education, that Senate approve curriculum changes included in documents 660/8.5.1 to 8.5.21.

Moved by: Julie Desjardins
Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

Motion carried.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier thanked Senators for the fulsome discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Chair
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



Kylie Côté, Secretary General
(Acting Interim)