



UNIVERSITÉ  
**BISHOP'S**  
UNIVERSITY

SENATE

DOCUMENT 629/3.2

**627<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF SENATE**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020

4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

**Chair:** Principal Michael Goldbloom

**Present:** Ms. Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Dr. Jim Benson, Dr. Gregory Brophy, Ms. Maria Clavelli, Mr. Samy Cauvet, Mr. Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon, Mr. Mark Gandey, 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. Brad Willms, Dr. Dawn Wiseman

**Regrets:** Mr. Yotam Baum, Dr. Michael Teed, Dr. Yanan Wang

**Secretary:** Dr. Trygve Ugland

The Chair called the 627<sup>th</sup> meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**ITEM 627/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Miles Turnbull requested the addition of an item to Other Business to discuss a series of motions intended to reduce student stress. The modified agenda was approved.

**ITEM 627/2 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**

Principal Michael Goldbloom announced that the Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Corinne

Haigh, has accepted the position of Dean of Professional Studies at Acadia University, as of May 1, 2020. He thanked Dr. Haigh for her contributions to Bishop's and said that although he was sorry that she will be leaving, he was pleased she will still be a part of the Maple League.

ITEM 627/3 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Fall 2020 Grading Policy

Students' Representative Council Vice-President Academic Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon proposed a series of measures to support students during Fall 2020 that he had tabled at the 626<sup>th</sup> meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 to give Senators time to reflect and to consult their colleagues. Mr. Gadoury-Sansfaçon said that the results of the SRC Fall 2020 Check-in survey demonstrated that students are struggling, and that he hoped the proposed motions would alleviate some of their stress.

Many Senators voiced their support for students who are experiencing difficulties due to the pandemic. Some Senators voiced concerns about the effect of Pass/Fail on the class average and whether this would affect a student applying for scholarships or graduate studies.

Registrar Hans Rouleau said that as each student will initially be given a numerical grade it will be used to calculate the class average regardless of the change to a Pass/Fail.

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Miles Turnbull said that students would need to complete their course work to be able to request the Pass/Fail. Dr. Turnbull said that this measure would ensure students would remain engaged and would fulfill their group work commitments.

Motion 1:

The University will extend the availability of the Pass/Fail (P/F) option for all courses for the Fall 2020 semester, in a manner akin to the Spring 2020 semester.

Moved by: Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon

Seconded by: Jessica Riddell

For: 18

Against: 6

Abstention: 1

**Motion carried.**

Mr. Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon requested that Senate commit to discussing the Winter 2021 grading scheme given the possibility that the current pandemic restrictions might continue through the beginning of next year.

Dr. Miles Turnbull said that the Teaching and Learning Centre Initiative Committee and the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee should be tasked with bringing recommendations on the Winter 2021 grading scheme to Senate.

Dr. Gregory Brophy said it would be helpful for professors to know the Winter 2021 grading scheme as early as possible to help in planning their courses.

**Motion 2:**

That Senate commits to having a thorough discussion about the Winter 2021 grading scheme were the COVID-related restrictions to remain.

Moved by: Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon

Seconded by: Jessica Riddell

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

**Motion carried.**

**3.2 Sessional Dates – Winter 2021 & Spring/Summer 2021**

Registrar Hans Rouleau presented revised sessional dates for Winter 2021.

**Motion 1:**

That Senate approve the revised Winter 2021 Sessional dates as detailed in Annex A of document 627/3.2.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Jim Benson

The SRC Senator for the division of Natural Sciences, Ms. Emma Story, asked if the requirement for courses offered by the division of Natural Sciences to have four days between the end of classes and the beginning of exams could be waived for the Winter 2021 session as this could create a situation whereby a student could have three exams in a day.

Dr. Miles Turnbull and Dr. Jim Benson agreed to the friendly amendment.

**Motion carried.**

Registrar Rouleau presented the revised sessional dates for Spring and Summer 2021.

**Motion 2:**

That Senate approve the revised Spring / Summer 2021 Sessional dates as detailed in Annex B of document 627/3.2.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Dawn Wiseman

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

**Motion carried.**

### 3.3 ONLINE PROCTORING

Dr. David Webster said that online proctoring, with its reliance on electronic facial recognition software, is an infringement of human rights. Rather than debate and vote on his proposal at this meeting, Dr. Webster suggested that the Teaching and Learning Centre Initiative Committee be tasked with proposing options to online proctoring for the University.

#### ITEM 627/4 OTHER BUSINESS

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Miles Turnbull reported that the Academic Officers had consulted both internally and externally on how best to support students following the SRC Check-In survey that was presented to Senate on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020.

Dr. Turnbull presented three motions to reduce student stress for Senate's consideration. Due to the late distribution of his document, Dr. Turnbull said he was willing to table the motions to the next meeting if Senators felt they needed more time to reflect.

Principal Goldbloom asked if there were any objections to voting on the motions at this time. There were no objections.

Motion 1: Moved that the 'Withdraw with Permission' (WP) date be extended to the last day of classes in the 2020-21 academic year. A student's full-time or part-time status in a semester would not be altered by withdrawing with permission from courses.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Michele Murray

**Motion carried.**

Motion 2: Moved that the University not require any student to withdraw from the University or from any program because of the Fall 2020 results. Academic standing would still be analyzed and students whose results place them at-risk would be identified in order for them to receive additional support.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Eric Gendron

**Motion carried.**

Motion 3: Moved that academic results from Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 shall not negatively affect a student's scholarship eligibility.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Reena Atanasiadis

Registrar Hans Rouleau said that more thought needs to be put into how scholarships would be awarded.

Dr. Brad Willms asked if the numerical grade, which would be kept in the system to calculate

the class average, could be used to determine scholarship eligibility. He was concerned that a student could artificially boost their average by choosing to keep their highest numerical grade, converting their remaining semester's grades to Pass and that their average would then be the highest grade.

Dr. Turnbull agreed to table the motion to allow the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee time to reflect and return to Senate with a revised motion.

**Motion tabled.**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.



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Michael Goldbloom, Chair



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Trygve Ugland, Secretary General

