



618TH MEETING OF SENATE

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020

2:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Michael Goldbloom

Present: Dr. Hafid Agourram, Ms. Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Dr. Jim Benson, Mr. Yotam Baum, Ms. Aunika Braun, Dr. Gregory Brophy, Mr. Mark Gandey, Dr. Claire Grogan, Dr. Corinne Haigh, Ms. Isabella Janušonis, Ms. Cassandra Johnson-Desnoyer, Ms. Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Dr. Elizabeth Prusak, Dr. Jessica Riddell, Mr. Hans Rouleau, Dr. Michael Teed, Dr. Miles Turnbull, Dr. Marianne Vigneault, Dr. David Webster, Dr. Brad Willms, Dr. Dawn Wiseman

Regrets: Ms. Norah Exume, Mr. Philippe Gravel, Ms. Melina Krallis, Mr. Bill Robson

Guest: Dr. Michael Childs

Secretary: Dr. Trygve Ugland

The Chair called the 618th meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

ITEM 609/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the agenda as presented was unanimous.

ITEM 609/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the 609th to the 617th meetings of Senate as presented was proposed.

Moved by: Jim Benson

Seconded by: Hafid Agourram

Motion carried.

ITEM 609/3 DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS

The designation of Distinguished Professor Emeritus will be awarded by the Degree Committee of Convocation on a nomination basis to retired professors who have served a minimum of 20 years at Bishop's, and who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to either teaching or research, or who have combined a distinguished academic career with an outstanding contribution to academic administration/service.

The Degree Committee of Convocation received three written nominations for this year's Distinguished Professor Emeritus. On March 27, 2020, the Degree Committee of Convocation decided to offer the designation of Bishop's inaugural Distinguished Professor Emeritus to Dr. Brian A. Jenkins, who retired from the Department of History in 2001.

Nomination of Dr. Brian A. Jenkins for Distinguished Professor Emeritus by Dr. Michael Childs

I am very pleased that the Degree Committee of Convocation has established a new category of professor emeritus in order to recognize faculty who have made an exceptional contribution to the University and to their discipline, through teaching, research and service. Such a decision was long overdue, but unfortunately one of the effects of the published criteria may be to pass over for consideration retired faculty whose careers at Bishop's ended over fifteen years ago, but who in all other ways personify the qualities and attributes the Degree Committee have in mind. I therefore would respectfully request that the Committee consider all professors emeritus for this prestigious award, of whatever date of retirement.

To that end I am writing to nominate Dr. Brian Jenkins, who retired from the Department of History in 2001, as the first Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Bishop's University. In the classroom, in administrative service, and especially as a scholar of the British Isles and the transatlantic world, Brian Jenkins was an exceptional role model for both students and faculty, exhibiting the highest standards and adhering fully to the core values of our profession.

Brian arrived at Bishop's University in 1976, coming from what was already a noteworthy career at the University of Saskatchewan, after undergraduate and graduate training at Manchester and UCLA. His early scholarship focused on mid-19th century Anglo-American relations, through two lenses: Irish and Irish-American threats to British North America ('Fenians and Anglo-American Relations during Reconstruction'), and the diplomacy of the Civil War. He published two volumes on British responses the Civil War ('Britain and the War for the Union'). These still form the standard work on the crucial international question of the war, in that Britain's decision to remain neutral was a major element in explaining the Union's eventual victory.

Following these three volumes, Dr. Jenkins turned his attention to Ireland and Anglo-Irish relations. First came a biography of Sir William Gregory, the Anglo-Irish politician whose career in many ways exemplifies the crosscurrents and complexities of the Anglo-Irish elite. Next came a major work – 'Era of Emancipation: British Government of Ireland 1812-1830' - which provided a deep analysis of the early period of the Anglo-Irish union and the factors which almost guaranteed its eventual failure. In studying

this question, Brian became increasingly aware of the importance of personal connections and friendships in explaining the political history of these years, and just as work on William Gregory led, through his friend Sir Robert Peel to the study of Catholic Emancipation, so Peel and Emancipation led to his next work on 'Henry Goulburn', Peel's Chancellor of the Exchequer in one of the most epochal Cabinets in British history.

During these years up to the late 1990s, Brian had been a star instructor in the Department of History as well as its most distinguished scholar. He was the recipient of a Humanities divisional teaching award - he was a natural storyteller, combining clear exposition within a strong analytic framework. He had also served on numerous University committees, including Evaluation and Senate, and had chaired his Department on several occasions. Above all, from 1988 to 1991 he was Associate Dean of Humanities within an administrative structure in which the four Associate Deans were the chief academic officers of the University in all internal matters. During his tenure, Brian was a strong advocate for a more research-based instruction at the University and a major support and resource for (especially younger) like-minded faculty.

When Brian retired in 2001, therefore, he had six academic books to his credit, including several which were regarded throughout the discipline as major historical works. He had been a model teacher, and he had provided significant administrative service to the University through committee work, chairing and especially as an officer of the University. This record alone would, I believe, make him more than eligible for recognition as a "Distinguished Professor Emeritus". However (and this is crucial to my mind), he has been just as distinguished as an emeritus as he was as a professor, and his work continues to bring luster to our institution.

Since his retirement, he has remained extremely active as a scholar, and has published no less than three more university press monographs and biographies, as well as two other volumes with a more popular slant. Brian returned to Anglo-Irish relations of a later era with a major analysis in 2006 ('Irish Nationalism and the British State: from Repeal to Revolutionary Nationalism'). He explored the very timely issue of the threat of terrorism to a liberal society through a historical perspective ('The Fenian Problem: Insurgency and Terrorism in a Liberal State 1858-74'). His last major academic work is a study of the important British diplomat ('Lord Lyons') in the period of the nationalist wars and diplomatic realignments of the late 19th century. Finally, he has published two out of three projected studies of 19th century crime and its impact on legal developments.

Several years after my arrival at Bishop's the University launched its Sesquicentennial campaign, with the slogan "Learning for Life". Expressed another way, the purpose of a liberal education surely is to prepare one for life-long learning and equip one with the tools to continually grow and develop. Dr. Brian Jenkins in my view is an exemplar of the questioning, productive scholar/teacher which all faculty at Bishop's should aspire to be, and which our students should attempt to model in their chosen walks of life. I would ask that you give his candidature for this important award your careful attention.

The Principal invited former Vice-Principal Academic Dr. Michael Childs to answer any questions from Senators. Dr. Childs said that Dr. Brian A. Jenkins would be an excellent choice

as the first Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Bishop's University as Dr. Jenkins is a remarkable scholar, has published many monographs, studies and biographies, was very active in service to the University and in moving Bishop's towards a more research focused and research driven style of teaching.

Dean of the Williams School of Business Ms. Reena Atanasiadis expressed support of the nomination of Dr. Jenkins, but she acknowledged the William School of Business' nominee for the Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Mr. Bill Robson. Mr. Bill Robson has made enormous contributions to the Williams School of Business and continues to be actively involved even though he has retired.

Motion:

Be it resolved that Senate approve the recommendation of the Degree Committee of Convocation to offer the designation of Bishop's inaugural Distinguished Professor Emeritus to Dr. Brian A. Jenkins to be conferred at the 2020 Convocation.

Moved by: Hafid Agourram

Seconded by: Claire Grogan

Motion carried.

ITEM 609/4 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Principal congratulated Senate for their dedication and hard work in allowing students to complete their academic year following the University's shut down of in-person academic activities on March 14, 2020. An enormous amount of work on the part of Senate, professors, students, staff and the administration has been carried out.

There have been no occurrences of the COVID-19 virus being contracted by University students, faculty, or staff on campus. In the middle of March, a manager of Sodexo tested positive and went into quarantine.

The University will remain focused on the health of the community and while respecting this, continue to offer the best academic experience possible to our students.

Communication with the Bishop's community has been regular, and the Principal said that he had received positive comments from students about the University's efforts to safeguard their safety and help them finish the Winter session.

The Students' Representative Council Vice-President Academic Ms. Aunika Braun asked if there would be a housing shortage due to the physical distancing measures that may be imposed. The Principal said that the University is not currently examining any residential options off-campus.

Dr. Hafid Agourram asked if a decision had been made about whether Fall 2020 would be delivered online. The Principal said that the Academic Officers and the Executive Group are looking into this issue, and that the Vice-Principal Academic and Research, Dr. Miles Turnbull, would speak to this in his report.

ITEM 609/5 COVID-19 CONTINGENCY WORKING GROUP

Chair of the COVID-19 Contingency Working Group Dr. Miles Turnbull, presented an overview of the committee and its membership, mandate and the timeline for producing scenarios for the delivery of Fall 2020 courses.

The three scenarios each with one of its main arguments are:

- Scenario 1 - Online for the whole semester:
 - Communicating the decision that the Fall 2020 session will be online alleviates insecurity for students as we can't know when in-person courses will be allowed;
- Scenario 2 - Online at the beginning, but transitioning to in-person during the semester:
 - Bishop's is known for its small intimate classes and students may not be attracted to enroll at Bishop's if all courses are offered online.
- Scenario 3 - Hybrid situation, some courses delivered online and some in-person:
 - The reduced number of on campus students makes it easier to respect physical distancing and health guidelines and includes the possibility of small group laboratory sessions;

All scenarios assume that from a technical point of view, the University would have the capacity to support the various online activities.

Dr. Jessica Riddell is working with the Maple League to share best practices and to explore possible collaborations in supporting each other's course offerings.

An analysis is underway to evaluate classroom capacity under a variety of physical distancing scenarios.

Dr. Gregory Brophy asked whether the Working Group had considered the risk of Bishop's announcing a decision before other universities. Dr. Turnbull said that each scenario group would be asked to further consider all the risks and advantages of their respective proposal.

Dr. Mike Teed said students are being asked to register by June 1st and that they need clear information of how the Fall 2020 session will be delivered in order to make their decisions. He also said that the University will need resources and support in order to prepare for the online portions which he believed would be part of the Fall 2020 course delivery regardless of the scenario chosen.

Dr. Jessica Riddell, a member of the group developing Scenario 3, said that this scenario offers the most flexibility: decisions could be made and announced early, but professors would have the possibility of offering relationship-rich break-out groups as soon as the prevention measures are relaxed. The high-quality online content that would be prepared this summer could be available to support courses this fall and going forward.

Dr. Jim Benson asked what had been decided by other universities for the Fall semester. Dr. Turnbull said that all universities are facing the same questions, but most had not yet revealed publicly what their university would be offering for Fall 2020.

The Principal thanked Dr. Turnbull and the Working Group for their work and said he looked forward to the next update.

BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

ITEM 609/6 COMMITTEE ITEMS

There were no committee items.

ITEM 609/7 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Vice-Principal Academic & Research Dr. Miles Turnbull thanked Senators for their work and dedication over the past six weeks, particularly for their efficient and timely responses regarding the electronic votes.

Dr. Turnbull gave an update of the Strategic Innovation Hires and on recruitment for the Canada Research Chair positions. Unfortunately, the preferred candidate for the Musical Theatre Strategic Innovation hire turned down the offer and the current search has been deemed failed; the Committee will start again soon.

Overall, the Fall application numbers are down as compared to last year at the same time. The Admissions Office will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular updates.

Dr. Turnbull said he is encouraging flexibility with respect to deadlines for Fall 2020 applications and the confirmation of offers. The Admissions office is working hard to secure as many 'Will Attends' as possible. The Recruitment Office has created Virtual tours of campus in three languages (English, French and Spanish).

Dr. Turnbull said that the Acfas conference, originally scheduled for May 4th - May 8th, 2020, will be co-hosted by the Université de Sherbrooke and Bishop's from May 3rd to May 7th, 2021.

ITEM 609/8 RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair of the Senate Planning Committee Dr. Miles Turnbull said that the Committee reviewed and supported the recommendations that were being brought to Senate for approval.

8.1 Williams School of Business -

Dean of the Williams School of Business Ms. Reena Atanasiadis said that the significant changes made to the program four years ago to cut costs and balance their budget have resulted in a trend of decreased enrolment. Dean Atanasiadis said that the changes proposed aim to increase enrolment, to magnify students' capacity to choose electives and enhance their opportunities to enrol in courses across the University as espoused in its Liberal Education model.

The proposed program changes detailed in Documents 8.1.1 and 8.1.2 give business students the possibility of adding a minor in another discipline and propose new minors in Business. Documents 8.1.3 to 8.1.34 propose nine new courses, nineteen course modifications and four course deletions.

Dean Atanasiadis, on behalf of the Williams School of Business, moved the approval of 8.1.1 to 8.1.34. and Dr. Hafid Agourram seconded the motion.

Dr. Brad Willms said that the Department of Mathematics is concerned about the loss of two pre-requisites which will no longer be included in the Williams School of Business program. He noted that Concordia University requires Calculus 1 and McGill University requires Calculus 1 & 2. The changes proposed will mean that the Business program at Bishop's will have the least amount of Mathematics of all universities in Quebec. Dr. Willms said that he will not be voting in favour of the motion.

Dean Atanasiadis said that the appropriateness of mathematics was very much debated for each of the concentrations. CEGEP students, who will be most affected by the changes, represent 60% of WSB's student body. However, high school students will still be required to take Math 196 (Linear Algebra) and all students will still need to take Statistics. General Management is the only program where students will not be required to take a mathematics course. She also noted that the Université de Québec à Montréal's Business program has no math requirements.

Dr. Marianne Vigneault said that the Economics Department met with the Williams School of Business to discuss the proposed changes whereby a CEGEP student with a grade of at least 75% in Economics, can waive Economics and take another elective.

Dean Atanasiadis said that, as at every other university in Quebec, all CEGEP students who have completed Economics are not required to take it at university. Dr. Vigneault will meet with the Williams School of Business in the fall to discuss possible Economic courses, not included in the cognates so far.

Dr. David Webster said that his understanding of the intention of the proposed changes is that if a Business student were interested in working in China, they could study the language or the culture, or someone interested in applying their business acumen to environmental issues could add a minor in Environmental Studies, for example.

Principal Goldbloom called for the vote.

Moved by: Reena Atanasiadis

Seconded by: Hafid Agourram

19 voted for the motion.

One opposed.

One abstained.

Motion carried.

The Principal said that the changes to the Williams School of Business program are very important and reflect Dean Atanasiadis' wish to enhance the reputation of the William School of Business and to increase support for the University's Liberal Education model.

8.2 Arts and Science

8.2.1 Division of Humanities - no recommendations

8.2.2 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Interim Dean of Arts and Science Dr. Claire Grogan invited Dr. Darren Bardati to speak to the proposed new course - ESG 502 Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change. Dr. Bardati said that Climate Change is an expertise of the Department of Environment and Geography and that it had been a pleasure for him to develop the course.

Interim Dean of Arts and Science Dr. Claire Grogan, on the recommendation of the Department of Environment and Geography, moved the approval of 8.2.2.

Moved by: Claire Grogan

Seconded by: Darren Bardati

Motion carried.

8.2.3 Division of Social Sciences - no recommendations

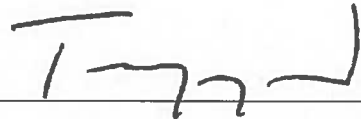
8.3 School of Education - no recommendations

8.4 Continuing Education - no recommendations

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.



Michael Goldbloom, Chair



Trygve Ugland, Secretary General

