

629TH MEETING OF SENATE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH 2021
2:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Chair: Principal Michael Goldbloom

Present: Ms. Reena Atanasiadis, Dr. Darren Bardati, Dr. Jim Benson, Dr. Gregory Brophy, Mr. Samy Cauvet, Ms. Maria Clavelli, Mr. Julien Collin, Mr. Bruno Courtemanche, 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. Michael Teed, Dr. Miles Turnbull, Dr. David Webster, Dr. Brad Willms, Dr. Dawn Wiseman, Dr. Yanan Wang

Regrets: Mr. Mark Gandey, Dr. Marianne Vigneault

Guest: Ms. Jayme Marrotte

Secretary: Dr. Trygve Ugland

The Chair called the 629th meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

ITEM 629/1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

ITEM 629/2 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Principal Goldbloom welcomed two new Senators, Mr. Julien Collin and Mr. Bruno Courtemanche, to Senate.

ITEM 629/3 MINUTES

The minutes of the 626th Senate held on October 23rd 2020, were approved as presented.

Moved by: Michele Murray

Seconded by: Gregory Brophy

Motion carried.

The minutes of the 627th Senate held on October 30th 2020, were approved as presented.

Moved by: Elisabeth Prusak

Seconded by: David Webster

Motion carried.

Dr. David Webster requested that a sentence be added to the minutes of the 628th Senate held on December 11th 2020, to include a comment made by the Students' Representative Council Vice-President Academic, Mr. Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon, which indicated that some student members of the Joint Board and Senate Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion did not feel they could express themselves safely during meetings.

Mr. Gadoury-Sansfaçon said that he would like the following sentence to be added to the beginning of the fifth paragraph of Item 5.1 (page 3):

“Mr. Gadoury-Sansfaçon said that some students had expressed to him that they did not feel that the EDI Task Force was a safe space for them to share their experiences and participate fully and that...”

The minutes of the 628th Senate held on December 11th 2020, were approved as amended with the addition of the following sentence to the beginning of the fifth paragraph of Item 5.1:

“Mr. Gadoury-Sansfaçon said that some students had expressed to him that they did not feel that the EDI Task Force was a safe space for them to share their experiences and participate fully and that an anonymous survey would be a safe space for EDI Task Force members to make comments about their experience and make proposals on how the EDI Task Force should proceed.”

Moved by: Darren Bardati

Seconded by: Reena Atanasiadis

Motion carried.

ITEM 629/4 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

ITEM 629/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

5.1 ACADEMIC STANDING AND ADMISSIONS POLICY COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy (ASAP) Committee, Registrar Hans Rouleau, reported that the Committee had been informed of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) referendum on whether the students wanted the SRC to advocate for a Fall reading week at Bishop's.

The SRC Vice-President Academic, Mr. Gadoury-Sansfaçon, reported that there were 1270 students who participated in the referendum and that 83.3% voted in favour of advocating for a Fall reading week. He said that the level of participation and the results of the referendum are above the thresholds set to move forward with the proposal, giving the SRC a clear mandate to advocate for a Fall reading week.

Mr. Gadoury-Sansfaçon briefly discussed the possibility of a Fall reading week following Thanksgiving and listed some of the considerations which would need to be discussed, including starting classes a day earlier, the impact on the Fall exam period and the deadlines for professors to submit their grades.

Registrar Rouleau said that the ASAP Committee would table the motion to approve the 2021-22 sessional dates in order to reflect on the Fall reading week option.

Dr. Darren Bardati said that he and Dr. Marianne Vigneault had canvassed their colleagues in the Division of Social Sciences and that a majority (15 of the 17 respondents) were in favour of a Fall reading week.

Dr. Gregory Brophy said the Division of Humanities faculty were overall in favour of the proposal. However, concerns over the marks submission deadline were raised as well as the additional workload which would be required to prepare supplementary exams during the holidays. Dr. Brophy said that some professors had expressed concerns over the request to avoid scheduling major assignments or exams in the days just before or just after the Fall reading week.

Dr. Dawn Wiseman said that the School of Education professors expressed general support for the proposal and asked if there was documentation supporting the notion that a Fall reading week would alleviate student stress.

Mr. Julien Collin said that as he had only recently been appointed to Senate, he had not had the time to canvas other contract faculty members. He said that his main concern with the proposal was the difficulty of implementing a Fall reading week at a time when many resources are already stretched due to the pandemic and he suggested that Fall 2022 might be a better goal than Fall 2021. Dr. Collin said that many universities that have a Fall reading week start the Fall semester in the third or fourth week of August.

Dr. Mike Teed said that the majority of the Williams School of Business faculty were not supportive of a Fall reading week. The main concerns raised were the increased workload for faculty, staff and administration, a lack of documentation supporting the idea that a Fall reading week would alleviate student stress, and insufficient discussion with the staff and faculty who would be directly affected by the implementation of a Fall reading week.

Mr. Eric Gendron said that he supported a Fall reading week, which could provide time for graduating students to apply for graduate schools as well as offer support for incoming students for whom the transition to university life might be difficult.

Ms. Catherine Lavallée-Welch said that she had asked the librarians for their opinions and had received one response which was in favour of the Fall reading week.

Dr. Brad Willms said that he was overall in support of a Fall reading week, however he suggested that students be encouraged to remain on campus rather than return home. He said that in 2004-05 when the University had a Fall reading week, many students left campus early, and often only returned to campus the Monday following the reading week. Dr. Willms said that he hoped students would be encouraged to remain on campus.

Dr. Elisabeth Prusak said that one of the reasons the Fall reading week was discontinued after 2004-05 was due to the number of first-year students who chose to remain at home rather than return to campus.

Dr. David Webster said that the Spring reading week had been renamed Student Success Week, and he wondered if this was also being proposed for the Fall break.

Registrar Hans Rouleau said that the name "Student Success Week" was proposed by the SRC and the Dean of Student Affairs to increase student engagement and improve student success through enhanced support, workshops and activities.

Mr. Bruno Courtemanche asked if it would be possible to move the Fall semester start date to one week before Labour Day. Registrar Hans Rouleau said that there were a few challenges which would limit the University's ability to start the Fall semester earlier, for example, the Collective Agreement and the fact that in the past students have stated that they prefer to start after Labour Day.

Principal Goldbloom congratulated the SRC on the documentation and the videos which accompanied the proposal and said that a new standard for providing information prior to a student referendum had been set.

5.2 SENATE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chair of the Senate Planning Committee, Vice-Principal Academic and Research Miles

Turnbull, presented the Committee's recommendations for part-time courses for 2021-22.

Motion 1:

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, I move approval of the allocation of 244 part-time courses for the 2021-22 academic year.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Jim Benson

Motion carried.

Motion 2:

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, I move approval of eight (8) 10-month sessional positions (or appropriate part-time courses) to replace the following University leaders: all academic Deans (4), the Vice-Principal Academic & Research, the Associate Vice-Principal Academic, the Dean of Student Affairs, and the Secretary General and Vice-Principal Government Relations and Planning.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Bruno Courtemanche

Motion carried.

Motion 3:

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, I move approval of a 2-year sessional position in Arts Administration for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Jim Benson

Motion carried.

Motion 4:

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, I move approval of a 2-year sessional position in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Darren Bardati

Motion carried.

Dr. Darren Bardati thanked the Senate Planning Committee and the University Foundation for their support and reported that the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (SAFS) team was working to secure additional funds.

Motion 5:

On behalf of the Senate Planning Committee, I move that academic departments and programs continue to 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 sessional position on a yearly basis. Should departments or programs request a 12-month sessional, the academic unit would be required to cash in the actual cost of a 12-month sessional.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull
Seconded by: Mike Teed
Motion carried.

Dr. Miles Turnbull thanked the Senate Planning Committee members for their work and dedication.

ITEM 629/6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 ACADEMIC REPORT

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Miles Turnbull presented the Academic Report and encouraged Senators to read about the research projects and the updates on the hiring process for Canada Research Chair and tenure-track positions. Dr. Turnbull invited Ms. Jayme Marrotte, Enrollment Data & Process Analyst, to present a Fall 2020 enrolment analysis and to give a preview of Winter 2021.

Fall 2020 Enrolment Analysis

Ms. Marrotte presented the Fall 2020 data for new students, incoming students and the total student body with the target values as well as the actual enrolment data of the last four years. The Fall 2020 admission targets were set before the impact of the pandemic was known. Admissions for new graduate students and full-time undergraduate students are under target, but the number of part-time undergraduate students seeking degrees has surpassed target.

Ms. Marrotte noted that the increase in part-time students appeared to be due to full-time undergraduate students choosing to study part-time given the current pandemic situation. She said that the impact of international travel restrictions was most felt by programs which habitually have a higher proportion of international students, such as graduate studies in Education and Computer Science.

The retention rate for first-year full-time undergraduate degree-seeking students has remained consistently close to 83% since Fall 2013 and Ms. Marrotte noted that COVID-19 did not have a significant impact on the retention rate from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 (83.7%). The Fall 2020 'New student enrolment by tuition' analysis showed an increase in Quebec enrolment, stable levels of Canadian enrolment and a decrease in International enrolment. Ms. Marrotte said that the final Fall 2020 headcount was 2814 students.

Winter 2021 Preview

Ms. Marrotte said that comparing the delivery modes in Fall 2020 with Winter 2021 showed a decrease of hybrid courses (29% vs. 20%), an increase in online courses (57% vs. 65%) and a slight increase in in-person only courses (14% vs. 16%).

Pass/Fail Option Summary

Ms. Marrotte said that in Fall 2020, 20% of students requested a Pass option for a course and 7.3% of grades were changed to Pass. In comparing Fall 2020 with Fall 2019, she said that there had not been a significant change in the percentage of students who failed (11.9% vs. 12.3%) or in the percentage of failed courses (4.4% vs. 4.3%). Ms. Marrotte said the percentage of Withdraw with Permission (WP) was 2.8% in Fall 2019 vs. 3.0% in Fall 2020.

Principal Goldbloom thanked Ms. Marrotte for the presentation.

ITEM 629/6.2 APPROVAL OF DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES TO BE AWARDED FOR CONVOCATION 2021

Registrar Hans Rouleau said that the University had adopted a new process whereby the University will approve degrees, diplomas and certificates at the end of each semester. Registrar Rouleau said that this change in process was driven by the needs of students who complete their degree, diploma or certificate requirements in semesters other than the Winter semester. The graduation date will be the date that Senate approved the degree, diploma or certificate and the entire academic year's graduates will be invited to attend the Convocation ceremonies which are normally held in June.

Registrar Rouleau presented the names of students who had fulfilled degree, diploma or certificate requirements at the end of the Fall 2020 semester.

Motion:

That the University Senate receive the list of candidates for the following undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science, as presented by Mr. Hans Rouleau, Registrar (document 629/6.2), and that these candidates be conferred their degree(s) at the 193rd Bishop's Convocation.

Moved by: Julien Collin

Seconded by: Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon

Motion carried.

Motion:

That the University Senate receive the list of candidates for the following graduate degrees: Master of Arts, Master of Education and Master of Science, as presented by Mr. Hans Rouleau, Registrar (document 629/6.2), and that these candidates be conferred their degree at the 193rd Bishop's Convocation.

Moved by: Miles Turnbull

Seconded by: Julien Collin

Motion carried.

Motion:

That the University Senate receive the name of the candidate for a Certificate as presented by Mr. Hans Rouleau, Registrar (document 629/6.2), and that this candidate be awarded the certificate at the 193rd Bishop's Convocation.

Moved by: Mike Teed

Seconded by: Reena Atanasiadis

Motion carried.

The Principal mentioned that Bishop's will continue to follow the recommendations of the public health authorities regarding the wellbeing of our students, employees and invitees, and he acknowledged that it is very unlikely the University will be able to hold an in-person Convocation in June 2021. He expressed more optimism about a possible in-person Convocation at the end of August and tentatively suggested the four days between Thursday, August 26th and Sunday, August 29th, 2021 as potential dates. The Principal said that the University must first make a formal decision to postpone the June 2021 Convocation. This decision should be made and communicated to the University Community in March and a definitive decision about an August Convocation would be taken by July 1, 2021.

ITEM 629/7 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chair of the Senate Planning Committee, Dr. Miles Turnbull, said that all curriculum recommendations had been thoroughly vetted by the Committee before being brought to Senate.

7.1 Williams School of Business – no recommendations

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, on the recommendation of the department of Biology, presented a request for the renewal of adjunct professor status for Dr. Wendy King.

Moved by: David Webster

Seconded by: Michele Murray

Motion carried.

7.2.3 Division of Social Sciences

The Dean of Science, Dr. Kerry Hull, on the recommendation of the department of Environment & Geography, presented course modification 7.2.3 for Senate's approval.

Moved by: Darren Bardati

Seconded by: Brad Willms

Motion carried.

7.3 School of Education - no recommendations

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Michael Goldbloom, Chair



Trygve Ugland, Secretary General

