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Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
B3H 3C3
Senate Office
Tel: 902-420-5412
Web: www.stmarys.ca

SENATE MEETING MINUTES 13 May, 2016

The 576th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, May 13, 2016, at 10:00 AM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Summerby-Murray, Dr Gauthier, Dr Dixon, Dr Bradshaw, Dr MacDonald, Dr Smith, Dr Vessey, Dr Naulls, Dr Austin, Dr Bjornson, Dr Campbell, Dr Conrad, Dr Gilin-Oore, Dr Grandy, Dr Grek-Martin, Dr Hlongwane, Dr Kozloski, Dr Peckmann, Dr Stinson, Dr VanderPlaat, Ms DeYoung, Mr Hotchkiss, Mr Rahman, Ms Jones, Dr Doucet, Dr Soucy, Dr Sewell, Dr Schneider, Dr Summers, Dr Twohig, Dr Bannerjee and Ms Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr Takseva, Dr Henry, Mr Michael, and Mr Rice

Meeting commenced at 2:34 A.M.

15078 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report was accepted as circulated.

Ms Blair Jones introduced herself as the new VP Academic, SMUSA.

15079 **SPRING GRADUATES**

Documentation to be presented at the meeting and designated as *Appendix A* (hard copies to Deans and Senate file only).

- 921 graduates will cross the stage spread across the six ceremonies.
- Members were advised that there is a very large graduating class in the Sobey School of Business (343 graduates).
- A larger number of students have confirmed their attendance at graduation than has been experienced for previous Spring Convocations. It was suggested that this may be because the ceremony is being held on campus.

Moved by Dixon and seconded, **“that the Senate confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix A) at the Spring Convocation”**. Motion carried unanimously.

15080

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of previous meeting of April 8, 2016, attached as **Appendix B**.

Moved by Stinson and seconded, “**that the minutes of the meeting of April 8 are approved as posted.**” **Motion carried.**

15081

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTE

- a. MPHEC modification proposal for the MA in IDS: Proposal, *Appendix C1* (Dr Doucet), Program Response to Senate’s amendment request, *Appendix C2*.

Senate request for a second reader for MRP.

Key discussion points:

- As far as the proposal was concerned, the MRP Supervisory Committee consists of one supervisor and a reader approved by the IDS Graduate Coordinator.
- Question: Is there a place in the graduate regulations that defines the responsibilities of the reader for an MRP? Answer: No. This role is not specifically defined. The responsibility of the supervisory committee is also not defined in detail. The reason is because the role varies from program to program. The reader requirement is defined in the thesis defense.
- Question: In theory the reader should be able to veto a paper if it is not up to par. Should we leave it vague like this because of the variance between committees / programs? Answer: This is covered in the program specific regulations.
- Question: Is there an examination committee for MRPs? Answer: No.
- Senators were advised that Graduate Academic Regulation 18 was revised last year to remove the requirement for the MRP to be submitted to the library. We were lobbied by the programs to revise Academic Regulation 18 so that students were not required to submit MRPs to be published. The reason for this request was because many MRPs were based on proprietary studies. There is no justification for why MRPs should have to be submitted to the library.
- When the revision of Graduate Academic Regulation 18 was being considered, a survey was done of institutions that have MRPs. Of the universities that responded, there were none that required publishing of MRPs. The survey included some very large universities.
- Question: How many programs include MRPs? How does the person who is accepting or rejecting this component for a PhD know if it is acceptable? Answer: If a student intends to do a PhD, they should be doing a thesis and would be advised accordingly. It is very rare for a student that has done an MRP to continue into the PhD Program.
- It was suggested that the degree is the same whether you do a thesis or an MRP but the MRPs never see the light of day. This is a lost opportunity because the student’s work would showcase, to the public, the quality of work students do in this program. Response: We have programs that have three options (thesis, MRP and

Internship) but it is all the same degree. This is not an uncommon approach.

- It was noted that this submission is the first of its kind from the Faculty of Arts at Saint Mary's.
- Question: Does the student make the decision whether the MRPs are submitted to the library? Answer: MRPs are not required to be submitted but students may opt to have them published. All these must be submitted to the library.
- Members were advised that a thesis may not contain confidential information. Theses may be embargoed for a period of time only. It is only MRPs that can be embargoed indefinitely.

Moved by Austin and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the MPHEC modification proposal for the MA in IDS, as revised, for submission to MPHEC.” Motion carried.**

b. Discussion item: Graduate Academic Regulation 18, *Appendix D*.

Key discussion points:

- The consensus was not to revise Graduate Academic Regulation 18.

15082

.01

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Planning Committee

- a. The one-year follow-up reports listed below meet the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary's - submitted to Senate for information: Memo attached as *Appendix E*.
- i. Religious Studies, attached as *Appendix F*. (Dr Soucy)

There being no objection or discussion, the one-year program review follow-up report from the Religious Studies Program was accepted into the record as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary's.”

- ii. Asian Studies Program, attached as *Appendix G*. (Dr Sewell)

There being no objection or discussion, the one-year program review follow-up report from the Asian Studies Program was accepted into the record as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary's.”

- iii. International Development Studies, attached as *Appendix H* (Dr Doucet)

There being no objection or discussion, the one-year program review follow-up report from the International Development Studies Program was accepted into the record as meeting the requirements of Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary's.”

- b. Criminology (FGSR) - program review documentation circulated as: *Appendix I* – APC Memo/Notice of Motion, *Appendix J* - Recommendation-Comparison summary, *Appendix K*- Self Study Report, *Appendix L* - Self Study appendices (1-11), *Appendix M* – Dean's Response to Self Study, *Appendix N* - External Review Committee's (ERC) Final

Report, *Appendix O* - Department Response to ERC Report, *Appendix P* - Dean's Response to ERC report. (Dr Schneider).

Key discussion points:

- **Recommendation 1** – Senate concurs with the Program's response and encourages the program to look specifically into their future in the context of potential growth of the program.
- **Recommendation 2** – Senate concurs with the Program's response and looks forward to the outcomes from the Program's strategizing session and the creation of a five-year strategic plan for the MAC Program.
- **Recommendation 3** – Senate concurs with the Program's response and encourages the program to consider short-term changes as part of the mandate of the program planning committee.
- **Recommendation 4** – The next 7-year Program Review Cycle includes Criminology undergraduate and graduate programs to be reviewed together in the 2018-2019 academic year. This new Program Review Schedule was approved at APC (November 4, 2015) and at Senate (November 13, 2015). No further action is required.
- **Recommendation 5** – Senate concurs with the Program's response and encourages the Program to explore the best options as far as reaching out to practitioners, whether the MAC program should be more applied (i.e. vocationally-oriented), and whether this applied nature should be oriented to the criminal justice sector or the NGO sector.
- Question: Can we request a deadline for the delivery of the five-year plan. Answer: The action plan is due for submission to APC in October 2016. The program will include that information in that plan.
- Question: Recommendation 1 – the program has requested resources to do an environmental scan. What is the status of this request? Answer: The program did not receive a formal response to their memo. Part of the deliverable in the action plan would be to make a formal request for those resources. Senators were advised that the process is that the request is submitted from the Department to the Dean's Office for consideration. If approved, the Dean's Office submits the request through the University Budget process.

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the CRIM MA Program submit an action plan to APC in October 2016 responding to the recommendations of Senate as articulated in the APC Memo to Senate dated May 4, 2016.”**

Motion carried

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that in May, 2017, the CRIM MA Program submit a one-year report to the Academic Planning Committee on the progress made during the year on the Action Plan according to Section 5 of the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary's University.”** Motion carried.

- c. Proposal for a Certificate Program in Health, Wellness and Sport in Society, *Appendix Q1 & 2* (Dr Twohig)

Key discussion points:

- Question: There is a statement on page 15 about the learning outcomes: “This programme will help students develop the knowledge and skills for careers in health sciences and related fields, to conduct research in these

areas, or to participate in policy formation.” In summation, the program helps students develop skills for future careers. We should be very careful about making this statement because we are not providing a credential that applies to further graduate degrees. Answer: This will be taken into consideration when we develop communication materials related to the Program and when advising students.

- Question: Do you anticipate some prerequisite issues for students? Answer: We put a lot of thought into how we would address that issue. A student will be pursuing a major and we are allowing them to pick up other courses in order to get a certificate.
- It was noted that there are some outdated Geography courses included in the proposal. This will be reviewed.
- It was noted that this certificate is a very good fit with the Environmental Science Program.
- Recently Senate established the criteria for certificates. Question: Does this proposal follow that recently established criteria? Answer: Yes it does.
- Senators were advised that this certificate is not a stand-alone certificate or an exit credential. This is always done as part of another degree. The HWSS Certificate can only be taken as a component within a SMU degree program (e.g. the BA), similar to a minor. Also it is only 24 credit hours. As such, it does not need MPHEC approval. In Section 2.3 Scope of the requirements of MPHEC’s Academic Program Assessment Prior to Implementation manual state:
Universities are required to submit, prior to implementation, a proposal for any new, modified or terminated university-level program (which includes degrees, diplomas and certificates) that meets any of the following criteria:
 - **results in an exit (stand-alone) credential**
 - **is the equivalent of 30 credits (or one full year) or more of study at the undergraduate level (regardless of whether it leads to an exit credential)**
- Question: Why do we not have this as a stand-alone certificate? Answer: We wanted to draw on the existing strengths of existing faculty and provide students with the opportunity to draw on that experience.
- Question: How is a certificate different from a Minor? Answer: It is similar. That issue is addressed in the proposal in Section 2.1 on page three: “This format is more appropriate than the alternative “minor” format, which is more usually associated with disciplinary specialization within one faculty.” The certificate format is better suited to an interdisciplinary program. We are hoping to draw students from all faculties.
- Question: Are the admission requirements for this certificate program, that a student must be currently enrolled in a bachelor degree at this university? Answer: Minors are not faculty specific but they are program specific. A student that has graduated with a degree cannot come back and add this certificate on after the fact. We are seeing this as an enhancement of the student’s degree program.
- Concern was expressed in term of student advising. Other certificates are meant to be done as part-time study or are done concurrently with a degree. It was noted that if a student had already graduated and was coming back specifically to do this certificate, they would have to do the

program in a step-wise fashion. Most would not want to come back for three years just to do a certificate program.

- Members were advised that it is common for students to want to come back to do these certificates. Response: We were not anticipating students wanting to do that with this certificate. It was noted that there is no language within this proposal that would limit Saint Mary's University from considering making this certificate a stand-alone credential in the future.
- Question: The question of double counting comes into play here. Can these courses be counted for credit in both the degree and the certificate program? Answer: Yes.
- Question: It is possible that this might be a problem in the situation of a double Major or Minor when done in conjunction with this certificate? How would you handle that? Answer: Courses fall into Group A and B. If the course is in Group B and it is a course that is required for their degree it would be double counted.
- The Dean of FGSR congratulated Twohig and MacDonald for proposing a program in health. This is the second program Senate will approve with the word Health in it. In terms of student recruiting, this program will be very attractive to students in our athletics programs.
- It was suggested that clarifications may be needed in regard to student advising.

Moved by Smith and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the proposal for a Certificate Program in Health, Wellness and Sport in Society.” Motion carried.**

d. Proposal for an Intercultural Studies Program, *Appendix R1 & 2* (Dr Bannerjee)

Key discussion points:

- This is a program proposal that came directly out of the recommendations of the external reviewers during a program review. The department was congratulated on this proposal.
- It was noted that this is a proposal for both a Major and Honors. Programs are usually proposed as a Major first to test the level of interest. Question: Is proposing an Honours Program premature at this time? Answer: That is a possibility but the Department chose to proceed in this manner.
- The study abroad program relates very strongly to this program. The students in this program should be encouraged to take advantage of that program. Response: It is included on page four of the proposal. We will be encouraging our students to take advantage of this program.
- As of July 1, 2016, the Department will also have a full-time Assistant Professor with expertise in both Intercultural Studies and French – Jean-Jacques Defert and he will be coordinating this program (page 11 and 13 of the proposal).
- This program will be challenging but it is creating something very distinctive for Saint Mary's University. The Mount offers a similar program but the linguistic component is missing.
- In terms of mobility and intercultural understanding, this program builds on outreach into the local schools.

- This proposal is also responding to the feedback received from our students in the classroom and their expressed desire to have an additional language.

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the MPHEC Proposal for an Intercultural Studies Major and Honours for submission to MPHEC.” Motion carried.**

- e. MPHEC Modification Proposal for Certificate in Human Resource Management, *Appendix SI & 2* (Dr Summers)

Key discussion points:

- This Certificate program has two options (MGMT and PSYC). As a result of the last program review process, the two departments have had a deep and meaningful discussion on how the program should be offered. The programs are to be congratulated on this proposal.

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the MPHEC Proposal for a Modification to the Certificate in Human Resource Management for submission to MPHEC.” Motion carried.**

- f. Revision to the Senate Policy on the Review of Programs at Saint Mary’s University (8-1015), *Appendix TI & 2*.

Key discussion points:

- In 2016, MPHEC revised their Guidelines for Maritime Universities’ Quality Assurance Frameworks. During a review of those revisions, a gap was noted in our policy. The Senate Policy has been revised to address this gap.
- On page seven of eight there is a statement: <<MPHEC states: that the self-study report or the external site visit (and the report) “when and where appropriate, the results of accreditation may be included and/or substituted for this component, or a portion thereof. >>. This statement is missing the end quotation marks.
- Question: The timing of the accrediting bodies may not necessarily mesh with the timing of the seven year cycle. How is that handled? Answer: The goal is not to duplicate effort in terms of those program that go through the accreditation process. Saint Mary’s is required to be compliant with the requirements of both processes. Members were advised that the Faculty of Science has four programs that are accredited. The program review is scheduled for the same year or the year following the accrediting process so that the same information is relevant to both processes.

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the revision to the Senate Policy on the Review of programs at Saint Mary’s University (8-1015).” Motion carried.**

.02 Senate Executive Committee

Proposal for membership and terms of reference for an Ad Hoc Committee to contribute to the further development of the Institutional Strategic Plan, to be circulated at meeting as *Appendix U*

Key discussion points:

- The membership is to consist of: One elected faculty member of Senate from each of the Faculties of Arts, Science and Business, one Student Senator, and one Dean.”
- Question: What are the terms of reference for this committee? Answer: to review and provide further input on the ISP as approved in principle by Senate on April 25, and subsequent revisions, by consulting with the members of Senate and with Academic Planning Committee (APC) where appropriate
- The Ad-Hoc Committee is required to report back to the Senate no later than the October 14, 2016 Senate meeting. Discussion established that this date should remain as is.
- It was suggested that there should be three to four meetings through the summer in this regard. Members were advised that this task is separate from the working committees identified in the plan.
- This is an opportunity for faculty to collaborate on the strategic direction that is academic related.

Moved by Conrad, and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the membership, mandate and the reporting deadline of Oct 14, 2016 for an Ad Hoc Committee to contribute to the further development of the Institutional Strategic Plan as articulated in the May 11th memo from the Senate Executive Committee.”** Motion carried.

Call for Nominations from the Floor of Senate:

- Grandy volunteered to be the Commerce representative.
- Rahman volunteered to be the SMUSA representative
- Vessey was nominated and accepted to be the Dean representative.
- Henry was nominated subject to confirmation for the Arts representative.
- Conrad was nominated and accepted to be the Science representative.

Moved by Bradshaw and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the membership as listed above.”** Motion carried.

15083

.01

NEW BUSINESS FROM

Chair

Key discussion points:

- A motion of thanks was extended to Hotchkiss and Gauthier for their service to Senate and to the Saint Mary’s University Community at large. Both are attending their last Senate meeting today.

15084

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Key discussion points:

Discovery and Innovation: Student and Learning-Centered

- In response to the announcement of the federal government’s Post-Secondary Strategic Investment Fund, a committee has worked with the academic deans, vice-presidents, facilities management, and the Finance and Property Committees of the Board of Governors to submit a proposal/ funding request to meet the May 9, 2016 application deadline. This is a submission for a shovel ready project that will cost 30 million. We are asking for 50% or 15 million from the Federal Government. In tandem, the

University requested provincial government support related to our federal application. We await response/notification from both the federal and provincial governments in terms of financial award.

- Attended and participated in a panel on ‘Economic regeneration in Atlantic Canada: after the One NS Report’ at The British Association for Canadian Studies Conference in London.

Internationalization and ‘intercultural’

- Attended and provided words of welcome on behalf of the University at the Serial Symposium on Collaboration and Cooperation between Atlantic Canada and China, organized by the Chinese Professors Association of Canada and held at Saint Mary’s in mid-April.
- Attended both a dinner and luncheon for the launch of the Province’s “Partnering for Success: the Nova Scotia-China Engagement Strategy” initiative.
- Welcomed delegations from both the Shanghai Lixin University of Commerce and Guangdong University of Finance (GDUF) this morning. We have signed a new agreement regarding our MTEI program.
- Welcomed His Excellency Agustin Garcia-Lopez Loaeza, the Ambassador of Mexico to Canada this morning.

Value and Values

- Attended an alumni gathering in Ottawa where Senators Moore and Mercer acted as co-hosts and attended by other Senators and by the Speaker of the House, MP Geoff Regan.
- Participated in ceremonies awarding our most prestigious entrance awards (Presidential Scholarships, Santamarian Scholarships, and the Sobey Leadership Award) at high schools in Halifax and Saint John. Participated in recruitment events and events with school guidance counsellors in Saint John and Moncton, and in the National Conference of University Guidance Counsellors event hosted by Saint Mary’s. This past Tuesday, hosted the President’s reception for new students.
- VPAR search: Knightsbridge Robertson Surette is proceeding with a consultation process.
- Attended various components of the Canadian University Board Association Conference in Halifax.
- In its April meeting, the Board appointed Karen Oldfield as the incoming Board Chair, and appointed Scott Norton as Board Vice-Chair – the term for Ms. Oldfield is 3 years, while Mr. Norton has been appointed for a 2 year term.

Financial Sustainability

- Announcement of a \$1 million gift to the University from Mr. David Wang, as he established the David Wang Scholarship Fund. The Fund will establish scholarships for Chinese undergraduates entering Saint Mary’s from a Nova Scotia or Canadian Curriculum high school in China.
- The new MOU with government will be signed in the near term, committing the provincial government to a 1 per cent increase in the grant over the next three years and providing the basis for our tuition resets. There are sector

level outcomes and institutional level outcomes. These are at a very high level and do not reach into the academic level.

Additionally:

- For the fourth year in a row, the Saint Mary's Enactus team has placed in the top four Enactus teams in Canada at the National Enactus Exposition held in Toronto on May 2 – 4. They were also named second runner up in the Scotiabank Eco-Living Challenge for an environmental and social project that diverted almost 2400 lbs of waste from landfills by upcycling material for refugee families. More than 60 Enactus groups from universities across Canada competed. Team members represented all Faculties across campus. When a fellow team from Mount Allison had a technology breakdown, not only did the Saint Mary's Enactus team offer to lend them the speakers they required, they gallantly set up the technology for the competing team, allowing them to present unfettered by problems.
- Saint Mary's University is hosting a Conference in July on Exotic Beams.
- We are in a very positive situation in terms of applications for the 2016-2017 academic year.
- The position of the VP of Advancement was approved in the budget and we will be proceeding with that search shortly.

15085

QUESTION PERIOD

- Question: Who will be the interim VPAR? Answer: There will be announcement on that very soon.
- The 2016 Federal Budget proposes to provide up to \$2 billion over three years, starting in 2016–17, for a new Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund. This is a time-limited initiative that will support up to 50 per cent of the eligible costs of infrastructure projects at post-secondary institutions and affiliated research and commercialization organizations, in collaboration with provinces and territories.
- Question: Do we know if what we are proposing will be deemed eligible? How will this be adjudicated? Answer: The federal government has laid out the criteria in terms of what types of submission will be acceptable. Proposals are to be for the eligible costs of infrastructure projects at post-secondary institutions and affiliated research and commercialization organizations, in collaboration with provinces and territories. This initiative is aimed at enhancing and modernizing research and commercialization facilities on Canadian campuses, as well as industry-relevant training facilities at college and polytechnic institutions, and projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the environmental sustainability of these types of facilities. The Saint Mary's Proposal was developed with close attention to the criteria and only eligible expenses were included in the submission. The Provincial Governments are being asked to define their specific priorities. It has been suggested that projects that do not require provincial funding may rise to the surface and that has been the subject of some contention. There are no further provincial funds from provincial funding. If there was a nominal allocation on student populations, Nova Scotia would receive approximately 80 million but we also have greater infrastructure needs. We hope this will play into the considerations.

- The closing date for submissions was last Monday. We have been advised that between 18 and 20 projects were submitted from Nova Scotia. The timing is such that the provincial committee is moving very quickly and we should know by the end of the month if we have been successful.

15086

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate