



## MINUTES

Thursday, October 20, 2020

Present: R. Ame, A. Araujo, G. Ashoughian, H. Beaudry, G. Brockett, P. Bryden, M.L. Byrne, S. Cameron, M. Cantalini-Williams, K. Carter, J. Casey, K. Chahal, S. Chamberlain, L. Chu, A. Clarke, J. Coolman, D. Deutschman, L. Eisler, J. Empey, S. Ensign, A. Ferenc, S. Ghamat, B. Glencross, A. Goodrum, P. Jamalof, J. Hennebry, C. Hiebert, J. Holm, M. Hron, S. Isotupa, Ma. Kelly, G. Kim, H. LeBlanc, K. Lund, D. MacLatchy, M. Mancuso, D. Maoz, S. Matthews, B. McKay, D. Smith, L. McLeod, K. Menon, D. Monod, J. Newman, A. Ngo, S. Ramsay, M. Reesor, J. Schwieter, D. Smith, M. Straub, M. Sweedler, A. Vannelli, M. Wilson, W. Wu, K. Yri.

Regrets: M. Ahmed, C. Francis, L. Hawton Kitamura, Mi. Kelly, V. Kitaev, P. McLaren, E. Mercier, J. Smith, M. Woodford.

Absent: D. Antonowicz, D. Buzza, A. Dang, K. Dowler, M. McDonald, I. Musa, K. Rice, K. Shankardass, G. Yun.

Secretariat: R. Barnes, S. Kelly.

Resource/Guest: A. Downing, M. Hook-McGregor, S. Pepper, N. Petkovic, I. Muller, E. Nkemdilim, K. West

### A. Introduction

#### 1. Call to Order and Approval of the Consent Agenda

D. MacLatchy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order, acknowledging the location of the university campuses on traditional Indigenous territory and mentioning some housekeeping tips.

**MOTION** (M. Hron/M.L. Byrne) **that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item C.9.**

**CARRIED**

#### 2. Leadership Update

##### a) Report of the President

D. MacLatchy provided an update on what has been happening since September 2020, noting: virtual homecoming was successful; Vice-President: Finance & Administration search committee has concluded its process; fourth annual thrive week focussed on mental health and wellness is upcoming; congratulations to Ken Jackson and Bruce Gillespie, awards of excellence for work supporting students during Covid-19; pandemic recovery has 55 functions approved to return to campus; Sept 28<sup>th</sup> pilot project for on-campus study spaces utilizing the SafeHawk Covid-19 screening tool; pandemic recovery steering group is working on a scaling framework to determine risk and functional needs; Covid-19 case tracker was added; outbreak on Waterloo campus, 13 students in residence, students have been quarantined; 7 cases off campus now recorded; additional case in Brantford where student attended YMCA; management of cases is directed by public health; high level of communications and watchfulness after reading week; EDI information session on action plan was presented, and a recording of the session is available on the website; equity representative faculty training was rolled out in late



September, goal of increasing diversity of faculty; HR has launched new employee success factors with strategic themes; EDI roundtables event to discuss challenges of pursuing EDI in universities; the federal throne speech outlined positive signals to sector, including commitment to infrastructure, investment in skills and training programs, importance of inclusion for all Canadians during the pandemic and recovery; provincially, a policy on micro-credentials, digital learning, tuition framework is expected; Laurier is actively involved with COU around tuition and the importance of post secondary in economic recovery; social media campaign "mask up" on world mental health day to promote health and wellness in communities; continuing to provide supplemental materials regarding a Milton Campus to the Ministry as requested, and working with Town of Milton to provide all the information required; excepting to continue in this fashion until the conditions are met.

b) Report of the Provost & VP Academic

A. Vannelli provided updates on the following: continuing to listen to faculties at VPAC and Council of Chairs, to engage the leaders, faculty, staff and students and understand what is happening at the university; has attended a number of committees to meet and engage with the Faculties; winter term 2021 will be similar to fall 2020; begs question of what will happen in spring/summer, and those decisions will be considered in the new year; there are a number of challenges in delivering academic programs and the VPA office will focus on this in months to come; integrated planning was to begin in fall 2020, but will be delayed until the spring to consider budgeting decisions and critical needs; successes celebrate the calibre of teaching going on at the university; Fall 2020's largest challenge is assessment and remote delivery; a report has been filed by a working group that contains suggestions on assessment opportunities; need to ensure assessments can be done properly for all sizes of courses; senior searches continue, with preferred candidates coming forward to future Senate meetings; upcoming decanal searches will be communicated throughout October to the Faculties.

Questions or comments were made about the following: faculty members, including contract teaching faculty, are experiencing ongoing assessment, remote teaching, technology and accessibility demands, and are feeling unsupported during the Fall 2020 term. The VPA office will continue to work to ensure supports are in place during the pandemic. Access to library materials, especially within some disciplines, for faculty and graduate student research continues to be a challenge. Conversations with partner institutions are ongoing, and availability is expected to improve.

c) Report of the Board of Governors

M.L. Byrne provided brief summaries from the past two Board meetings in June and September 2020.

d) Question Period: Written or Verbal



No questions were brought forward. D. MacLatchy noted that the new VP: Student Affairs has joined his first Senate meeting.

## B. Discussion

### 3. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

#### a) Senate Committee on Research and Publications

- i. J. Newman presented the five-year Strategic Research Plan, noting it comes to Senate through the Senate Committee on Research and Publications, and is reviewed by various senior leaders. J. Newman provided an overview of the three different types of publication included in the agenda package, and noted how they would be useful in different situations. J. Newman noted that a Research Climate Survey is being prepared, and the results will be brought back to Senate at a future meeting for information.

Questions or comments were posed, including the following: concern that the research plan is not intended to shape individual research or influence research funding; whether the research plan will be utilized to inform the integrated planning exercise next year; how interdisciplinarity is reflected in the document, and how the Office of Research Services supports and encourages interdisciplinary work; what the purpose is for listing the assets under each theme, and having the same assets show up under multiple themes; whether a list of assets encourages further funding from donors or not; how the research centres will be supported going forward, and how the Strategic Research Plan will be messaged so that researchers who do not see themselves in the plan feel supported.

Senators had expressed concern that there was still outstanding input needed before finalizing the Strategic Research Plan, and it was proposed to carry the document forward to next meeting for approval, to allow time for further input and discussion.

**Motion (J. Newman/S. Isotupa) that the approval of the Strategic Research Plan be postponed until the next regular meeting of Senate on November 16, 2020. CARRIED**

#### ii. Research Centre

J. Newman presented the SCRAP recommendation to approve a new university research centre with a mission to lead interdisciplinary work, build knowledge networks, and draw researchers together from across education, music, psychology, biology, and other disciplines. There are currently no other research centres at Laurier with a focus on interdisciplinary research in education.

Senators expressed concern that more time for conversation and consultation from the Faculty of Liberal Arts was needed. Discussion around potential partnerships, faculty membership, and possible



limitations experienced by the User Experience Design program were noted. It was proposed to carry the document forward to next meeting for approval, to allow time for further input and discussion.

**Motion (K. Carter/R. Ame) that the approval of the Centre for Leading Research in Education be postponed until the next regular meeting of Senate on November 16, 2020.**  
**CARRIED (2 abstentions)**

#### 4. Strategic Mandate Agreement 3 Update

Due to time constraints, the SMA3 update was deferred to next meeting. D. MacLatchy noted that there is no pressing news, as the university is waiting for approval from the government to make the SMA public.

#### 5. Assessment and Academic Integrity Update

M. Wilson provided an update on assessment and academic integrity, including: the Acting with Integrity Campaign; communications efforts; future considerations for academic integrity; outreach for research; peer to peer engagement; how faculty members can be assisted and supported; support for assessment redesign and design; considerations of leveraging technologies for remote and online assessments; accessibility issues; data privacy; limitations in technology for phones and tables. M. Wilson noted that the Teaching and Learning team is working to respond to individual requests for support, increasing resource availability, and engaging in long range planning to address the complex problems coming to the surface during this time of remote teaching, learning, accommodation, and assessment.

Questions or comments were posed, including: whether increased support is available for those moving to smaller-stakes, more labour intensive assessment styles; whether academic misconduct penalties can be published to ensure students are aware of the consequences; concern around help being needed immediately from faculty members for ICT issues, exam monitoring, and other critical needs.

Due to time constraints, M. Wilson will be available at the next regular meeting of Senate for further questions.

#### 6. Matters from the Consent Section of the agenda

There were no matters brought forward for discussion.

#### 7. Other Business

No other business noted.

#### 8. Adjournment

Adjourned by consensus.



## C. Consent

*The following items were provided for approval or information. The items noted for approval were approved by consent unless otherwise highlighted during item A.1.*

9. Items for Approval:

- a) Agenda
- b) Draft Minutes of the September 10, 2020 Senate Meeting
- c) 2020-2021 Undergraduate Academic Dates
- d) 2020-2021 Faculty of Education Academic Dates

10. Items for Information:

- a) Report of the Senior Executives