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## SENATE MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), M. Abu-Rshaid, D. Antonowicz, A. Beek, R. Buehler, M.L. Byrne, M. Cantalini-Williams, L. Chu, A. Clarke, K. Clarke, M. Coulter, L. Dawe, A. Domurath, T. Dowling, M. Elayyan, N. Espiritu, A. Essaji, S. Gillies, A. Hansra, A. Herman, C. Hoang, S. Isotupa, C. Johnston Turner, L. Keeping, M. Khan, L. King, S. Lachapelle, J. Leung, R. Makarov, D. Maoz, C. McAdam, R. McGowan, B. McKay, T. McLaren, D. McMurray, J. Newman, L. Noronha, H. Northwood, V. Oliver, A. Parker, S. Pepper, F. Perez, J. Popham, S. Ramsay, J. Schwieter, M. Skop, C. Smith, T. Snoddon, D. Thomas, P. Urquhart, F. Wang, J. Wang, K. Werbin, D. Wheatley, B. Wolfe, J. Zhan

Regrets: B. Basso, J. Cairns, J. Coolman, P. Elliott, L. Felice, E. Mercier, J. Monture, D. Smith, A. Zaidi

Absent: A. Acharya, M. Baldwin, C. Dutt, E. Felician, E. Fox Tree, W. Gillam, S. Guardado, K. Lund, S. Perry, M. Ras, H. Richards, K. Shankardass, D. Yerichuk, G. Yun

Secretariat: K. Jack, A. Juhik, A. Kornobis, A. Lukin, P. Marfisi

### 1. Open Session

#### a. Call to Order & Approval of the Consent Agenda

Following the chair's welcome, she advised that at 4:30 she would need to depart the meeting, and that Vice-Chair J. Schwieter also had to leave the meeting early. By consensus, members agreed that H. Northwood, Provost and Vice President: Academic, would assume the chair at that time.

In response to a question, the chair clarified that discussion of the materials from the Senate Governance Committee should be raised at that part of the meeting. Senator F. Wang moved that the agenda be revised to remove the discussion at agenda item 1.e. regarding the Strategic Action Plan. Following two calls for a seconder, the motion was not seconded, and therefore was not put before Senate.

**Motion (M. Abu-Rshaid/S. Ramsay):** that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item 7.a. **Carried.**

**b. In Camera Session**

**Motion (J. Newman/H. Northwood):** that Senate move to the *In Camera* session. **Carried.**

**c. Leadership Update**

## i. Report of the President

D. MacLatchy updated the Senate on recent activities, including: recent information sessions, open houses, and the seventh annual International Women's Day luncheon; work being done on the Strategic Action Plan; further details regarding provincial funding and pending potential policy requirements; that a recommendation regarding a new Chancellor will be coming in May. In response to a question, Senators heard that the province is looking to potentially mandate policies regarding antisemitism and anti-Islamophobia.

## ii. Report of the Provost and VP Academic

H. Northwood reported to Senate on a variety of matters, including: international study permits; financial sustainability; the Faculty Service Excellence Awards; a brief update on some senior executive searches; the ongoing exploration of a potential law school.

**d. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes**

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

**e. Laurier Strategic Action Plan: 2024-2028 – Senate Feedback Session**

D. MacLatchy provided Senate with an introduction to the discussion and noted in particular the goal of enabling focus on key initiatives that are critical and foundational to Laurier's ongoing success. She invited others to speak to their respective areas of focus and relevant goals, objectives, and performance metrics. In turn, Senate heard from: L. Noronha regarding operational effectiveness; P. Cant regarding Laurier's people; H. Northwood regarding enhancing the academic experience; D. McMurray regarding elevating holistic student development; J. Newman regarding excellence in research and innovation; and A. Brandt regarding enriching community engagement and partnership. Each person expanded on key work underway, and spoke to coming activities and efforts to address the objectives. Senators then participated in a dynamic session facilitated by "Slido" and in response to questions raised there, heard: annual updates are planned and information will be posted online as appropriate; details about metrics will follow; recognition that workloads are heavy everywhere; agreement about the benefits of engaging all constituencies

throughout the process; some of the considerations regarding selecting the right metrics to measure.

## 2. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

### a. Senate Governance Committee, S. Ramsay

#### i. Guiding Document on Questions at Senate

S. Ramsay provided Senate with an overview of the proposed Guiding Document regarding questions at Senate and informed members that its intent is to: facilitate questions at Senate meetings; ensure that a diversity of Senators are heard from; help to enable having the right individuals are in the room to respond to questions where possible; support Senators in forming questions to enable effective decision making.

In discussion: how the guidelines may help with ensuring questions are not asked out of order; how they may help for questions unrelated to agenda materials.

**Motion (S. Ramsay/ M. Abu-Rshaid):** that on the recommendation of the Senate Governance Committee, Senate approve the Guiding Document on Questions at Senate. **Carried with one abstention.**

### b. Senate Academic Planning Committee, H. Northwood

#### i. General Degrees with Major

T. McLaren spoke to the two motions and Senate heard them as an omnibus motion. In discussion: agreement that adding something regarding GPA required for graduation would be helpful.

**Motion (T. McLaren/L. King):** that the Senate approve the creation of the 15.0 credit General degree with Major category, including the necessary updates to relevant sections of the academic calendar. **Carried.**

**Motion (T. McLaren/L. King):** that the Senate approve the completion of Specializations / Concentrations in alternate degree structures. **Carried.**

ii. Faculty of Music

1. Major Modification, Music Option

C. Johnston Turner spoke to the submission.

**Motion (C. Johnston Turner/A. Clarke):** that the Senate approve the deletion of the Music Option. **Carried.**

**c. Senate Executive and Finance Committee**

i. 2023-2024 9-Month Fiscal Update

Z. Danis walked members through the presentation distributed with the agenda. Members heard: details about the consolidated operating and ancillary fund Q3 results which reflect a surplus of \$5.4M; the operating fund full year forecast which shows a modest \$200K surplus but does not include the impact of the recent provincial funding announcement; the ancillary fund full year forecast which reflects a surplus of \$3.4 M, slightly less than budgeted; the consolidated operating and ancillary fund full year forecast which is \$1.8M more favourable than budgeted; ongoing plans to monitor financial metrics, further pursue efficiencies, continue analysis, and consider the impact of funding announcements as details are confirmed.

In discussion: the surplus funds are very modest but will be applied to the next budget per usual.

ii. 2024-2025 Budget Planning Process Update

L. Noronha provided an overview of ongoing budget planning activities. He spoke to: some of the work done since the last Senate meeting; an overview of the operating budget drivers, both before and after the government announcement; some of the details of the February 26<sup>th</sup> provincial announcement, and that firm details are still to come; the sector-wide STEM enrolment support, and Laurier's share; the positive effect of one-time-only funding, but also that while helpful, such funds cannot be relied on for financial sustainability; the likely surplus and deficit figures for the University in 2024-2025; ongoing austerity and budget-reduction measures, and the need to find new sources of revenue will continue to prevail; next steps in the budget development and approval processes. In discussion: confirmation that the tuition freeze applies to both undergraduate and graduate tuition; ongoing conversations with the province about the challenges created by budget reductions; some details about the budget related to the Milton campus; other advocacy efforts.

### 3. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

There were no matters arising from the consent section of the agenda.

### 4. Other Business

There was no other business.

### 5. Q&A with Leadership

There were no questions.

### 6. Adjournment

Senate agreed to adjourn the meeting by consensus.

### 7. Consent Items

#### a. Items for Approval

- i. Agenda
- ii. Draft Minutes of the March 5, 2024 Senate Meeting
- iii. Substantive Minor, Global Studies and Religion & Culture

**Motion:** that the Senate approve the current joint MA program between GS and R&C name change from "Religion, Culture and Global Justice" to "Global Justice, Religion and Culture".

- iv. Substantive Minor, Business

**Motion:** that the Senate approve the change to the program requirements for B.B.A/B.Sc. Computer Science.

#### b. Items for Information

- i. Reports of the Senior Executives
- ii. Cyclical Program Review Annual Report to the Senate
- iii. Report of the COU Academic Colleague