

Minutes of a meeting of Special Meeting of Senate held on the above date at 1:00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Room E3-262 Engineering and Information Technology Complex

Members Present

Dr. D. Barnard,
Chair
Prof. Judith Anderson
Prof. B. Austin-Smith
Prof. J. Barry
Mr. S. Barry
Dean S. Baum
Dean J. Beddoes
Prof. M. Bieringer
Prof. R. Biscontri
Dean J. Black-Branch
Prof. T. Booth
Prof. O. Botar
Mr. M. Bourrier
Prof. M. Brabston
Dean. D. Brown
Prof. F. Burczynski
Prof. A. Calder
Prof. J. Carlberg
Prof. T. Chen
Prof. D. Churchill
Prof. N. Cicek
Ms. K. Corbin
Dean E. Dawe
Prof. D. Delay
Ms. L. Demczuk
Ms. C. Dizon
Prof. M. Domaratzki
Ms. A. Ducas
Prof. T. Falkenberg
Prof. A. Farenhorst
Prof. M. Gabbert
Prof. M. Gallant
Prof. G. Giesbrecht
Prof. J. Gilchrist
Ms. S. Gottheil
Acting Dean X. Gu
Dean N. Halden
Prof. B. Hallman
Mr. M. Hasan
Prof. R. Hechter
Dean G. Hepburn
Prof. P. Hess
Prof. J. Honeyford

Acting Dean R. Hoppa
Prof. J. Hughes
Prof. P. Hultin
Dean A. Iacopino
Ms. L. Johnson
Ms. M.-A. Kandrack
Mr. M. Khan
Ms. A. Kilgour
Prof. W. Kinsner
Mr. K. Labertino
Prof. L. Landrum
Ms. A.
Lievana-MacTavish
Ms. H. Loewen
Prof. A. McNicol
Dean D. Mandzuk
Ms. K. Metcalfe
Mr. T. Millington
Prof. B. Milne
Acting Dean, T.
Mondor
Dean J. Mulvale
Ms. T. Nagra
Dean B. O'Connell
Prof. D. Oliver
Ms. S. Olson
Prof. S. Passmore
Prof. T. Peter
Mr. H. Piyadasa
Prof. M. Rastegar
Ms. C. Reitano
Prof. G. Restall
Dr. J. Ristock
Dr. M.-J. Romaniuk
Ms. B. Schott
Prof. A. Schultz
Ms. A. Smith
Mr. T. Smythe
Mr. G. Sobie
Dean R. Urbanowski
Prof. D. Walker
Prof. P. Wener
Dean K. Wittenberg
Mr. J. Leclerc,
University Secretary

Dr. S. Coyston,
Recording Secretary

Assessors Present

Mr. E. A-iyeh
Mr. J. Adams
Mr. A. Coelho Reis
Ms. M. Goldberg
Ms. D. Hallock
Prof. D.
Hiebert-Murphy
Mr. N. Marnoch
Prof. K. Matheos
Prof. J. Morrill
Dr. D. Stewart
Dr. M. Torchia
Mr. M. Trembath

Regrets

Dr. C. Adams
Mr. J.-V. Auclair
Dean M. Benarroch
Very Rev. R. Bozyk
Mr. M. Chu
Dr. D. Collins
Ms. S. Connelly
Recteur G. Csepregi
Dr. F. Deer
Dr. J. Doering
Mr. S. Dorge
Prof. B. Elias
Mr. M. Gussakovsky
Dr. D. Jayas
Prof. S. Karimi
Mr. J. Kearsey
Dr. J. Keselman
Ms. C. LeBlanc-Tod
Prof. S. McClement
Ms. J. McConnell
Ms. J. Minarik
Ms. D.
Nedohin-Macek
Prof. D. Polyzois
Ms. E. Popowich

Dr. H. Sexter
Prof. B. Shay
Prof. G. Smith
Prof. C. Trott
Ms. C. Van
De Kerckhove
Prof. B.-C. Wang
Mr. B.
Warnakulasooriya
Ms. A. Wickens

Absent

Prof. C. Anderson
Prof. John Anderson
Mr. J. Bass
Prof. R. Bhullar
Prof. J. Cranston
Prof. R. Currie
Prof. P. Dass
Prof. R. Desai
Prof. W. El-Matar
Dr. G. Glavin
Mr. B. Hill
Prof. S. Logsetty
Prof. D. McMillan
Mr. S. Moulton
Ms. M. Oluwafemi
Dean B. Postl
Prof. H. Singh
Prof. R. Tate
Mr. C. Thomson

Also Present

Ms. D. Carver
Mr. J. Danakas
Ms. C. Davidson
Ms. K. Fanstone
Mr. C. Foster
Ms. C. Friesen
Mr. A. Harland
Ms. C. Hill
Ms. B. Lockie
Ms. M. MacDonald

Ms. K.
McQuarrie-Smith
Ms. K. Moist
Mr. K. Pieper
Mr. D. Rollins
Ms. V. Shantz
Mr. A. Shaski
Ms. L. Stewart Glor
Ms. S. Utsunomiya
Ms. M. Yoshida

The Chair informed Senate that the Speaker was Professor Archie McNicol, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.

President Barnard thanked Senators for attending the Special Meeting, particularly striking members of UMFA, in order to participate in the discussion of issues of importance to students.

I RECOMMENDATION TO REVISE THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC SCHEDULE DUE TO UMFA LABOUR ACTION

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The Chair invited Dean Halden, Chair, Academic Sub-Committee of the Operational Continuity Committee, to speak to the recommendation.

Dean Halden said the Academic Sub-Committee had produced responses to frequently asked questions (FAQs) to inform students and to indicate to faculty members how to manage certain questions. He anticipated that the nature of the questions would evolve over the duration of the UMFA strike and indicated that the FAQs, which had been posted on a webpage with strike information, would be updated. Dean Halden said questions received from students had changed, as the end of the Fall Term approached, reflecting concerns about how they would complete the term and how the strike would affect the Voluntary Withdrawal deadline and dates for the end of term and final exams.

Dean Halden said the Academic Sub-Committee had considered a series of scenarios involving what would happen if the strike were to continue for five, ten, and 15 working days, if it were to last that long. The Sub-Committee had sought advice on how to handle some questions from Faculty Bargaining Services and from other institutions that have experienced faculty strikes. Dean Halden said, recognizing concerns among the University community, the Sub-Committee had already communicated that dates for the winter break, in December, would not be affected. He noted that several of the proposed scenarios include a Mid-Term Break in the Winter Term.

Dean Halden invited questions on a framework document included with the agenda, that outlines several scenarios for modified Fall and Winter Terms, which vary according to the length of the strike, and includes a series of recommendation, for Senate's consideration.

a) Report of the Senate Executive Committee

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Professor McNicol said Senate Executive had met on November 9, 2016, to consider a recommendation from the Academic Sub-Committee of the Operational Continuity Committee, to revise the 2016 – 2017 Academic Schedule due to the UMFA labour action. The proposal outlines modifications to important dates for the standard Fall and Winter Terms, with different scenarios, assuming a two-, three-, four-, and five-week strike. Senate Executive had endorsed proposed revisions to the 2016-2017 Academic Schedule.

Professor McNicol said the recommendation to Senate takes into account a number of observations made by Senate Executive.

Professor McNicol MOVED, on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee, THAT Senate approve the following recommendations:

THAT the effective date for the Limited Access provision be adjusted to the Winter Term 2018;

THAT the 2016 – 2017 Academic Schedule be revised, with Modified Fall and Winter Terms as set out in the document prepared by the Academic Sub-Committee of the Operational Continuity Committee, and with classes resuming –

- **November 15, assuming a two-week strike**
- **November 16 – 21, assuming a three-week strike**
- **November 22 – 28, assuming a four-week strike**
- **November 29 – December 5, assuming a five-week strike;**

THAT student requests for incomplete or continuing grade/course status be sympathetically considered, wherever appropriate, and that such requests not be unreasonably denied;

THAT students be permitted to request deferred examinations and that such requests not be unreasonably denied;

THAT academic unit heads and academic staff ensure that students who chose to not cross the picket lines are reasonably accommodated with respect to any missed material, assignments or tests; and

THAT the Senate Executive Committee, in accordance with its normal powers “to deal with contingencies that arise between meetings of Senate” is empowered to make any further revisions to the Academic Schedule required to complete the Fall and Winter Terms, including any unit or program specific changes requested by Faculties, Colleges and Schools, and to report thereon to Senate.

Professor Chen proposed an amendment to recommendation 5, to ensure that all students, including those who chose to cross the picket line and those who did not, would be treated fairly when classes resumed.

Professor Chen MOVED, seconded by Professor Hultin, THAT recommendation 5, in the document “Scheduling Considerations to Respond to Strikes of Various Durations,” be amended to specify that all students, whether they chose to attend classes or to not cross the picket line, be treated fairly.

CARRIED

Professor Rastegar asked if there would be accommodations for graduate students if it were necessary to reschedule a thesis defense as a result of the strike. In particular, she asked about deadlines for submitting a final copy of the thesis to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and for graduation. Acting Dean Mondor said the particular accommodations that would be made were being discussed. These include the possibility of adjusting the February graduation deadline.

Ms. Kilgour thanked the Academic Sub-Committee, Administration, and faculty members for their focus on students and what they are experiencing during the strike. She said it is important for students to have a clear idea of how the Fall and Winter Terms would be affected, and the outlines provided were crucial for relieving students' stress loads.

Ms. Kilgour expressed support for a recommendation to adjust the effective date for the Limited Access provision, in the *Repeated Course* policy, to the 2018 Winter Term. She requested that consideration also be given to the possibility that Voluntary Withdrawals (VWs) would not be noted on students' records. There would be some students who might elect to withdraw from a course(s) given difficulties with the schedule for a modified term or not having received feedback.

Dean Halden said students' concerns had been a primary consideration of the Academic Sub-Committee. He said a smaller working group was investigating how to address students' concerns about VWs.

Ms. Kilgour said students were also concerned about the possibility of having no Mid-Term Break in the Winter Term, as set out in the scenarios assuming a four-week and a five-week strike. She said many students plan their academic year around the Mid-Term Break, which provides an opportunity for mental health recuperation. Ms. Kilgour acknowledged that, if the end of the Winter Term and the start of the Summer Term were delayed, international students who had to return home by a certain deadline, students in residence, and students hoping to graduate in order to move on to other programs or opportunities would be affected. She proposed that, should the strike continue for four or five weeks, consideration be given to a shortened Mid-Term Break that would encompass the long weekend including Louis Riel Day (February 20, 2017). It would be necessary to extend the Winter Term, but only by a few days, while still giving students a study break.

Dean Halden said, with respect to the possibility that the Mid-Term Break would be eliminated in the four- and five-week strike scenarios, that the Academic Sub-Committee had consider the possibility of using Louis Riel Day. He suggested that the option should not be ruled out.

Mr. Marnoch said some things would depend on the date that classes actually resume. Assuming the strike were to last four weeks, he said the Fall Term exams would end on a Saturday and Winter Term classes would begin the following Monday, so there would be no flexibility to add days at the beginning of the Winter Term. In order to ensure that every class would have between 37.5 and 39 teaching hours, which would be a normal term, and that the Winter Term would end on time at the end of April, it also would not be able to add days to the end of that term. He said 36 teaching hours would be the minimum possible, but there would be a concern among some professional programs about meeting accreditation requirements.

Dean Halden raised the possibility, based on advice the Academic Sub-Committee had received, that some faculties might establish modified academic schedules that were unique to their programs.

Professor Hultin spoke in favour of the suggestion to use the long weekend including Louis Riel Day in order to offer a Mid-Term Break in the Winter Term.

Professor Oliver recalled that, when Senate had approved a Mid-Term Break for the Fall Term (Senate, November 4, 2015), there had been a discussion about time constraints, with respect to the number of teaching hours, even where there was no interruption to the term, particularly for courses with laboratories. He also recalled that there was to be a review of the impact of the Fall Break on the Fall Term teaching scheduled. He said it would be important to consider that the pressures of a compressed exam period and the tightness of lab schedules might also impact students' stress levels and mental health, considerations that were taken into account when Senate established the Fall Break.

Professor Judy Anderson said flexibility would be necessary with respect to the policy and procedures on *Responsibilities of Academic Staff with regard to Students*, which require that sufficient notice be provided regarding the types and timing of evaluations in a course, for example. She said it is likely that it would be necessary to accommodate last minute changes to some courses.

A vote was called on the main motion.

The motion was **CARRIED**, as amended.

II ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

These minutes, pages 1 to 6, together with the agenda, pages 1 to 17, comprise the minutes of the Special Meeting of Senate held on November 10, 2016.