

Minutes of a meeting of Senate held on the above date at 1:30 p.m. Remotely via Zoom Audio Conference

Members Present

Dr. M. Benarroch,
Chair
Dr. A. Abra
Dr. C. Adams
Mr. A.K.M. Alam
Prof. A. Alessi-Severini
Prof. J. Anderson
Ms. N. Andrew
Ms. M. Babb
Dr. J. Blatz
Prof. T. Bone
Rectrice S. Bouffard
Very Rev. R. Bozyk
Dean D. Brown
Prof. A. Bunt
Mr. J. Cariou
Ms. K. Cebula
Prof. R. Chernomas
Prof. M. Chung
Prof. N. Cicek
Prof. G. Clark
Prof. R. Currie
Mr. Wm. Dowie
Dean N. Dyck
Prof. E. Eftekharpour
Ms. K. Everitt
Prof. M. Faubert
Prof. S. Ferris
Prof. C. Figley
Prof. J. Frank
Dean M. Friesen
Prof. Y. Gajpal
Ms. S. George
Prof. J.-E. Ghia
Prof. J. Ghomeshi
Prof. N. Greidanus
Prof. A. Halayko
Prof. G. Hicks
Dr. D. Hiebert-Murphy
Prof. M. Hudson
Prof. D. Ireland
Dr. D. Jayas
Prof. I. Jeffrey
Dean R. Jochelson

Dean E. Jurkowski
Mr. M. Kalkat
Dean A. Kelekis-
Cholakis
Ms. K. Kerr
Ms. A. Kilgour
Mr. M. Koldon
Prof. J. Lavoie
Mr. A. Leslie
Dean M. Locher
Prof. L. MacDonald
Prof. K. MacKendrick
Prof. M. McKenzie
Chancellor A. Mahon
Acting Dean K. Main
Prof. S. Mallory-Hill
Acting Dean D.
Mandzuk
Dean B. Mark
Prof. D. Martin
Mr. D. Ness
Mx. K. O'Brien
Ms. Z. Odribets
Ms. L. O'Hara
Prof. D. Oliver
Ms. S. Palani
Prof. J. Paliwal
Prof. S. Passmore
Prof. J. Peeler
Prof. T. Peter
Ms. S. Phillips
Dean B. Postl
Prof. G. Prehna
Prof. S. Prentice
Dean K. Ragoonaden
Dean L. Raman-Wilms
Prof. A. Raouf
Ms. G. Romund
Dean. M. Scanlon
Ms. L. Schnarr
Mr. B. Scott
Ms. P. Segal
Mr. M. Shaw
Acting Dean B.
Silvestre
Prof. J. Sinclair

Mr. G. Sobie
Prof. J. Sorensen
Prof. V. Sparks
Mr. R. Talukder
Dean J. Taylor
Prof. G. Thompson
Prof. G. Tranmer
Dean R. Urbanowski
Prof. J. van Lierop
Mr. A. Vij
Ms. M. Villegas
Prof. D. Walker
Prof. D. Watt
Prof. S. Webber
Dean M. Yellow Bird
Prof. F. Zeiler
Mr. J. Leclerc,
University Secretary
Dr. S. Coyston,
Recording Secretary

Assessors Present

Mr. J. Adams
Ms. C. Cyr
Ms. E. Kalo
Prof. S. Kirkland
Prof. R. Lastra
Dr. T. Mondor
Ms. D. Radi
Ms. S. Sekander
Prof. G. Smith
Dr. D. Stewart
Prof. E. Thomson
Dr. M. Torchia
Ms. B. Usick

Regrets

Prof. M. Ballard
Prof. R. Biscontri
Prof. S. Clark
Dr. C. Cook
Dr. J. Doering
Prof. A. Farenhorst
Prof. A. Farrell

Mr. J. Funk
Prof. M. Garcia-
Holguera
Mr. J. Kearsey
Prof. H. Luo
Prof. D. Mackey
Ms. A. McGregor
Prof. K. McManus
Prof. C. Miller
Ms. C. Neilson
Dean S. Pflugmacher
Lima
Prof. K. Scott
Prof. R. Souleymanov

Absent

Prof. P. Blunden
Prof. N. Boorberg
Ms. M. Bremfowaa-
Mensah
Prof. R. Field
Mr. V. Krishnan
Prof. Q. Mujawar
Prof. G. Nickel
Ms. K. Nicolasora
Prof. T. Reeve
Ms. H. Smeltzer
Prof. M. Tamtik

Also Present

Mr. R. Daudet
Ms. C. Davidson
Prof. M. Edwards
Ms. P. Gareau
Ms. M. Macintosh
Ms. K. McQuarrie-Smith
Ms. M. Novak
Ms. L. Orsak-Williams
Prof. J. Peyton
Ms. P. Trupish
Ms. M. Watson
Mr. C. Yendt

The Chair informed Senate that the Speaker of the Senate Executive Committee was Dean Ed Jurkowski, Desautels Faculty of Music.

The Chair observed that the agenda had been set by the Senate Executive Committee prior to the start of the strike by the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA).

The Chair invited Dr. Torchia, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) to speak to an issue that had arisen related to students' access to course materials in the online learning platform UMLearn and faculty members' right to not make course materials available.

Dr. Torchia said, to facilitate students' learning, course materials for all classes, including those considered not active because the instructor was a striking UMFA member, would be available through UMLearn by the end of the day. Members of UMFA would continue to have access to UMLearn and could elect to remove their course materials. Any UMFA member who required assistance to remove course materials could contact the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning.

Recommendations from the Academic and Research Team of the Continuity Committee

(Addendum to Agenda)

The Chair referred Senators to an addendum to the agenda that had been circulated by electronic mail on November 1st. The addendum included a series of recommendations from the Academic and Research Team of the Continuity Committee concerning matters arising from the strike. The Chair said, under the Rules of Senate, he had agreed that these urgent matters should be added to the agenda. He proposed that Senate consider these recommendations before dealing with other items of business on the agenda.

The Chair invited Dr. Torchia, in his capacity as Chair of the Academic and Research Team, to speak to the recommendations.

Dr. Torchia said the Academic and Research Team had identified actions to ensure students' academic interests and to provide clarity to students during the course of the strike. The Team had reviewed recommendations approved by Senate (November 10, 2016) during the previous strike and had taken into account some unique circumstances of the current term. Dr. Torchia briefly reviewed the recommendations, as set out in his memo to Mr. Leclerc, University Secretary, dated November 1, 2021, including a recommendation that Senate Executive, in accordance with its normal powers to deal with contingencies that arise between meetings of Senate, be empowered to make certain decisions on behalf of Senate. The agendas and minutes of these meetings would be made available on the University Governance website and all members of Senate would be informed of any actions taken by the Senate Executive Committee.

Dr. Torchia said the Academic and Research Team would work with the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Services to identify any necessary changes to the Academic Schedule, to work through any issues that might arise, and to bring forward any recommendations for approval by the Senate Executive Committee, as required.

Dr. Torchia noted, for Senators' information, that the 2021 Fall Term Break that was scheduled for November 8 – 12 would proceed as planned.

Dean Brown MOVED, seconded by Dean Kelekis-Cholakakis, that Senate approve the recommendations of the Academic and Research Team, including:

- **THAT academic unit heads and academic staff ensure that students who choose not to cross picket lines, real or virtual, are reasonably accommodated with respect to any missed material, assignments, or tests and that all students, whether they choose to attend classes or to not cross the picket line, be treated fairly;**
- **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 section 2.6 of the *Voluntary Withdrawal* policy for the Fall 2021 Term be suspended, and that the Provost be authorized to amend the *Voluntary Withdrawal* date for the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 Terms, if required and report thereon to Senate;**
- **THAT the verification of enrolment processes for Senate-approved scholarships and bursaries for the 2021-2022 academic year be suspended in response to a possible increase in the number of voluntary withdrawals;**

Further,

- **THAT the Senate Executive Committee, in accordance with its normal powers “to deal with contingencies that arise between meetings of Senate” be empowered to:**
 - **approve revisions to the Academic Schedule for the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 Terms, as recommended by the Academic and Research Team; including, but not limited to, changes in dates to the first and last days of classes, term breaks, exam periods, and any unit or program specific changes requested by the Faculties, Colleges and Schools; and**
 - **approve the temporary modification or suspension of academic policies required to facilitate the completion of the Fall and Winter Terms.**

In response to several questions, Dr. Torchia confirmed the proposed accommodations for students who choose not to cross the picket line, would also apply to students in classes taught either fully or partly through remote delivery, by instructors who were not UMFA members, and by UMFA members who had chosen to continue teaching.

In response to a question, Mr. Leclerc confirmed the recommendations were effectively the same as those approved by Senate in 2016 and similar in spirit to the motion approved by Senate during the 1995 UMFA strike. Dr. Torchia said one difference was to confirm that the 2021 Fall Term break would proceed as planned. The 2016-2017 Academic Schedule did not include a Fall Term Break.

Professor Clark proposed an amendment to the second and third recommendations, which pertain to protecting students who chose not to cross the picket line to attend classes. Specifically, he proposed that the final phrase, “... and that such requests not be unreasonably denied,” be amended to read, “... and that such requests not be denied, up to the point of undue hardship.” The proposed language was used in case law related to accommodations under

human rights legislation. It would make clear the extent to which instructors must accommodate students' requests for academic considerations and might prompt them to think about the types of adjustments that could be made, where a student chose to exercise their right not to cross a picket line.

Professor Clark MOVED, seconded by Professor Sparks, THAT the second and third recommendations be amended to read:

- **THAT student requests for incomplete or continuing grade/course status be sympathetically considered, wherever appropriate, and that such requests not be denied, up to the point of undue hardship.**
- **THAT students be permitted to request deferred examinations and that such requests not be denied, up to the point of undue hardship.**

Ms. Kalo asked for assurance that students' requests for incomplete or continuing grade/course status and for deferred examinations would be considered and handled equitably across programs and academic units.

Mr. Dowie suggested, if the amendment to the recommendation was approved, that any communications to faculty and students include a preamble explaining what was meant by the language, "up to the point of undue hardship."

Ms. Kilgour supported the amendment to the main motion, as it was clearer language, and the suggestion to provide some explanation of the language in any communications. She proposed that a brief definition of the principles of undue hardship and some examples might be included, for those without a legal background.

Dr. Torchia supported the suggestions concerning additional information to be included in any communications.

Mr. Leclerc recalled that, following the strike in 2016, there were no student appeals at the Senate level related to students having been treated unfairly by an instructor, advisor, or staff members in a Dean's office.

In response to a question, Professor Clark clarified that the proposed language concerned undue hardship for the instructors rather than students.

Professor Shaw spoke in favour of the amendment to the motion. He remarked that the proposed language should apply not only to instructors; various members of the University community, including administrative and support staff in Dean's offices and senior administrators must respect students' political right not to cross the picket line without academic penalty.

Professor Bunt supported the amendment to the motion. She asked about the expectations for Sessional Instructors, should any students in their classes choose to not cross the picket line and whether additional support or compensation would be provided.

President Benarroch said he could not comment at that point in time, as there was no information on the number of students involved and it was not known how long the strike would last. He said he would take the questions back for consideration.

Professor Prenha asked whether students would be required to declare their intent to not cross the picket line. As many courses were being offered in an asynchronous format, given the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not necessary for students to cross a picket line, as course materials continued to be accessible in UMLearn. Acting Dean Silvestre said a clear process was required, so instructors were aware of the students in their classes who have chosen not to cross the picket line and to require those students to declare their intent now rather than retroactively.

Dr. Torchia said students who intended to not cross the picket line would advise their instructors, as instructors would need this information for their planning in the course. He indicated this requirement could be noted in the communication to students. He proposed that a form might be developed and made available on the strike information website, with instructions on where to submit the completed form.

Mr. Leclerc observed that the second and third recommendations related not only to students' right to not cross the picket line but to other impacts the strike might have on their studies.

Ms. Kalo expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Student Senate Caucus, for the efforts made to bring forward the proposed recommendations and the amendments to these. She supported the recommendations, with the proposed amendments.

The Chair called for a vote on the amendment to the motion.

CARRIED

The Chair called for a vote on the main motion.

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

I MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION - none

II MATTERS RECOMMENDED FOR CONCURRENCE WITHOUT DEBATE

1. **Proposed 2022-2023 Academic Schedule** Page 4
2. **Proposal for a Micro-Certificate in Artificial Intelligence: Machine Learning Solutions, Division of Extended Education** Page 27

Dean Jurkowski **MOVED**, on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee, **THAT** Senate approve:

- the proposed 2022 – 2023 Academic Schedule;
- a proposal for a Micro-Certificate in Artificial Intelligence: Machine Learning Solutions, Division of Extended Education.

CARRIED

III MATTERS FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION

1. **Report of the Senate Committee on Awards [September 23, 2021]** Page 45

2. **In Memoriam: Dr. Alvin Wexler** Page 51

Professor Oliver offered a memorial tribute to Dr. Alvin Wexler, who was a member of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, in the Faculty of Engineering, from 1967 until his retirement in 1993, following which he was named Professor Emeritus, in recognition of his significant scholarly contributions in the field of computational electromagnetics.

3. **Correspondence from Provost and Vice-President (Academic)**

- a) **RE: Closure of Master of Science in Family Social Sciences** Page 52

- b) **RE: Implementation of Articulation Agreement, University of Manitoba, B.Sc. Degrees in Engineering – UCSI College, American Degree Transfer Program** Page 54

4. **Items Approved by the Board of Governors [October 4, 2021]** Page 55

IV REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1. **Consultation: Search for a Vice-President (Research and International)** Page 56

President Benarroch said the consultation on the search for a new Vice-President (Research and International) would be deferred to a later meeting.

President Benarroch provided an update on the transition to campus including the requirement that faculty, staff, students, and visitors to campus be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by the end of October 2021. He said many people had not uploaded proof of their vaccination status and reminded Senators that, after November 15, individuals coming to campus who were not fully vaccinated would need to be tested. Anyone who had not registered their proof of vaccination would be treated as unvaccinated. It was crucial that fully vaccinated individuals whether or not they were attending campus upload their proof of vaccination, to facilitate planning that would keep the campus safe.

Commenting on some unfortunate incidents on the picket line aimed at faculty who were on strike, President Benarroch reminded members of the University community to be respectful of UMFA members' right to strike. The University was built on a collegial framework and respect for people's different views was crucial. President Benarroch noted that security would be present at entrances to the University campuses beginning that day.

V QUESTION PERIOD

Senators are reminded that questions related to matters not on the agenda shall normally be submitted in writing to the University Secretary no later than 10:00 a.m. of

the Monday preceding the meeting. Questions pertaining to items on the agenda can be asked during the Senate meeting and do not require submission in advance.

The following question was received from Professor Thomson, UMFA Assessor:

Dr. Hiebert-Murphy said in the Meeting of Senate of 6th October that "the proposal to establish the Faculty of Health Sciences . . . does not specify that the Dean of the Faculty would also serve as the Dean of the College of Medicine but it also does not preclude this possibility." Members of other colleges have expressed concern that posting both positions together sets a precedent that would effectively unify the two positions and precludes the possibility of faculty in other colleges serving as Dean of Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Given this possibility, I would like to know:

- Has there been a process of evaluation of the costs and benefits of the merger of the five colleges into the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences?
- Who has conducted the evaluation and what was considered in that evaluation?
- Did the evaluation consider the financial benefits of merging the faculty, and do we know whether the merger resulted in any reduction in costs?

Dr. Hiebert-Murphy said, to her knowledge, and in light of the fact that the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences was still evolving, there had not been a formal evaluation of the costs and benefits of the merger. Consistent feedback from several sources, including from the community as part of the review and renewal of the current Dean and from recent meetings with Deans and faculty in the constituent Colleges, was that there had been demonstrable gains resulting from the merger, including in terms of advancing interprofessional education and collaboration, coordinating student services and supports, and leveraging and coordinating administrative resources. Also, the Faculty structure had supported the advancement of important equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and reconciliation priorities, including the creation of Ongomiizwin and an anti-racism and EDI strategy. The development of an integrated accreditation unit that had supported the successful accreditation cycle for all the Colleges within the Faculty. All of the accreditation reports had noted the positive impacts of the Faculty structure.

Dr. Hiebert-Murphy said the shift to faculty-wide administrative structures, including for human resources, finance, legal, information services and technology, and capital projects and spaces, had resulted in savings greater than \$1 million. The savings had allowed for greater investments in supports for students and faculty members, including the creation of a student health clinic and an emergency bursary program, laboratory upgrades, and enhancements to study spaces, learning management and information technology structures, and security measures at the Bannatyne Campus, as well as support for research start-ups.

Dr. Hiebert-Murphy recalled that the purpose for creating the Faculty was to advance excellence in health care through innovative research and health professional education that supports collaboration. All members of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences had reason to be proud of their individual contributions and collective efforts in achieving this goal. Dr. Hiebert-Murphy commended Dean Post for his leadership in implementing the vision for the Faculty.

**VI CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2021**

Professor Faubert **MOVED**, seconded by Dean Jurkowski, **THAT** the minutes of the Senate meeting held on October 6, 2021 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

VII BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - none

**VIII REPORTS OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND THE SENATE PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**

1. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Page 57

Dean Jurkowski said the Senate Executive met on October 20, 2021. The committee made a recommendation on nominations for two vacancies for student members on the Senate Committee on Nominations. Other comments of the committee accompany the reports on which they were made.

Dean Jurkowski MOVED, on behalf of the committee, THAT the nomination of Kimberly Nicolasora and Stefan Urbano (student members) to the Senate Committee on Nominations be approved by Senate, for terms commencing upon Senate approval and ending May 31, 2022.

CARRIED

**2. Report of the Senate
Planning and Priorities Committee**

Professor Watt said the Senate Planning and Priorities Committee (SPPC) had met on October 25, 2021, to discuss a Report from the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources concerning a proposal for a Bachelor of Science (Major) and a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Geoscience. The committee considered draft reports from the SPPC on program proposals from the Faculty of Arts that were currently before the committee, including for a Bachelor of Arts (Single Advanced Major) and Bachelor of Arts (Double Advanced Major) in German, a Bachelor of Arts (Single Honours) in Global Political Economy, and a Micro-Diploma in Workplace Health and Safety.

Professor Watt said comments of the committee on other matters accompany the recommendations to which they refer.

**IX REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES OF SENATE,
FACULTY AND SCHOOL COUNCILS**

**1. Report of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Arts
RE: Name Change for Department of Native Studies Page 60**

Mr. Sobie reported that the Department Council of the Department of Native Studies had met on October 22, 2020 and had voted in favour of a motion to

change the name of the Department to the “Department of Indigenous Studies.” The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Arts endorsed the change at its meeting on September 1, 2021. The proposed name reflects ongoing commitments led by the Department to change terminology in course listings from “Native” to “Indigenous” as well as the internationalization of Native Studies as a subfield of the discipline of Indigenous studies.

Mr. Sobie MOVED, seconded by Professor MacDonald, THAT Senate recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Report of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Arts concerning a proposal to change the name of the Department of Native Studies to the “Department of Indigenous Studies,” effective January 1, 2022.

CARRIED

2. **Report of the Faculty Council of the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources** Page 62
RE: Changes to Credential, B.Sc.G.Sc. to B.Sc., and to Program Names, General Degree and Minor in Geological Sciences

The Chair invited Professor Peyton, Associate Dean (Academic), Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, to speak to the Report.

Professor Peyton said the Department of Earth Sciences was proposing to change the credential for its degree programs in Geological Sciences, Geology, and Geophysics, from a Bachelor of Science Geological Sciences to a Bachelor of Science, as described in the attachments to the Report. Also, consistent with a previous proposal to change the department name to the Department of Earth Sciences from the Department of Geological Sciences (Senate, April 7, 2021; Board of Governors, April 20, 2021), it was proposing to change the name of the General program in Geological Sciences to “Earth Sciences.”

Professor Sinclair MOVED, seconded by Dean Scanlon, THAT Senate approve changes to the program names for the General Degree and Minor in Geological Sciences to “Earth Sciences,” effective 2022 Fall Term; and THAT Senate approve a proposal to change the credential for the Bachelor of Science Geological Sciences to “Bachelor of Science,” effective upon approval by the Province of Manitoba.

CARRIED

3. **Reports of the Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation**

a) **RE: Faculty of Arts Academic Regulations**

(i) **Basic Regulations for Micro-Diploma Programs** Page 76

- Comments of the Senate Executive Committee Page 77

Dr. Torchia said the Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation (SCIE) had met on September 16, 2021, to consider a proposal from the Faculty of Arts, to establish basic regulations for any Micro-Diploma programs that might be established within the Faculty. He briefly reviewed the regulations, including for: (i) entrance or admission, which required current students, who declared an intention to complete a Micro-Diploma, to be good academic standing and applicants not enrolled in a degree to meet the Direct or Advanced Entry admission requirements for the Faculty; (ii) a minimum time to completion of four years after declaring an intent to complete a Micro-Diploma; (iii) no minimum credit hour load; (iv) minimum required grades, including a minimum average of C on all courses required in the program with no grade lower than a D; (v) residency, which would require all courses to be taught at the University of Manitoba; (vi) a provision for courses completed towards a Micro-Diploma to be used toward a degree and vice versa.

Dean Jurkowski said the Senate Executive Committee had received the Report of SCIE regarding a proposal to establish basic regulations for any Micro-Diploma program that might be offered by the Faculty of Arts. Consistent with normal practice, SCIE had recommended that the regulations take effect for the Fall Term of the next academic year (September 1, 2022). As the Faculty of Arts also has a proposal to establish a Micro-Diploma in Workplace Health and Safety, which will be brought to Senate in due course and which the Faculty hopes will be implemented in January 2022, the Senate Executive Committee was recommending that Senate approve the Report of SCIE, effective for the 2022 Winter Term.

Dr. Torchia MOVED, on behalf of the committee, THAT Senate approve the Report of the Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation concerning a proposal to establish Basic Regulations for Micro-Diploma Programs in the Faculty of Arts, effective for the 2022 Winter Term.

CARRIED

(ii) Revised Honours and Residency Requirements

Page 81

Dr. Torchia recalled that, at its meeting on November 4, 2020, Senate had approved revisions to the entrance, continuation, and graduation requirements for Bachelor of Arts degrees, to align with the University's *Grade Point Averages* policy. That proposal had included revised language to add the word "minimum" before the number credit hours required for graduation, for the Bachelor of Arts (General), Bachelor of Arts (Advanced), and Bachelor of Arts Integrated Studies degrees. The Faculty was now proposing that the same revision be made to the graduation requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degrees, to require a minimum of 120 credit hours.

Dr. Torchia said the Faculty was proposing changes to the residency requirements for all of its degree programs, to indicate the minimum

number of credit hours required for the degrees, for consistency with changes to language in the graduation requirements, as well as the minimum number of credit hours that must be completed at the University of Manitoba, including for students who transfer from the Université de Saint-Boniface.

Dr. Torchia MOVED, on behalf of the committee, THAT Senate approve the Report of the Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation concerning revised Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Residency Requirements, Faculty of Arts, effective September 1, 2022.

CARRIED

b) **RE: Self-Declaration for Brief and Temporary Absences, Proposed Policy and Procedure**, Page 89

Dr. Torchia said that, at the same meeting, SCIE had considered a proposal to establish a policy and procedure on *Self-Declaration for Brief and Temporary Absences*, for students making a request for academic consideration within a course. The committee had observed that:

- without a University level policy, there was the possibility for inconsistent requirements with respect to documentation across academic units;
- in 2010, a sub-committee of SCIE established to review policies and processes related to deferred examinations, had observed that the requirement for medical documentation resulted in strain on the health care system;
- many other institutions have moved to a self-declaration model;
- following a pilot project, the College of Nursing had decided to continue using a self-declaration model;
- at a Special Meeting of Senate Executive on March 18, 2020, the committee had approved, on behalf of Senate, that students not be required to provide medical notes in support of absences during the COVID-19 pandemic, given difficulties attending physician appointments.

Dr. Torchia said the proposed policy and procedure would change only the documentation required where a student, who was unable to complete a scheduled test, examination, or assignment requested an academic consideration. Students would be required to provide a self-declaration form rather than a medical note or other documentation. Further documentation could be requested of a student, if it was felt to be necessary. There would be no impacts on any other University-level policies or procedures or any Faculty/College/School academic regulations or processes by which students would make a request for an academic consideration within a course.

Dr. Torchia MOVED, on behalf of the committee, THAT Senate approve the Report of the Senate Committee on Instruction and Evaluation concerning a proposal for a *Self-Declaration for Brief and Temporary Absences* policy and procedure, effective September 1, 2022.

Ms. Kilgour asked if the reasons for the 2022 Fall Term effective date were logistical ones. She suggested the proposed policy and procedure would be useful to students in the shorter term, particularly in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Torchia said there was a series of steps that would need to occur before the policy and procedure could be implemented. He noted that a decision taken by Senate Executive on behalf of Senate, in March 2020, that students not be required to provide medical notes for absences during the pandemic would continue to be in effect until the proposed policy and procedure were implemented.

Professor Currie asked whether there would be a mechanism to track students who submit multiple self-declaration forms for absences, including across academic units, given many students complete courses offered by more than one department and/or faculty, college, or school.

Dr. Torchia said academic units would follow any procedures currently in place for keeping track of students who provide medical or other documentation for brief and temporary absences.

President Benarroch suggested it might be useful to consider a process for tracking this information across academic units, if appropriate. If there was a pattern, it might be a sign of a student who was in distress or in need of academic or other supports.

In response to some Senators' observations that it might sometimes be appropriate to refer students with multiple absences to Student Accessibility Services (SAS), Dr. Stewart said it was always appropriate to refer a student if an instructor had questions or concerns about a potential disability. If there was a disability that could be documented through SAS and accommodated, this would be the appropriate approach. If the reason for a student's absences did not meet the criteria for a disability but did require a temporary concession, this would be decided through established procedures within the relevant Faculty, College, or School.

CARRIED

4. Report of the Senate Committee on Nominations

Page 106

Professor Edwards said the Senate Committee on Nominations had met on October 7, 2021, to make nominations to address outstanding vacancies on

several Senate committees, primarily for students representatives, in addition to one vacancy for a faculty member.

Professor Edwards MOVED, on behalf of the committee, THAT Senate approve the Report of the Senate Committee on Nominations [dated October 7, 2021].

CARRIED

5. Reports of Senate Committee on University Research

a) RE: Revisions to Animal Care and Use Policy

Page 111

Dr. Jayas said the *Animal Care and Use* policy would be revised to add definitions for Abbreviated Protocol for Minimal Animal Involvement, Animal Care Coordinator, Collaborator and Collaborative Project, Research Personnel, and Off-site Housing, to provide greater clarity for personnel involved with the use of animals in research and teaching.

Dr. Jayas said SCUR was recommending the revised policy be approved.

Dr. Jayas MOVED, on behalf of the committee, THAT Senate approve the Report of the Senate Committee on University Research concerning revisions to the *Animal Care and Use* policy, effective upon approval.

Dean Scanlon asked if the proposed changes would lead to a two-step phase for the Animal Care Committee (ACC), including the need for the committee to approve a protocol for minimal animal involvement before a researcher would apply to the ACC for the use of animals in research.

Dr. Jayas replied that there would be no change to the procedure on *Animal Care and Use*. The only changes were to the policy, to add several definitions, including the definition for Abbreviated Protocol for Minimal Animal Involvement, which is already included in the procedure.

CARRIED

b) RE: Revisions to Terms of Reference for the Evelyn Wyrzykowski Research Chair in Cardiology

Page 118

Dr. Jayas said the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences was proposing revisions to the terms of reference for the Evelyn Wyrzykowski Research Chair in Cardiology, to reflect the St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation's withdrawal from the project. The method of funding and the qualifications for the Chair would be revised. The Chair would be funded by a \$3 million endowment and funding was in place to support the Chair.

Dr. Jayas said SCUR was recommending that revisions to the terms of reference for the Chair be approved.

Dr. Jayas MOVED, on behalf of the committee, THAT Senate recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Report of the Senate Committee on University Research concerning revised terms of reference for the Evelyn Wyrzykowski Research Chair in Cardiology, effective upon approval by the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

X ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

1. Revisions to Election of the Chancellor Policy

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Mr. Leclerc informed Senate that the election of a Chancellor, which is carried out every three years, is guided by the *Election of the Chancellor* policy. As Chancellor Mahon's first term will conclude in the spring, the Office of the University Secretary was preparing for an election early in the new year. In reviewing the policy, a gap that is covered in similar policies at other institutions was identified. Specifically, the current policy has no provision for the Chancellor Search Committee to consider and recommend an incumbent Chancellor for reappointment without launching a full nomination process. Proposed revisions to the policy would establish a process for the Chancellor Search Committee to review and evaluate an incumbent Chancellor and make a recommendation for reappointment to the Committee of Election.

Mr. Leclerc said, because the Chancellor is elected by the Committee of Election, which is a joint committee of Senate and the Board of Governors, changes to the policy had been considered and were approved by the Board Executive Committee at its meeting on November 2, 2021.

Acting Dean Mandzuk MOVED, seconded by Professor Raouf, THAT Senate recommend that the Board of Governors approve revisions to the *Election of the Chancellor* policy, effective upon approval by the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

XI ADJOURNMENT

President Benarroch said he appreciated Senators participation in the meeting. He observed that the strike was difficult on all members of the University and expressed his hope that a resolution would be reached soon and that the community would come back together closer than in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

These minutes pages 1 to 14, together with the agenda, pages 1 to 133, and an addendum to the agenda, pages 1 to 6, comprise the minutes of the meeting of Senate held on November 3, 2021.