



SENATE MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, November 30, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), D. Antonowicz, A. Beek, R. Buehler, M.L. Byrne, J. Cairns, M. Cantalini-Williams, L. Chu, A. Clarke, K. Clarke, J. Coolman, M. Coulter, L. Dawe, A. Domurath, C. Dutt, M. Elayyam, E. Felician, W. Gillam, S. Gillies, S. Guardado, A. Herman, P. Ironstone, C. Johnston Turner, I. Joseph, S. Lachapelle, J. Leung, K. Lund, R. Makarov, D. Maoz, R. McGowan, B. McKay, T. McLaren, K. Menon, J. Newman, L. Noronha, A. Parker, S. Pepper, F. Perez, S. Perry, J. Popham, S. Ramsay, M. Ras, H. Richards, J. Schwieter, K. Shankardass, M. Skop, C. Smith, D. Smith, T. Snoddon, D. Thomas, P. Urquhart, M. Walton-Roberts, F. Wang, K. Werbin, B. Wolfe, G. Yun, A. Zaidi, J. Zhan

Regrets: P. Elliott, A. Hansra, M. Khan, E. Mercier, J. Monture, H. Northwood, V. Oliver, C. VanEvery-Albert, J. Wang, D. Yerichuk

Absent: M. Abu-Rshaid, M. Baldwin, T. Dowling, N. Espiritu, A. Essaji, E. Fox-Tree, C. Hoang, S. Isotupa, L. King, C. McAdam, D. Wheatley, K. Zhu

Secretariat: A. Juhik, S. Kelly, A. Kornobis, A. Lukin

1. Open Session

- a. **Call to Order & Approval of the Consent Agenda**, D. MacLatchy
Item 1.d. *Global Strategy* was postponed to allow for further consultation.

The Senate discussed: concerns surrounding the Senior Executive Reports similarity of the last meeting; concerns surrounding the level of consultation with the department of geography on one of the proposed major modifications.

Motion (G. Yun / I. Joseph): that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item 6.a. **Carried.**

b. **Leadership Update**

- i. Report of the President, D. MacLatchy
D. MacLatchy provided an overview of the Office of the President's portfolio including the following: on November 25, Laurier launched programming in support of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence; Laurier launched phase two of a marketing campaign aimed at raising awareness of our research presence and strengths in the Northwest Territories focusing on Dr. Homa Keyrollah Pour and her team's research in ice road monitoring while supporting the University's federal advocacy in areas of priority for the government, including climate change research

and arctic security/sovereignty; the Blue Ribbon Panel released its report in mid-November, further updates would be given later in the meeting; COU has launched a proactive communications campaign in response to the Blue Ribbon Panel's release with messaging that continues to highlight the financial challenges facing the sector after years of declining grants and the tuition cut and freeze as well as the importance of investing in the postsecondary sector to support students and the future prosperity of the province and Canada; D. MacLatchy had an op-ed in the Toronto Star, co-signed with University of Guelph president Charlotte Yates, which focused on how cuts and funding stagnation have disproportionately impacted smaller/regional universities and the value universities like Laurier bring to students and the province which lead to an interview on *The Current*; conversations continued with MCU Minister Jill Dunlop and Deputy Minister David Wai to demonstrate the value Laurier brings to the community and economy; ongoing work with municipal partners to align community goals and advocacy efforts; two VP review committees (for Jonathan Newman and Jason Coolman) had been initiated and updates would be brought to the Senate next term; the Brantford SEO position was being reviewed.

- ii. Report of the Provost and VP Academic, T. McLaren on behalf of H. Northwood

T. McLaren provided an overview of key activities of the Provost & Vice-President: Academic portfolio including the following: that revisions to Senate curriculum change deadlines have been made with a subset of the original changes slated for January Senate to come to March Senate instead; the Provost and Vice-President Academic will be holding a townhall in February; the institutional committee on Generative AI has met twice was targeting the rollout of a statement on the technology for January or February; ongoing work continues in strategic retention and recruitment; all fall open houses had taken place, faculty and staff members who participated in these events were thanked and recognized; the Brantford 5000 committee met and continues to look into avenues for program expansion including the exploration of a law school and further programs with Education; a small group is working to explore the possibility of creating an international high school with an external partner located on the Brantford campus; diversified recruitment efforts are underway for Fall 2024 and partnership development continues with other institutions to create new pathways to Laurier; the university would be co-hosting the Scarborough Charter forum; a number of collaborative grant submissions have gone in recently that, if successful, could transform our ability to offer transformative educational experiences for Indigenous teacher training; safety planning continued to move classes with controversial topics into rooms with two exits; searches for the Dean of the Lazaridis School of Business & Economics and AVP Equity, Diversity & Inclusion were underway; search committee population had begun for the AVP Enrolment Services & Registrar.

- iii. **Report of the Board of Governors, L. Chu**
L. Chu provided an overview of key activities from the November Board of Governors meeting which included the following: the approval of the Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Climate Risk Management as well as the tuition fee for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in computer science; a presentation from Dean Sofie LaChapelle regarding key activities and initiatives in the Faculty of Arts; review of the Strategic Academic Plan; financial updates including the 2023-2024 3-month fiscal results, a 2024-2025 budget planning update, as well as commentary surrounding the Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations as it had just been released the day before the Board meeting.

- iv. **Question Period: Written or Verbal**

The Senate discussed: the University's level of revenue generating activities, indirect cost ratio and cost of administrative staff; ongoing cost trends for the university and within the sector; administration's cost control approach for administrative costs; the University's place as a not-for-profit organization and the impacts this has on profitability; the importance of providing a quality educational experience to students.

A request for a 10-year outlook of the university's financial statements was made and would be followed up on by Senior Leadership.

- c. **Business Arising from the Previous Minutes, D. MacLatchy**
It was noted that changes to the curriculum deadlines were mentioned at the last meeting were included in the consent agenda for information.
- d. **Global Strategy, K. Hogarth**
This item was postponed to a future meeting to allow time for further consultation.

Motion: that the Senate approve the Global Strategy as presented. Postponed.

2. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

- a. **Senate Executive and Finance Committee, D. MacLatchy**
 - i. **Update on Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations, D. MacLatchy / T. McLaren / L. Noronha**

A high-level overview of the Blue-Ribbon Panel Recommendations was provided. It was noted that the Ministry of Colleges and Universities had not yet moved forward on any of the recommendations, and at the time the report was just that. Key recommendations included breaking the tuition freeze for both domestic and professional program and increasing OSAP funding to account for the broken freeze. As it currently stands universities put more into financial aid than OSAP does now. The

University would continue to work externally and advocate, noting upcoming work to be put into SMA4 with the hopes of also eventually achieving corridor growth. Work continues to ensure Board members are financially literate in alignment with the auditor general's report. There was concern surrounding the use of the Noos Group as a standard to benchmark universities. The panel also recommended that universities make 10% cuts to operate as efficiently as possible which was an area for concern given the level of cuts universities have had to make due to tuition cuts. The report also calls on institutions to utilize international student recruitment with support.

The Senate was presented with a breakdown of what a 5% domestic tuition increase as well as a 3% increase to professional programs would look like and how it would contribute to the University noting that it would equate to about \$7 million for domestic programs and another \$1 million for professional programs. A 5% increase would be the upper boundary of what the government may approve. It was calculated that the University could gain \$4-10 million from proposed envelope funding. If all recommendations were taken, the best-case situation could be a \$12-18 million increase. At the time, approximately 2000 students at Laurier were receiving no funding. Budget planning would utilize scenario planning to account for potential outcomes of the government's action on the proposed recommendations.

The Senate discussed: that it was disheartening to see that it was felt that there is still room for efficiencies and how this could be communicated to the government that this is not the case; the work done by the Ontario Council of University Librarians to contribute to cost savings; the importance of optimization in alignment with culture, profitability and quality.

b. **Senate Academic Planning Committee**

i. Undergraduate Indigenous Student Admissions Policy, S. Pepper

It was noted that the University's current student admission policy was out of date and the revisions brought forward aligned with the University's processes as well as best practices in the sector. The revisions were brought forward with the intent of clarifying processes while providing further pathways and accessibility to Indigenous students.

Motion (S. Pepper/D. Maoz): That the Senate Academic Planning Committee recommend the Senate approve the revisions to the Undergraduate Indigenous Student Admissions Policy (currently the *Undergraduate Admissions Policy for Self-Declared Aboriginal applicants*), as presented. **Carried.**

ii. Faculty of Science, A. Clarke

a. Major Modification, Physics and Computer Science

The motion brought forward proposed the creation of a stand-alone general BA in Computer Science at the Milton campus. At this time, this existed as combination.

Motion (A. Clarke/C. Johnston Turner): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve offering the existing Honours BA in Computer Science at the Milton campus. **Carried.**

iii. Faculty of Liberal Arts, J. Leung

a. Substantive Minor, Human Rights & Human Diversity

The proposed motion brought forward the renaming of the Human Rights and Human Diversity Program to “Humans Rights” while also changing course requirements. These would allow for better clarity and focus the intent.

Motion (J. Leung/I. Joseph): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the renaming of the program and add an additional elective. **Carried.**

iv. Faculty of Human & Social Sciences, B. McKay

a. Major Modification, Public Safety

Items a-d were brought forward as an omnibus motion.

The proposed motions brought forward a new full-time version of the Honours BA public safety and included the creation of a minor and option within the area of study as well as courses needed to facilitate this on a full-time basis.

The Senate discussed: what the goals were in making this a full-time program and what market/student this would appeal to; planned recruitment activities for fall 2024.

Motion (B. McKay/J. Leung): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the creation of a full-time version of the Honours BA Public Safety program. **Carried.**

- b. Major Modification, Public Safety
Motion (B. McKay/J. Leung): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the creation of an Honours BA Public Safety in Combination with another Honours BA program. **Carried.**
- c. Major Modification, Public Safety
Motion (B. McKay/J. Leung): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the creation of a Public Safety Minor for the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences. **Carried.**
- d. Major Modification, Public Safety
Motion (B. McKay/J. Leung): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the creation of a Public Safety Option for the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences. **Carried.**
- e. Major Modification, Health Studies

The following motion proposed the offering the Health Studies Minor across all campuses noting that there was demand for this.

Motion (B. McKay/A. Clarke): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the Health Studies Minor to be offered at all Laurier campuses. **Carried.**

- v. Faculty of Music, C. Johnston Turner

- a. Substantive Minor, Music

The motion was brought forward based on curriculum reform to the Metalworks diploma put in place by the ministry over the spring. Due to Ministry requirements and the short turnaround time to implementation, the University was not able to offer the old curriculum, so the proposal brought forward was back dated to align with the start of the fall term.

Motion (C. Johnston Turner / K. Werbin): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the changes to the Honours Bachelor of Music (Self-Directed Studies) with Metalworks, Audio Production and Engineering Diploma. **Carried.**

- vi. Martin Luther University College, K. Lund
- a. Major Modification, Martin Luther University College/Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies and Global Citizenship

Items a & b were presented as an omnibus motion.

The proposed motions were brought forward as the result of a review of the program and included the renaming of the program to better communicate its values and learning outcomes. This also included changes to required courses and electives accordingly.

Motion (K. Lund/D. Maoz): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the changes to the program name and requirements for the Honours BA in Christian Studies and Global Citizenship and the Honours BA Christian Studies and Global Citizenship in Combination programs. **Carried.**

- b. Major Modification, Martin Luther University College/Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies and Global Citizenship

Motion (K. Lund/D. Maoz): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the changes to the name and program requirements of the Christian Studies and Global Citizenship Minor. **Carried.**

- vii. Faculty of Education, M. Cantalini-Williams

- a. Substantive Minor, Education

The motion brought forward proposed the expansion of the of programs eligible for the teaching option pathway including user experience design, French, Kinesiology, and Music.

Motion (M. Cantalini-Williams/C. Johnston Turner): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the addition of programs to the Teaching Option Pathway into the Bachelor of Education. **Carried.**

- viii. Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, B. Wolfe

- a. Major Modification, Physics and Computer Science

The motion brought proposed the expansion of the Master of Applied Computing Coursework Option to the Brantford campus in alignment with demand as well as the University's plan to expand graduate

programs and international student presence to the Brantford campus.

Motion (B. Wolfe/J. Leung): that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve offering the Master of Applied Computing Coursework Option at the Brantford campus. **Carried.**

3. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

None.

4. Other Business

Based on a question from a Senator, the University's approach to academic freedom and discussion on pedagogical issues was discussed in alignment with course scheduling and the levels of consultation utilized to do so.

5. Adjournment

6. Consent Items

The following items are provided for approval or information. The items noted for approval will be approved by consent unless otherwise highlighted during item 1.a.

a. Items for Approval

- i. Agenda
- ii. Draft Minutes of the October 23, 2023, Senate Meeting
- iii. Substantive Minor, Faculty of Science
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the changes to admission into the Faculty of Science's Professional Experience Program (PEP).
- iv. Substantive Minor, Faculty of Human & Social Sciences
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the changes to the program requirements for the Hons. Bachelor of Arts in Public Safety program in the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences.
- v. Major Modification, English and Film Studies
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the addition of Vancouver Film School's 3D Animation and Visual Effects Program to the existing Vancouver Film School Pathway.

- vi. Major Modification, English and Film Studies
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve a three-work term co-op option for students in the Honours BA in English Program.
- vii. Major Modification, English and Film Studies
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the deletion of the Minor in Writing for Career and Community.
- viii. Major Modification, Philosophy
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the deletion of the Practical Ethics and Society Option.
- ix. Substantive Minor, English & Film Studies
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the change of the graduation requirements for the Film Production Specialization and Film Theory Specialization.
- x. Substantive Minor, English & Film Studies
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the modification of transfer credits for the VFS Pathway in relation to the Honors English BA and Honours Combined English and Film Studies BA.
- xi. Substantive Minor, English & Film Studies
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve changes to the program requirements for the Honours BA English program, the Honours BA English in Combination with another Honours BA program, and the Honours BA English (Sussex) LLB Stream.
- xii. Substantive Minor, English & Film Studies
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the changes in program requirements for the Professional Writing Minor.
- xiii. Substantive Minor, History and Ancient Studies
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the inclusion of HI 235, HI 236, and HI 237 in the approved course list for the Ancient Studies Minor.
- xiv. Substantive Minor, Political Science
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve a change to the regulations governing the Political Science Honours program to limit students to two 400-level

Political Science seminar courses unless otherwise approved by the Department.

- xv. Substantive Minor Change, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Faculty of Human and Social Sciences
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the change to program requirements for the General BA.
 - xvi. Major Modification, Business
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approve the adjusted sequence of BU252 and BU231 within the BBA/BSc program layout.
 - xvii. Substantive Minor, Economics
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approves the addition of BU430 to the “any four of” list of required courses in the Economics and Financial Management Program.
 - xviii. Substantive Minor, Economics
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approves the substantive minor change to the economics research specialization.
 - xix. Substantive Minor Modification, Physics and Computer Science
Motion: that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee the Senate approves the removal of CP601 – Seminar in Technology Entrepreneurship from the requirements for the Master of Applied Computing program.
- b. **Items for Information**
- i. Report of the Senior Executives
 - ii. Curriculum Change Submission Deadlines
 - iii. EMBARGOED Statement of Intent, Health Sciences
 - iv. 2023-2024 3-month Fiscal Update
 - v. 2024-2025 Budget Planning Process Update
 - vi. Record of approval: Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Computer Science Tuition Fee
 - vii. Fall 2023 Convocation Report
 - viii. Fall 2023 Enrolment Report