



## SENATE MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting

October 23, 2023, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), D. Antonowicz, R. Buehler, M.L. Byrne, J. Cairns, M. Cantalini-Williams, A. Clarke, J. Coolman, M. Coulter, T. Dowling, C. Dutt, M. Elayyan, N. Espiritu, A. Essaji, E. Felician, W. Gilliam, S. Gillies, S. Guardado, A. Hansra, A. Herman, C. Hoang, S. Isotupa, C. Johnston Turner, L. King, S. Lachapelle, J. Leung, K. Lund, C. McAdam, R. McGowan, B. McKay, T. McLaren, K. Menon, J. Monture, J. Newman, H. Northwood, V. Oliver, A. Parker, S. Pepper, F. Perez, S. Perry, J. Popham, S. Ramsay, M. Ras, J. Schwieter, M. Skop, C. Smith, D. Smith, P. Urquhart, F. Wang, J. Wang, B. Wolfe, G. Yun, A. Zaidi, J. Zhan

Regrets: M. Abu-Rshaid, M. Baldwin, A. Beek, L. Chu, K. Clarke, L. Dawe, A. Domurath, P. Elliott, P. Ironstone, R. Makarov, E. Mercier, L. Noronha, M. Walton-Roberts, K. Werbin

Absent: A. Acharya, E. Fox Tree, I. Joseph, M. Khan, D. Maoz, H. Richards, K. Shankardass, T. Snoddon, D. Thomas, C. VanEvery-Albert, D. Wheatley, D. Yerichuk, K. Zhu

### 1. Open Session

- a. Call to Order & Approval of the Consent Agenda, D. MacLatchy

**Motion (S. Ramsay/M.L. Byrne):** that the Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item 6.a. **Carried.**

- b. Leadership Update

- i. Report of the President, D. MacLatchy

An overview of the president's portfolio was given including the following: the University continued to await and prepare alongside other institutions for the release of the Blue Ribbon Panel report and the provincial government's response; the president attended a *Plan for Prosperity: Fueling the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain* reception at Queen's Park in collaboration with the Council of Ontario Universities (COU); a senior leadership retreat was held where key themes and trends were explored and how they could be addressed; the President's Townhall was held on October 16<sup>th</sup>; consultation continued on the Senior Executive Officer: Brantford role to better understand how this role can best serve the campus and its community; Brantford homecoming was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>; the university community was notified that Jason Coolman, Vice President Advancement & External Relations and Jonathan Newman Vice-President: Research were seeking second terms and that review committees would be struck accordingly; an email went out to the

university community regarding nominations for the next Chancellor as Eileen Mercier's term end was approaching.

The Senate discussed: the membership of the Blue-Ribbon Panel and potential impacts this could make to their recommendations; collaboration between institutions to respond to the Blue Ribbon Panel Report once released.

- ii. Report of the Provost and VP Academic, H. Northwood  
An overview of the Vice-President: Academic's portfolio was given including the following: recognition of the conflicts unfolding in Israel and Gaza and its impact on the University community noting that safety and wellbeing of the community was priority; resources pertaining to campus safety planning were sent to faculty and staff members; work continued to ensure the financial sustainability of the institution while ensuring strong student experience noting external contributing factors; fall 2024 recruitment targets were being established; several members from the University community participated in the Ontario Universities Fair; Brantford 5000 committee work continued; P. McLaren began a detailed study of the academic calendar to identify and address barriers to retention; spending controls were introduced by means of position control and unit-level discretionary spending measures; registration for open house events increased by 25%; a thank you went out to all Laurier staff and faculty who participated in the Ontario Universities Fair; space was secured in the Milton Education Village Innovation Centre, now the "Milton Academic Centre", which will be utilized to deliver the campus' first undergraduate programs in fall 2024; the first undergraduate recruitment campaign initiative to specifically target local and commuter students was scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>, prospective students were invited to this event to learn more about Laurier and the programming offered in Milton; a new structure was formed for the EDI Office in advance of the AVP EDI search noting the movement of the Office of Human Rights and Conflict Management into this portfolio and well as the Centre for Student Equity, Diversity and Inclusion remaining within it with dotted line reporting to Student Affairs; a number of collaborative grant submissions with the intent of enhancing the University's ability to offer transformative educational experiences for Indigenous teacher training; Dr. Paul Jenkins, Director of Continuing Education, is developing a framework for strengthening and enhancing Laurier's continuing education offerings and profile, and a proposal for a revised Senate Policy 2.7 will be coming to Senate this academic year; the Vice-President Academic visited numerous divisional council and shared service unit meetings, insights were being compiled and would be shared.

The Senate discussed: the results of the student retention study and any plans underway to support this.

iii. Question Period: Written or Verbal

The Senate discussed: the sector's response to Quebec's recent announcement surrounding changes to tuition fee measures.

- c. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes, D. MacLatchy  
None.

## 2. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

- a. Senate Academic Planning Committee, H. Northwood

i. 2023-2028 Strategic Academic Plan, H. Northwood

An overview was provided of the extensive consultation processes conducted to create the Strategic Academic Plan. The plan was presented noting the three goals of (1) Delivering Transformative Education, (2) Thriving Comprehensive University, and (3) Communities Integrated into a Vibrant Whole. The Committee was presented with the objectives of each goal and how they align with pillars of the Laurier Strategy.

The Senate discussed: the development and compilation of data to compose the plan; the need for accountability and reporting once the strategic plan is finalized; the timeline for implementing the plan while balancing resource limitation; how implementation will be monitored; how internationalization fit into the strategic plan.

**Motion (H. Northwood/J. Newman):** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the 2023-2028 Strategic Academic Plan as presented. Carried with 3 abstentions.

ii. Q&A on Curriculum Change Overview and Processes, S. Heath

A presentation surrounding curriculum change processes was included in the agenda package and a one page "cheat sheet" would be distributed following the meeting. Senators were given the opportunity to ask questions to better understand their role in curriculum change review and approval.

The Senate discussed: how Laurier's practices aligned with the sector and if processes were as efficient as possible; concerns surrounding the submission deadlines for curriculum changes to take effect by fall 2024; the omission of calendar changes for one faculty and the process to remedy this.

iii. Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, B. Wolfe

- a. Amendment of Required English Language Proficiency Score for Graduate Admissions

The proposed changes to English language proficiency scores were brought forward following a consultant report submitted in 2022. It was noted that Laurier had set its score higher than U15 universities creating an unintentional barrier. The motion brought forward recommended lowering this score to remove this barrier and align with other universities. The proposal also expanded the types of testing that can be utilized to allow flexibility and further accessibility.

The Senate discussed: if scores utilizing the current testing system were problematic; if Laurier should be tracking scores closer to institutions such as the University of Waterloo and University of Toronto that had large international student enrolment; how students with lower English language proficiency testing score perform once entering a graduate degree in Canada; why Test of English Language as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores were lower than comparison schools; concerns surrounding how informative the documentation was and how the proposal was put together.

**Motion (B. Wolfe/L. King):** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the changes to English language proficiency requirements for graduate admissions. **Carried with 3 opposed and 7 abstentions.**

- iv. Faculty of Science, A. Clarke

- a. Major Modification, Physics and Computer Science

The following proposal brought forward a standalone Honours BA in Computer Science, which at the time only existed in combination with another program.

**Motion (A. Clarke/J. Leung):** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the creation of an Honours BA in Computer Science at both the Waterloo and Brantford campuses. **Carried with 1 opposed.**

- b. Major Modification, Physics and Computer Science

The proposed motion included changes to program requirements to the BA in computer sciences noting the removal of math-based.

**Motion (A. Clarke/M.L. Byrne):** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the changes to Math and theoretical content in the BA in Computer

Science in Combination with another Honours BA program, at the Waterloo campus. **Carried.**

c. Major Modification, Physics and Computer Science

The proposed motion included changes to program requirements to the BA in computer sciences noting the removal of Brantford Foundations courses.

**Motion (A. Clarke/J. Newman):** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the changes to Math and Brantford Foundations content in the BA in Computer Science in Combination with another Honours BA program, at the Brantford campus. **Carried.**

b. Senate Governance Committee S. Ramsay

i. Senate Engagement Survey Results and Recommendations, S. Ramsay

The Senate Engagement Survey is conducted on an annual basis at the end of each year. Senators were provided with the results as well as a set of recommendations based on feedback. There was a general negative trend throughout most of the survey which will be actively monitored by the Senate Governance Committee and Secretariat Office.

Noted actions and areas for improvement included the streamlining of materials and reports to leave time for discussion as well as the use of special meetings to cover items that may garner more discussion. Work will continue with senior leaders to streamline the length of materials and presentations and establish special meetings where necessary. It was noted that Senator input is highly valued and that their feedback and recommendations have led to key action items.

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

#### **4. Other Business**

It was noted that the November 30<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting would be moved to the Brantford campus.

A Senator brought forward a question pertaining to the university's management and operations in the face of financial challenges. It was requested that administration share financial statements, documents and presentations from townhalls with Senators.

## 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 September 26, 2023, Senate Meeting
- iii. Substantive Minor Changes, Health Studies

**Motion:** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the changes to the program requirements for the Honours BA Health Management program in the Department of Health Studies

**Motion:** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the changes to the program requirements for the Honours BA Health Studies program in the Dept. of Health Studies.

**Motion:** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the changes to the program requirements for the Honours BAsc Applied Health Sciences Program in the Dept. of Health Studies.

- iv. Substantive Minor Change, BBA/BSc in Computer Science

**Motion:** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the progression regulation for Year 1 students that denotes no extensions and/or leave of absence.

- v. Substantive Minor Change, BBA/Financial Change

**Motion:** that on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Senate approve the progression regulation for Year 1 students that denotes no extensions and/or leave of absence.

### b. Items for Information

- i. Report of the Senior Executives
- ii. Overview of Audited Financial Statements