



SENATE MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: D. MacLatchy (Chair), M. Abu-Rshaid, A. Acharya, N. Amanullah, A. Beek, M. Brolley, P. Bryden, R. Buehler, M.L. Byrne, M. Cantalini-Williams, J. Casey, L. Chu, S. Cameron, A. Clarke, J. Coolman, M. Coulter, A. Diebold, A. Domurath, T. Dowling, M. Elayyan, A. Essaji, E. Fox Tree, A. Herman, C. Hoang, P. Ironstone, A. Jorgenson, L. King, V. Kitaev, S. Lachapelle, D. Law, J. Leung, L. Luccisano, K. Lund, R. Makarov, S. McGill, R. McGowan, B. McKay, P. McLaren, K. Menon, J. Mueller, J. Newman, L. Noronha, H. Northwood, A. Parker, J. Popham, S. Ramsay, K. Schnarr, D. Thomas, D. Treleaven, B. Walker, M. Walton-Roberts, K. Werbin, D. Wheatley, B. Wolfe, B. Walker, J. Zhan.

Regrets: G. Ashoughian, P. Elliott, C. Johnston Turner, I. Joseph, M. Khan, E. Maier, E. Mercier, A. Ngo, J. Schwieter, T. Snoddon, C. VanEvery-Albert.

Absent: D. Antonowicz, E. Cameron, S. Chamberlain, J. Reid, K. Shankardass, D. Smith, G. Yun, D. Yerichuk, K. Zhu.

Secretariat: S. Kelly, A. Kornobis, P. Marfisi.

1. Open Session

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

It was requested that item *2.b.a.i. Major Modification – Honours BSc Computer Science (Milton)* be pulled from the agenda to allow time to update the budget to align with the University's new Milton plan. The item with its new budget would be brought to the Senate Academic Planning Committee for review before coming back to the Senate.

It was noted that Figure 3.2 on page 210 did not show the specified data.

Motion (J. Newman/J. Leung): that Senate approve the Consent items listed for approval under item 6.a. as amended. Carried.

b. **Leadership Update**

i. Report of the President, D. MacLatchy

The Search Committee for the Provost & Vice-President: Academic met to review candidates. Long-list interviews were set to begin in mid-March.

Planning and preparation was being done with community partners to prepare for St. Patrick's Day. Communications were sent out with the goal of deterring participation in large unsanctioned street gathers while

enhancing safety. Parking restrictions and guest policies would be put in place on campus and within the community. Planning was put in place with Special Constable Services and community emergency responders.

The University's government relations effort revolved around provincial advocacy. The Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) announced the Blue-Ribbon Panel membership. The panel would be conducting research and consultations to make recommendations pertaining to financial sustainability of the sector, this would include review of MCU's tuition framework. The Senate was given an overview of the panel membership noting the strong balance of stakeholders within the sector. Work was still being done to learn how to present to the panel as both an institution as well as with sector colleagues at COU.

MCU announced its tuition anomaly program which would allow universities to apply for up to three programs to have anomalies addressed. If approved, this would lead to a 7.5% increase to first-year student tuition to meet the sector's average tuition for the programs. The University is currently working to identify programs that meet this criteria while also carefully looking at how to address financial needs for the incoming cohort. The University is also able to increase tuition up to 5% for out of province students, however given Laurier's student mix this would have minimal impacts to University revenue.

Federal advocacy continued, noting meetings with Milton MP Adam van Koeverden, as well as staff from ISED (Innovation, Science and Economic Development) and the Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

The Senate discussed: how Wilfrid Laurier International College would be impacted by changes to the tuition framework; if programs had been identified for the tuition anomaly program and how they would be identified.

ii. Report of the Interim Provost and VP Academic, H. Northwood

A budget townhall was hosted at the end of February with over 500 participants. A thank you was sent to those involved and who attended and asked questions. The budget council met and was developing a multi-year outlook/assumptions.

Work continued on the Strategic Academic Plan and the final draft was tracking to come to Senate for approval before the end of the year.

Milton planning continued with hopes to bring program proposals and the updated business plan to the Senate before the end of the year.

International student applications increased by 8%, and first choice applicants increased by 6%. The numbers continued to be revised as the

cut off was different from domestic students. A strategic council for internationalization was struck to bring together international student support and recruitment to ensure strong student experience and examine how to enhance Laurier's global reputation.

The Search Committee for the University Librarian continued its works and had conducted first round interviews. The Search Committee for the AVP & Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies had reviewed the longlist to determine first round candidates.

Laurier held its first fireside chat for the Laurier Legacy project where the two research fellows were able to share their research and intentions for the project. Work was still being done to hire an Indigenous research fellow. The second Lamine Diallo EDI Speaker Series featuring Dr. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, assistant professor of Physics and core faculty member in Women's and Gender Studies at University of New Hampshire was held in February.

iii. Report of the Board of Governors

At its February meeting the Board of Governors: approved updates to university-level policies; spoke about budget planning and processes; received an update surrounding the faculty of music and plans for the new music building; continued conversations on strategic accountability reporting.

iv. Question Period: Written or Verbal

No questions were brought forward.

c. **Business Arising from the Previous Minutes**, D. MacLatchy

None.

d. **Research Culture Survey Results**, J. Newman

The first Research Culture Survey was conducted in 2020 with 196 respondents. The results were indicative of a university in transition, noting the research culture had improved as a whole over the five-year period, however concerns still persisted surrounding workload and post-grant support. Laurier is classified as an undergraduate research institution and has ranked as one of the highest institutions in this category.

The 2022 research culture survey was launched in December. The participation dropped to 108 respondents. Less favourability was shown pertaining to those who felt their research was valued. There was net positivity in rating for the implementation of various research initiatives with an average of 83%.

It was noted that voluntary surveys tended to skew negative. Concerns were noted as well given that the pandemic is ongoing and may cause challenges to progress with research.

The results of the survey would be brought through various university departments and committees to follow through on recommendations from the two operational reviews while refining and expanding existing research support and implementing new events and tools.

The Senate discussed: student participation in research and improvements to resources to select, train and manage student research assistants; if the survey direction would be changed next time it is administered; the impacts the pandemic had on the survey.

2. Reports and Recommendations from Standing Committees

a. Senate Executive and Finance Committee, D. MacLatchy

i. 2023-2024 Tuition Report, J. Fraser / R. Reid

The 2023-2024 tuition fee report was brought forward noting that tuition made up more than half of Laurier's revenue each year. The presented report was widely consulted across the University.

The provincial government made the decision to continue the tuition freeze, however recently introduced the tuition anomaly program. As such, the presented tuition report included a tuition freeze for all domestic students. Should Laurier be approved for the tuition fee anomaly program the changes would come back through the Senate for approval.

Given that international student tuition is not regulated by the tuition framework, the University has flexibility on setting tuition rates. As such, rates for new undergraduate students would be increased by 5-10% and 0-2.5% for new graduate students. The University will be instituting a guarantee that international student tuition for returning students would not increase more than 5% on a year over year basis. This will equate at approximately \$2 million in additional revenue.

Non-credit and cost recovery programs are also not covered by the tuition framework. Cost recovery programs will increase between 0-6.8% and non-credit will increase 0-5%.

Motion (A. Essaji/J. Newman): that on the recommendation of the Senate Executive & Finance Committee, the Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the 2023-2024 Tuition Fee Report, as proposed. Carried.

3. Matters from the Consent Section of the Agenda

None.

4. Other Business

None.

5. *In Camera* Session

Motion (J. Newman/J. Leung): to move the meeting *in camera*. Carried.

6. Adjournment**7. Consent Items**

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

a. Items for Approval

- i. Agenda
- ii. Draft Minutes of the January 30, 2023 Senate Meeting

b. Items for Information

- i. Report of the Senior Executives
- ii. 6 Month Fiscal Update
- iii. Record of E-Vote: Convocation Advisory Sub-Committee Election:
Administrative Staff Member
- iv. Winter 2023 Enrollment Report
- v. Research Data Management Institutional Strategy
- vi. Nominations Report