

# SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY. SEPTMBER 14, 2020, 10:00 AM

Online via Zoom

Gillian Siddall, Chair	Mimi Gellman
Trish Kelly, Vice Chair	Mark Igloliorte
Kevin Bird	Suzanne Rackover
Ruth Beer	Martin Rose
Cybèle Creery	Danielle Zandvliet
Hélène Day Fraser	Cissie Fu
Keith Doyle	Kyla Mallett
Heather Fitzgerald	Celeste Martin
Steven Lam	Jorma Kujala
Erin Lucey	Erick Jantzen
Kajill Aujla	Jacob Brennan

Regrets: Geoff Plant, Louise St. Pierre

Guests: Michael Clifford, Philippa Mennell, Carina Clark, Christen Downie, Alia Hijaab Ebayed, Stephanie Schneider

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Gillian Siddall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.
2. Welcome to new Senate members. New student Senate members, Kajill Aujla, Jacob Brennan and Erick Jantzen were welcomed to Senate. Erin Lucey has been re-elected to serve another year. Cybèle Creery, Staff Senate member, has been re-elected to serve another term (3 years).
3. **Motion:** That Senate approve the Agenda as circulated.  
**Moved / Seconded.** **Carried.**
4. **Motion:** That Senate approve the April 27, 2020 Senate Minutes as circulated.  
**Moved / Seconded to approve the updated Minutes.** **Carried.**
5. **Motion:** That Senate approve the June 1, 2020 Senate Budget Committee Minutes as circulated.  
**Moved / Seconded** **Carried.**
6. Senate Housekeeping Items. Philippa Mennell, University Secretary, referred to the

circulated Senate Handbook, and asked Senators to familiarize themselves with the Senate Bylaws. The process for voting online was explained. Some corrections to the Senate agenda package were noted. Regular Senate meetings are open to the community and anyone is welcome to contact the University Secretariat to obtain meeting links for upcoming Senate meetings. Guests may participate in Senate meetings as observers and can address requests to speak to the Chair.

## II. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion:** That Senate approve the new and renewed nominees for appointment to Senate committees as recommended by the Nominations Committee.

Trish Kelly, Chair of Nominations Committee presented the recommendations for committee members from the Nominations Committee.

The Committee met last week for a review of all the nominations. The Committee also discussed a possible revision to the Nominations Committee terms of reference. The Governance Committee will review the Nominations Committee Terms of Reference.

Senate approved the list of recommended nominees for appointment to Senate as recommended by the Nominations Committee.

**Moved / Seconded to approve the list as presented.** **Carried.**

2. Election of Senate members for Senate appointment to the following committees.

Kevin Bird, Executive Director, Student Services + Registrar and Secretary of Senate called for nominees to serve on the committees. The following individuals were elected by acclamation.

- Executive Committee –
  - 1 Member-at-Large: Celeste Martin
  - 1 Dean: Steven Lam
  - 1 Faculty member: Ruth Beer
  - 1 Faculty member: Mimi Gellman
  - 1 Support Staff member: Danielle Zandvliet
  - 1 Student member (elected by the Student Senate members): Erick Jantzen
- Governance Committee –
  - 1 Dean: Cissie Fu
  - 1 Faculty member: Hélène Day Fraser
  - 1 Administrative Staff member: Suzanne Rackover
  - 1 CUPE Staff member: Cybèle Creery
  - 1 Student member: Jacob Brennan
- CPR –
  - 1 Faculty Senate member: Martin Rose
  - 1 Senate member (not Faculty): Kajill Aujla

- It was noted that Ben Reeves' nomination from Faculty of Art to serve on CPR is a renewal (1-yr term).
- APP –
  - 1 Senate member: Heather Fitzgerald
- Aboriginal Advisory –
  - 1 Dean: Kyla Mallett
  - Mimi Gellman reported that she will be Chairing the committee this term, on the request of Brenda Crabtree. The Governance Committee will review the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to look at adding an additional Aboriginal Faculty Member to the membership.
- Appeals –
  - 1 Dean: Steven Lam
  - 1 Senate member: Jacob Brennan
- Financial Awards –
  - 1 Senate member: Celeste Martin
  - It was noted that John Hannan has stepped down, and Carlo Ghioni has been elected by DDM Faculty to replace him (new term of 2 years).
- International Development –
  - 1 Senate member: Cissie Fu

3. Chair's report – Gillian Siddall congratulated everyone on a successful transition to a first predominantly online fall term. The pivoting to online teaching and learning presented an enormous amount of work for everyone and especially for faculty, IT, Technical Services, Facilities, and Teaching and Learning. She also thanked students for stepping up to deal with the various challenges with the current situation due to the pandemic.

Gillian Siddall reported that:

- The number of registrations is higher than expected. The add/drop period ends on September 15, and exact registration numbers can be confirmed after this time.
- The Senate Executive Committee, operating now under new terms of reference, will be meeting a week prior to Senate meetings, to review and discuss the Senate agenda.
- The VP Provost Students search is coming along well, and we hope to complete the process later this fall.
- Senate is encouraged to consider how to respond to the anti-racism petition, and other calls for action, especially curriculum revision, which falls under Senate purview.
- The Aboriginal Advisory Committee will be meeting regularly and reporting to Senate on activities and initiatives. A subcommittee of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee may be formed to address work on indigenization of curriculum.

4. Vice Chair's report – Trish Kelly thanked the entire ECU community for diligent work and engagement this year, acknowledging the extreme effort involved in delivering the curriculum online. Trish Kelly especially expressed gratitude to the Deans and Academic Affairs team, the Continuity of Learning Committee, Faculty and Technicians, the Library, the Gallery, the Continuing Studies team, Teaching and Learning team, and the IT team for

innovative pivoting with the offering of various platforms including remote lab access. ECU is offering the same number of courses, 372, with the majority online and less than 30% hybrid.

A variety of Teaching and Learning workshops for faculty were hosted virtually in late August. The workshops were well-attended, and centered around how to effectively engage students in an online environment and discussions about racial justice.

The Counselling department will be hosting a series of workshops on mental health and social justice this fall.

The anti-racism petition, which was circulated in the summer, has provided for an opportunity to have important conversations that will translate into action.

The Academic Program review process is ongoing, and currently the Faculty of Culture + Community and Faculty of Graduate Studies are in the self-study phase. The Academic Office will be bringing forward data reports to Senate later this fall.

### **III. OPEN FORUM**

Gillian Siddall welcomed discussion regarding how Senate should respond to the anti-racism petition, and discussion about any other urgent matters.

Points of discussion:

- Bring examples to courses through highlighting the practices of Black and Indigenous artists.
- The Land Acknowledgment should be at the beginning of all committee meetings and agendas.
- All Faculties are having ongoing conversations on how to best facilitate processes and spaces for engagement and discussions on how to build community online, and how to best set up regular meetings with students in collaboration with the Student Union. Faculty-led conversations for students to meet the Deans have been well-received. Faculties are also discussing the development of inclusive syllabi, and unpacking the critique process.
- Some students are hesitant to share individual experiences with racism until a mutual trust has been built up.
- Students want to participate in discussions regarding anti-racism, and the development of online curriculum, but pointed out that there are barriers to student engagement.
- The Research Office can facilitate experimental conversations regarding system reform, which can spark creativity and advocacy through discussions on what the future will look like.
- Senate is the epitome of systematized power. We should all be invested and involved in transformation, reform and expansion, which would result in legitimate change. Students should be compensated for their contributions.
- Senate should contribute to a significant curriculum change. The Curriculum Planning + Review (CPR) Committee was tasked with the initial conversations regarding curriculum transformation, starting at the upcoming meeting in September. CPR will also be discussing Program Requirement Worksheets (PRW) and report back to Senate.
- The Academic Planning + Priorities (APP) Committee was tasked with the initial discussion regarding existing curriculum policies. A Senator suggested a possible formation of a policy subcommittee.

- The Governance Committee was tasked with looking at how to recognize informal dialogues about EDI.

**IV. INFORMATION** – The meeting scheduled for Fall 2020 - Spring 2021 was included in the Senate agenda package.

**V. NEXT MEETING** - October 5, 2020

**VI. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.