

SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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
Louise St. Pierre	Keith Kerrigan

Regrets: Geoff Plant

Guests: Michael Clifford, Philippa Mennell, Carina Clark, Christen Downie, Alex Phillips

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Gillian Siddall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.
Keith Kerrigan, representative from the Board of Governors, was welcomed to Senate.

2. **Motion:** That Senate approve the Agenda as circulated.
A Senator brought forward, on behalf of a Faculty member from Culture + Community, an additional agenda item: Senate Handbook (Selection of Senate Vice Chair and Exclusion of Senate members under Conflict of Interest).
The agenda item was added after Vice Chair's Report.
Moved / Seconded to approve the updated Agenda. **Carried.**

3. **Motion:** That Senate approve the September 14, 2020 Senate Minutes as circulated.
It was noted and agreed that Senators' titles, designations and constituency information should not be included in the September 14, 2020 Minutes, or in Senate Minutes going forward.
Moved / Seconded to approve the Minutes as amended. **Carried.**

II. BUSINESS

1. Nominations Committee T. Kelly

Motion: That Senate approve the 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. Senate approved the list of recommended nominees for appointment to Senate Committees.

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

2. Curriculum Planning + Review (CPR) Report. CPR Chair

Trish Kelly presented a verbal report, on behalf of Ingrid Koenig, Chair, CPR.

CPR met on September 21. Summary of discussions:

- Edits to Program Requirement Worksheets (PRW) and Course Change Proposal Forms – to be brought forward to Senate soon.
- Overall role of CPR and how the committee can help shape the dialogue regarding decolonization and transformation of the curriculum.
- Sustainability and EDI commitments concerning curriculum.

3. Academic Planning + Priorities (APP) Report. APP Chair

Heather Fitzgerald presented a verbal report, on behalf of Justin Langlois, Chair, APP

APP met on September 21. Summary of discussions:

- The role of Incoming Chair was created. The Incoming Chair will be able to get familiar with the proceedings of the committee in the fall, and commence the Chair role in January 2021.
- A proposal to review current practices for course evaluations and how responsibility can be transferred from Human Resources to Academic Affairs.
- Creation of Advisory Committees in various areas, for example in Research and Teaching and Learning, in order to support ongoing consultation with students, staff and faculty.
- APP's responsibility in responding to calls of the Anti-Racist Initiative petition through a review of existing policies in order to identify how and where academic policies are perpetuating exclusion and disempowerment of racialized students and faculty.

4. Governance Committee Report Governance Committee Chair

Suzanne Rackover reported that the Governance Committee met on September 28. Summary of discussions:

- Examination of the timing and process of nominating members to serve on Senate subcommittees.
- Senate Budget Committee Terms of Reference review and how to broaden the budget consultation process.
- Goals around anti-racism, decolonization and indigenization.
- Review of academic freedom policy.

The Chair presented a motion to recommend revisions to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference as requested by representatives from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

Senate requested that the Senate Governance Committee meet with Brenda Crabtree and Mimi Gellman from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to further discuss the terms of reference and how the Chair role may be elected or appointed on an annual basis.

Motion: That Senate approve the following changes to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference: 1) adding one more Aboriginal Faculty member to the membership so that there will be three Aboriginal Faculty members, and 2) under "Chair", adding to the Director, Aboriginal Programs, "or a committee member designated by them".

Moved/Seconded.

Carried.

5. Chair's report – Gillian Siddall, Chair, reported that the Senate Executive Committee met on September 28 to review and discuss the draft Senate agenda, as part of the new, formalized process for transparent development of the Senate agenda.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the way Senate subcommittees have responded to the anti-racist petition, decolonization, and other calls for action.

She thanked everyone (Staff, Faculty, Students) for amazing work in ensuring that the fall term is successfully up and running.

6. Vice Chair's report – Trish Kelly, Vice Chair, reported that Spring Term 2021 will look a lot like the current Fall Term, with the majority of classes online and some classes hybrid. Senate approved a motion at the April 27th 2020 meeting which stated, "*In light of the COVID-19 realities, and for as long as these impacts are in effect, the university will ensure flexibility in modes of course delivery to enable continuity of learning and critical function; the processes for enabling this will be consultative and involve all stakeholders; and, the procedural requirements of policy [4.3 Program and Curriculum Change](#) for establishing alternative modes of course delivery will be suspended*".

Deans are currently reviewing the impact of online delivery with each area, to ensure that curriculum can be delivered as planned. Further information and details about the Spring Term will be circulated to the community soon.

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. Deans are involved in consultation processes and the development of an alumni survey.

7. Senate Handbook (Selection of Senate Vice Chair and Exclusion of Senate members under Conflict of Interest).

A guest raised concerns regarding the Senate Handbook, in particular the following sections in the Senate Bylaws:

Article V, Structure of Senate

1. *Officers of Senate.*

c) The Vice Chair of Senate is the Vice President Academic + Provost.

As per the University Act, Part 7, Senate, 35.2 Senate of a special purpose, university:

The senate of a special purpose teaching university has the power to do all of the following: 5 a (ii) how a vice chair, who is to chair meetings in the absence of the president, is annually elected.

Action: Senate Governance Committee will review language addressing the Vice Chair of Senate in the Senate Bylaws to ensure this is in alignment with the University Act.

Senate Bylaws, Article X, Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

6. *General Guidelines for declaring conflicts of interest.*

6.b) A conflict of interest due to representation of or relation to a specific constituency may occasionally arise. In general, voting on matters which have an effect on a broad group (i.e.: students, staff, faculty) by a member of that group is not considered a conflict of interest. Conflict could reasonably be considered to exist however for the following:

i) decisions directly affecting the closure of a specific instructional program, area or Faculty in which:

*(i) student members are enrolled in the program;
(ii) faculty or staff members are employed in the program/area;
(iii) members with related persons are enrolled in or employed in the program*

It was suggested that this conflict of interest statement is too broad; it may be reasonable to consider all Senators as having a conflict of interest in a discussion about elimination of a program, for example.

Action: Senate Governance Committee will review the Conflict of Interest clause in the Senate Bylaws.

Senate reporting structure (page 11 of the 2020/21 Senate Handbook). ECU operates in a bi-cameral governance structure so it is recommended that the Board of Governors should be included in the organizational diagram.

III. OPEN FORUM

- EDI work is ongoing in various Senate committees. Could we consider the formation of a Senate committee that would be solely focused on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and as such would hold responsibility for EDI work, and report regularly to Senate?
- Could "EDI discussion" be a standing item on Senate agendas going forward?

- Could we have guest presenters speak about EDI at Senate meetings?
- There is an upcoming Graduate Symposium – could MFA / MDES leads be invited to speak at a Senate meeting?

Action: These options will be considered by Senate Executive Committee.

A Senator noted that Fall Study Week is commencing next week for the first time at ECU. Students are looking forward to study week and Senate should be pleased to have moved forward on this decision after rigorous discussions regarding the benefit and disadvantages of introducing a Fall Study week.

IV. NEXT MEETING: November 2, 2020.

V. ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.