



THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE SENATE

Approved Minutes

Friday, February 5, 2021
1:30 p.m., videoconference

- Present:** M. Mahon (Chair), Y. Belanger, D. Best, D. Boras, K. Colwell, B. Cummins, A. Darda, S. Davis, J. Diaz, J. Dormaar, C. Drenth, L. Elias, J. Elliott, A. Follinglo, A. Fox-BruisedHead, K. Gallucci, C. Gillespie, C. Goodreau, L. Harasem, M. Ing, T. Ivie, R. Lee-Thai, T. Legge, C. Loewen, H. MacBeath, A. Mardon, T. North, E. Okine, T. Page, L. Peterson, T. Petriw, E. Pullan, M. Qazi, K. Rabbit-Young Pine, C. Rowntree, I. Russell, D. Saunders, J. Shriner, B. Spenceley, S. Spenceley, B. Tucker, C. Vos, N. Walker, M. Watson
- Regrets:** M. Day, H. Doeve, L. Ehler, E. Foster, J. Miller, J. Milner, T. Oosterbroek, I. Pohl, J. VandenHoek, M. Warkentin, C. Weaselhead
- Others:** J. Gallais, S. Olson
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Prior to the start of the meeting, a presentation was given by J. von Heyking, Professor, Department of Political Science

1. WELCOME

Oki, and welcome to the University of Lethbridge. Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Aboriginal peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: sen.2021.02.01

Belanger/MacBeath

That the agenda for the meeting of February 5, 2021 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: sen.2020.12.02

Elliott/Vos

That the minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2020 be approved as amended.

Motion: Carried

A typo was noted within Item 11.2.

4. CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

On behalf of C. Weaselhead, M. Mahon reported that following the December 4, 2020 Senate meeting, the Chancellor has been in contact with the approved honorary degree recipients. He is pleased to report that they have accepted, however, with uncertainties related to the pandemic, we will monitor the restrictions that are in place and hope to confer the degrees upon these worth individuals within the next couple of years. S. Olson added that we now have 10 pre-approved, non-conferred Honorary Degree Recipients.

5. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

M. Mahon reported on:

- Advocacy work continues on the Alberta 2030 system review – thanks to all those who provided feedback from across the province. It looks like the idea of a post-secondary super board in the province is not going to materialize. We continue to help government understand challenges from a budget perspective;
- The Provincial government is expected to announce the budget at the end of February, and, although we were previously told to expect a 5.1% cut to our operating grant, we are also preparing for a 7% and 10% cut. The 20 budget taskforces continue their work and, although there are shorter-term savings anticipated, most savings will be long-term, realized in 2022-23;
- Searches are underway for the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Director and Vice-President (Development & Alumni Affairs). The Vice-President (Research) should have an announcement released in a few weeks;
- As of today, we are looking at the possibility of offering more in-person programming this fall. We recognize the challenge that the pandemic has presented and are trying to provide optimism to students;
- Upcoming, Play Day Week will take place virtual February 15-19 with information being released soon. Thanks to North and Company for sponsoring the event again this year;
- Nominations for President's Award for Service Excellence opens mid-February;
- Indigenous Awareness Week will be March 1 – 5, with more information released about the event in the next few weeks; and
- ULethbridge Open House is on March 6th and this will be a very important event as we need to encourage students to apply and accept offers. We need to reassure students that they will have a robust experience on campus as we navigate through COVID challenges.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Board of Governors

There were no questions or comments.

6.2. General Faculties Council

B. Cummins highlighted that General Faculties Council is now working as a Committee of the Whole in order to provide consultation to Budget Advisory Committee based on the recommendations from the 20 budget taskforces.

6.3. Alumni Association

There were no questions or comments.

6.4. Graduate Students' Association

A. Darda highlighted the various activities that GSA has launched in order to engage graduate students.

6.5. Students' Union

J. Diaz thanked members of Senate for their contributions to the Pass the Hat fundraiser in support of the Students' Union Foodbank. The initiative raised almost \$11,000, which goes a long ways to fight food insecurity for our students. Thanks was also given to the two generous anonymous donors that contributed as well.

6.6. Executive Committee

There were no questions or comments.

6.7. Engagement Committee

C. Goodreau highlighted that we are looking forward to continuing the Convocation Mace presentations in a virtual format this spring.

6.8. Honorary Degree Committee

There was nothing to add to the updated previously provided. There were no questions.

6.9. Volunteer Award Committee

M. Mahon gave encouragement to member to consider nominating a deserving volunteer prior to the February 15, 2021 Volunteer Award nomination deadline. S. Olson is available to answer questions or provide support if needed.

6.10. Other Member Reports/Inquiries

There were no additional reports.

7. BREAKOUT SESSION

8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 Senate Moments

C. Goodreau opened the floor to Senators who would like to share their experiences in the various ways or activities they participate in at the UofL:

- L. Harasem spoke about opportunities for Senate members to support students through the World Universities Service Club, which annually sponsors a refugee student and helps then finance their first year of university.

8.2 Senate Award Update

The Senate Scholarship, funded by the contributions of current and former members of Senate, was initiated in 2007, in recognition of the University's 40th anniversary. The endowment balance of the Senate Scholarship is almost at \$396,000, which allowed the nine students noted in the agenda, to receive \$1500 this academic year. In total, 64 students have received scholarships from the fund since its inception in 2007. Thanks to our current and former members of Senate for contributing in this very tangible way to the educational journey of our students! In your agenda package, you'll find a few thank you notes from recipients of the scholarship.

8.3 Senate Application

As of July 1, we will have 11 vacancies for representative members of Senate. M. Mahon gave encouragement to think of those that would make a good fit with Senate. These members should represent a broad cross-section of life (work, volunteer service, and geographical location). The application form is included within the agenda package.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion on what happened at Laurentian University in Ontario. M. Mahon noted that it is a stark reminder of the realities of the changing economy, changing nature of students, and impacts of COVID, and all institutions are facing these challenges.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of Senate is Friday, April 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: sen.2021.02.03

Ing/Peterson

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

Motion: Carried