

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

January 20, 2017

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1R40, Arts and Humanities Building.

SENATORS: 73

A. Abuhussein	Y. Huang	H. Orbach-Miller
R. Andersen	M. Jadd	I. Paul
E. Ansari	C. Jones	B. Paxton
A. Bachman	D. Jorgensen	W. Pearson
A. Bhatt	A. Katz	M. Pratt
I. Birrell	M. Knott	S. Rodger
P. Bishop	J. Knowles	L. Rosen
A. Bowlus	G. Kopp	C. Roulston
A. Chakma	A. Kothari	B. Rubin
C. Chambers	D. Laird	D.R. Sainani
A. Chant	S. Macfie	V. Schwean
K. Clark	E. Macpherson	D. Simmonds
R. Collins	M. McDayter	Z. Sinel
E. Comor	M. McGlynn	A. Singh
M. Crossan	L. McKivior	W. Siqueira
M. Crystal	C. Mcleod	V. Staroverov
J. Deakin	K. Mequanint	C. Steeves
G. Dekaban	M. Milde	G. Tigert
P. Doyle	D. Moser	J. Toswell
N. Dyer-Witthford	S. Mumm	S. Trosow
J. Garland	K. Myers	T. Tucker
A. Grzyb	V. Nolte	M. Viczko
C. Hardy	C. O'Connor	C. Wang
J. Hatch	C. Olivier	
A. Hrymak	K. Olson	

Observers: E. Avila, A. Bigelow, K. Campbell, E. Chamberlain, R. Chelladurai, J. Doerksen, L. Gribbon, T. Hinan, J. Luker

By Invitation: P. Barmby, J. Grieve, L. Logan, P. Simpson, P. White

S.17-01 Land Acknowledgement

D. Simonds read the Land Acknowledgement.

S.17-02 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2016 were approved with the inclusion of the following amendment (shown in italics) to the last sentence in the last paragraph on page 7:

"She confirmed that the add/drop dates for the summer quarter course are the same as those for *summer* half courses and this information will be included nBT -3(l)5(u)-9(de)4(d47001ade)4(d47001ade)4(d4oc)-3

S.17-03 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT** [Exhibit I]

The issue of open meetings is being considered in response to a recommendation of the Senate *ad hoc* Committee on Renewal as one way of making Senate's work transparent and restoring trust in the process. The ad hoc committee had received input from a broad range of community members and while the views of the current members of the committees should be considered, they should not be paramount. The point of view should be what is to the benefit of the entire university community.

The students' research and that of SCUP showed that a significant number of Canadian universities operate successfully with open meetings. There is no reason that with proper use of *in camera* and confidentiality mechanisms that Western's meetings could not be open.

Opening meetings for a trial period would test the claims that open meetings would be less efficient and that committee members would feel unable to comment freely.

Members speaking against the amendment argued that:

Committee membership is drawn from Senate's membership. Those members had clearly indicated that they believed open meetings would hinder frank debate.

There should be greater trust put in committee colleagues to do their work. Senate has full opportunity to debate and discuss proposals coming from committees in public session and can always challenge a committee decision.

With respect to a trial period, it could prove very difficult to close meetings again once they are opened, even if the sense was that they should be closed.

While some universities use open meetings successfully, many other universities operate as Western does with closed meetings.

The committees had proposed and already instituted a number of alternate measures to enhance transparency and there should be opportunity for those to be tested before concluding that open meetings are necessary.

A member asked Senator Trosow whether he would support a change to his amendment to substitute "Senators" for "persons." Senator Trosow said that he would agree to that if that were the only way to achieve open meetings. However, limiting attendance to Senators would not allow faculty, staff and students who are not members of Senate to learn about Senate's work if they wished to do so.

It was moved by M. Jadd, seconded by A. Singh,

That the amendment be amended by replacing the word "person" to "Senators."

The question on the amendment to the amendment was called and DEFEATED.

The question on the amendment was called and DEFEATED.

It was moved by C. Hardy, seconded by M. Jadd,

That the motion be amended to read as follows:

That meetings of the Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP), the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA) and the Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC) shall be open to Senators to attend as observers on a trial basis for the period of one year.

That Operations/Agenda Committee (OAC) shall develop the rules under which such open meetings would be conducted and bring forward their recommendations to Senate

