

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

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

SENATORS: 65

A. Baxter	L. Ghattas	M. Milde
G. Belfry	K. Gibbons	L. Miller
L. Beres	A. Grzyb	K. Miller
A. Borchert	C. Harasym	S. Mumm
L. Bot	M. Heath	N. Nuimat
H. Boyi	L. Henderson	K. Olson
L. Briens	H. Hill	I. Paul
D. Brou	A. Holm	P. Peddle
S. Burke	A. Hrymak	S. Pitel
E. Chamberlain	D. Jeffrey	S. Prichard
A. Chant	L. Jiang	A. Rozovsky
D. Cheng	K. Kirkwood	V. Smye
M. Cleveland	J. Kitz	C. Steeves
K. Coley	G. Koehn	S. Taylor
J. Compton	M. Koschinsky	P. Thomlinson
J. Corrigan	L. Logan	G. Tigert
J. Cuciurean	C. Ma	J. Toswell
M. Davison	D. Macpherson	S. Trosow
J. Finegan	D. Mallory	G. West
R. Flemming	C. McLeod	K. Yeung
L. Frederking	L. Melnyk Gribble	B. Younker
B. Garcia	K. Mequanint	

Observers: T. Belton, R. Bgeginski, K. Campbell, R. Chelladurai, J. Ciriello, J. Doerksen, L. Gribbon, B. Jalayer, J. Kum, D. Laird, J. Massey, M. Ruddock, J. Weese.

S.20-30 **Information Items Reported by the Senate Committee on University Planning**

Report of the Senate Committee on University Planning, contained the following item that was received for information by unanimous consent:

Report on Year One Class and Entering Averages

S.20-31 **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS** [Exhibit V]

Exhibit V, Announcements and Communications was received for information. The report from the Board of Governors (January 23, 2020) was included in the report.

S.20-32 **DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Q1 S. Pitel, Senator

Two questions relating to the report “Undergraduate International Enrollments” and the details (starting on page 5) about “a proposed partnership with Navitas (if there is one)” and how it would operate:

1. None of the Canadian, Australian or British universities that have partnerships with Navitas would be considered leading or elite universities within their own country or internationally. What does Western assess the impact on its national and international reputation will be if it chooses to partner with Navitas?
2. In a possible partnership with Navitas, what consideration has Western given to structuring the partnership so that the instructors are employees of Western and thus covered by the Faculty Collective Agreement or to otherwise structuring it so the instructors have the same protection and working conditions as Western instructors?

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) noted that he did not see a direct correlation between a partnership with Navitas and QS World University Rankings, and that the QS rankings for the universities partnered with Navitas were similar to Western. He acknowledged that, if students are recruited into the Navitas program that are not prepared for university studies, this may impact the university because the reputation of the university is based on graduate data. The benefit of working with Navitas would be an increased number of prospective international students considering Western as a destination institution. Navitas has an extended recruitment network, increasing Western’s exposure to a larger number of prospective candidates. This could be a positive move for Western, increasing Western’s engagement. With respect to the question relating to whether the Navitas instructors would be employees of Western and covered by the Faculty Collective Agreement, the Provost noted that the employment of Navitas instructors would require further discussion.

Q2 A. Borchert, Senator

At UBC, Vantage College plays a role that is in some respects similar to the colleges run by Navitas. But a crucial distinction is that Vantage College is not outsourced but rather is part of UBC. The work is performed by employees of UBC. Its website indicates “UBC Vantage College is the only international college of its kind at a top-tier university in Canada. The program is taught by UBC faculty, courses are full UBC courses approved by Senate. Our students are UBC students who receive an undifferentiated transcript.” What steps has Western taken to explore a similar initiative at Western?

In light of Western’s considerable success over the past decade at increasing its levels of international undergraduate students, what evidence supports Western’s position that it does not have and could not develop the internal resources to improve its own recruiting, achieving greater diversity of home countries and programs of study over the coming decade?

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) advised that UBC has their own international college but does have a much higher international student enrolment rate. Western could consider a similar model, but this approach would not address the concerns or mitigate the risks associated with the need to diversify country of origin and program of study for international student recruitment. The concern with the approach used at UBC would be the duration of time required to set up the same infrastructure at Western. The benefit of the Navitas model, is that the university would benefit from leveraging their recruitment network, while internal resources continue to focus on increasing other enrolment efforts.

A Senator requested clarification on what would happen to services such as Western English Language Centre (WELC), if the Navitas model was implemented. A. Hrymak noted that, WELC services would continue to be supported though the university and that if an international student college program was developed, WELC would remain the provider of English as a second language services on campus.

Q3 J. Toswell, Senator

In the Senate presentation in favour of renewing the University of Manitoba agreement with Navitas, Dr. Collins (the senior administrator making the presentation) states that from December 2007 to December 2015 Navitas had admitted a total of 1720 students, of whom 1610 graduated to become registered students at Manitoba, and of whom, in February 2017, 505 students had graduated with University of Manitoba degrees. This suggests very low retention and graduation rates once Navitas students join the university cohort, and for me is a major issue of quality.

Does the senior administration at Western have data that would refute this material, presented both at Senate and at Board of Governors at University of Manitoba in April 2017?

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) noted that in reviewing the cohorts outlined in the presentation from the University of Manitoba, it wasn't until the 6th cohort of international students recruited into the Navitas program, that the university

A. Hrymak, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) indicated that Western has not considered private recruitment firms or other organizations for a number of reasons. The specific interest in working with Navitas centered around the organization's experience with international student recruitment and preparatory support of first-year international students. Furthermore, Navitas has over a decade of experience in Canada. While, the university could partner with another organization or attempt to recreate this model independently, the benefit of working with Navitas includes a continuity of information for recruits and their families as well as the benefits of a seasoned program designed to care for the students. He noted that it was important for Senators to remember that there are two levels of oversight within this process: the first,

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

A. Shepard
Chair

K. Kwan
Secretary