

Dear Councilors,

Senate Convened on the 12th of October, for its second meeting of this academic year. After the approval of the agenda, as well minutes of the previous meeting, Senate began discussion on the update to the University's strategic plan. Members of the Strategic plan committee were also in attendance. There was some contentious debate about how best to implement the provincial FOIPP act, within the policy itself, considering that there was a commitment made to further openness and transparency. Some felt that referencing FOIPP directly would make the plan burdensome, and set a precedence of having to address every new regulation as they arose directly.

Additionally there were wording concerns regarding the section under Academic Freedom. Nevertheless, the motion was passed unanimously with the intention to make the necessary changes.

Following the discussion over the STRAT plan, Senate moved on to the business of Selection of Deans policy. There were changes made in the procedure of how Deans are selected, particularly in the case of Deans of Sustained Design Engineering, as well as Graduate Studies. Students will sit on these Selection Committees. There was a discussion held on how these students would be chosen, whether selected by the schools themselves, by the Student Union, or by the student body etc.

Points were raised about the reasoning behind why certain committees were larger than others, as well as whether certain committees required specific positions (eg. Graduate Faculty, a member of the Teacher's Federation etc.). Because of the rise in a debate over particular wording issues, President Alaa suggested that the document be sent back to the policy committee.

The President gave his report and discussed enrollment numbers which will be released officially on Monday, as well as a discussion, was had on the McLean's Survey which ranks Canadian Universities.

In terms of New Business, Jurgen Krause brought forth the motion for Senate to completely rollback Academic Regulation 18, on the basis that it unfairly disadvantaged students who would have gone on an international exchange. It was decided that because of the wide-ranging implication of passing such a motion, considering that it would deal with the calculation of GPA, the matter would be reverted to APCC until next Senate.

Two motions from APCC were brought to the Senate. The first dealt the required GPA needed to Graduate, and whether or not it would retroactively impact students. This motion was tabled and sent back to committee for further review. The second motion merely changed APCC titles to reflect current positions and was voted on unanimously.

Senate also confirmed Senator Ross, and Residence Representative Blacquiere to the Senate Committee on Enhancement of Teaching, and Senate Academic and Student Discipline and Appeals Committee respectively.

Senate will meet again on the 23rd of November.

Keyshawn Bonamy
Senate Representative