



**SENATE ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

Monday 28 September 2020 – via Zoom  
3:34-4:19 p.m.

**Attendees**

**Senators**

Meigan Aronson  
Eshana Bhangu  
Julia Burnham  
John Gilbert  
Sathish Gopalakrishnan  
Paul Harrison  
Kin Lo (Chair)  
C.W. Marshall  
Shigenori Matsui  
Kate Ross  
Anubhav Singh  
Karen Smith  
Richard Spencer (Vice-Chair)  
Hisham Zerriffi  
Justin Zheng

**Ex Officio**

Kate Ross

**Regrets**

Sue Grayston  
Moura Quayle

**Senate Staff**

Jo-anna Cowen  
Christopher Eaton  
Jessica Iverson

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Senate Academic Policy Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 3:34 p.m. on 28 September 2020 by J. Iverson, Academic Governance Officer.

**Agenda**

The Committee adopted the agenda as presented.

**Introductions**

All participants introduced themselves as Senators, ex-officio Committee members or as Senate staff.

<b>Elections</b>	J. Iverson called for the close of nominations in the elections of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.
<b>Chair</b>	K. Lo was acclaimed as elected to the role of Senate Academic Policy Committee Chair.
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	R. Spencer was acclaimed as elected to the role of Senate Academic Policy Committee Vice-Chair.
<b>Committee Orientation</b>	<p>J. Iverson reviewed the Committee's composition, terms of reference and membership.</p> <p>P. Harrison provided the Committee with an overview of the work of the Committee from 2017 to 2020. The presentation included examples of the breadth of business the Committee recommends to Senate, including new and revised academic policies, degree and program regulations, matters of academic unit organization and membership, and affiliation agreements with other educational institutions.</p> <p>P. Harrison noted the implementation of policies is a fragmented process, but it is improving. H. Zerriffi asked for details on the Committee's role in policy implementation. C. Eaton explained that while the Committee's focus is on policy development and review, a growing number of people have been asking what happens after Senate approves a policy, and further, what role Senate should play when policies are broken. P. Harrison added the implementation aspect has been raised frequently in recent years and it is likely something the Committee is going to consider this term. R. Spencer suggested the Committee think about what is enforceable when a policy is being considered.</p> <p>J. Burnham suggested the Committee discuss its year plan, and more broadly its plan for the triennium, at a near-future meeting. C. Eaton added periodic policy reviews should be considered as part of this conversation and factored accordingly into the planning.</p>
<b>2020/2021 Meeting Schedule</b>	<p>The Committee reviewed the 2020/2021 Meeting Schedule.</p> <p>Several members noted conflicts with the proposed schedule. C. Eaton suggested circulating a poll to survey for members' weekly availabilities. J. Iverson said she would send the poll and consult with the Chair.</p> <p>The Committee did not vote on the 2020/2021 Meeting Schedule.</p>
<b>Other Business</b>	<p>S. Matsui asked what happened to the message the Provost's Office was going to send with respect to academic freedom and the application of foreign laws. C. Eaton explained a memo was sent from both Provosts to all Deans to be distributed as broadly as possible within the Faculties. The memo related to concerns from students in a variety of countries around the world that some</p>

course material or research they are required to undertake may be viewed as illegal or inappropriate in certain jurisdictions. Instructors were asked to warn students that their national state agencies may take exception to activities that would otherwise be considered appropriate in a Canadian context, and to be mindful about that.

S. Matsui said many students had registered in courses by the time the memo was sent, and the message did not explain what options those students had. He added academic freedom was not emphasized in the memo. C. Eaton explained some instructors chose to modify course content or to not offer certain courses in an online format. Additionally, some students have requested and been granted academic concessions. A relatively small number of people have been impacted, and the University is helping the Faculty advising offices support students.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.