



(November 23, 2020 meeting, in preparation for Senate meeting of December 2, 2020)

## 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SENATE

The minutes of the Senate meeting of November 18, 2020 were circulated to the Steering Committee for review. It is recommended that they now be considered by Senate for approval.

## 2. SPEAKING RIGHTS

The Steering Committee requests speaking rights for:

- Ms. Cristiane Tinmouth, Associate Vice-Principal (Financial Services), for item IIB2 (Annual Report on the Financial State of the University);
- Dr. Richard Martin, Executive Director, Analysis, Planning, and Budget, for item IIB3 (Budget Presentations); and
- Dr. Cameron Charlebois, Executive Director, Campus Planning and Development/ Chair of the Committee on Physical Development, for item IIB4 (Annual Report of the Committee on Physical Development).

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Steering Committee has reviewed the Agenda for the present meeting and recommends it for approval.

## 4. REVIEW OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

The Steering Committee received a motion to extend the availability of the Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory (S/U) option for courses in the Fall 2020 term, in a manner akin to that instituted at the end of the Winter 2020 term.

After a thorough discussion, the Steering Committee did not approve the motion for submission to Senate. In reaching the decision, several points were raised, notably:

- The motion recommending to extend the S/U option was not supported by proper due diligence, as is required when a motion is being recommended to Senate for consideration. It was noted that the question of the S/U option was considered within a number of faculties, but that their views on the question were not captured in the proposed motion. In addition to discussions at the level of the faculties, which revealed that such a course of action might have a negative impact on accreditation requirements for some programs, it was indicated that this question was also examined by members of the University's administration and by the Academic Policy Committee (APC). In all cases, the extension of the S/U option was not recommended. (Please see the 499<sup>th</sup> APC Report, [D20-01](#)).

- The motion asks that each Faculty identify their specific application of the S/U options. It does not take into account the workload involved and the difficulty each Faculty could face in trying to implement the S/U option in the final weeks of the semester.
- The decision to implement the S//U option at the end of the Winter 2020 session was the result of the emergency health situation that called for immediate action. The current teaching and learning environment, although challenging, does not present the same level of urgency that characterized the Winter 2020 decision.

**Present:** Suzanne Fortier (*Chair*); Angela Campbell, Jim Engle-Warnick, Brooklyn Frizzle, Andrew Kirk, Kristi Kouchakji, Christopher Manfredi, Jim Nicell, Laura Nilson, Marc Richard, Edyta Rogowska (*Secretary*).

**Regrets:** None.