



Focused on academic excellence, Brescia University College creates an actively engaged student experience, educating women to think critically and to participate actively in society. A Catholic university college in the Ursuline tradition, we prepare our graduates to lead with wisdom, justice and compassion in a changing world.

**BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
BRESCIA COUNCIL**

October 25, 2019

1:00pm

Room 136, St. James Building

MINUTES

- Present:** P. Barker, A. Barnfield, H. Campbell, A. Chater, P. Chimbos, W. Da, T. D'Souza, N. de Moras, J. Doelman, E. Douglas, L. Frederking, M. Galczynski, C. George, D. Grace, S. Hajpel, D. Hudecki, H. Hurst, L. Jakubowski, J. Keltz, S. Kleinknecht, M. Lee, C. Leguard, J. Matthews, C. McDonald, J. Mitchell, S. Mumm, C. O'Connor, L. Ochoa, E. Petch, R. Popovic, J. Seabrook, M. Simm, J. Sutton, C. Temple, J. Twynstra, G. Warecki, E. Whelan, C. Whippey
- Regrets:** L. Ahmadi, D. Battram, H. Cummins, L. Descartes, B. Diemert, P. Dworatzek, A. Garcia, D. Green, S. Greig, S. Hekmat, M. Hunter, L. Janes, M. Jean, H. Kirk, M. Lace, M. J. LeBer, R. Johnson, J. Madill, H. Majid, T. Mahoney, M. Molnar, S. Morrison, D. O'Shea, L. Piche, K. Pittao, J. Sheppard, L. Sunseri
- Recorder:** L. Davison

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- 1. Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order by J. Mitchell, Chair of Brescia Council.
 - 2. Confirmation of Quorum** (50% plus one of the Voting members = 28)
Quorum was confirmed.
 - 3. Acknowledgement of the Traditional First Nations' Lands**
G. Warecki Acknowledged the Traditional First Nations' Lands.
 - 4. Opening Reflection**
C. George provided the opening reflection.

5. Introduction of new Board Chair, Karen McKay

S. Mumm welcomed and introduced Karen McKay, Brescia's new Board Chair.

K. McKay reported on the following priorities of the Board:

- i. Complete the transition to the new Canonical Sponsorship model by February 2020, and ensure that we keep Ursuline traditions. As well, that the Board is committed to maintaining Ursuline representation on the Board.
- ii. Appointment of Brescia's new Chancellor.
- iii. Board has started a policy review and restructuring.
- iv. The Strategic Plan was extended for an additional year. Discussions are preliminary, but there will not be a new Strategic Plan in the next year. Input will be sought from faculty, staff, students and stakeholders.

K. McKay reported that there were a couple of questions asked in advance and she would respond to them:

- i. The types of Board meetings. K. McKay responded that there are four types:
 - a. Open Session – the full Board and guests are welcome to attend. The approved minutes are then public and posted on Brescia's website.
 - b. Closed Session – the full Board and no guests unless specifically requested. Minutes are confidential.
 - c. *In camera* – the Elected Trustees, Principal, and invited guests when appropriate. Minutes are confidential. Discussions are usually Human Resource related and sensitive.
 - d. Restricted *in camera* – Elected Trustees without the Principal. Discussions are about the Principal's performance and review.

The Board strives to be as transparent as possible. Human resources, litigation and some levels of finance are matters discussed in Closed and *in camera* sessions. The Board's responsibility is to approve the Principal and faculty hires. An example of what would go into an *in camera* session are the tuition and grant cuts in February 2019 and the impact of this.

- ii. A second question submitted was who decides on the prioritization of hiring faculty? The Board approved the hire of three positions and following the provincial cuts, they were put on hold in order to protect existing staff. The decision to proceed with one hire over another was made based on what would benefit students most, therefore, the Family Studies position will go forward. The Board is committed to ensuring that decisions are made in a fiscally responsible way.

Additional questions asked:

- iii. Are *in camera* sessions held at every meeting? Only when there are topics that require a level of confidentiality. The language in the *Constitution* could be changed to say "as required."
- iv. It was commented that faculty are in crisis by not hiring additional faculty. Many faculty took on an extra workload within the F/N School with the promise that there would be a faculty hire, then it was put on hold. K. McKay responded that it is a matter of balancing priorities and given the \$1.6 million cut to tuition overnight the Board and Administration

took the holds very seriously. There was no intention to pull the rug out and we are sympathetic to the workload. The reason why we entered into a campaign was the realization that we cannot rely on funds from the government.

K. McKay welcomed Councillors to attend Board meetings and if they have additional questions, they are welcome to contact her. Also noted was that there will be a mid-year report from the Board to Brescia Council, and one from Brescia Council to the Board.

6. **Approval of Agenda**

Approved on consensus.

7. **Consent Agenda:**

- i. Approval of Draft Minutes, September 27, 2019

Approved on consensus.

8. **Business Arising**

M. Molnar was thanked for organizing the Lunch and Learn for accessible education. One session has been held and a second is scheduled.

J. Mitchell reported that a new tab has been set-up on OWL labelled, "Questions/Feedback." It is a Qualtrics form and is completely anonymous. The form is intended for receiving feedback throughout the year on how well the Executive and Council are operating. People are welcome to submit feedback or questions on an ongoing basis throughout the year as opposed to waiting till June.

9. **New and Other Business**

10. **For Approval**

E. Petch was welcomed as a new Student at Large member. There were no questions.

- a) Brescia Council Standing Committees

Proposal #1: That Brescia Council accept and approve the proposed nominations for the Brescia Council and Brescia Council Standing Committees as presented.

Approved on consensus.

11. **For Discussion**

12. **Question Period**

13. **Announcements**

Adjourned at 1:50pm