



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**

**November 24, 2017
1:00pm
Room 136, St. James Building**

MINUTES

- Present:** C. Aguilar, A. Barnfield, D. Battram, E. Bell, S. Buchner, P. Chimbos, J. Coghlin, H. Cummins, T. D'Souza, W. Da, N. De Moras, L. Descartes, B. Diemert, J. Doelman, M. Dorschell, C. George, D. Grace, H. Hallett, S. Horsley, D. Hudecki, L. Jakubowski, L. Janes, H. Kirk, S. Kleinknecht, M. J. Le Ber, M. Lee, C. Lord, T. Mahoney, J. Mitchell, E. Morphy, S. Morrison, C. O'Connor, L. Piche, J. Seabrook, M. Simm, C. Temple, C. Vitkauskas, G. Warecki, E. West, E. Whelan, C. Whippey
- Regrets:** L. Ahmadi, A. Alabi, P. Barker, C. Bell, A. Chater, P. Dworatzek, T. Francolini, A. Garcia, D. Gardiner, S. Hajpel, B. Hartman, M. Jean, R. Johnson, M. Kocins, K. Lucier, J. Madill, J. Matthews, S. Mumm, P. O'Neil, R. Ogilvie, H. Persaud, K. Pittao, C. Sharen, K. Vezina, A. Walby
- Guests:** L. Bonello, A. Brown, C. Core, A. Frost, C. McDonald, N. Naguleswaran, T. Patry, J. Patterson
- Recorder:** L. Davison, M. Lace

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by M. J. Le Ber, Chair of Brescia Council.

2. Confirmation of Quorum (50% plus one of the Voting members = 30)

Quorum confirmed.

3. Acknowledgement of the Traditional First Nations' Lands

J. Mitchell acknowledged the Traditional First Nations' Lands.

4. **Opening Reflection**

C. George provided the opening reflection.

5. **Approval of Agenda**

Approved on consensus.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

i. Approval of Draft Minutes, October 27, 2017

Approved on consensus.

7. **Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

8. **For Approval**

i. Changes to the *Constitution of the Brescia Council*

M. J. Le Ber provided a recap of the changes that had been suggested at the October Brescia Council meeting. There were no further questions. The changes to the main body of the *Constitution* need to go to the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees and then to the Board for approval.

Proposal #1: That Brescia Council recommend to the Board of Trustees that they approve the proposed changes to the *Constitution of the Brescia Council*.

Approved on consensus.

ii. Standing Committee Nominations

M. J. Le Ber reported that the memberships for all Standing Committees was now complete with one exception; a contract faculty position on the Joint Health & Safety Committee remains vacant. There were no questions.

Proposal #2: That Brescia Council accept and approve the proposed nominations for Standing Committees of Brescia Council.

Approved on consensus.

iii. Withdrawal of Minor in French for Food and Nutritional Sciences

J. Mitchell commented that there had not been a student enrolled since 2013.

Proposal #3: That Brescia Council accept and approve that effective September 1, 2017, Brescia University College withdraw the Minor in French for Food and Nutritional Sciences as approved by the Educational Policy Committee.

Approved on consensus.

9. For Discussion

i. Acting Vice–Principal and Academic Dean

- Academic Plan

J. Mitchell reported that the Academic Plan has come forward for discussion and feedback. It has been to the Educational Policy Committee, the Learning and Teaching Committee, as well as the Research and Scholarship Committee. There has been much consultation and feedback but this is still considered a draft. After soliciting feedback, it will come back to Brescia Council at the December meeting for approval.

M. J. Le Ber suggested that Council go through each section of the Academic Plan and any related questions or feedback could be discussed.

Academic Themes: A question was asked about academic program development and clarification on how the themes would work. The themes provide some organization for potentially new interdisciplinary programs in teaching and research. These were a starting point from which other themes may evolve over time. A question was asked about when Year 1 activity would occur and J. Mitchell responded that it would depend on when the Academic Plan is approved, but likely this academic year. It was noted that French appeared to be missing from any themes outside of Arts, Language, and Culture and would like to be included in Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion and in Leader Character, Leadership, and Ethics.

The Brescia Competencies: A question was asked about streamlining the process to integrate Brescia Competencies and program level outcomes. J. Mitchell noted that many programs already have program level outcomes which build upon the Brescia Competencies.

Excellence and Innovation in Learning and Teaching: There was a suggestion to include, “International Office” after the Beryl Ivey Library.

Our Diverse Students: There was a comment that Brescia does not include Indigenous students in either the International Strategy (they are First Nations) or in a separate Indigenous plan. J. Mitchell responded that Brescia is tied to Western’s plan; however, if someone wanted to develop an Indigenous plan apart from Western, they were welcome to do so. If there was interest by faculty and staff at Brescia in developing our own strategy, that would be wonderful.

Research and Scholarship: It was commented that this section did not reflect the breadth of scholarship that faculty conduct. Given the external audience for the Academic Plan, there was a suggestion to include additional information on the breadth of Brescia faculty’s research and also language around the International partnerships that faculty have developed over time but are not recognized as partner universities by Brescia. Previously an inventory of these faculty partnerships was to be conducted, but that has not been done. There has not been input to the selection of Partner universities by faculty.

M. J. Le Ber invited additional comments on the Academic Plan and there were none. It was noted that there should be a review in a couple of years to assess how the plan is working.

ii. Vice-Principal, Students

• **New Mental Health Framework**

M Simm reported on a program called the “Care Program” that has been in the planning stages for the past 18 months. Other institutions have been reviewed with regards to best practices and how they relate to our Mental Health and Wellness Program. The intent is to use a coordinated approach to support early intervention for students. M. Simm and C. McDonald noted that the program will officially be in effect as of January 8th and ‘Lunch and Learns’ regarding how to submit a concern will be scheduled from January 15 to February 2. In addition, there will be a web page and site. Faculty noted concerns about new expectations regarding taking the attendance of students to alert early intervention. This is not the intent; this program is a resource in response to concerns expressed by a variety of people, including faculty. In response to the question of the opportunity for dialogue to discuss student-specific concerns, C. McDonald encouraged faculty to attend the “lunch and learn” sessions to find out the answer to the question.

10. New and Other Business

There was no new or other business.

11. Announcements

i. Updated Communications Materials

C. Aguilar reported that Communications has been working on refreshing many of Brescia’s web pages and now the Communications web site is going through an update. Additional information will be coming forward next week to assist with Branding and how to access information on graphic standards.

ii. M. J. Le Ber announced that S. Mumm had won two tickets for the Pavlo Concert which she was unable to use and thus available for someone else to enjoy.

Adjourned at 3:00pm