

Senate Minutes

February 27, 2015
Senate Chamber CE-339

Chair, D. Lionais, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Hosam Al Arabi, Stephen Augustine, Ed Barre, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Debbie Brennick, Allen Britten, Danny Brown, Keith Brown, Geoff Carre, Brandon Ellis, Ed Davis, Godwin D'Cunha, Margaret Dechman, Barb Glassey, Odette Griscti, Derrick Hayes, Mike Henick, Sarah Hines, Rany Ibrahim, Dale Keefe, Jane Lewis, Doug Lionais, Cyril MacDonald, Bernie MacLennan, Erna MacLeod, Pat Maher, David McCorquodale, Scott Moir, Martin Moy, Andrew Petrie, Sheila Profit, David Rae, Wei Shang, Laura Syms, Ammar Tayeb, Tom Urbaniak, Arja Vainio-Mattila, David Wheeler, Tuma Young, Shawn Bethke, Eileen Smith-Piovesan

Regrets:

Judy Bailey, Louis Guimond, Brittany MacAulay, Gordon MacInnis, Elaine MacNeil, Ron McCarron, Mary Jane Morrison, Mark Silverberg

Absent:

Cyril MacDonald

Congratulations were offered to Senator, Dr. Margaret Dechman on being granted tenure along with Dr. Maureen Finlayson, Department of Education, Dr. Catherine Leviten-Reid, Department of Organizational Management, and Dr. Vielka Salazar, Department of Biology.

Congratulations were also extended to Brandon Ellis on his successful bid to represent the CBU Students' Union as their President for a second term.

Congratulations were extended to Dr. Dale Keefe as the newly appointed Vice-President (Academic) Provost.

Arlene Mullan was welcomed as guest during today's meeting.

2. Consent Agenda

It was moved by E. Davis, seconded by D. Hayes to accept and approve the following items submitted by the Academic Committee and Bylaws Committee as presented:

2.1 Academic Committee

1. FRNC 3XXX – Sociolinguistique Francaise
2. FRNC 3XXX – Linguistique Francaise

3. GEOL 1XXX - Deadly Planet
4. HIST 2XXX – America: Freedom and Empire
5. HIST 1XXX – Stories We Tell

2.2 Bylaws Committee

Approve the Department of Anthropology and Sociology By-laws as submitted.

Motion carried.

3. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session – N/A

4. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

5. Special Presentations/Updates

5.1 Deferred Maintenance - Donnie MacIsaac

Due to the rescheduling of Senate from February 6th, Mr. MacIsaac was unable to attend today and an alternate date will be sought for his presentation.

6. Report of the President and Vice-President Academic & Research (Provost)

6.1 Report of the President

President Wheeler gave a verbal report with the following highlights:

- The President's Report to the Board of Governors will be circulated to the university community next week.
- A tremendously successful Chinese New Year celebration was held on February 12th and congratulations were extended to all involved.
- Chaired by K. Brown, CBU convened the first meeting of the provincial task force on Rural-Urban Immigration Pilot for Cape Breton Island.
- Dr. Kevin McKague received notification of his successful bid for \$1 million to research how community health workers in South Sudan may be supported more effectively. This major award will be announced in coming days.
- A joint campaign uniting administration, students union and faculty union on the topic of free tuition will commence in the coming week.

6.2 Report of the Vice-President Academic & Research (Provost)

Dale Keefe gave a verbal report with the following highlights:

- Welcomes were offered to Arlene Mullan and Norm Smith to Senate.
- The Program Options Fair will be held on March 5th and CBU101 will be rescheduled in the near future.
- Presidential Award Recognition Dinner is being planned for April with the call for nominations of

the various awards to be circulated in the next few weeks.

- An internal search for a Dean of Research, Teaching & Graduate Studies has been advertised and the hope is to have the successful candidate in place by July 1st. Anyone who may be interested in being part of the search committee is asked to contact any one of the Deans.
- The Annual Research Report will be circulated to the Board of Governors next Friday and then to the larger community in the following week.
- The Province's Nursing Education Review is now complete which will result in a shift to a new delivery and curriculum model. This change is not expected to have an impact until Fall 2017.
- The Minister of Education announced the first steps toward supporting teacher excellence as part of the Nova Scotia Action Plan for Education earlier in the week. Therefore no new education programs put forward by universities will be considered or approved until new teaching standards are established.

In reply to a question on the change in nursing for first year science and if more students will be admitted or if the cap remains, D. Keefe and S. Profit replied that close to same number will be admitted in the first year and the second year will have the accelerated option. The progression requirements were also detailed as being clearly laid out.

7. Question Period

7.1 What can we at CBU learn from the Dalhousie dentistry situation? Does CBU have a policy or procedure in place to deal with unprofessional behavior and is it adequate?

In response President Wheeler circulated a memorandum and a policy framework document in development by the Board of Governors Executive Committee. The document contained several policies, including draft policies on a respectful campus, sexual assault, and social media. These policies will be discussed during the Board of Governors meetings next week and then subject to a larger discussion with the CBU community afterwards. He noted that because of CBU's size and the excellent relationship between the Students' Union and administration issues do not go unnoticed or without being addressed.

Many comments were offered in support of the documents and the proactive measures being taken to reduce CBU's exposure to any issues or situations that could arise. It was echoed that the policies and procedures are of course necessary, but that an equal amount of education to the entire CBU community is of equal importance.

On the question if any of the policies might be restricting students and provide a layer of protection for the students, President Wheeler replied these policies are not just for students but for every member of the CBU community.

On the topic of the Student Code of Conduct and the Athletic Code of Conduct many opinions were offered that because a student is an ambassador of CBU there is a specific code they must adhere to while representing CBU. It was also noted that this type of code is a national norm for university athletes. In reply to Schools or Departmental having more specific policies in addition to these high level policies, President Wheeler replied they would be most appropriate if they are required to minimize exposure.

A caution was noted that with forbidding the handling of certain material a statement on academic freedoms would also be necessary and should be carefully worded and considered.

On the question of the Student Code of Conduct policy and the noted student judicial system, President Wheeler replied that this is a jointly managed process between Student Services and the Students' Union. The reporting of this judicial system will be tasked to the new Multicultural and Diversity Officer, Scott Thomas.

In response to a point of contact for each of the policies, President Wheeler replied that a communications plan will be implemented surrounding all of the draft policies and this will include a point of contact as well as the implementation of an anonymous complaints line.

8. Approval of Minutes

7.1 It was moved by M. Hennick, seconded by G D'Cunha, the approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: 4

9. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

10. Report of the Executive Committee

On behalf of the Vice Chair, S. Profit reported that the Executive Committee met on January 23rd to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. The committee also discussed scheduling of a special meeting and decided that it is not necessary at this time but may be held later in term. With appointments of Arlen Mullan as Registrar and Norm Smith as Senior Director of Student Services, the committee also noted the bylaws would have to be updated. **It was moved** by S. Profit, seconded by R. Ibrahim, to amend the bylaws of Senate to revise the title Vice-President Student Services & Registrar to Registrar and to add the Senior Director of Student Services as a non-voting member. **Motion carried.**

11. Students' Union Report

In the absence of the executive, President Wheeler replied to a question on the status of the CFS litigation process. The proceedings have ended and the case is now being considered by the judge. Early signals from the judge are not perceived as positive by the Students' Union legal representation but a final decision has not yet been rendered.

12. Reports of Other Committees

(a) Nominating – Nothing to report.

(b) Planning & Review – Nothing to report.

- (c) **QA** – Chair, G. Chen reported the committee continues its work on the self-study document, the new MPHEC guidelines for institutional reviews, and the development of an annual QA program level report.
- (d) **Research** – Chair, Ed Barre, referred to the informational report circulated with the meeting material noting there was nothing further to add.
- (e) **TLEC** – Nothing to report.
- (f) **Academic** – Chair, D. Hayes referred to the documentation circulated with the meeting material. Items for information on the Certificate in Science Education, a course change to MGMT 3603 and MGMT 1601 were noted. **It was moved** by D. Hayes, seconded by D. Rae, to approve the minor changes to the Bachelor of Business Administration as presented. D. Rae explained that the prescribed core courses in CBU's BBA degree are 22 which amount to 66 credit hours; the highest amongst BBA programs in Atlantic Canada. The proposed modification represents a reduction of the prescribed number of core courses to 17, which would translate to a more acceptable and competitive 51 credit hours in the prescribed core. Two core courses name changes are also being suggested to more accurately reflect their content.

Concerns were expressed with the removal of the English requirements and the lack of consultation within the process and that information in the review may be incorrect. From the SASS where do writing requirements

With respect to the consultation process, D. Hayes advised this has been sent back to Academic Committee to see where this best fits within the process and is on their agenda for the next meeting. D. Rae replied that a meeting to address these concerns was held with himself, the Chair of Languages & Letters, and the Dean Vainio-Mattila to explore this issue. They decided that they needed to determine the needs and requirements of the students and if they differ for international and domestic students. They further agreed that the English courses should be taken in the early years of study at CBU and they will meet with Norm Smith to discuss this further with respect to academic advising. Comments were offered that these courses should be required rather than strongly advised. Several Senators expressed their discomfort with the idea of applying a particular prerequisite on one particular group of students and that the international students attending CBU are from over 40 countries and should not be grouped as one identifier when referring to English proficiency.

In reply to a suggestion that this item be brought back to Academic Committee, A. Britten noted that all of the concerns and suggestions raised today were brought up during meetings of the Academic Committee. Referring to the committee's vote supplied with the package, A. Britten noted this item was not unanimously approved but did pass with a majority vote and is now before Senate as the next step in this process. Academic Committee members present felt that if this item was sent back to Academic Committee, there would be no change in the vote nor would any new or productive debate be brought forth.

Motion carried. Opposed: 5 Abstention: 4

13. Board of Governors' Report – N/A

14. Confidential Business – N/A

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.



Sheila Profit, Secretary