

Special Senate Minutes

May 13, 2015
Verschuren Centre, CS-104

Chair, D. Lionais called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

1. Student Services Review – Norm Smith & Brendan MacDonald

Mr. Smith explained that over the last number of months student services has been intensively reviewing and strategizing on how to position the unit effectively for the future. Mr. MacDonald then provided a detailed overview of the initiatives relating to strategic goals and the adoption of a proactive model to identify areas where student services can better serve, assist and engage students. Various working groups have been developed to obtain a better sense of what students are looking for in their post secondary education experience. A strong engagement strategy has been implemented to build on current services and to bring awareness of the services and programs offered by the centre.

Following the presentation many questions, comments, and suggestions were offered on a variety of topics. Support for mentorship was strongly supported and those present from the department of Nursing offered to share their mentoring experiences for this worthwhile effort. Suggestions on how faculty can assist were responded to, particularly in areas of fostering situations were natural relationships with international and domestic students can develop and flourish. Early intervention to identify students that may be at risk was also noted as a priority. The need to organize academic advising and proper communications to students was also discussed.

2. Integrated Planning – Dale Keefe

In a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Keefe provided an overview of the direction integrated planning will be following to better serve Cape Breton University. He noted that the academic priorities should drive the budget which has not been the case in recent years at CBU. The two institutional units, identified as academic and academic supports, must work seamlessly to ensure an integrated cycle is successful. A detailed sequence of what will be a continuous cycle was explained in detail.

Following the presentation Dr. Keefe responded to questions on feedback mechanism and reporting along with an integrated reporting system to include all schools and departments. How program funding is determined was also identified as a concern by Senators and Dr. Keefe replied these principals will be clearly defined within this process. The managing of the human resources, research, recruitment and a review of the process were also discussed at length. Examples of Canadian universities using this, or similar planning processes were identified and have been having successes since its implementation. On the question of enrolment incentives, President Wheeler replied that a formal document will be circulated in the coming weeks which will answer any questions on this topic.

Adjournment

With no further questions or comments the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Sheila Profit, Secretary