

Senate Minutes

March 18, 2016
Senate Chamber CE-339

Vice Chair, G. D’Cunha, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Stephen Augustine, Judy Bailey, Pat Bates, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Keith Brown, Sylvia Burrow, Taylor Burton, Kenzie Cameron, George Chen, Eddie Davis, Godwin D’Cunha, Margaret Dechman, Brandon Ellis, Jill Ellsworth, Barb Glassey, Odette Gristci, John Hudec, Dale Keefe, Carolin Kreber, Brittany MacAulay, Gordon MacInnis, Bernie MacLennan, Erna MacLeod, Elaine MacNeil, David McCorquodale, Mary Jane Morrison, Arlene Mullan, David Mullan, Willena Nemeth, Vielka Salazar, Liam Shannon, Laura Syms, Claudette Taylor, Arja Vainio-Mattila, Wendy Wadden, Richard Watuwa, David Wheeler, Tuma Young, Norm Smith, Shawn Bethke

Regrets:

Debbie Brennick, Allen Britten, Derrick Hayes, Jane Farnsworth, Patrick Howard, Pierre Jean, Roy Karam, George Karaphillis, Catherine Levetin-Reid, Eileen Smith-Piovesan

Absent:

Brennan Boudreau, Wei Shang, Sam Libbus

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Academic Committee

- a) ENGL 3XXX Romantic Fiction
- b) ENGL 3XXX Victorian Fiction
- c) POLS 3XXX Surveillance and Social Control
- d) DRAM 2XXX Improvisational Drama

The items of the consent agenda were accepted as presented with the removal of the Academic Committee approvals page.

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

4. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

5. Special Presentations/Updates - N/A

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

6.1 Report of the President

D. Wheeler referred to the President's report circulated to the University community earlier in the week drawing attention to the policies presented and endorsed, in principle, by the Board of Governors. Senate's direction for these policies was sought, in particular with the Embracing the L'nu (Indigenisation) policy. The development of a proposed new logo is near completion and Senate's input for its unveiling and implementation is was requested at the earliest possible convenience. The hope is to have a possible external community unveiling during the Spring convocation. Following his report President Wheeler welcomed comments and questions.

On the question of the logo process and when it will be presented to the Academic Committee for their input, examination, and consideration, President Wheeler requested this be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the committee and/or possibly a special meeting of the full Senate.

On the question of the implementation of indigenous content throughout all programs, President Wheeler replied that a survey has been done across all programs to help determine the current status of indigenous content. He also noted that further discussions with Senate for direction and development of a policy is necessary and hopes these will occur in near future. He also noted the policies would be measured and tracked.

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

D. Keefe gave a verbal report with the following highlights:

- SST QA Review was submitted to MPHEC and the moratorium has now been lifted. The SPAL program has been approved.
- Acknowledgement for the hard work and efforts were expressed to faculty and students involved in Research Month.
- An Enrolment Service Integration project team has been established and begun meeting with each of the stakeholders to establish best practices for improved effectiveness and efficiencies within Student Services.

In response to the town halls held regarding the possible restructuring of the Schools, D. Keefe replied that since that time, meetings have been held with most of the Deans and the President with one more scheduled in the following week. After these are complete a clearer picture will be ready for presentation.

7. Question Period – N/A

8. Approval of Minutes

8.1 It was moved by E. Davis, seconded by B. MacLennan, the approval of the minutes from the February 12, 2016 meetings. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: 6

9. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

10. Report of the Executive Committee

L. Syms reported that the Executive Committee met on March 4th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting and a time for a lunch meeting with the Senate executive and the incoming and outgoing Students' Union executive was also established.

11. Students' Union Report

Students' Union President, B. Ellis thanked Senate for a very engaging two-year term as President of the Students' Union and congratulated the incoming executive: Roy Karam (President), Brandon MacDonald (Executive Vice President), Taylor Burton (Vice President Finance and Operations), and Matt Shallo (Vice President Promotions). He also reported that during a referendum held on offering Asperia to students through a \$5.40 increase all those in attendance were in favour, however quorum was not obtained. He encouraged CBU and CBUSU to work together to ensure some mental health service for students is available. The SU participated in Advocacy Week to ensure open lines of communication exist between students of Nova Scotia universities and government. He also encouraged CBU to enter in to a formal consultative process with students regarding budget planning process. Finally he noted that an online petition started to implement a fall reading week or fall break has received 365. He also brought attention to the many comments and how many feel this break could add to positive mental health during this term. He then referred to the document circulated with the meeting material recommending changes to a policy on freedoms of speech

It was moved, by B. Ellis, seconded by T. Burton, that CBU implement a fall reading week. It was suggested that this matter would be one that should be addressed by the Academic Committee. A further conversation revealed a similar motion presented in 2009 and that due to specific dates in various collective agreements, a fall reading could not be introduced without changes to these agreements. It was stated in minutes from 2009: "...that there would an MOU between Senate and CBUFA to come to an agreement regarding a fall break." Following the discussion, it was agreed by mover and seconder to **amend the motion** to read: that Senate endorse the working toward the implementation of a fall reading week. **Amended motion carried.**

It was moved by B. Ellis, seconded T. Burton, that Senate delegate the circulated policy to the appropriate committee for discussion and possible adoption. It was noted that the circulated passage was from a very lengthy report from a faculty committee from the University of Chicago, and is also embedded in a large collection of other policies from that university. After much discussion and suggestions of amendments to the motion, it was accepted by the mover and seconder that motion be revised as follows: Senate approves direction being given to senior administration to form an ad-hoc committee to investigate, develop and present a policy framework with respect to freedoms of expressions to Senate and the Board of Governors. **Amended motion carried. Abstentions: 2**

In response to a question on the uptake rate for Asperia, B. Ellis responded that it was very well received. Of the eleven logged cases, ten were resolved and closed and he reported this ratio is comparable to other Nova Scotia university of similar size. Opinions were expressed that an increase to student fees to allow for the Asperia services to continue, or the addition of another counsellor on campus, would be welcomed by most if not all students. **It was moved** by B. Ellis,

seconded by O. Gristci that Senate endorses the implementation of Asperia for another year. Concerns were expressed that due to the lack of process and information the motion could be better served with a friendly amendment to endorse mental health initiatives being prioritized during the upcoming budgetary consultation process. **Motion carried as amended. Abstentions: 6**

On behalf of Senate, G. D’Cunha thanked B. Ellis for his contributions and participation in Senate over the last two years and to the student Senators completing their term on Senate. All were wished well in their future endeavors.

12. Reports of Other Committees

(a) **Academic** – On behalf of the Chair, A. Mullan referred to the documents circulated with the meeting package.

Recommendations:

1. **MUSI 2XXX Introducing Dance**

It was moved, by A Mullan, seconded by W. Wadden to approve the MUSI 2XXX Introducing Dance. D. Keefe replied that in response to this item being returned to Academic Committee after the last Senate, the concerns of a dedicated space have been addressed. **Motion carried.**

2. **MUSI 2XXX – Performing Culture**

It was moved by A. Mullan, seconded by W. Wadden, to approve MUSI 2XXX-Performing Culture. It was noted that a three-way cross listing, through the Registrar’s Office will either eliminated or reduce the cross listings. It was also noted that a consultation with the discipline faculty has been added for evaluations for student completing at least one major assignment with a focus on performance in the discipline for which they will receive course credit. **Motion carried.**

3. **ENVS 1XXX – The Art and Science of Environmental Studies**

It was moved by A. Mullan, seconded by W. Wadden, to approve ENVS 1XXX – The Art and Science of Environmental Studies. This course was introduced as one that will be offered in the new joint Arts & Science Environment program, much like how the newly approved SPAL program was introduced. If approved, the course can be taken as an elective however, if the student enrolls in the ENVS program it can count toward that core. **Motion carried.**

4. **Course Drops**

It was moved by A. Mullan, seconded by A. Vainio-Mattila, to approve the changes to Academic Calendar with a slight change to number six being the more concise wording of: *Courses dropped after the penalty date, due to extenuating circumstances requires both Dean and Registrar to accept, will appear on the transcript with the legend WS (withdrew in special circumstances) and the course will not be in the student’s average.* It was noted that the NGR designation, although not common, is still used from time to time. **Motion carried.**

(b) **QA** – MJ. Morrison referred the report of the committee as circulated with the meeting material.

Recommendations:

1. Graduate Attributes

It was moved by MJ Morrison, seconded by D. Keefe, to accept the graduate attributes as circulated. MJ Morrison detailed the suggested changes and also described how the committee sought and incorporated feedback. Should the Graduate Attributes be approved today the implementation and next steps were detailed. In response to any new programs being approved and their need to have these attributes implemented within was suggested and that a go forward implantation date will be determined. **Motion carried. Abstentions 2**

2. QA Review Policy

It was moved by MJ Morrison, seconded by B. Ellis, to approve Quality Assurance Review Policy as presented. On the question of the process for implementing recommendations, MJ Morrison referred to the supplemental documents noted at the top of the policy. The Self – Study Guidelines for the Review of Academic Programs and the Self –Study Guidelines for the Review of Academic Support Services will have these timelines clearly defined in each. **Motion carried.**

(c) **Planning & Review** - V. Salazar referred to the informational report circulated with the meeting material noting there was nothing further to add.

(d) **Bylaws** – B. Glassey referred the report of the committee as circulated with the meeting material.

Recommendations:

1. Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of Senate

It was moved by B. Glassey, seconded by T. Young, that Clause 9 to Terms of Reference for Standing Committees of Senate be amended to read: "Terms of office: Unless specified otherwise or unless a seat becomes vacant, terms of office of non-ex officio standing-committee members who are senators and of all student members of standing committees shall be for one year. Unless otherwise specified or unless a seat becomes vacant, terms of office of non-ex officio standing-committee members who are not senators and who are not students shall be for two years. Terms of office of non-ex officio standing-committee members shall expire on 30 June of every year or on 30 June of alternating years as the case may be. Unless specified otherwise, all incumbents shall be eligible for re-nomination". **Motion carried**

2. Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of Senate

It was moved by B. Glassey, seconded by T. Young, that in light of potential future school restructuring communicated by the Vice-President Academic, the Bylaws and Procedures Committee will suspend the review of outstanding department bylaws until greater clarity is provided. A suggestion change the motion to read only School bylaws was not accepted and was followed-up with a comment that the Nursing Department's bylaws are significantly outdated. It was then suggested that the routine bylaw review should be suspended until such a time that any restructuring decisions are finalized, however should major changes be deemed necessary by any school or department, the committee will review these bylaws upon request. A friendly amendment was accepted a change the motion to read "...will suspend *their* review of outstanding department bylaws..." **Amended motion carried. Abstentions: 1**

(e) **Research** – E. MacLeod referred to the informational report circulated with the meeting material noting there was nothing further to add.

(f) **TLEC** – J. Hudec referred the report of the committee as circulated with the meeting material.

Recommendations:

1. Electronic Device Policy

It was moved by J. Hudec, seconded by R. Watuwa to approve the changes to the electronic device policy as presented. Concerns were offered that the revised statement can be read in a negative tone and should be written with a supportive tone for students and faculty. Due to the nature of the many concerns with the proposed revision the **motion was withdrawn**. The policy will be brought back to the committee for further consideration and development taking into consideration the comments received.

2. Minimum System Requirements Policy

It was moved by J. Hudec, seconded by B. Glassey to approve the revised Minimum System Requirements Policy as presented. The revised document was described as the minimal system requirements a student would need to provide the best learning environment in an online learning setting. In response to a suggestion to list specific software, it was determined that listing specifics would date the policy and create a situation for a continuous need for updating the policy with each upgrade to technology. To avoid the need for a continuous update of the policy, a friendly amendment was accepted to end the policy after, *"...With this in mind, before taking on online course at CBU and to get the most out their online learning experiences, students should make sure that they have, or can acquire, what they need before they begin online courses."* and followed by: *"Students should consult with faculty or online technology resources for specific requirements for individual courses.* Everything following the additional sentence will be removed up to *Note: Students are responsible for their own communication costs such as long distance telephone charges and subscriptions to an Internet provider, or any other communication service requirements.* **Amended motion carried. Abstentions: 2**

The committee was also reminded for the need of the lab evaluation tool and importance of consultation with lab instructors in its development. The Chair assured D. McCorquodale this item is on the agenda for the committee and is being actioned.

13. Board of Governors' Report

J. Bailey reported that the Board of Governors met on March 11th highlighting the following:

- President Wheeler referred to his circulated report highlighting various items including the free access course on Mi'kmaq history and culture, the windfarm with three turbines is up and running, the moratorium with MPHEC has been lifted, and Hotcourses is now being used by Marketing & Recruitment and showing positive results.
- Mr. MacInnis presented the Treasurer's which detailed a projected budget short fall, the status of investments, a renewed agreement with NSGEU has been signed, declining residence rates and conditional expenditures/revenues.
- Tanya Brann-Barrett presented the Annual Research Report

- An agreement was signed with CBUFA and CBU to officially pause Article 39 of the CBUFA Collective agreement while a new committee of the two group deliberates further. A report of this committee is due by June 30, 2016.
- An update of the budgetary process was presented for discussion during the April 22nd meeting.

14. Confidential Business – N/A

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm.



Laura Syms, Secretary