

Senate Minutes

December 14, 2018
Senate Chamber CE-339

M. Mkandawire, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

He began with the acknowledgement that Cape Breton University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Nagy Abdou, Catherine Arseneau, Pat Bates, Tanya Brann Barrett, Parteek Brar, Geoff Carre, Patrick deLamirande, Mary Beth Doucette, Jasmine Hoover, David Johnson, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Angela Keylor, Carolin Kreber, Ronald Labelle, Brendan MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, Judy MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, Emily MacLennan, Stewart McCann, Martin Mkandawire, Amara Mohamed, Mary Jane Morrison, Martin Moy, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, Marlene Powell, Joanne Pyke, Chester Pyne, Vicky Salazar, Tom Urbaniak, Audrey Walsh, John Mayich

Regrets:

Stephen Augustine, Sheila Christie, David Dingwall, David Gerbasi, Bhreagh Gillis, Odette Griscti, Stephanie Inglis, Alison Keough, Jane Lewis, Bhreagh MacDonald, Bernie MacLennan, Ann Sylliboy, Michael Tanchak, Claudette Taylor, Katie Unsworth, Richard Watuwa, Terry MacDonald

The Chair expressed congratulations on behalf of Senate to Dr. MacKinnon on his appointment as Vice-President Academic (Provost), and to Dr. Brann-Barrett on her appointment as Associate Vice-President, Academic & Research.

2. Consent Agenda – N/A

3. Confidential Business – N/A

4. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session

4.1 Approval of the Confidential Minutes – To be covered under agenda item nine.

5. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

6. Special Presentations/Updates

6.1 Parks Canada / CBU Hub – Chris Bellemore & Mary Keating

Mr. Chris Bellemore provided members with an overview of how faculty and students could advance the relationship between Parks Canada and CBU. He detailed the works of Parks Canada within Cape Breton Island, their stakeholders, partners, and the recently signed agreement with CBU to allow for a better way to communicate and partner.

Following an informative presentation and in recognition of the possible future relationships the Chair, on behalf of Senate, thanked Mr. Bellmore for participating in the meeting.

7. Report of the President and Vice-President Academic & Provost

7.1 Report of the President

M. Mkandawire read a letter from President Dingwall which expressed his sincere regrets for missing the Senate meeting. The letter noted that he was attending the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents' MOU Partnership meeting in Halifax and that he is looking forward to meeting with Senate during the January meeting. He also provided an update on the ERP system, the Academic Plan process, appointments to the RNSB, international enrolment, and transit Cape Breton.

7.2 Report of the Vice-President Academic (Provost)

Vice-President Academic (Provost) reported that he traveled, with a CBU delegation, to China to build upon current relationships and to forge new relations in various areas. He also noted his participation in various community events and the quality assurance reviews for the library and cultural resources.

On the question of the ERP system, G. MacInnis and R. MacKinnon responded that this system will replace, and enhance, the current theSIS system and will encompass all units of the University.

8. Question Period

Referring to the questions submitted to the Executive Committee, M. Mkandawire noted written responses were submitted with the meeting material.

8.1 The previous Vice President Academic had started a process to address the issue of consultation between departments and the enrollment office regarding what courses can be transferred from other institutions, along with what course should stand as an equivalent. Associated with that process was the goal of creating a database of courses that have been vetted and agreed to by the various departments. Departments received a list of courses and their designated equivalent from past decisions made by that office for more than one student. Dept. chairs could designate approved, not approved, and need more info. This stage was done. Where are we at with this process?

VPA Response:

A breakdown of transfer credits was sent to the Deans to validate existing linkages. The staff member responsible for this project left CBU shortly after the project was initiated, which stalled the project somewhat. However, the Excel file that was being developed was placed on the SharePoint and circulated to Deans. The next step of having Chairs in the schools closely evaluate the listed transfer

credits, is on-going. I have re-circulated the June 18, 2018 Keefe report and the Excel file to the deans as a reminder, so they can consult chairs on this issue.

8.2 During the March 23rd meeting, Senate was provided with a presentation on the work being done to organize and make policy documents available, including all of those passed in Senate and Academic Council (where relevant). Is this repository holding the documents available?"

VPA Response:

The repository can be accessed through the following link, using 'cbu#0099' as the password when prompted: <https://www.cbu.ca/policies-procedures>. The project is now under the office of Human Resources and they are working toward improvement of the repository.

8.3 The leadership of the strategic plan had an expert to consult, I believe she is from Ontario. Is the university going to have access to the same consultant during implementation and performance assessment of the strategic plan? Or was that specifically for the planning stage?

VPA Response:

Prof. Patterson was involved during the planning stage for the Strategic Plan and it is not anticipated that she will be involved in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

9. Approval of Minutes

9.1 It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by G. Carre, the approval of the minutes from the November 9, 2018 meeting including the minutes of the Confidential Session. **Motion carried.**
Abstentions: 2

10. Business Arising from the Minutes

T. Urbaniak reported on the recent roundtable on welcoming students to Cape Breton, including recommendations and tangible offers of assistance from community and business leaders. Notes from the roundtable will be posted on the Senate SharePoint

11. Report of the Executive Committee

D. Johnson reported that the Committee met on November 30th to set the agenda for this meeting of Senate. The Committee also discussed the vacancies in the committees of Senate, **it was moved** by D. Johnson, seconded by P. Brar, that the Senior Planning Officer be added to the Academic Committee as a non-voting member, that Martin Moy be appointed to the Quality Assurance committee, that Mary Beth Doucette be appointed to the Research committee, that Catherine Arseneau be appointed to the Bylaws committee, and that Joanne Pyke, David Johnson, and Parteek Brar be appointed to the Tributes committee. He also noted that vacancies remain on the Bylaws and Planning and Review committees. **Motion carried.**

Following a discussion on the structure of the committees, it was suggested that the Executive Committee should consider arranging a retreat where a comprehensive review of Senate, the rules and procedures, its terms of reference, and composition be conducted.

12. Students' Union Report

Students' Union President, P. Brar, reported that the first Fall Reading Week was very welcomed and appreciated by the students and the Union is in support of it becoming a regular part of the calendar. Students attended a last class bash and offices and meeting spaces have been opened to students to use as study space during exams. Thanks were extended to everyone at CBU who helped with and donated to the winter coat drive.

It was suggested that the Registrar's Office might look at booking smaller classroom spaces to students as study spaces during this time as well.

13. Reports of Other Committees

i) **Academic** – M. Keating referred to the report circulated with the meeting material. She drew attention to the Items for Information in that Senate is being requested to provide input on the templates for the 2020 Calendar of Events as there are several anomalies that will have to be addressed due to the dates classes start on for that year. Concerns with respect to make-up days being on a Sunday and the limited food and transit services offered on Sunday.

Recommendation:

1. Approval of the BASE Co-op Option.

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by MJ Morrison, to approve the BASE Co-op Option as presented. **Motion carried.**

ii) **Research** - E. Barre referred to the report circulated with the meeting material. He reported, for information, that the Committee is reviewing the criteria to evaluate nominees for the President's Award for Excellence in Research. He also referred to the circulated World Tourism Institute application and T. Urbaniak reported that during the meeting of the Executive Committee, it was felt that questions may arise surrounding consultation and that the Research Committee might wish to return the proposal with a suggestion for more consultation. Concerns were expressed with this decision by the Executive Committee and their role in this process. Following a fulsome discussion on the role of the Executive Committee, the process for developing research institutes, and the name of the institute, **it was moved** by T. Bran-Barrett, seconded by G. Karaphillis, that Senate recommend approval of the World Tourism Institute to the Vice-President Academic. A friendly amendment was accepted to reconsider the name of the institute. **Motion carried.** 20 Yeas 4 Nays 2 Abstentions

15. Adjournment

At 4:30 pm several Senators excused themselves and quorum was lost. All remaining items (13 iii, iv, v, vi) were tabled until the next meeting of Senate and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30.


David Johnson, Secretary