

Senate Minutes

November 20, 2009
Senate Chamber

Chair, P. MacIntyre called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present: Stephanie Bagnell, Robert Bailey, Matthias Bierenstiel, Mary Tanya Brann-Barrett, Keith Brown, Philip Campbell, Geoff Carre, Cathy Chisholm, Godwin D'Cunha, Allan Fraser, Louis Guimond, President John Harker, Tracey Harris, Princely Ifinedo, Diane Janes, David Johnson, Harvey Johnstone, Ed LeBlanc, Geoff Lee-Dadswell, Jane Lewis, Peter MacIntyre, Gordon MacInnis, Mike MacKenzie, John MacKinnon, Bernie MacLennan, Kristen MacNeil, Ricky McCarthy, Jill McPherson, Patricia Morrison, Willena Nemeth, Rod Nicholls, Gary Nicklason, Todd Pettigrew, Sarah Pyke, Chester Pyne, Mark Silverberg, Lesley Sudworth, Claudette Taylor, Tom Urbaniak, Wendy Wadden,

Regrets: Randolph Bowers, Allen Britten, Anita Delazzer, Sherry Finney, Alexis Manley, Lindsay Marshall, Catherine O'Brien, Eileen Smith-Piovesan, Tuma Young

Absent: Robert Campbell

The Secretary declared a quorum present.

2. Matters to be considered in Closed Session

MOTION:

It was moved by C. Pyne, seconded by P. Morrison to move into Closed Session for the purpose of approving the Confidential minutes of October 23, 2009.

Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by D. Johnson, seconded by C. Pyne, approval of the Confidential minutes of October 23, 2009.

It was noted that the changes to the Graduation List circulated to the members on November 20, 2009 should be added as an addendum to the Confidential minutes.

Motion carried.

Abstentions: 2

MOTION:

Following the discussion in Closed Session, **it was moved** by C. Pyne, seconded by M. Bierenstiel to move to Open Session.

Motion Carried.

3. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

4. Special Presentations – N/A

5. Report of the President, Vice-President (Academic & Research)

Report of the President:

President Harker reported on the following:

- He attended the Association of Universities & Colleges Canada (AUCC) meeting of university presidents held in Ottawa. He highlighted a presentation by the federal Minister of Trade, Honourable Stockwell Day, who unveiled a consultant's report that stated international student recruitment is a very significant industry. In 2008, international students brought to Canada \$6.5 billion dollars.
- He attended the Board of Governors meeting on October 30th.
- He attended Fall Convocation on October 31 at the Membertou Trade & Convention Centre. Honorary degrees were awarded to Ms. Anne MacLellan, Edmonton, Mr. Pat Bates of Sydney and Mrs. Murdena and Mr. Albert Marshall of Eskasoni.
- He gave a presentation at a Newcomers conference hosted by the Cape Breton County Economic Development Authority. He noted that 10 of CBU's international students were in attendance.
- He participated in the Olympic Torch Relay.
- He attended the Nova Scotia Research Investment Trust Beneficiaries committee meeting held in Halifax.

Report of the Vice-President, Academic & Research:

Dr. Robert Bailey reported on the following:

- He reminded everyone about the 'Town Halls' occurring on campus over the next couple of weeks regarding plans for the Centre for the Sustainability in Energy and the Environment. These meetings will provide an opportunity to share ideas about educational and research programs related to the CSEE. He encouraged all members of the CBU community to attend one of the sessions.
- He attended the announcement of Atlantic Path - a large scale cancer research study currently being conducted in Cape Breton and across Canada. 300,000 Canadians between the ages of 35 and 69 are being asked to volunteer to participate in the study. Information brochures are available at today's meeting for those who wish more information regarding this initiative.
- Globe and Mail Canadian University Report – He reported that the CBU student response rate to the survey was not high enough to be included in the report. He also noted, as the overall response was low, the Globe used previous year's results for several universities. However, CBU was not among them. The Globe expressed its sincere apologies for this oversight of not including CBU's previous years' results.

Dr. Bailey addressed a question regarding the timing of the Globe and Mail requests for feedback from university students for the annual survey. He noted the process begins in March and, in the past, students had been encouraged, through their university email account, to respond to the survey. It was noted, however, that students rarely check their university email account. With respect to the upcoming survey, plans are underway to work more closely with the Students' Union to try to improve CBU's participation rate. One area that is being looked at is the students' contact information. It was suggested developing a list with the students' personal email account, where possible, as a means of contacting them.

6. Question Period

President Harker commented that he is prepared to address any question outside the context of the Senate and that if there is an issue that one sees in some way troubling, to bring it to his attention so that the issue can be dealt with promptly.

He responded to the question submitted regarding recycling and composting in the CBU residences indicating that he has spoken with the staff person responsible for encouraging people in residence to recycle. He also suggested that Mr. MacKenzie contact Donnie MacIsaac, Director, Facilities Management, to discuss the matter and to develop ideas whereby prompt action can be identified and undertaken.

7. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by R. Bailey, seconded by J. MacKinnon approval of the minutes with the noted corrections:

Page 6 – Vice-President, Academic & Research report: Governance webpage 'Computer Information Officer' should read '**Chief Information Officer**'.

Page 9 – item D – Quality Assurance – 'Chair *Pro Tem* Chair', should read '**Chair Pro Tem**'

Page 10 – Students' Union Report – "Entrepreneurship Week" is stated as taking place on March 16-20, that should read '**November 16–20**'.

Page 9 – last paragraph add the words 'and opportunities for service based teaching' to read: 'After lengthy discussion concerning clarity of the document **and opportunities for service based teaching**, it was suggested to send the document back to the committee for further consideration.'

Motion carried. Abstentions: 3

8. Business arising from the minutes – N/A.

9. Report of the Executive Committee

A. Fraser, Vice Chair, reported that the committee met on November 6th and discussion took place on the following:

- The Chair commented on the electronic distribution of documentation particularly regarding the graduands list.
- Discussions regarding questions submitted for Question Period.

10. Report of Other Committees of Senate

(A) Academic Committee – Chair, T. Pettigrew, referred to the report circulated with the agenda package.

It was noted that the first item is for information purposes, informing Senate that the Committee has been discussing the question of the structure of the first term. It has proven extremely complicated, partly for the simple fact that Labour Day moves around from year-to-year and Christmas doesn't. The Committee hopes to have a proposal before Senate by the December meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by J. MacKinnon that Senate approve the proposed modification to the Economics Concentration in the BBA program.

On the question: A question regarding whether consideration was given to broadening the list of course choices to include the possibility of taking a course in public policy or a history course. It was noted that this is an economics concentration in the BBA and not a BA degree in economics. It was also noted that there is enough flexibility in additional courses taken throughout the degree, that students who are interested in a public policy course or history course, for example, could fit those courses into the program or expand that focus within this particular degree.

Motion carried. Abstention: 1

(B) Bylaws and Procedures Committee – Chair, T. Urbaniak provided a verbal update. The Committee has completed its review of the draft bylaws for the Department of Languages and Letters. The Committee continues to work on a guideline document for all departments amending or creating their Bylaws. It is hoped this document or at least a draft version will be available by the December Senate meeting.

(C) Nominating Committee – Chair, Claudette Taylor reported there was no business to report.

(D) Planning & Priorities – Chair, Chester Pyne, referred to the written report circulated with the agenda package.

A couple of grammatical or typographical errors were identified in the Preamble section of this report. Point i, second sentence - the word "Make" should not be capitalized and point vi ends with a semicolon when it should be a colon.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Planning & Priorities report.

Observation # 2 – Forensic Anthropology and Human Skeletal Biology (ANTH 370) - With reference to P & P's comment regarding Observation # 2, several Senators spoke to this issue and indicated that the Committee did not seem to thoroughly examine the issue or offer a detailed observation. It was also felt that, as a committee of Senate, it was incumbent on that Committee to give due diligence to the request that P & P examine the resource implications of this course and report back to Senate with possible scenarios/consequences relating to the

matter.

MOTION:

It was moved by T. Urbaniak, seconded by D. Johnson, that this item be referred back to Planning & Priorities Committee with instructions to prepare a more substantive submission.

On the question: It was suggested that perhaps a misinterpretation of what was being asked of P & P led to the Committee's response and Senate's concerns. Those issues were clarified during the discussion.

Motion carried. Abstention: 1

Observation # 3 – MCI Reporting Structure

The question, 'has P & P determined what kind of consultation process will be followed or what timeline will be followed to give a report back to Senate on that matter' was raised. C. Pyne responded indicating that a timeline has yet to be determined and the Committee has not yet determined the input they are seeking from MCI. It was suggested that the Committee could, in consultation with others, give some valuable advice on what the academic implications of a certain planned course of action may be and work closely and in consultation with administration regarding the academic ramifications and offer constructive suggestions. It was noted that the Committee is working with the Vice-President Academic & Research and others, in developing the academic ramifications of whatever administrative structure evolves at MCI.

(E) Quality Assurance – The Chair, W. Wadden, reported that the committee has met and she has been elected chair.

(F) Research – The Chair, G. Carre, referred to the report circulated with the agenda package. For information purposes, the report lists the successful candidates who were awarded RP grants this fall and background information regarding the number of faculty who applied and how many were awarded. He reminded faculty members of the availability of research computers and there is a mechanism in place to request a computer and once received, it is automatically included in the refresh system.

An informative discussion followed regarding the grant process, the selection criteria and students involvement in research. The Chair informed Senate that the Chair of the Research Assistance Committee meets with unsuccessful applicants who request a meeting, to review their application and to offer constructive feedback. The Office of Research and Academic Institutes also offers workshops/meetings regarding the application process to give advice and help those applying for a grant. Geoff Carre briefly reviewed the grant approval criteria and process.

H. Johnstone, Dean, Research and Academic Institutes, highlighted the fact that the Chair's report indicates 53% of the funds awarded under the RP grants were directed to student research/student salaries, which is commendable. He commented that last year \$670,000 was spent on student salaries; an incredible achievement for a university of this size. However, he also noted that since the Fall of 2008 there has been a downward trend in the amount of monies being allocated toward student research/student salaries; 67% in Fall of 2008 and 60% in the Spring of 2009. He cautioned against this downward trend and reiterated that one of the research goals should be that CBU's undergraduates are heavily involved in research.

(G) Teaching, Learning & Evaluation Committee – The Chair, M. Bierenstiel reported the committee has met, however no motions were brought forward as there wasn't a quorum present. He thanked P. Morrison for her work during his absence.

11. Additional Business

11.1 Board of Governors report

Todd Pettigrew reported:

- The Board met Friday, October 30.
- The Board ratified the CBUFA Collective Agreement and the signing has already taken place.
- There was a lot of discussion regarding the Investment Committee report. The investment committee had considered recommendations from an external body that said that the money the university invests in its endowment should be handled somewhat differently. The central issue was between the division between the equities and bonds in that fund. In short, more equities means potentially more return but also more risk. The Investment Committee recommended a 60/40 split and after considerable discussion on the merits of that, it was approved.
- Another issue to come out of that discussion was whether the Board should have some kind of ethical screening for its investments. The Board ultimately asked the Investment Committee to come back later in the year with a report on that particular issue.

11.2 Students' Union report

Students' Union president, R. McCarthy reported on the following:

- Francis Mvere, Vice-President, Academic has resigned his position with the Students' Union and Lesley Sudworth is the new V-P Academic. Lesley is currently a member of Senate.
- United Way Week (November 2 – 6) went very well. The students learned a lot about community involvement. The funds raised were designated towards a student involvement bursary, awarding a bursary to a student who is highly involved in campus activities.
- Entrepreneurship Week (November 16 – 20) was a great success. A couple of the activities included a speaker series and a Dragon's Den competition. The Dragon's Den competition had student representation from three of the schools with six students presenting business ideas to a panel of judges. Three prizes were awarded: \$1,000 – 1st Place, \$500 – 2nd Place, and \$250 – 3rd Place.
- Student Representative Council (SRC) – There are vacancies for representation from the School of Education, Health and Wellness and an Aboriginal student representation on the SRC. Nominations for these vacancies can be sent to Ricky McCarthy or Melva Smith in the Students' Union.
- Senate – There is one vacancy and this position will be filled in the very near future.

- On behalf of the Students' Union, Mr. McCarthy congratulated Jenn Howarth, BBA student, on winning the Property Guys \$100,000 franchise competition.

12. Confidential Business – N/A

13. Adjournment

The being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.



Tracey Harris, Secretary