

Senate Minutes

December 18, 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, Allen Britten, Philip Campbell, Geoff Carre, Cathy Chisholm, Anita Delazzer, Godwin D'Cunha, Sherry Finney, Allan Fraser, Clem MacPhee, Tracey Harris, Princely Ifinedo, Diane Janes, David Johnson, Harvey Johnstone, Ed LeBlanc, Geoff Lee-Dadswell, Jane Lewis, Peter MacIntyre, Gordon MacInnis, Bernie MacLennan, Kristen MacNeil, Alexis Manley, Ricky McCarthy, Jill McPherson, Patricia Morrison, Willena Nemeth, Rod Nicholls, Gary Nicklason, Todd Pettigrew, Sarah Pyke, Chester Pyne, Lesley Sudworth, Claudette Taylor, Wendy Wadden, Tuma Young

Regrets: Keith Brown, Robert Campbell, President John Harker, John MacKinnon, Brett MacPherson, Lindsay Marshall, Catherine O'Brien, Mark Silverberg, Eileen Smith-Piovesan, Tom Urbaniak

Absent: Randolph Bowers, Mary Tanya Brann-Barrett, Mike MacKenzie

The Secretary declared a quorum present.

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

3. Matters Forwarded for Information

A copy of a letter sent to the Editor, of the Globe and Mail dated December 9 from Gordon MacInnis, in his capacity as Chair of MPHEC, was circulated for information purposes.

4. Special Presentations – there were no special presentations at this meeting.

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

President's Report

There was no report as President Harker was unable to attend this meeting.

Vice-President (Academic & Research)

Dr. Robert Bailey reported on the following:

Two major reports were submitted to MPHEC - a status report on the Bachelor of Education program and one on the Bachelor of Science (Nursing) program. These reports will be available for perusal at the front desk in the President's Office.

He reviewed with the school deans the MPHEC program proposal guidelines regarding the development of new programs or modification of existing programs. He will share this information with Academic Committee as well.

He hosted four 'Town Hall' sessions regarding the Centre for Sustainability in Energy and the Environment (CSEE). A total of 45 people from the CBU community representing 20 units from across campus attended the sessions. A summary of the proceedings will be available in the new year. He is continuing to accept input from the CBU community in terms of what the CSEE is going to be in relation to research and education activities.

The Dean of Research, Dr. Harvey Johnstone, will be stepping down the end of June, 2010 to return to the full-time teaching faculty. Dr. Bailey indicated there will be an opportunity to celebrate Dr. Johnstone's contributions to research at CBU at a later date but took this opportunity to formally acknowledge in Senate his contributions as the Dean of Research.

6. Question Period – there were no submitted questions for this meeting.

7. Approval of Minutes

November 20, 2009 – The Chair noted the Minutes of the November 20, 2009 meeting have been amended to include the name of Honourable Anne McLellan in the list of honorary degree recipients. Her name was inadvertently left off the list.

It was moved by D. Janes, seconded by P. Morrison approval of the minutes of November 20, 2009 as amended and with the following clarifications:

M. Bierenstiel, Chair, Teaching, Learning & Evaluation Committee clarified that the committee had met, however, no motions were brought forward as there wasn't a quorum present.

H. Johnstone requested that comments made during the discussion of the Research Committee's report from the November 20th Senate meeting, regarding the decline in RP grant recipients proportional allocation of grant money to student employment/student research, be noted in the minutes.

A. Manley provided additional information regarding emails sent from CBU to our students. She noted that emails sent out to CBU students are sent to their CBU email address, as well as to their personal email account, providing that the personal information is recorded in the student information system, RADAR.

Motion carried. Abstentions: 4

8. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

9. Report of the Executive Committee

A. Fraser, Vice Chair, reported that the committee met on December 4th and discussion took place on the following:

Discussion regarding the fall break.

Discussion on the Town Halls that Vice-President Bailey referred to in his report.

Setting the agenda for today's meeting.

10. Reports of Other Committees

- (a) **Academic** – Chair, T. Pettigrew, referred to the report circulated with the agenda package.

Motion:

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by D. Johnson, that Senate approve English 3xx/2xxx: The British Literary Tradition and related changes to the English program calendar description.

Motion carried.

Item 2 of the report refers to a change to English 200 course description and is included for informational purposes only.

Item 3.a of the report reflects a change in name and number of several “fine arts” courses to be renamed as “drama” courses (a fuller description is included for information purposes in the Academic Committee report). These changes will take effect as part of the course renumbering process.

Motion

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by R. Nicholls that Senate change the BA requirements to allow courses in DRAM to count towards Group 4 in the BA core degree requirements.

Motion carried.

Motion

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by B. MacLennan, that Senate approve GAEL 3xx: Advanced Gaelic III.

On the question of whether there is anyone in the Department of Heritage and Culture other than Hector MacNeil capable of teaching Gaelic, it was noted there are two people in the department fluent in Gaelic, Heather Sparling and Hector MacNeil. Mr. MacNeil specializes in language acquisition courses. A point of clarification was noted that Mr. MacNeil is not a full-time employee of CBU but is seconded from the Gaelic College to teach Gaelic courses at the University. CBU compensates the Gaelic College for his services.

R. Nichols responded to the question as to whether this course fits into the tentatively approved Celtic Culture programming indicating that the course, if approved, would provide flexibility for students in the program.

Motion carried.

Motion

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by B. MacLennan, that Senate approve GAEL 3xx: Advanced Gaelic IV.

Motion carried.

Motion

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by T. Young, that Senate approve the Minor in Gaelic Language.

Motion carried.

Motion

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by R. Bailey, that Senate approve that Advanced Gaelic III and Advanced Gaelic IV be added to the list of human language acquisition courses that may not be challenged for credit.

Motion carried.

Item 8 of the report is for information purposes only – minor changes to Ethnomusicology courses in terms of course renumbering, cross listings, and course name changes (specific details on pp 36-39 of the Senate package).

Motion

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by P. Ifinedo, that Senate approve POLS 2xx: Contemporary US Foreign Policy.

Motion carried.

Motion

It was moved by T. Pettigrew, seconded by M. Bierenstiel, that Senate approve, conditional upon subsequent approval by the CBUFA, the proposed Fall semester structure.

It was noted that this proposal aims to create a structure for the Fall semester which is flexible but achieves the following goals:

- A. 60 day semester;
- B. two day study period; and
- C. a reasonable length of exam period and a short break between the end of classes and the beginning of exams.

On the question: An in-depth discussion took place on this matter. Issues such as the number of teaching days/contact days in the semester; length of the examination period and the time frame most beneficial to students when scheduling the break, either around the Thanksgiving Day holiday or Remembrance Day were thoroughly examined.

A point of order was raised as to whether Senate had the authority to approve the proposed Fall semester structure. It was noted that the Board of Governors' Bylaws state that 'the Registrar shall prepare the lecture and examination timetables'. It was also noted that it is within the power of Senate to define the academic term. Further to discussion on this issue, it was suggested that if the motion is approved and Senate doesn't have the authority, then the motion becomes a recommendation. The Chair indicated that this matter would be clarified for the minutes and for the next Senate meeting.

Amendment to the Main Motion

A friendly amendment to the main motion was introduced. The motion will now read: "Subject to a suitable memorandum of understanding between CBU and CBUFA, we

recommend that Senate approve the proposed Fall semester structure.”

Motion carried.

Nay – 4

Abstentions: 5

- (b) Bylaws & Procedures** – There was no report from the committee.
- (c) Nominating-** Chair, C. Taylor, reported on a point of information. Lesley Sudworth, Student Senator will replace Francis Mvere on the Academic Committee, the Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Committee and also on the Appeals Committee. Brett MacPherson will be Lesley’s alternate on the Appeals Committee.
- (d) Planning & Priorities** – Chair, C. Pyne, stated there was no report for this meeting.
- (e) Quality Assurance** – Chair, W. Wadden, referred to the report circulated with the agenda package.
- (f) Research** – Chair, G. Carre, reported the Committee is working on a document to be brought before Senate at its next meeting regarding strategic recommendations for enhancing the research culture at CBU. An information session for faculty on this issue is planned for January.
- (g) Teaching, Learning & Evaluation** – Chair, M. Bierenstiel, referred to the report circulated with the agenda package.

11. Additional Business

11.1 Board of Governors’ Report

Dr. Todd Pettigrew reported the Board met Friday, December 11. Highlights included:

Board members received a report regarding off campus housing. The report looked into whether there was interest from students in cooperative housing and they found relatively little interest from students on that issue. They looked into whether there was interest from community housing groups to help work on off campus accommodations for students and found that most of those groups are more focused on low income housing rather than student housing. This led to a number of questions as to whether students had been widely consulted. There was an email survey that went out but it wasn’t clear whether that had received enough information to be an accurate response in terms of student interest. In view of these questions, President Harker agreed to continue discussions with interested parties.

The President reported to the Board that the CSEE project is proceeding. Consultations are on-going as to whether the current C-Wing can be retro fitted as part of the new building or whether it will be demolished.

The Treasurer’s report indicated that the expanded Learning Commons will be opening in January.

A recommendation was brought forward for Board approval regarding the Cape Breton Health Recreation Complex ownership. The original model was that the University

would lease the land to the Society that is managing the Complex. The Society would manage it and own the building. That has turned out to be problematic for at least two reasons: 1) CBU doesn't actually own the land that the campus is on – it is leased from the Province, therefore for the University to lease land that it is already leasing provides legal problems; and 2) if the Society owns the building, they may be responsible for the municipal taxes on the building. The proposal put forth was that the University would own the building itself but the Society would manage it and in this way, hopefully it would be considered part of the University, at least for tax purposes so that they wouldn't have to pay municipal taxes – just as the University doesn't have to pay municipal taxes for the buildings that it owns.

The Board received a project update regarding the new dining hall and residence. There has been a revised cost estimate – it will be more expensive than originally planned. This is mainly due to a new initiative to make the building more energy efficient; there is more insulation and there is a new eco friendly heating system. These two items account for approximately \$1.5 M of the new cost. It is expected to recoup this investment through lower operating costs for the building over the first 10 - 12 years. The remaining increases were due mainly to the discovery that the dining area was too small for the number of students expected to use the service. Therefore, this area had to be re-designed to accommodate the number of anticipated students.

G. MacInnis, V-P Finance & Operations clarified a couple of points.

He noted, with respect to the health recreation complex ownership, any change in the ownership of the building will not impact the operations; that could only be done with the approval of the funding agencies. It was also noted that the building has been primarily funded by Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and the Province of Nova Scotia therefore they would have to approve the change before it could proceed.

Regarding the dining hall, he commented that the square footage set aside for the dining area was based upon the preliminary design, which was the document that the Board approved in February. However, before the final design was approved, the architect sought advice from an expert in the area of setting up dining halls and kitchens. This consultation resulted in an additional 5,000 sq. foot space being required for the dining hall. It was noted that even with the revisions to the business plan, the dining hall will still operate on a self sustaining basis. There will not be any incremental burden upon the university's operating budget as a result of the change.

11.2 Students' Union Report

Lesley Sudworth, Vice-President, Academic referred to the report circulated with the agenda package. In addition to the submitted report, it was noted that Kristen MacNeil launched Operation Red Nose in late November and that this is the final weekend for the initiative. It was also noted that Brett MacPherson is the new student representative on Senate.

12. Confidential Business – N/A

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.


Tracey Harris, Secretary