

Senate Minutes

December 16, 2011
Senate Chamber

Chair, P. MacIntyre called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

The Chair welcomed Craig MacMullin as a representative to Senate, elected by the Board of Governors, and Phillip Jennex attending on behalf of Louis Guimond from the Canadian Coast Guard College.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Bill Bailey, Patricia Betts, Keith Brown, George Chen, Jane Connell, Billy Crowley, Patrick Delamirande, Maureen Finlayson, Allan Fraser, Breigh Gillis, Phil Jennex, John Harker, Patrick Howard, Rany Ibrahim, Diane Janes, David Johnson, Mary Keating, Dale Keefe, Brittany Kerr, Sue Korol, Mary Suzanne MacEachern, Peter MacIntyre, John MacKinnon, Craig MacMullin, Alexis Manley, Ron McCarron, David McCorquodale, Stephen McIsaac, Bernard Mulo Farenkia, Patricia Morrison, Rod Nicholls, James Preen, Sheila Profit, Tim Rawlings, Ron Rooth, Jason Stevens, Mike Tanchak, Eileen Smith-Piovesan

Regrets:

Robert Bailey, Ed Barre, Dannie Brown, Jane Farnsworth, Lucy MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, Joe Parish, Robert Campbell

Absent:

Al Alilovic, Adam Jamieson, Justin Roper

2. Matters to be considered in Closed Session

MOTION:

It was moved by M. Tanchak, seconded by D. Janes to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting confidential business. **Motion Carried.**

2.1 Approval of Minutes

MOTION:

It was moved for the approval of the Confidential Minutes of the November 18, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: 5

MOTION:

It was moved by P. Betts, seconded by B. Bailey to move back into Open Session. **Motion Carried.**

3. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

4. Special Presentations\Updates – N\A

5. Report of the President and Vice-President Academic & Professional Studies (Provost)

5.1 Report of the President

President Harker gave a verbal report with the following highlights:

- At the request of the Premier, a meeting with the Government of Newfoundland to discuss the Lower Churchill Hydro Project meeting was held in the CSEE
- The Board of Governors chose Craig MacMullin to serve on Senate. The Board feels that Mr. MacMullin will add value to Senate, in light of the CSEE
- The status of the MOU with the Provincial Government is unpromising. President Harker does not welcome any reductions in the University operating grants. The term 'Back to Balance' has been successfully removed from the MOU and the Minister of Finance, Graham Steele, is now referring to their efforts as 'Beyond Balance'. Government remains fixed on reductions that will take effect in March/April 2012. Highlighting the fact that we are the fourth highest export industry has not swayed their decision on reductions

On the question surrounding the rationale of signing an agreement in which terms are not agreed upon, President Harker responded that his frustrations and displeasures will be publicly voiced. He further explained that the University sector does not have the political power to deflect or take the fall-out from a public battle.

A question was raised about whether Nova Scotia Universities have a strategy to create a three-year deal that would establish core funding at the post secondary education level. President Harker stated that CBU remains at the forefront, now joined by Acadia, in saying that a funding formula cannot be based on enrolment. The MOU on the table is a one-year approach to some issues. If/When this MOU is signed, the next year will commence with an intensive review of tuition policy and core funding, aiming for an outcome with an enduring result.

5.2 Vice-President Academic & Professional Studies (Provost)

There was no report of the Vice-President Academic & Professional Studies (Provost) Dr. Robert Bailey.

6. Question Period – N/A

7. Approval of Minutes

MOTION:

It was moved by P. Delamirande, seconded by P. Betts, the approval of the minutes from the November 18, 2011 meeting. A correction to the date on page 4, item 9, was changed from December 9th to December 16th. Note: On the question surrounding the motion to add the three new MUSI courses to the structure of the proposed Bachelor of Arts Community Studies Degree in Music, Senate tapes were reviewed and no changes need to be made to the minutes for this item. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: 5

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

On Dr. Bailey's behalf, D. McCorquodale gave an update on the visit with the Saudi Cultural Bureau in Ottawa. He explained the main goal of the meeting was to better match student skills with courses and programs, in order to make their transition to the University experience easier. President Harker added that the meeting went very well and internal meetings have taken place since Dr. Bailey's return to examine further supports that could be provided.

9. Report of the Executive Committee

D. Johnson reported that Executive committee met on December 2nd to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. Highlights of the meeting included:

- BOG Report will be re-established and will become a regular Senate agenda item
- Expression of the need for streamlining procedures and timing for the pre-budget report
- Expression of the need for clear policies and regulations governing course exams, and in particular, exemptions from exams
- Discussion of the merits of a Library Report to Senate and Library representation on Senate committees

10. Students' Union Report

B. Crowley gave a verbal report with the following highlights:

- The half-way mark of \$20 000 has been reached for charity fund-raising
- SU President attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) National Lobbying Conference in Ottawa where he met with Government officials from all parties and raised questions during Question Period. Future plans will be developed to maintain an official relationship between the SU and the CASA
- ANSSA met with the Premier's office to discuss their perspective on the University funding talks. Suggestions were made, however, the Premier's office did not reply
- Close to \$1000 was raised for the Woman's Centre with the 'Walk a Night in Her Shoes' event. The event was well-received
- Mr. Crowley has been subpoenaed to testify in court regarding the court's recent decision not to amend the by-laws that would allow the convent on Ashby Road to be converted to dorms for students. It is his belief that this court decision may be overturned

11. Reports of Other Committees

(a) Academic – Chair, D. Janes, referred to the report circulated with the Senate package.

Item(s) for Information:

1. Change to prerequisites for ENGI 2169 – Point of Information

Recommendations:

1. **BEng Transfer Program change to High School Physics Admission Requirements**

It was moved by D. Janes, seconded by M. Tanchak, that the high school physics requirements for entry into the engineering transfer program as stated in the calendar be

amended to: "Required: Five Grade 12 advanced or academic courses including English; Mathematics; and two grade 12 academic sciences with an overall average of at least 60%. Pre-calculus Mathematics 12 and Physics 12 is recommended." On the question of the effective date of the change D. McCorquodale responded that the plan is for an immediate effective date. **Motion carried.**

- 2. Dept of Engineering: Use of English courses to satisfy Communications requirement**
It was moved by D. Janes, seconded by M. Tanchak, that English courses are acceptable to satisfy the requirements of the COMM elective requirement for the B Eng Technology degrees. The effective date was determined to be immediate; any English course will satisfy this requirement. **Motion carried.**

- 3. Bachelor of Arts Community Studies Degree in Music & Three Music Courses**
It was moved by D. Janes, seconded by S. Profit to take from the table the Bachelor of Arts Community Studies Degree in Music program with the three music courses for approval. R. Nicholls noted minor editorial changes that will be added before the submission to MPHEC. **Motion carried**

(b) Nominating – Nothing to report.

(c) Planning and Review – Chair, M. Keating, reported verbally on the two major activities the committee is currently involved in: the pre-budget report and affiliation agreements, and the MOUs. This is the first time the committee is working on both of these items, and they hope to obtain a sense of how better to manage them going forward.

(d) Bylaws – Chair, B. Crowley, gave a verbal report. Two points of information were provided to Senate:

1. A review of the proposed by-laws for the Department of Education was completed with questions and recommendations submitted; the committee is awaiting the return from the secondary review.
2. The review of the by-laws for the School of Science and Technology was completed with no questions or recommendations; the committee will submit the review to Senate at the February meeting.

On the question of the status of the Graduate Development Committee, the Bylaws Committee responded that it was not aware of the initiative. The Chair advised that they will look in the matter at their next meeting.

(e) Research –Chair, J. Preen reported the committee met on November 25th to discuss the confusion around the standard student wage. A proposal has been developed and they will liaise with the Research and Finance offices to develop a standard. On the question of when these changes will take effect it was explained that the guidelines detailed the minimum, and are not restricted to those numbers. There was no meeting in December, but there was an email vote to approve new committee members for Research Ethics and Research Assistance. Referring to the document circulated with the Senate package:

It was moved, by J. Preen, seconded by D. Keefe, the President's Award for Excellence in Research criteria be approved. A discussion on adding another award to Convocation was discussed as well as the possibility of having a specialized ceremony. A friendly amendment was suggested in order to combine faculty and employees under one heading when detailing how nominations are made, and who can make them. **Motion carried.**

(f) TLEC – Chair, P. Morrison, referred to the report circulated with the Senate package.

It was moved, by P. Morrison, seconded by D. McCorquodale, to approve Dr. Andrew Parnaby as the institution's nominee for the Atlantic Universities' Association Distinguished Teaching Award. **Motion carried.**

It was moved, by P. Morrison, seconded by D. Janes, to approve Dr. Heather Sparling as the institution's nominee for the AAU Educational Leadership Award. **Motion carried.**

P. Morrison noted that Patrick Howard is the new Chair of the committee. Senate thanked Patricia Morrison for her service as Chair of TLEC.

On the question of the On-line Learning subcommittee, P. Howard advised that the mandate of the committee is in very early stages of development and will continue to provide opportunities for input from Senate, Senate committees, faculty, administration and other stakeholders.

(g) Quality Assurance – Chair, P. Delamirande, referred to the report circulated with the Senate package noting two items that have been brought forth for information. A second page from the Bachelor of Health Sciences was not circulated with the package and will be resubmitted at the next Senate meeting. All Senators were strongly encouraged to review the draft copy of the Quality Assurance Policy for Schools and Academic Units before the next Senate meeting. It was requested that Senate be provided with the original copy so the two documents can be compared. The recording secretary was tasked with circulating the original policy to Senators electronically. A suggestion was made to adjust the acronym for the Review Committee (RC), since the Terms of Reference for Senate uses RC to represent Research Committee.

12. Board of Governors Report

M. Keating reported the Board of Governors met on December 9th. Highlights from this meeting included:

- An update on the continuing MOU negotiations
- The Treasures' Report detailing the impact of high International student enrolment
- An announcement that a Board retreat will be held to discuss various concerns and issues
- The appointment of an auditing firm
- A motion brought forth by the Investment committee - and passed - to make changes to the investment pools
- A financial benchmarking report circulated showing a comparison of Maritime Universities
- The Standard Course Evaluation passed by the Board
- President Harker's announcement to the Board that he will be leaving CBU

14. Confidential Business – N\A

13. Adjournment

The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2012.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.



Ron Rooth, Secretary