

Senate Minutes

February 10, 2012
Senate Chamber

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

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Al Alilovic, Robert Bailey, Ed Barre, Keith Brown, Dannie Brown, Jane Connell, Billy Crowley, Jane Farnsworth, Allan Fraser, Breigh Gillis, Louis Guimond, John Harker, Patrick Howard, Adam Jamieson, Dane Janes, David Johnson, Mary Keating, Dale Keefe, Karen Kennedy, Brittany Kerr, Sue Korol, Mary Suzanne MacEachern, Peter MacIntyre, Alexis Manley, Carl Mercer, Ron McCarron, David McCorquodale, Stephen McIsaac, Bernard Mulo Farenkia, Patricia Morrison, Rod Nicholls, Joe Parish, James Preen, Sheila Profit, Tim Rawlings, Ron Rooth, Justin Roper, Jason Stevens, Mike Tanchak, Robert Campbell

Regrets:

Patrick Delamirande, Maureen Finlayson, Rany Ibrahim, Lucy MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, John MacKinnon, Craig MacMullin, Eileen Smith-Piovesan

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

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:

- Discussions were held with the Minister of Advanced Labour and Education to speak about the consequences and implementation of the arrival of the new MOU. President Harker noted that during the drive toward this MOU, he declared the importance of CBU, to this government, would become very clear in the government's new Energy Strategy.
- On the Finance Minister's address to the Sydney and Area Chamber of Commerce, President Harker noted that universities are tasked with absorbing across-the-board cuts and he believes the province "hasn't come close to doing enough to see how far universities can help on the revenue side." For example, his request that CBU offer, in one of its degree programs, more seats than the forty it has been allocated, based on Nova Scotia labour market figures, was refused.

- The Minister of Energy, Charlie Parker, will announce on February 14th at the CSEE that CBU will have its own wind turbine. In that regard, President Harker believes that when dealing with energy, governments will be inclined to look to CBU for examples of best practices and outcomes. The President remains confident in the future of CBU.

5.2 Vice-President Academic & Professional Studies (Provost)

Robert Bailey gave a verbal report with the following highlights:

- Of 81 submissions received for the Walmart Green Student Challenge, five semi-finalist teams were chosen: University of Calgary, Western University, University of Waterloo, York University and Cape Breton University. The finalists will be travelling to Toronto at the end of February to pitch their ideas to compete for the \$100,000 in prize money
- An update to the CBU Mission, Vision and Values was revised and circulated with the Senate package. **It was moved** by R. Bailey, seconded by A. Manley, that Senate endorse the CBU Mission, Vision and Values as presented. **Motion carried.**
- The status of the Academic Plan preparation was detailed and the resulting effort was presented in a three-part document for all Senators to take with them for review. It was suggested that in order to give the document a detailed review, a special meeting of Senate should be held to gain a broader input from the entire university. March 2nd at 1:30 was suggested as the date and time to hold this open meeting. The location will be decided depending on availability of meeting spaces.

6. Question Period – N/A

7. Approval of Minutes

MOTION:

It was moved by B. Bailey, seconded by M. Keating, the approval of the minutes from the December 16, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: 8

8. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

9. Report of the Executive Committee

D. Johnson reported that Executive committee met on January 27th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Follow up to the last Executive report - the Academic Committee is extremely busy which will increase the work load of Senate in future meetings
- Follow up to previously-mentioned reports. Discussions continue with the TLEC and Academic Committee on clear policies and regulations governing course exams, with P&R Committee on the pre-budget reporting to Senate, and with the Library on the re-introduction of a Library report to Senate

- Note of a discussion on the advocacy roles of Student Unions and organizations
- Chair P. MacIntyre echoed to Senate that the workload being presented by the AC during future meetings will increase and to expect the agenda of Senate to reflect this increase

10. Students' Union Report

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

- Processes have begun for a referendum to see if students are interested in additional dental coverage above their current health plan
- The Students' Union election process was brought to a halt with the resignation of the Chief Returning Officer. A new CRO was appointed, but due to the delay, the entire process has been set back one month
- By-laws have been revised, expanding the council for next year by two. The new seats are Varsity Athletics and a second for students with permanent disabilities.
- CBU Students' Union, as a member of ANSSA, did not participate in the Day of Action along with the Canadian Federation Schools (CFS). CFS did not wish to have ANSSA participate in an official partnership and ANSSA has looked to more collegial means of advocacy and lobbying

11. Reports of Other Committees

- By-laws** - Chair, B. Crowley, advised that due to a committee meeting just prior to Senate, the report circulated with the Senate package is now outdated. D. McCorquodale explained that the completed bylaws for the School of Science and Technology were sent to the School of Arts and Social Sciences, who then had constructive suggestions for further revision. With those suggestions received, SST will revisit the bylaws; they will be left with the Bylaws Committee and reviewed at the same time as the SASS bylaws. B. Crowley listed the bylaws currently in progress by the committee. He replied to the question on the status of the structure proposal for Graduate Education Committee and noted that it is currently on the agenda with four other bylaws ahead of it.
- Academic** – Chair, D. Janes, referred to a report circulated with the Senate package and gave an overview of the general activities of the committee to give Senators a sense of their work.

Recommendations:

1. It was moved by D. Janes, seconded by A. Manley, to raise the minimum entering average required for admission to all programs at CBU. A rationale for the change was given by A. Manley. It was explained that having a lower admission average does not present CBU in the appropriate academic light. Statistically, those in the 60-65 average range typically do not make it to graduation. For example, in 2007, 50 students registered at CBU with averages between 60 and 65, and only two of those students graduated. Comments were shared in favour of the recommendation adding that this change will not impede accessibility. Also, specific programs wishing to raise their averages, if the overall change were adopted, would need to address this through their Schools. The admission average change would be in effect for the submission cycle of 2013. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: 1

2. It was moved by D. Janes, seconded by A. Manley, to change the Mature Student Admission Policy at CBU. The following changes were suggested for approval:

- be at least 21 years of age (by the 1st day of classes)
- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- not be eligible for regular admission
- apply for the 1st year of an undergraduate program that does not require previous university-level study
- grade 12 Academic English is recommended. Admission to some programs may require the completion of certain related subjects. This will be determined through departmental review

A. Manley explained that current policy, upon review, was very far removed from that of CBU's sister institutions.

On the discussion of the merits for the terms "Mature Student" vs "Non-Traditional Learner", it was determined that the norm for universities is to use the term 'mature student'. But suggestions for a better term are welcome; they should be sent via email to A. Manley. The topic can be revisited at any time.

It was further noted that students with a GED high school equivalent would apply in the traditional manner and that the grade 10 requirement was eliminated to bring CBU in line with the mainstream. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: 1

- c) **TLEC** – Chair, P. Howard reported verbally that the committee has forwarded their discussion to the Academic Committee surrounding the Examination Policy and that the two committees will work together on the topic. The subcommittees continue their work on the Teaching Space and On-line Learning Policy. R. Nicholls noted that the Standard Student Course Evaluation form, developed by TLEC, has completed all levels of approval and an electronic version of this form is ready for the end-of-term evaluations. R. Bailey further added that his office is setting up a means of execution for these evaluations.
- d) **Nominating** – Chair, A. Fraser referred to the report circulated with the Senate package. Mary Suzanne MacEachern has replaced Matt Oakley as a representative from Students' Union. **The Nominating committee recommended that Mary Suzanne sit as a member of the Nominating Committee.** With no further nominations, Mary Suzanne was declared elected to the Nominating committee by acclamation. M. Keating advised that changes to the Planning and Review Committee's terms of reference has outdated the Standing Committees of Senate list. The Chair advised this would be brought to the next Senate Executive meeting to be addressed. D. Keefe noted the Chair of the Research Assistance Committee Jamie Martell has been replaced by Wendy Wadden.
- e) **Quality Assurance** – there was no report from the committee. P. MacIntyre referred to an email he had received from the QA Chair, P. Delamirande with regard to the motion to amend the way Quality Assurance does their work. This change is significant and Senators are urged to review the document, which was submitted to them at the December meeting of Senate. Any Senator with questions, comments, objections or concerns are asked to forward those in writing to QA Chair, P. Delamirande for review with the committee. M. Keating echoed the importance of this review and of submitting thoughts prior to the next Senate meeting.

- f) **Planning & Review** – Chair, M. Keating reported the committee continues to work on the draft for the pre-budget report and is optimistic that it is in its final stages. The hope is to have it sent out prior to the Special Meeting of Senate to have as part of that meeting. Dr. Bailey noted that the goal is to have both the academic plan and pre-budget report prepared and ready for discussion at the meeting in January.
- g) **Research** – Chair, J. Preen reported that the committee had met two weeks prior to this Senate meeting. The Research Award submissions have been received and a meeting will be held on February 17th to prepare recommendations for President Harker. The RP program is underway with February 24th as the deadline. An electronic submission process is underway and is being well received. RAC has met and decided on the priorities which will be given for the RP program. The committee is currently working on the Research Integrity Policy and the hope is to have this to Senate before the end of the term. D. Keefe commented this policy will impact the entire institution and that prior to it coming to Senate there may be town- hall discussions to gain broader input.

12. Board of Governors Report – N/A

13. Confidential Business – N/A

14. Adjournment

The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2012.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.



Ron Rooth, Secretary