

Special Meeting of Senate Minutes

March 2, 2012
MPR-241

Chair, P. MacIntyre called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm offering a welcome to visitors and gave a brief overview of the meeting's proceedings.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present: Robert Bailey, Bill Bailey, Ed Barre, Dannie Brown, Jane Connell, Patrick Delamirande, Jane Farnsworth, Allan Fraser, Breigh Gillis, Louis Guimond, Patrick Howard, Adam Jamieson, Diane Janes, David Johnson, Mary Keating, Dale Keefe, Karen Kennedy, Sue Korol, Mary Suzanne MacEachern, Peter MacIntyre, Carl Mercer, David McCorquodale, Bernard Mulo Farenkia, Patricia Morrison, Rod Nicholls, Joe Parish, James Preen, Sheila Profit, Ron Rooth, Jason Stevens, Mike Tanchak, Eileen Smith-Piovesan

Regrets: Al Alilovic, Keith Brown, Billy Crowley, Maureen Finlayson, John Harker, Rany Ibrahim, Brittany Kerr, Lucy MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, John MacKinnon, Alexis Manley, Ron McCarron, Stephen McIsaac, Tim Rawlings, Justin Roper, Robert Campbell

Absent: Craig MacMullin

The Secretary declared a quorum present.

1. Presentations

Dr. Bailey thanked all Senators and visitors for participating in the meeting. He referred to the three-part Academic Plan detailing its genesis and the vision for it in the years to follow. It was described as a living document in constant construction, an evolution of the 2011 plan, and the first step of the 2013 plan. Highlights of the document include the identification of the core programs, the four student sub-populations and, with respect to research foci, what CBU does well, and what it has the potential to improve.

Dr. Keating explained that an adjustment in the bylaws created a new Planning and Review Committee out of the old Planning and Priorities Committee of Senate (P & P). With this change, Senate tasked the committee with the responsibility of preparing and presenting an annual pre-budget report. Dr. Keating stressed the importance of the process and the formulation of the report. She noted that the committee identified two other reports as essential if the report was to be meaningful: the academic plan, and the most recent pre-budget report to the Board of Governors with updates on the MOU situation. It is hoped that this report will be presented each January.

Following presentation of the documents, **it was moved** by D. Johnson, seconded by A. Fraser to open the meeting for questions and comments from visitors. **Motion carried.**

2. Discussions

Highlights of the many comments, questions, discussions and replies from the panel are as follows:

- TLEC and Online Learning will be incorporated in the Plans by feeding through Senate
- Course caps are determined after consultation and review of written rationales from Chairs to Deans
The deadline for caps is currently June 1st
- The shift from six-credit courses to three-credit courses will depend on the nature of the course. It is felt this is a choice that will give students greater flexibility as they construct their program, and will in turn be of benefit to faculty. The shift to three-credit courses will require more cooperation between departments
- The annual creation process of the Academic Plan will itself be the measure of success for the previous year's plan rather than a metric calibration. A qualitative assessment of the Plan would be more effective at a School level if a metric comparison is desired
- The pros and cons of the international student population growth. Infrastructure and resource supports have been, and will continue to be, identified to ensure these students are provided with the same opportunity for success as other student sub-populations
- The Plan, along with those before and after it, will repeatedly address the special challenges and advantages the international student populations present
- An alteration in the number of faculty and nursing practice educators would depend on government funding. Without knowing government's intentions there is no particular shift in mind
- The development of the Plan has created a ripple effect, where other departments have followed up with action or have started their process of follow-up
- The BA and BACS programs were discussed as being essential to the survival and growth of CBU
- Students choosing a Major or Concentration in their second year will add to the overall success rate because many students are unsure of their true direction in their first year
- A statistical breakdown of on-line students, and a focus toward on-line students was suggested
- It was voiced that with regard to growth of student population, it might be a wiser choice to focus on a number that is comfortable, obtainable and sustainable with a strong emphasis on sustainability
- Improve and further develop faculty efficiencies and needs in conjunction with TLEC by identifying and utilizing all resources at their disposal

3. Adjournment

With no further questions\comments for the Special Meeting of Senate, the Chair, P. MacIntyre thanked the authors of the documents and all participants in the meeting. He reiterated the intent of having a Special Senate meeting as an annual event. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.



Ron Rooth, Secretary