

Senate Minutes

May 2, 2019
Senate Chamber CE-339

M. Mkandawire, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

The Chair declared quorum and began with the acknowledgement that Cape Breton University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

He then welcomed the 2019/2020 CBU Student's Union executive members: Parteek Brar, returning President, Samuel Shaji, Executive Vice President, Amara Othman, VP Finance and Operations, Hussam Sherief, and Joshua Nyamukapa, VP Student Life.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Stephen Augustine, Pat Bates, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Parteek Brar, Geoff Carre, Sheila Christie, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, David Gerbasi, Jasmine Hoover, David Johnson, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Angela Keylor, Carolin Kreber, Jane Lewis, Brendan MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, Judy MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, Bernie MacLennan, Martin Mkandawire, Joshua Nyamukapa, Amara Othman, Joe Parish, And Parnaby, Chester Pyne, Vicky Salazar, Samuel Shaji, Hussam Sherief, Michael Tanchak, Richard Watuwa

Regrets:

Catherine Arseneau, Patrick deLamirande, Odette Griscti, Mary Jane Morrison, Martin Moy, Rick Pierrynowski, Joanne Pyke, Scott Rodney, Ann Sylliboy, Claudette Taylor, Audrey Walsh

Absent:

Ian Brodie, Stephanie Inglis

On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed the new Students' Union executive members: Samuel Shaji, Executive Vice President, Amara Othman, VP Finance & Operations, Hussam Sherief, VP Marketing & Communication, Joshua Nyamukapa, VP Student Life and returning for a second term as President, Parteek Brar.

2. Consent Agenda

It was moved by T. Urbaniak, seconded by R. MacKinnon, to adopt the items from the Consent Agenda as follows:

2.1 Academic Committee

1. Course Change - Biology 4251
2. Course Change - Education 4104
3. Course Change - MIKM 3134
4. Course Change - GEOL 2101
5. Course Change - Biology 3521
6. Course Change - MSIT 2101
7. New Course - FOLK 2XXX: Ethnography and Research Methods

2.2 P & R Committee

1. Modification to the Decision Matrix; to add notification of the Department Chair along with the Registrar.

Motion carried.

Senate agreed to the Chair's request to amend the agenda slightly to address an item from the Academic Committee prior to moving to the closed session. M. Keating explained the change is necessary in advance of the presentation of the graduation list so that any student on the list, that falls under this category, can be considered.

12. Reports of Other Committees

(d) Academic Committee

4. Bachelor of Engineering (transfer program) Diploma

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by P. Bates, that the Bachelor of Engineering (transfer program) Diploma be reduced from 24 to 23 courses. She explained this is in response to a regulation change made by Dalhousie University. **Motion carried.**

3. Confidential Business – N/A

4. Closed Session

It was moved by P. Brar, seconded by M. Tanchak, to move in to Closed Session for the purpose of conducting confidential business. **Motion carried.**

Following a confidential session, **it was moved** by V. Salazar, seconded by MB Doucette, to move back to Open Session. **Motion carried.**

5. Matters Forwarded for Information

5.1 Post Retreat Discussion

T. Urbaniak referred to the scribed notes and a document titled Questions for Reflection Arising from the Senate Retreat. He requested responses and or comments from members on each of the questions.

1. Should we have a Senate orientation in September with a dynamic and flexible format (perhaps similar to the retreat)? How do we give effect to the suggestions around mentorship (eg. working with

student senators)? How do we continue to build confidence and collegiality among senators?

Senators agreed to use the September meeting as an orientation and that the time also be used to better prepare the chairs of the committees. T. Urbaniak noted that the Bylaws Committee and the Executive Committee will operationalize for the coming September meeting.

2. Should we look at some change in committee structures or time-limited working groups to better reflect our strategic directions?

It was agreed that an ad-hoc committee could be developed to look at how Senate can better reflect the strategic directions but that it would be essential to have non-Senate representation on the committee as well. Other opinions offered that although practical nature, the addition of more committee work may not be manageable for some. A further suggestion was that rather than the creation of an ad-hoc committee to look at Senate's responses to the strategic directions, the current committees of Senate could take one, two or more of the directions and implement them in to the work the committee will conducting throughout the year. It was agreed that testing the capacities of the current committees should be performed before creating any ad-hoc committee work.

3. What is the quickest and most accessible way to get a compendium of Senate decisions that becomes a useful resource?

The VPA agreed to discuss with the lead of the CBU Compass project if there is going to be an area where policies and procedures can be housed in the new system or if the current Senate SharePoint can be integrated with Office 365. If neither of these is possible, it was suggested that the internal Intranet might also be an option.

4. What are tangible next steps to align Senate with the objective of Indigenizing our university?

S. Augustine suggested that a cross-cultural seminar be set up for Senate that would provide background on Mi'kmaw history, where the First Nation communities are situated, treaty rights relationships, access to resources, and clarification of common misconceptions. It was noted that in this two-hour session, Senators would be provided with knowledge of the history and background of the First Nations communities, but there is also a need for a deeper commitment to regular training sessions.

5. Can we find a way of capturing/expressing the Executive's role of facilitator to help Senate carry out its will and find its will (follow-up and focus – though not gatekeeping or decision-making)?

It was agreed that the Bylaws Committee be tasked with developing simple language to clarify the role of the Executive Committee.

6. What should we do in the next year to give effect to the suggestions on outreach and communication (eg. Senate-hosted town-hall meetings on focused questions, agendas available to the whole university community)?

T. Urbaniak noted that committees are not bound as confidential advisors to the Senate and there are opportunities for them to host town-halls and do some outreach.

7. Are there other themes arising from the retreat that should be prioritized at this time?

A. Parnaby noted that a process for the transfer of knowledge from committee chairs should be incorporated in to the orientation session.

5. Special Presentations/Updates

6. Report of the President and Vice-President Academic & Provost

6.1 Report of the President

President Dingwall reported that the academic plan bootcamp held on April 30th was very well attended. He noted the importance of this day in the life of the University in how the Plan will impact CBU. He requested a list of the active centres, institutes and committees from the Vice President Academic, which will be circulated to Senators. He asked that Senators provide their input on its content and if they agree or disagree with the suggestions. For information, he advised that the announcement of the Farley Mowat Chair in the Environment will be held at 4:00 pm on June 7th, two book launches for Truth and Conviction: Donald Marshall Jr. and the Mi'kmaw Quest for Justice, will be held on May 8th at 1:00 pm in the Verschuren Centre and 6:00 pm in Membertou. He also noted that he will be requesting that the Board of Governors bestow the title of President Emeritus on Dr. Jacquelyn Scott. CBU was contacted by the McCall McBain Scholarship to have CBU students participate in the scholarship; further details will be provided as to how and when. He noted that Guy Lafleur will be the keynote speaker for the President's Leadership Gala Dinner and Mike Weir will be the keynote speaker at the Shannon Golf Experience fundraiser later this year. He also advised Senators that he and G. MacInnis are diligently working with Catherine Levetin-Reid, CMHC, and various stakeholders on a major housing initiative. Finally, in efforts to better align the name of the school with the program offering, he will be announcing in the coming weeks that the School of Professional Studies will be renamed to the School of Education and Health.

6.2 Report of the Vice-President Academic & Provost

Vice President Academic & Provost, R. MacKinnon, reported that he attended a two-day Executive Committee retreat, a One Unamaki summit, his first meeting as a member of the MPHEC Quality Assurance Committee, the signing of an MOU with the CBR Library, and many other articulation agreements are being renewed.

7. Question Period

7.1 Can all faculty members and/or chairs be given access to the Dashboard software? It seems like it would be extremely useful for characterizing all kinds of information to help with planning. From the level of course offerings, up to the level of broader institutional plans, it would be a beneficial tool to have in our tool belts.

Vice President Academic & Provost, R. MacKinnon, responded that currently there is limited access to the dashboard because additional hardware would be necessary to run it if more access were to be granted. Also widening the access could prove to be problematic with assigning levels of access to very sensitive data.

8. Approval of Minutes

8.1 It was moved by G. Carre, seconded by C. Pyne, the approval of the minutes from the March 1, 2019 meeting. With one housekeeping amendment, **motion carried. Abstentions: 1**

9. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

10. Report of the Executive Committee

D. Johnson reported that the Executive Committee met on April 26th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. The Committee also had a discussion on the retreat and the questions that were posed today. He also noted that as Secretary, he has begun the process of staffing the Committees for 2019/20. He requested that any Senator returning next term, to advise him if they have a preference for committee work.

11. Students' Union Report

The returning Students' Union President, P. Brar, noted that he and his new Executive officially took office on May 1st and have begun the process of developing their Strategic Plan for the year. He advised that the cheque presentation for their Capers Helping Capers campaign will be held on Friday, and they will be announcing the charities for next year's campaign at that time. The Union and the University have signed an MOU to ensure clear and concise communications are maintained between both units. He then introduced the Union's new executive team: Samuel Shaji, Executive Vice President, Amara Othman, Vice President Finance and Operations, Hussam Sherief, Vice President Marketing and Communications, and Joshua Nyamukapa, Vice President Student Life.

12. Reports of Other Committees

(a) **QA** – On behalf of the Committee Chair, R. MacKinnon, referred to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies Quality Assurance Review posted on the Senate SharePoint. This item will be presented during the next meeting of Senate for consideration.

(b) **Research** – E. Barre referred to the report posted on SharePoint and noted there was nothing further to report.

(c) **Bylaws** – C. Pyne referred to the report circulated with the meeting material.

Recommendations:

1. Department of Communications and Languages Bylaws

It was moved by C. Pyne, seconded by M. Keating, to approve the bylaws for the Department of Communications and Languages. **Motion carried.**

2. Department of Humanities Bylaws

It was moved by C. Pyne, seconded by A. Parnaby, to approve the bylaws for the Department of Humanities. **Motion carried.**

(d) **Academic** – M. Keating referred to the report circulated with the meeting material.

Informational Items:

- 3-year Articulation agreement with CONA (BACS) and 4-year articulation agreement with CONA (BACS)
- The Registrar's office has had to make a slight adjustment to the recently approved timetable. One of the staggered options in the morning and the afternoon slots would have created a problem for BET and Engineering students who cannot have a block of three days in the morning or afternoon in which they are unable to fit a lab. The previous iteration would have created that situation for BET and Engineering students.

3. The Registrar has announced a change in the first day of registration this year: The opening of Fall registration will be moved from May 1, 2019 to May 6 2019, to coincide with the opening of the First-Year Advising Center, allowing students who need advising to have a more complete experience by ensuring the services that they need to access are all available to them. This adjustment will also take place after the Spring Board of Governors meeting, allowing students to have the most accurate pricing information available and therefore the best possible registration experience, without impacting their course selections or studies.

Recommendations:

1. Changes BA/BACS Minor Regulation

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by A. Parnaby, to approve the proposed changes to the BA/BACS minor regulation as presented. M. Keating noted this affects only the four-year degree. **Motion carried.**

2. Changes to the BA Core

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by S. Christie, to approve the changes to the BA Core as presented. M. Keating noted this change is in response to the work of a committee that has been formed to do a complete review of the BA core and this is the first of the changes they are suggesting. **Motion carried**

3. Changes to the BASE program

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by P. Bates, to approve changes to the BASE program as presented. M. Keating noted this change is to make the Math and English requirements easier for those transferring from other institutions or from other programs and is supported by both schools. **Motion carried.**

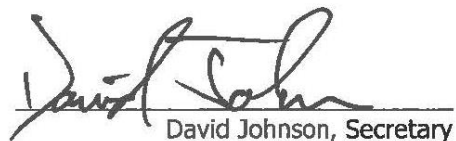
(e) **TLEC** – Nothing to report.

(f) **P&R** – Nothing to report.

13. Board of Governors' Report – N/A

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 pm.


David Johnson, Secretary