

## **Senate Minutes**

**November 20, 2020  
MS Teams**

The Chair, M. Mkandawire, called the meeting to order at 1:34.

He 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.

Before beginning the business of Senate, he referred to the notice sent by President Dingwall advising of the sudden passing of faculty member Dr. Margaret Dechman. To acknowledge her many contributions to CBU the Senate held a minute of silence in her honour.

He welcomed the Students' Union new Vice President of Promotions, Ms. Courtney DeGiobbi to her first Senate meeting.

### **1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

#### **Present:**

Amar Anwar, Catherine Arseneau, Stephen Augustine, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Debbie Brennick, Courtney DeGiobbi, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Emma Drohan, Jim Gerrie, Terry Gibbs, Stephanie Gilbert, Michael Hennick, Jasmine Hoover, Patrick Howard, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Janet Kuhnke, Geoff Lee-Dadswell, Doug Lionais, Gordon MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, Bernie MacLennan, Emily MacLeod, John MacMillan, Ryan Magee, Martin Mkandawire, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, Bill Robinson, Scott Rodney, Harsha Sai Bandari, Tom Joseph Scaria, Amrinder Singh, Ann Sylliboy, Michael Tanchak, Éric Thériault, Tom Urbaniak, Audrey Walsh, Richard Watuwa, Bilynda Whiting, John Mayich, Terry MacDonald

#### **Regrets:**

Pat Bates, David Gerbasi, Scott Rodney, Harsha Sai Bandari, Manini Sethi, Ann Sylliboy, Michael Tanchak, Makayla Townsend, Wendy Wadden

### **2. Consent Agenda – N/A**

### **3. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session**

**It was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by T. Brann-Barrett, to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting confidential business. **Motion carried.**

#### **3.1 Approval of Minutes – October 16, 2020**

### **4. Confidential Business**

There being no further confidential business, **it was moved** by J. Gerrie, seconded by C. Arseneau, to move back to Open Session following the completion of confidential business. **Motion carried.**

### **5. Changes to the Graduation List**

B. Whiting referred to the memorandums circulated in advance of the meeting which detailed all those that were moved from conditionally approved to approved, one deferral and seven that were carried over in error from the Spring 2020 Graduate List and were removed from the Fall 2020 Graduate List.

### **6. Report of the President & Vice-President Academic (Provost)**

#### **6.1 Report of the President**

President Dingwall began echoing the sentiments offered with regard to the passing of Dr. Margaret Dechman and A. Parnaby expressed thanks to CBU community for the many expressions of sorrow offered to her colleagues in the School of Arts and Social Sciences. He also extended special thanks to Department Chair, Kate Krug for her many efforts in such a trying situation.

President Dingwall then reported on the issues and impacts COVID-19 has had on the province and noted that Cape Breton remains fairly well positioned at this time and that CBU, along with other universities, continue to lobby for on-campus COVID testing site. He then detailed those working on the transition of a gradual move back to campus and the supports for the move to on-line learning, and expressed his sincere thanks for their many efforts. With respect to the Centre for Discover and Innovation (CDI), he noted that more than 8000 viewers watched the press conference held on October 26<sup>th</sup> and continues to garner much support through the online petition and letters of support to the MPs and MLAs. He respectfully requested Senators to participate in the advocacy for the CDI. He advised that a search firm has been engaged to begin the hiring process for the positions of Director of Human Resources, Chief Information Officer, Assistant Director of Facilities, and Dean of Unama'ki College. In the coming weeks announcement are forthcoming with

respect to an Artist in Residences, the Creative Arts Strategy, and Intermural and Recreation and Leisure activities. As an update on the classroom renovations, he noted that a collaborative effort has undertaken to ensure the upgrades will provide a variety of teaching and learning needs and that they have added and additional three rooms. In terms of revenue loss, now at approximately \$19 million, will have significant short- and long-term impacts. He noted that with the current situation in the United States, many international students are now looking to other countries for post-secondary education. He thanked Senate for their attention and action with regard to the student advising presentation given at the last meeting of Senate. He advised that the Pit Lounge is near completion and as been renovated to be a collaborative space that and provided and update on the Max Bell renovations. In closing he wanted to draw particular attention to this year's recipient of the President's Award for a Rising Researcher, Dr. Shine Zhang. He applauded Dr. Zhang for this well-deserved award.

On the question of the classroom renovations, G. Lee-Dadswell requested that TLEC be provided with a list of the classrooms being renovated and wondered if it would be possible for the Committee to see them in advance of their completion. T. Brann-Barrett advised that she would provide a list of the classrooms being renovated and would provide more detailed information.

With regard to the furniture delay for the renovations, President Dingwall noted that yes, it was ordered some time ago but the processing and shipping is what is causing the delays.

On the question of lobbying for support of the Sydney airport and return of regular service, President Dingwall agreed that that a collaborative pitch from the Chamber of Commerce, the CBRM, the Cape Breton Partnership, CBU and the CBU Students' Union to the municipality, to transport Canada, and MPs and MLAs should be undertaken. He also reminded Senators that CBU has a close connection to a member of Air Canada's Board of Directors and suggested that reaching out to her may also be helpful. He also suggested that, although not within their responsibilities, a session with the Province would be advisable.

## **5.2 Report of the Vice-President Academic (Provost)**

R. MacKinnon reported that the MPHEC meetings continue virtually and that the Destination Cape Breton Board, which he is a member, also recently met where they received a presentation from CBU on the CDI. He advised that he recently signed an MOU with Tobique, New Brunswick, for in-community Liberal Arts Program and that A. Parnaby is working on an agreement with NSCC for a three-year BACS degree in music.

In follow-up to the discussion on students being able to access open educational resources, R. MacKinnon confirmed that the Provost Group is looking to have this information available to students when they register.

## **6. Special Presentations/Updates – N/A**

## **7. Question Period**

### **7.1 In follow-up to a conversation during the October 16th meeting of Senate, what actions is the University taking, or considering, to expedite and streamline the hiring of faculty and course-by-course instructors (ICAs)?**

R. MacKinnon acknowledged that this past year was of particular concern with respect to late ICA hires and adding sections. Of course, this situation was compounded by the switch to online learning and fluctuating enrolments from fall to winter terms. G. MacInnis added this significant gap could impact staffing.

G. Lee-Dadswell responded that he appreciates the current situation, but the intent of his question was more to the long-term patterns which have evolved over the last number of years at CBU. He suggested that effective hiring of a faculty member really ties in to certain times of the year and that postings typically occur at the beginning of a calendar year and most would indicate that it would be pending budgetary approvals. He suggested that CBU's current practice of having budgetary approval prior to posting is lessening CBU's chances of finding the best candidates and ending up with very tight timelines for interviewing, finding a suitable candidate, and the successful candidate being fully prepared for classes in September.

It was agreed that this practice was in line with the publication's deadline for Academic Affairs, and that CBU's difficulty rose with the enrolment growth in particular programs which in recent years and that every effort should be made to avoid the late hires. M. Keating also added that this issue might be addressed through the enrolment management plan being developed. M. Mkandawire added that the Senate Executive Committee should add this topic to their discussions on succession planning.

## **8. Approval of Minutes**

**8.1 It was moved** by G. Lee-Dadswell, seconded by M. Keating, **the approval of the minutes from the October 16, 2020 meeting. Motion carried. Abstentions: 2**

## **9. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A**

## **10. Report of the Executive Committee**

D. Brennick reported that the Executive Committee met on November 6<sup>th</sup> to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. The Committee also discussed length of the October meeting and having to defer items to today's meeting. The Committee committed to ensure all business presented for a meeting is tended to and to provide tighter timelines for any one agenda item. The Committee also reviewed the Academic Integrity Task Force report was reviewed

and recommended that it be shared with Senators during a Take Note Debate. The committee also reviewed the meeting material for each committee.

## **11. Students' Union Report**

Students' Union President, A. Singh reported that the Union has been busy supporting new and returning students while adhering to all provincial COVID-19 restrictions. The Union also continues with the grad gown initiative for graduates to be able to take photos outside the normal process. A virtual Diwali was held over two days in various locations throughout the Sydney area saw approximately 140 students participate. The CBUSU and various other university students' union met with various provincial representative and discussed various issues, topics and recommendations. In particular they recommend that the Province increase the allowance for student assistance, create a one-time access to technology grant, to invest in open educational resources for post-secondary students, that Nova Scotia implement MSI coverage for international students and to mandate COVID-19 testing for all students from outside Atlantic Canada.

On the question of the response to the implementation of MSI coverage, A. Sing responded that most were in support of the idea however some mentioned some concern with the cost of its implementation.

## **12. Reports of Other Committees**

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

### **Items for Information:**

M. Keating advised that the Committee is presenting the NSCC-CBU Music Arts to 4-year BACS Articulation Agreement to Senate for Information. It has been our practice to move articulation agreements forward by a vote of our committee (it passed unanimously). The Dean also informed us that it has been the practice of SASS to track transfer students from these agreements in their first year at CBU to ensure that the transfer credits are an accurate reflection of the material students need to know going into upper level courses.

### **Recommendations:**

**It was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by A. Parnaby, **that Senate receive the Academic Task Force Report and that the Senate Executive meet to assign the recommendations to the relevant committees or parties.** She added that because the Academic Integrity Charter is connected to the general policy on Academic Integrity, and asked that the Academic Committee be the committee to work on that particular recommendation. The Committee has already begun discussions on the Charter. It is also part of their mandate to make any revisions to the policies around cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct. There are recommendations that are more institutional

in nature. The Committee feel Senate's input on these will be useful to the Provost group. G. Lee-Dadswell drew Senate's attention to Appendix B and that the third, more detailed version, would be more fully understood once read. **Motion carried.**

**It was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by J. Parish, **that Senate approve the revised Minor Course Change Template.** M. Keating noted that in both the course and program change documents, the templates are designed to provide the kinds of information that helps the Committee when discussed at meetings. And even though the course change template is for information, it is important that we are able to assess the nature of the change in order to be able to assure Senate that the changes are indeed minor. She noted that they are fillable forms which will make it easier for each unit to add its vote and any comments without having to switch formats. **Motion carried.**

**It was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by S. Augustine, that Senate approve the new Minor Program Change Template. **Motion carried.**

**It was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by P. Howard, that Senate approve the Master of Education Sustainability, Creativity and Innovation proposal. P. Howard noted that the Department of Education is pleased to resubmit this proposal that was proposed by Senate in 2014 and provided the history on why this program is returning to Senate. He noted that in 2014 after it was submitted to MPHEC an moratorium was placed on all education programs, after this moratorium was lifted in 2019, it was felt that the program should be revisited to ensure its content was still current and refreshed. On the question of the CV's not being in the Senate approved format and for individuals no longer employed at CBU, would it be a concern to MPHEC, P. Howard responded that the Committee will be reviewing the document one last time for formatting prior to it being sent to MPHEC but that CVs should not be altered. **Motion carried.**

### **Take Note Debate - Academic Task Force Report**

T. Urbaniak referred to the report introduced with the Academic Committee documents. He noted that this session would be an opportunity for Senators to ask questions, make suggestions, react to or provide any cautionary advice on the report. To begin he asked if any member of the Task Force that would like to bring forth to Senate's attention.

A. Parnaby emphasized the overall objective of the 18 recommendations, if they were all implemented over a period of time. He advised that through their deliberations, CBU tends to default to cheating, plagiarism, and the sanctions for such actions. The taskforce wanted to help mould a culture of academic integrity that is a celebrated value that could be cultivated in CBU students.

Referring to 1.2.4 of the document: Explicitly recognize student contributions to the university's culture of academic integrity through scholarships, awards, and university public relations, A. Parnaby responded that with an already robust culture in every classroom, lab, and department at CBU and the taskforce was able to build upon that with the idea of

celebrating student success in this area. He explained that the idea is not to compliment or reward students for not cheating or plagiarizing, but rather by recognizing core values and conduct surrounding academic integrity and the charter of academic citizenship.

G. Lee-Dadswell, referring to recommendation 12; "That Deans, department chairs, and faculty members, in collaboration with the standing working group, implement a range of learning opportunities for students dedicated to academic integrity, broadly defined. These learning opportunities may include standalone courses, modules within existing courses, revised curriculum, and/or academic integrity themed capstone projects or assignments" as a call to all faculty to think about where in their courses they could incorporate specific learning opportunities targeted at academic integrity.

C. Arseneau suggested that if expectations of the documents were overlaid with the University organization chart, it may give a visual of ownership and authority for decision making and show how truly widespread academic integrity is woven throughout the University.

The taskforce noted that policy recommendations in the report would see small changes to the current appeals process but would also bring in a restorative element to the process.

- (b) TLEC** – G. Lee-Dadswell reported that the committee has met several times and continues to modify the Policy on Online Exams. CBU has obtained legal advice regarding the policy which largely verified that the policy presented at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate. Referring to the detail report, he urged Senators to use the recommendations from CTL that not having a policy is very problematic and puts CBU in an extremely liable position.
- (c) Research** – On behalf of the Chair, D. Lionais reported that activity of the Research Committee. The recommendation, as noted by President Dingwall, for the 2020 RISE grant recipient was accepted. **It was moved**, by D. Lionais, seconded by MB Doucette, that Senate adopt the updated terms of references of the Animal Care Committee (a standing sub-committee of the Research Committee of Senate). He noted the changes are to reflect updates requested by the Canadian Council on Animal Care. **Motion carried.**
- (d) QA** – No report.
- (e) Bylaws** – **MB** Doucette referred to the circulated report. **It was moved**, by G. Lee-Dadswell, seconded by C. Arseneau, approval of the statement of mandate for a Special Senate Working Group on Student Advising. **Motion carried.**
- (f) Planning & Review** – On behalf of the Chair, who was experiencing technical issues, G. MacInnis referred to the report circulated with the meeting material and from the chat, S. Gilbert requested that Senators provide input on pre-budget priorities to inform the Committee's pre-budget recommendations for this year.

### **13. Board of Governors' Report**

B. MacLennan reported that the Board of Governors' met on October 23<sup>rd</sup> where a notice of motion approved changes to bylaws, members were provided with the student back to campus plan, and through a presentation on government relationships the Board was provided with the planned initiative for the Centre for Discovery and Innovation which was unanimously approved. He noted that the next meeting will be held on December 4, 2020.

### **14. Adjournment**

There being no further business, D. Brennick moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:52pm.

**Debbie Brennick  
Secretary to Senate**