

Senate Minutes

January 22, 2021
MS Teams

The Chair, M. Mkandawire, called the meeting to order at 1:32.

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.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Amar Anwar, Catherine Arseneau, Stephen Augustine, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Carol Beaton, Debbie Brennick, Courtney Degiobbi, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Jim Gerrie, Terry Gibbs, Stephanie Gilbert, Michael Hennick, Jasmine Hoover, Patrick Howard, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Geoff Lee-Dadswell, Doug Lionais, 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, Amrinder Singh, Michael Tanchak, Éric Thériault, Makayla Townsend, Tom Urbaniak, Wendy Wadden, Bilynda Whiting, John Mayich, Terry MacDonald

Regrets:

Emma Drohan, David Gerbasi, Janet Kuhnke, Gordon MacInnis, Tom Joseph Scaria, Manini Sethi, Ann Sylliboy, Audrey Walsh

The Chair welcomed the new representative from the Board of Governors, Ms. Carol Beaton.

Before beginning, the Chair requested the following adjustments to the agenda:

7. Report of the President and Vice President be move to the first item due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict, to be followed by 6. Special Presentation-Volunteer Advantage Program Report in order for a smooth transition of non-Senators due to items required to be addressed in Confidential Business.

With no objections, the revisions to the agenda were accepted.

7. Report of the President & Vice-President Academic (Provost)

7.1 Report of the President

President Dingwall thanked Senate for allowing the change in the agenda and for clarification, noted that he has an urgent family matter rather than a scheduling conflict. He began with congratulations the Provost and Dean Karaphillis on the completion of the BHTM QA review and to Interim Dean Howard on his appointment to CONSUP's Committee on Social Equity. He noted the positive response from MPHEC on an increase in teacher certification classification for the Master of Education in Sustainability, Creativity and Innovation and a proposal being developed to request additional funded seats from the Department of Education. Many individuals, internal and external, have been diligently working to develop Terms of Reference for the Marshall Institute. He noted that he, along with Stephen Augustine and Jane Lewis, have been working with the provincial government on the development of a Mi'kmaw Chair in Healthy L'nu Communities and is optimistically hopeful this will be successful. After approximately 13 sessions on succession planning, he was happy to report the positive feedback he is receiving. He asked Senators to take note that at CBU there are currently 62 employees between the age of 55 and 59, 51 between the age of 60 and 64, and 19 who are 65 and over. Having employees in these age groups, with so much institutional knowledge, is of course an asset to the University but also provides a level of risk with respect to individuals nearing retirement if not properly planned for. With regard to new hires; the terms of reference for the new Dean of Unama'ki College are near completion and several search committees have been formed and have begun their deliberations. He noted his delight with the many research initiatives under way, in particular, a Chair in Agriculture Precision (in conjunction with Via Talente) and an exciting effort being undertaken by É. Thériault to honor a colleague through community engaged research. Referring to the Centre for Development and Innovation (CDI), he noted that every effort has been made to be very transparent and gained much support from many stakeholders (for example the Board of Governors, Destination Cape Breton, the Downtown Development Association, and numerous individuals). He noted that due to this transparency, some have questioned why CBUFA or the CBU Senate have not submitted letters of support, as so many have. To that end, he suggested that Senators may want champion this initiative. He referred to a previous discussion on carbon neutral position planning and noted that this conversation continues with the Verschuren Centre to develop a clear roadmap of what CBU can do; the CDI would provide an enormous advantage to cutting CBU's current carbon footprint. Also, in follow up to previous discussion, he provided a list of classrooms that have been renovated, those in progress, and those soon to be started. In conclusion, he spoke of the new ERP system and the opportunities it will provide for CBU to be more efficient in many areas and he highlighted that wait times have already shown some improvement. He indicated that post-COVID, recruitment competition in the international market will be robust and that CBU needs to ensure that we are serving students to the best of our abilities and utilizing the new ERP will assist in these efforts.

On the question of the recent financial relief received from the Government, President Dingwall responded that discussions have taken place to best determine how CBU might address some of the issues students are facing but that no final decisions have yet been made. He added that although the funding is welcomed and appreciated, he was disappointed that Government did

not take in to account the overwhelming revenue shortfall all universities are experiencing. A. Singh suggested that consideration should be given to utilizing some of the funds for investing in third party software required for some courses and reimbursing students for costs they have incurred with having to use such software. President Dingwall responded that this is a fair request and would take it under advisement.

7.2 Report of the Vice-President Academic (Provost)

R. MacKinnon reported, as noted by President Dingwall, that the BHTM QA review has taken place and that the external report has been received and is quite favorable. He recently attended MPHEC's QA Committee, met with individuals from the McCall MacBain Scholarship Program, and signed three MOUs: Cultures of Sound Network, East Coast Language College (ECLC), and the Coaching Association of Canada. He also noted that the Provost Group met to fully review the report on advising and will be providing a response to it. He highlighted that they are largely in support of the cluster of recommendations however one point they differ on, is faculty's responsibility with regard to advising.

On the question of the East Coast Language College's national accreditation, R. MacKinnon responded that he believes they are but would confirm.

With regard to an advising champion or designated, M. Keating noted that the report does not imply that this person would either be a faculty member or a staff member, rather a 'go-to-person' for mentorship and that faculty would always be required in the process. G. Lee-Dadswell echoed these comments, adding that there is no intent for faculty to be less involved in advising. He also noted that due to the nature of the various programs within the schools, the level of advising is not equal and suggested that standards for how advising is assessed should be re-evaluated.

On the question of Cultures of Sound Network, R. MacKinnon responded that the purpose of this MOU is to bring together researchers, educators, creators, performers, producers, and the public from many universities to promote the diversity and strength of musical cultures, in their many forms and locations.

6. Special Presentation

6.1 Volunteer Advantage Program Report

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by T. Brann-Barrett, **to allow speaking privileges** for MJ Morrison for the purpose of presenting a report of the volunteer Advantage Program. **Motion carried.**

MJ Morrison thanked Senate for allowing her to present the report as circulated to Senate in advance of the meeting. She reminded Senators that the committee was formed in 2018 to best determine how volunteerism could be represented at Cape Breton University. They developed a proposed centre that would coordinate the activity and the research associated

with volunteerism with the following goals:

1. to provide students with the opportunity to create community connections,
2. to create opportunities for research that might be related to the issues raised by the volunteer organizations, or may focus on the role of volunteering and how best practices are developed,
3. to provide community organizations with the resources that can help them achieve their goals and increase their capacity to better serve their respective communities, and
4. to provide opportunities for learning for the organizations and their staff and volunteers, thus increasing their ability to engage in a meaningful way and plan for the future.

Following the presentation, M. Keating suggested that a needs assessment of the organizations ought to be done to determine their needs and the appropriateness of CBU engaging with them.

C. Beaton recommended that the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design should be added to the list as an organization that has been engaged with student placement for many years. She also offered that as a member of the culture Sector Strategy for Cape Breton Island, an extensive database has been developed that also could be of use should this program go forward and that it can be assessed through the Cape Breton Partnership.

S. Rodney applauded the work of the committee but suggested that changing the name of the committee should be considered; perhaps after an individual who exemplifies the mission statement of the centre. MJ Morrison agreed to the suggestion and that once the next steps for the process are determined this could be further explored. T. Urbaniak noted that during the next meeting of Senate, a facilitated Take Note Debate will occur which will likely result in action items for the committees of Senate to further the work of this process. M. Tanchak offered support of the process and agreed with the suggestion of changing the name. He did suggest that having a list of the programs that have a volunteering requirement would be helpful to Senators. He also questioned how volunteerism is currently operationalized and how this might change with the establishment of this centre and the proposed budget. W. Wadden also suggested that consideration needs to be given to insurance coverage for all involved.

On the suggestion of ethical principles, MJ Morrison responded that the committee did feel quite strongly that a dedicated person would have to be responsible for the centre should the process go forward to ensure that the volunteers and the organizations are well supported and aligned.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Committee Report:

a) Bylaws – Items for information only.

3. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session – N/A

It was moved by D. Brennick, seconded by É. Thériault, to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting confidential business. **Motion carried.**

4. Confidential Business

4.1 Change to Fall 2020 Graduation List After Approval

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

5. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

Items 6 and 7 were moved to the front end of the meeting.

8. Question Period – N/A

9. Approval of Minutes

9.1 It was moved by M. Keating, seconded C. Arseneau, **the approval of the confidential and regular meeting minutes from the December 11, 2020.** M. Tanchak noted that his comment on page 5 did not include his note that the faculty involvement was after those indicated on the chart. With regard to item 10, it was felt that the discussion was not captured as some Senators recall and it was agreed that the recording would be reviewed to ensure the completeness of the discussion and that if amendments are necessary they would be brought to the next meeting. **It was moved** by G. Lee-Dadswell, seconded by S. Rodney, **to postpone consideration of the minutes until the next meeting of Senate** to allow for a review of the recording and edits to be made if necessary. **Motion carried.**

10. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

11. Report of the Executive Committee

D. Brennick reported that the Executive Committee met on January 8th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. The Committee discussed follow-up and action items from the Take Note Debates on Academic Advising and Academic Integrity. The Committee arranged to the presentation on the Volunteer Advantage program, and as indicated earlier, planned a Take Note Debate on this presentation and report during the February meeting.

12. Students' Union Report

Students' Union President, A. Singh reported that they have been working with CBU on the recent funding received and hopes to be able to assist student who have been self-isolating. The Union has been delivering swag bags to new students through their downtown location as well as the food bank. With the increased use of the facility, they are looking to extend the hours. He also noted that general elections will occur in early February and he will share the results with Senators during the next meeting.

13. Reports of Other Committees

(a) Academic – M. Keating referred to the report circulated with the meeting material, in addition she noted that due to some recent confusion with regard to the Decision Matrix, the Committee will be creating a flow chart to

Recommendations:

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by T. Gibbs, that Senate approve the **new course proposal MUSI 2XXX/3XXX: Vocal Ensemble** as presented. M. Keating clarified the difference between the 2000 and 3000 levels and rehearsal spaces, noting this is typical with music programs. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by A. Parnaby, that Senate approve the **new course proposal MUSI 2411/3XXX: Popular Music Ensemble** as presented. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by A. Parnaby, that Senate approve **the Performance Course regulation for the Music Program** as presented. **Motion carried**

(b) P&R – S. Gilbert referred to the report circulated with the meeting material. She noted that the Committee continues to develop the pre-budget recommendation and plans to have it submitted to the Senate Executive by February 8th. She thanked Senators that were able to attend the December 18th meeting of the committee and the input and feedback they provided.

(c) QA – G. Gerrie referred to the report circulated with the meeting material and added that the report from the external reviewers has been received and will be presented to Senate at a future date.

(d) TLEC – G. Lee-Dadswell referred to the informational report circulated with the meeting material. He noted that work continues on the Online Exam Policy which is currently with CBU's Privacy Office.

(e) Research – Nothing to report at this time.

14. Board of Governors' Report – N/A

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, **it was moved** by G. Karaphillis, to **adjourn the meeting** at 3:27pm.

**Debbie Brennick
Secretary to Senate**