

Senate Minutes

**April 30, 2020
MS Teams**

The Chair, M. Mkandawire, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

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.

He then welcomed the 2020/2021 CBU Student's Union executive members officially taking office on May 1st: Mr. Amrinder Singh, President, Mr. Tom Joseph Scaria, Executive Vice President, Mr. Ryan Magee, VP Finance & Operations, and Ms. Haeley Langlois, VP Promotions. He also thanked the outgoing student Senators for their contributions to Senate during their term: Mr. Parteek Brar, President, Mr. Samuel Shaji, Executive Vice President, Ms. Amera Othman, VP Finance and Operations, Ms. Emma Drohan, VP Marketing & Communications, and Mr. Joshua Nyamukapa VP Student Life.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Amar Anwar, Catherine Arseneau, Stephen Augustine, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Parteek Brar, Debbie Brennick, Madeline Campbell, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Emma Drohan, Karen Foss, Jim Gerrie, Stephanie Gilbert, Jan Hancock, Jasmine Hoover, David Johnson, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Carolin Kreber, Janet Kuhnke, Geoff Lee-Dadswell, Brendan MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, Emily MacLeod, John MacMillan, Judy MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, Bernie MacLennan, Martin Mkandawire, Mary Jane Morrison, Joshua Nyamukapa, Amera Othman, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, Dena Richardson, Bill Robinson, Scott Rodney, Maria Rozario, Samuel Shaji, Éric Thériault, Tom Urbaniak, Audrey Walsh, Richard Watuwa, John Mayich, Terry MacDonald

Regrets:

Abbey Abraham, Pat Bates, Patrick Delamirande, Harsh Sai, Ann Sylliboy

2. Report of the Vice-President, Academic, Associate VP Academic & Research, and Director of Student Affairs

2.1 Report of the Vice-President, Academic

R. MacKinnon reported that in response to the approval of the Academic Plan, he will be meeting with the Senate Executive on May 1st to discuss impacts of the Plan for the various Senate committees. He detailed the progress been made with respect to Academic Integrity & Quality, Teaching and the Student Learning Experience, Program Innovation & Development and Research, Scholarship and Professional Practice. He also provided updates on the status of the quality assurance reviews for the BHTM, the BET, the Library, the Centre for Teaching and Learning, and the Registrar's Office. Reviews of the BBA, the

Bachelor of Health Sciences and Student Affairs are to begin later in 2020. With regard to the notice sent earlier in April on the pass/fail grade process, he advised that, to date, approximately 150 requests have been received.

2.2 Report of the Associate VP Academic & Research

T. Brann-Barrett provided updates on meetings with CONSUP and the spring/summer and fall semesters. She noted that the ongoing CONSUP meetings have been focusing on the impacts of COVID-19. With regard to the spring/summer online semester she advised that to date, 1768 students have registered and this number is expected to grow. Attention is now being focused on the fall semester and the possibility that this too, may need to be delivered in an online format or a blended version of both online and in person. Various groups have been formed to respond to a needs assessment circulated to faculty and support units should either of these options become reality.

On the question of compensation for individuals having to dedicate to develop their course in an online format, T. Brann-Barrett advised that there is no clear answer at this point but that it will be discussed as they move forward.

T. Brann-Barrett responded to a comment on the RISE competition. She noted that applications recommended for funding were requested to revise their budgets with respect to work that could be done remotely or be postponed until a later date. She recognized some may have misinterpreted the communication sent on this matter and accepted the suggestion to send a clarification.

2.3 Report of the Director of Student Affairs

Mr. John Mayich referred the launch emergency bursary fund call Perseverance. The application period has closed and a selection committee has been reviewing the applications and will completing their work today with responses to be sent in the coming days. He provided updates on the Canada Student Benefits from the Federal Government, Canada student loans, a student service grant, Canada student emergency benefit, and the number of hours a student can work while in study. The second student survey results revealed that 70 respondents have a background in health care and misunderstanding of changes to the Provincial Tenancy Act; clarifications have been sent to all students to address this. He also noted, that to his knowledge, there are no students, on or off campus, who have tested positive for COVID-19. In closing he advised that CBU will not be charging any lab fees for the spring/summer courses and consideration will be given to a refund to the campus activity fee, and students are being permitted to register with an outstanding balance.

In response to comments of the number of hours studying student are able to work, and the implications this could have for the student and if any consideration is being given to reducing course loads, Mr. Mayich responded that this decision ultimately lays with the student. He did accept the idea of sending a communication to all students advising the implications of working full time could have on their studies.

3. Report of the Students' Union

P. Brar thanked all the current student Senators for their dedication and commitment to serving on Senate during their term. He noted that the Union is working closely with Student Services to address student issues during this difficult time. He noted his pleasure in the student assistance from the Federal Government but disappointment that international students were not included in the support. He advised that food bank fund has helped approximately 600 students and to-date, 61% of the fund has been used.

On behalf of Senate, M. Mkandawire thanked P. Brar and all the student for their contributions to Senate and the committees each of them served on.

4. Report of the President & Vice Chancellor

President Dingwall reported on the overall status of the state of emergency in Nova Scotia brought on by the international COVID-19 pandemic and how CBU is reacting. He suggested that going forward, he and others would like to provide updates to Senate on a monthly basis. The three entities CBU has been working closely with during this situation CONSUP, AAU and Universities Canada, have been trying to work with all levels of government to determine parameters with which they can work within. He noted that the Board of Governors' Executive Committee met on April 22nd where they approved an interim budget to address a potential \$45m revenue risk for 2020/2021 and he listed of the various human resources, goods and service reductions being address to mitigate some of this risk. In recent weeks, he met with each of the Chairs of the four schools to gain insight as to any issues, challenges, or concerns they have and he hopes to do this regularly. Referring to the online technology and equipment needed for faculty to be able to deliver online courses is expected to arrive within the next two weeks. He provided updates on a second option to the Global Collaborative Centre (The Global Centre of Innovation, Engineering, and Health Science), internal organization structure changes and convocation. He thanked Senate for their time and welcomed any comments or questions.

5. Special Presentations – Draft Strategic Research Plan, Dana Mount

For the purposes of assisting in this presentation, Senate agreed to give speaking privileges to Dr. Dana C. Mount is the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies.

In a PowerPoint presentation, T. Brann-Barrett provided Senate with an overview of the process and the sub-committee charged with developing a Strategic Research Plan. She described the consultation process that has led to the draft plan being presented today. She described the feedback process to date for CBU and that today Senate is being asked for their input with regard to the clarity and appropriateness of the Strategic Research Priorities, of research clusters and anything Senate feels should be added.

Dr. Mount then described the strategic research Priorities: CBU 2025 - **C**reative Approaches to Complex Problems, **B**uild World Class Research Infrastructure, **U**phold Resilient Research Networks, **2025** Student Research Opportunities. She noted that each priority includes potential initiatives and actions, as well as possible measure of progress. From the consultation feedback, the committee determined a way to foster a robust research culture was to establish Interdisciplinary Research Clusters to focus research supports, refine expertise, and promote areas of strength. The five potential research clusters include Culture, Language and Histories, Civil Society and Community Development, Sustainability and Environment, L'Nu Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Community Health, Wellbeing and Extended Learning, and Emerging Digital Data; each was fully detailed.

Following the presentation responses were given to comments and questions with regard to how this process and plan relates to a possible new building, clarity on the definition and function of the clusters, constructive monitoring and benchmarking, and CBU's ranking as a research university.

6. Consent Agenda

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

6.1 Academic Committee

Recommendations:

1. New Course EDUC XXXX --Pre-Practicum Professional Series
2. New Course ENGL 44XX- Indigenous Canadian Drama
3. New Course MIKM 3XXX – Mi'kmaq Verbs
4. New Course AN/S 2XXX – Humankind: Uses and Abuses of Science
5. New Course AN/S 2XXX – Humankind: The Journey of Evolution
6. New Course HIST 4XXX – Digital History
7. New Course ENGL 3XXX – The Graphic Novel.
8. A change to the BA and BACS program to restrict the number of credits of a student's Major, Honours, Academic Field, Multi-disciplinary (Area) Major and Double Major subject area that may be used in the elective category.

Motion carried. Abstention(s): 1

7. Confidential Business – N/A

8. Closed Session

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by R. Watuwa, **to move in to Closed Session** for the purpose of conducting confidential business. **Motion carried.**

Following a confidential session, **it was moved** by B. MacDonald, seconded by G. Karaphillis, to move back to Open Session. **Motion carried.**

9. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

10. Question Period – N/A

11. Approval of Minutes

11.1 It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by B. MacLennan, the **approval of the minutes from the March 27, 2020**. With one revision on page four to the report of the Executive Committee, **motion carried. Abstentions: 1**

12. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

13. Report of the Executive Committee

D. Johnson reported that the Executive Committee met on April 17th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting and approving the special presentation on the Strategic Research Plan. Committee also arranged to meet on May 1st with the VPA and representatives from the Provost Group to discuss possible implications for Senate committees as a result of the approval of the Academic Plan. These matters will be brought back to Senate in due course. He also reminded Senators that he will be contacting Senators to staff the committees for the 2020/21 term and Senators with a committee preference were asked to contact him directly.

14. Reports of Other Committees

i. **Academic Committee** – M. Keating referred to the report circulated with the meeting material.

Items for information:

Course changes for information:

- ANTH 3113
- ENVS 3101
- COMM 2151
- COMS 2100

Noting the list of prerequisite changes presented by the department of L'nu, Political and Social Studies, including the modified pre-requisites for:

- ANTH 3113
- ANTH 3102
- POLS3130

She noted these changes went through the Department to the Dean/Chairs and School, as required, before coming to Senate and that there is a list of courses for which the prerequisites are dropped entirely. The rationale is, in part, that a large number of students with different credentials from various institutions had enrolled in the Diploma in Public Administration and Management but they did not necessarily have the pre-requisite courses recognized by TheSIS. This created significant problems and delays in registration, so it was decided to drop the prerequisites in the listed courses entirely. The result is that a significant number of 2000 and 3000 level courses will no longer have pre-requisites. The Committee has asked the department to reconsider this matter in a year's time, once our new system comes into operation. The expectation is that we will not be so restricted on what the system will recognize, there could be way to have a minimum number of credits or previous credential as an alternative prerequisite.

Also included, for information, was the description of how COLLEAGUE will deal with 6-credit courses. The Committee has sent some suggestions for making the process less complicated than what is described, but whether or not that can be done with the programming remains to be seen. The Academic Committee agreed that the option chosen was the better of the three considered.

ii. **TLEC** – G. Lee-Dadswell referred to the informational report posted on SharePoint. He noted that with the campus closure, the Committee has delayed their review of the exam procedures as it is no longer a high priority. The Committee will be circulating a survey in late May or early June on lessons learned from the switch remote learning. Referring to the specialized needs document included with the report, he noted that the Committee will continue to collect information about needs for specialized

teaching spaces across CBU and requested he be sent any information Senators feel should be added.

- iii. **QA** – Nothing to report.
- iv. **P&R** – S. Gilbert reported that the Committee is currently reviewing outdated policies and will prepare a respond to the budget once it is presented to the Board of Governors.
- v. **Bylaws** – Nothing to report
- vi. **Research** - Nothing to report.

15. Board of Governors' Report – N/A

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by G. Karaphillis to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 pm.

David Johnson
Secretary to Senate