

Senate Minutes

December 13, 2019
Senate Chamber CE-339

The Vice Chair, T. Urbaniak, called the meeting to order at 1:35.

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:

AmarAnwar, Catherine Arseneau, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Pat Bates, Debbie Brennick, Sheila Christie, Patrick Delamirande, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Emma Drohan, Karen Foss, Stephanie Gilbert, Jasmine Hoover, George Karaphillis, Carolin Kreber, Janet Kuhnke, Geoff Lee-Dadswell, Brendan MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, Judy MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, Emily MacLeod, John MacMillan, Mary Jane Morrison, Joshua Nyamukapa, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, David Gerbasi (on behalf of Dena Richardson), Éric Thériault, Tom Urbaniak, Audrey Walsh, Richard Watuwa, Terry MacDonald

Regrets:

Stephen Augustine, Parteek Brar, Jim Gerrie, David Johnson, Mary Keating, Bernie MacLennan, Martin Mkandawire, Amara Othman, Scott Rodney, Bill Robinson, Samuel Shaji, Gurpreet Singh, Ann Sylliboy

Absent:

Jaya Kaushik, Shantanu Pandey, John Mayich

2. Consent Agenda

It was moved by S. Christie, seconded by MJ Morrison, to adopt the following reports of the Consent Agenda:

Quality Assurance – for information

Academic Committee – new course proposals: ENGI2XXX: Water and Wastewater and ANTH 3XXX: Plagues and People

Motion carried.

3. Confidential Business – Senate agreed to move these minutes to the regular agenda as they contain no confidential information.

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

5. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

6. Special Presentations – N/A

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

7.1 Report of the President

To allow for fulsome discussion on the presentation of the Academic Plan, President Dingwall deferred his report but did welcomed comments and/or questions.

7.2 Report of the Vice-President Academic (Provost)

In a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. MacKinnon gave an overview of the Academic Plan and described how it shapes the identity of the University, provides a foundation for further planning, and helps drive the strategic plan. He described the planning process that led to the plan being presented to Senate for their consideration today. Following a thorough presentation, **it was moved** by R. MacKinnon, seconded by P. DeLamirande, that Senate adopt the Academic Plan: Transformation through Inquiry. Sincere appreciation and thanks were offered to the many people who attended the sessions in the development of the document and comments were offered that the Plan reflects all of those who participated in the process of the development of this document. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. Question Period – N/A

9. Approval of Minutes

9.1 It was moved by P. Bates, seconded by C. Arseneau, the approval of the minutes from the November 8, 2019, including those from the confidential session, meeting. **Motion carried.**

Abstentions: 5

10. Business Arising from the Minutes

On the question of the effective date of the changes the timetable being January rather than September, B. MacDonald noted that the Academic Committee felt an earlier effective date may cause an unacceptable level of confusion and agreed to keep the original suggested date for implementation.

11. Report of the Executive Committee

On behalf of the Secretary, G. Lee-Dadswell reported that the Executive Committee met on November 29th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. The Committee also discussed an orientation session for department chairs, special presentations during Senate meetings, and Senators were asked to forward suggestions for these presentations to D. Johnson.

11. Students' Union Report

On behalf of the Students' Union President, E. Drohan reported that the Union has been focusing on preparing for exams and has little to report. She did note that a large donation has been received for their food bank.

12. Reports of Other Committees

(a) Planning and Review – S. Gilbert referred to the report circulated with the meeting material. She noted that the Committee, upon further review after the time of submission, has unanimously agreed to remove recommendation four from the report.

Recommendation 1:

It was moved by J. Parish, seconded by É. Thériault, that CBU should begin to make the appropriate and adequate investments in counselling services personnel and administrative support staff to serve properly the mental health needs of our university community, and a larger wellness strategy should be developed in consultation with current mental health providers. **Motion carried. Abstention(s): 1**

Recommendation 2:

It was moved by S. Gilbert, seconded by K. Foss, that Senate recommend that the budget committee prioritise funds directed at making better use of existing space as a means to address section 2.5 of the Academic Plan. **Motion carried.**

Recommendation 3:

It was moved by K. Foss, seconded by P. Delamirande, Senate recommends that the Budgetary Committee prioritize their efforts to secure funding for a new science and technology building. On further clarification of the motion, it was agreed that it would read: that Senate recommends that the University prioritize their efforts to secure external funding for a new science and technology building. On the question as to why the recommendation is specific to science lab spaces and does not consider other schools or buildings, K. Foss noted the labs are so very outdated that could impact the accreditations of some programs if not addressed. Although not suggested as an amended, it was proposed this recommendation should be of the view of a collaborative space and not one specific to science. **Motion carried.**

Recommendation 4:

Removed as per the Committee's decision after submission.

Recommendation 5:

It was moved by K. Foss, seconded by J. Parish, that as the University explores opportunities to build a new science & technology building, Senate recommends the development of a prioritized list of equipment needs that would be required for a new science and technology building. This equipment list should in turn be used to inform equipment upgrades for science and technology as funding opportunities become available. On the question of training for the new equipment, K. Foss responded that the purchases of significant instrumentations often includes the required training. **Motion carried.**

Recommendation 6:

It was moved by S. Gilbert, seconded by P. Delamirande, that Senate encourage the University to make investments towards the planning and execution of enhanced student programming and development of new campus traditions such as homecoming events. It was requested that, as noted on page six, that

the comparative universities referred to be individuality listed. **Motion carried**

Recommendation 7:

It was moved by S. Gilbert, seconded by MJ Morrison, that Senate encourages the University to make investments towards developing an effective two-way communication strategy by gathering information from students about preferences for communication methods and other issues to inform decision-making. B. MacDonald noted that with the move to the new student information system, student communication is currently under review with a focus which will address this recommendation. **Motion carried.**

Recommendation 8:

It was moved by J. Parish, seconded by E. Drohan, that CBU adopt a transparent reporting framework (AASHE STARS) to measure our performance on post-secondary environmental sustainability initiatives as they compare to similar institutions, in order to provide a framework for future action. It was suggested that the location of where the data must be determined to ensure it is in keeping with Canadian privacy protection. It was also suggested that Senate should consider issues with privacy, expense and time allocation as it pertains to the STARS system and that Facilities Management should be engaged to provide Senate with a fulsome presentation on the efforts CBU has engaged in as it relates to the environment. **Motion carried. Abstention(s): 1**

Recommendation 9:

It was moved by S. Gilbert, seconded by P. Delamirande, that the University acquire software to track fleet vehicle use, demand, and maintenance and assign existing or additional personnel to quantify requests and advertise internal vehicle access. C. Arsenault noted that any software must be in compliance with the Privacy Act. The Committee was also considered to consider the bicycles. **Motion carried.**

Recommendation 10:

It was moved by S. Gilbert, seconded by J. MacInnis, that CBU Increase the breadth of work study opportunities on campus (and with select community organizations) with associated funding increase commensurate to address student financial need. It was suggested that in conjunction with the work study allotments described in the Academic Plan, this recommendation could be further enhanced and developed. It was further noted that any messaging must be cautiously and prudently communicated to ensure CBU is not promising employment opportunities. It was further suggested that employment opportunities for students within the University ought not be filled to address current staffing gaps and deficiencies. **Motion carried.**

(b) Academic – On behalf of the committee Chair, B. MacDonald referred to the committee report circulated with the meeting material.

Items for information:

Summer timetable
Cross-list of Psychology 2504
Exam protocols and procedures

Recommendations:

It was moved by B. MacDonald, seconded by A. Parnaby, that the maximum number of credits at the 1000-level for a 3-year BA degree be raised from 36-42. That still puts it at a range at par with other universities with 3-year degrees. The BACS maximum level will continue at 45 credits for a 3-year degree. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by B. MacDonald, seconded by A. Parnaby to change the BA/BACS Area Major. This is a first step. The second will be to create a series of thematic units that will eventually be represented on the parchment. And further discussion will ensue about the degree to which non-SASS disciplines can be part of the degree. Senate is reminded that this degree has a higher level of oversight than the typical 4-year major. Students must consult with Chairs representing all three disciplines in the major and then the dean must approve the request. **Motion carried.**

(c) TLEC – G. Lee-Dadswell referred to the document circulated during the meeting. He described the proposed changes to the Course Syllabus Policy as the following:

The addition of a Mi'kmaw Treaty Acknowledgement to the list of required elements in syllabi. The language for CBU's acknowledgement is included in the example template.

- The addition of a requirement that class policies regarding participation or attendance, including grades for participation or attendance, must be explicitly stated
- The addition to the suggested supplementary information list of links to relevant library resources.
- Links to the online descriptions of the Writing Centre and/or the Math and Science Centre in the list of suggested items.
- Minor changes to the example/template syllabus which is included in the document.

Senate requested, and the Committee Chair agreed, that with a **notice of motion** and with no time sensitivity for approval of the motion, the document would be presented during the next meeting of Senate and would conform to the approved template for policies.

(d) Bylaws – No report.

(e) Research – E. Barre referred to the report circulated with the meeting material. **It was moved**, E. Theriault, seconded by T. Brann-Barrett that Senate approve the document entitled "President's Award for a Rising Researcher" as presented. **Motion carried.**

13. Board of Governors' Report

S. Christie reported that the Board of Governors' met on December 6th when they advised that a new major fundraising initiative is forthcoming, a creative arts taskforce is being developed, and Mr. MacInnis provide members with the status of the CBU finances.

14. Adjournment

T. Urbanik wished everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned the meeting at 3:27pm.



David Johnson, Secretary