

Senate Minutes

October 18, 2019
Senate Chamber CE-339

The Chair, M. Mkandawire, 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:

Aman Anwar, Pat Bates, Debbie Brennick, Sheila Christie, Patrick Delamirande, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Karen Foss, Jim Gerrie, Stephanie Gilbert, David Johson, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Carolin Kreber, Geoff Lee-Dadswell, Brendan MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, Judy MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, Bernie MacLennan, Martin Mkandawire, Joshua Nyamukapa, Amera Othman, Joe Parish, Rick Pierrynowski, Bill Robinson, Samuel Shaji, Éric Thériault, Audrey Walsh, Richard Watuwa, John Mayich, John MacMillan

Regrets:

Catherine Arseneau, Stephen Augustine, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Parteek Brar, Emma Drohan, Jasmine Hoover, Terry MacDonald, Emily MacLeod, Mary Jane Morrison, Shantanu Pandy, Andy Parnaby, Dena Richardson, Tom Urbaniak

Absent:

Jaya Kaushik, Janet Kuhnke, Scott Rodney, Gurpreet Singh, Ann Sylliboy

2. Consent Agenda – N/A

3. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session

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

It was moved by G. Lee-Dadswell, seconded by T Brann-Barrett, to move to Open Session following the completion of confidential business. **Motion carried.**

4. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

5. Special Presentations/Updates

5.1 Heather Schmidt – Mental Health

In a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Heather Schmidt, provided Senators with presentation on mental health. She explained mental health as a continuum in which most fall in a neutral area. She described how genetic predisposition and personal environments mold each person's mental health. She described how to identify stresses that could lead to mental health awareness in one's self, as well as, assisting faculty in identifying those in their students. She listed barriers often experienced with access or accessing mental health services: the stigma, busy lifestyle, lack of awareness, and lack of education or knowledge. In closing Dr. Schmidt noted that the first step to good mental health is the acknowledge and talk about mental health and to inform yourself, or your students, of the available services.

6. Report of the President and Vice-President Academic (Provost)

6.1 Report of the President

President Dingwall began his report by thanking all the students, faculty, staff, and the Senate executive for coming together in organizing the memorial for Manuel Palliyil Tony. He recently returned from the Canadian Institute where he attended their Cairo Convocation and that the Provost will be leading a group to visit at a later date to perform a QA audit. Work continues on Unama'ki College, Verschuren Centre, Nursing School, Innovation Centre, the Centre for Health and Wellness and Extended Learning, in terms of their mandates, governance, HR allocations, and the outreach and funding challenges. He noted that the Indian High Commissioner will be on campus and he will participate in the Diwali celebration. As planned, the enrolment projections are on target. He also noted that CBU has purchased the former tartan downs racetrack and plans to embark on a housing proposal that will encompass housing for students, affordable housing units, and micro units for widows and widowers. He also reported that they continue to work with the municipality and the government on transit related issues.

6.2 Report of the Vice President Academic (Provost)

R. MacKinnon reported that the final draft of the Academic Plan is nearing completion and will be presented to Senate once finished. He recently attended an MPHEC and MPHEC Quality Assurance committee meetings, the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference, and also welcomed Huib Schippers, the Director of Smithsonian Folkways Recording at the ICTM Colloquium, and an orientation session was held to welcome eight new members to the Board of Governors.

7. Question Period – N/A

8. Approval of Minutes

8.1 June 7, 2019

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by J. MacInnis, the approval of the minutes from the June 7, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried. Abstentions: 12**

8.2 June 21, 2019

It was moved by B. MacLennan, seconded by B. MacDonald, the approval of the minutes from the June 21, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried. Abstentions: 14**

8.3 September 20, 2019

It was moved by G. Lee-Dadswell, seconded by A. Anwar, the approval of the minutes from the September 20, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried. Abstentions: 4**

9. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

10. Report of the Executive Committee

On behalf of the Executive Committee, G. Lee-Dadswell reported that the Committee met on October 4th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. He also that overall, positive feedback has been received on the Senate orientation held in September. The Committee is still working to schedule a special session with Associate Vice President Stephen Augustine and discussed the importance of dedicating a Senate presentation and discussion to mental health supports that are available to our University community. The Committee also discussed referring, to the Planning and Review Committee, a possible consideration of increased support staff for the work of Senate and its committees in light of the growth of the University and the growth in complexity of some of the academic governance work of the University.

11. Students' Union Report

On behalf of the Student's Union, S. Shaji reported that Union has had a productive few months. Working with faculty and the Deans, all issues with lab and class times have been addressed and they continue to work with John Mayich on transportation, in particular routes to North Sydney and New Waterford. On behalf of the Union, they thanked everyone for their support in passing of Manuel Palliyil Tony and the supports and counselling provided for the survivors of the accident. They are working with Sonya Spencer to develop a defensive driving and traffic regulation training session for international students. The Union has also hired three new coordinators, a manager for the Pit, and Emma Drohan is the new VP of Marketing and Communications.

12. Reports of Other Committees

(a) QA Committee – J. Gerrie referred to the informational report circulated with the meeting material and there was no new business to add.

(b) TLEC – G. Lee-Dadswell reported that the Committee met on September 13 where he was elected chair. The Committee met again to review unfinished business from the previous year. They will be finalizing a new syllabus policy, updating the TLEC bylaws, and exploring an electronic package for managing teaching evaluations. The Committee also discussed possible projects for the coming year; having all teaching-related forms (such as course change forms, new course proposals, etc.) in a central location where they can easily be found.

(c) Academic Committee - M. Keating referred to the report circulated with the meeting material.

Item(s) for Information:

Three- and four-year Articulation agreements with CONA. The Deans and especially Ms. Leanne Simmons, were noted in providing an exceptional level of engagement on these agreement and thanked

for their efforts.

Recommendations:

1. Adjustment to the schedule

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by Patrick Delamirande, to approve an adjustment to the schedule. M. Keating noted that because of the difficulties created by a short transition time of five minutes between a number of time slots, the Committee recommends the following adjustment to the schedule beginning in the 2020-2021 academic term:

- The classes that formerly started at 1:00pm and 2:30pm are now scheduled to begin at 1:10pm and 2:40pm respectively
- The classes that formerly started at 5:30pm and 7:00pm are now scheduled to begin at 5:40pm and 7:10pm respectively

This will not affect lab times which continue as they are scheduled. While few complaints were received specifically about 5:30, the Committee decided that it would be better to eliminate all 5-minute transitions for the sake of consistency. The other adjusted slots follow through from the change. B. MacDonald noted that there would be no domino effect on the following classes. **Motion carried**

2. Changes to the BA Double Major in English

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by G. Jerrie, that the program change to the BA double major in English to bring it in line with the general BA program regulations be approved. With the change, a BA double major in English and a second subject, will now require a minimum of 6 credits in English and 6 credits in the second Major for a total of 12 credits at the 4000 level, rather than the minimum of 9 credits in English now required and affects only the double major. **Motion carried**

(d) Research Committee – E. Barre referred to the informational report circulated with the meeting material noting there was nothing further to add.

(e) Bylaws –P. Delamirande noted that the Committee met and he was elected chair. The Committee looked at their work for the coming year and discussed the archiving of minutes.

(f) Planning and Review – S. Gilbert reported that the Committee met on October 3rd and she was elected chair. The Committee met again on October 15th to begin the planning process, and identify key issues, that will inform the pre-budget report. This report is hoped to be complete in time to be submitted for the November meeting of Senate's Executive Committee and be presented to Senate during the December meeting.

13. Board of Governors' Report – N/A

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by T. Brann-Barrett to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm.


David Johnson, Secretary