

Senate Minutes

**April 29, 2021
MS Teams**

T. Urbaniak, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

The Chair declared quorum and 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, Stephen Augustine, Carol Beaton, Debbie Brennick, Bettina Callary, David Dingwall, Courtney DeGiobbi, Mary Beth Doucette, Emma Drohan, Jim Gerrie, Terry Gibbs, Mike Hennick, Jasmine Hoover, Patrick Howard, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Geoff Lee-Dadswell, Doug Lionais, Gordon MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, Bernie MacLennan, Emily MacLeod, Ryan Magee, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, Bill Robinson, Tom Joseph Scaria, Amrinder Singh, Michael Tanchak, Éric Thériault, Tom Urbaniak, Wendy Wadden, Audrey Walsh, Bilynda Whiting, John Mayich, Terry MacDonald

Regrets:

Catherine Arseneau, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Harsha Sai Bandari David Gerbasi, Stephanie Gilbert, Janet Kuhnke, John MacMillan, Martin Mkandawire, Scott Rodney, Manini Sethi, Ann Sylliboy, Makayla Townsend

2. Consent Agenda

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

2.1 Academic Committee

Items for Information:

Please note the following course changes:

- ~~Cross-listing of MGMT 3613 Exploration of Indigenous with ENVS 3103 Environment and Business~~
- Change is course descriptions for HIST 1101 and 1103

- Change in pre-req for PSYC 3504 and 4571

Recommendations:

1. New course proposal: HIST 4XXX – Deindustrialized World.
2. New course proposal: PHIL 3XXX – Symbolic Logic.
3. New course proposal: SPAL 4XXX – Program Evaluation in Sport and Rec.

With a question on the cross listing of MGMT3613 and ENVS3103 it was moved to the regular agenda for discussion, all other remained and the **motion carried**.

3. Confidential Business – N/A

4. Closed Session

It was moved by B. MacLennan, seconded by W. Wadden, to move in to Closed Session for the purpose of conducting confidential business. **Motion carried**.

Following a confidential session, **it was moved** by W. Wadden, seconded by B. MacLennan, to move back to Open Session. **Motion carried**.

5. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A

6. Take Note Discussion – Academic Integrity Policy and Charter

T. Urbaniak advised Senators that this item is not being brought forth as a recommendation at this time, but rather as a first reading to spark discussion and input on the document. A. Parnaby then provided members with an overview of the presented document and referred to the covering note which detailed the recommendations the working group was presented with and the “design principles” used in its development. He noted that during this session, they hope to gain constructive comments, feedback, suggestions, and recommendations which will form a final draft of the policy. T. Urbaniak then opened the floor input from Senators. A. Parnaby also welcomed emails or requests to speak one-on-one following the meeting.

M. Keating thanked the working group for their excellent work on the policy. With regard to the Level 1 breaches of academic integrity, she expressed concern on how this would be documented, in particular close paraphrasing. A. Parnaby responded that the intent of Level 1 is to give the faculty member the opportunity to resolve low level infractions before escalation occurs and agreed that recurring low-level offenses ought to be tracked, but not constitute a first infraction until a pattern appears. A. Walsh noted in the TEAMS chat, that the group also felt a deterrent to repeated Level 1 breaches could be for students to receive a grade penalty and/or additional work, to which J. Parish offered caution in that creating more work for the

student to atone for the conduct, would create more work for the instructor. With regard to additional instruction on integrity, M. Tanchak agreed that a lack of tracking exists and impressed the importance of it at this level. A. Parnaby thanked him for the suggestion of “two level one infractions would equal a one level two infraction” and noted he would bring this back to the working group for further discussion.

M. Tanchak questioned if a liability issue might occur should an accusation of a flagrant and premeditated transgression be overturned on an appeal. He suggested that faculty members may find it difficult to determine the difference between an evident intent to mislead and a flagrant and premeditated transgression. With regard to liability, A. Parnaby responded that through his research, he has found that universities are well within the scope of their legal rights to construct and administer student codes of conduct and has found no case law where a faculty member was held personally liable. W. Wadden noted in the chat that there may be a case from MUN, to which A. Parnaby requested that be sent to him. On the point of discretion, he noted that the presented policy is designed to give direct and clear language to the routine discussions that currently take place when adjudicating these types of matters.

G. Lee-Dadswell noted that he agrees with the proposed policy, but offered that faculty members should consider the differences from the previous policy in that the simplistic “three strikes your out” model is changed to a level approach in this policy. He expressed issues with due process for Level 1 in particular, the second bullet in 7.1 (... *in consultation with faculty colleagues and/or department chairs, where appropriate*), he questioned if privacy issues might come in to play and when discussing the issue, does the student’s name need to be removed from these discussions, but suggested that the Department Chair might always be informed to address the informal tracking noted earlier. He also suggested that a comprehensive list of the information the student may need should also be noted. A. Parnaby thanked G. Lee-Dadswell for his comments and noted they too would be brought back to the group for further discussion. G. Lee-Dadswell noted he had other points that he would send to A. Parnaby.

R. Pierrynowski, as Dean on the Appeals Committee, expressed thanks to the working group on the draft policy in particular, with respect to clarity on the Charter of Academic Citizenship. He questioned if there is any intention to provide more detailed language in section seven, or if the intent is to maintain flexibility, to which A. Parnaby responded that the terms used in the policy were those that were already being used but not formalized for the student and that this policy, with the terms noted, would provide that clarity. He also suggested that the group discussed the possibility of a second operational type document that could accompany the policy. This document would detail specific and clear examples and differentiate between the levels of breaches.

In conclusion, A. Parnaby welcomed any further input on the policy from Senators and that the working group is hopeful to have a final draft presented in the near future.

7. Report of the President and Vice-President Academic & Provost

7.1 Report of the President

President Dingwall provided Senators with updates on the following:

- On Monday April 26th he provided an End of Term update to the University community which unfortunately, changed its direction with the new Health Order implemented by Dr. Strang the following day, and then further restrictions implemented on April 28th.
- Approximately 1,900 individuals were tested at the pop-up COVID testing site at CBU on April 28th and 29th and initial reports indicate only four resulted in positive tests.
- Referring to the vaccination clinic, it is expected activity will increase as the eligible age groups increase.
- He expressed thanks to those in IT, maintenance workers, domestic and international recruitment departments, the Return to Campus committee, International Student Arrival team, all Student Ambassadors, and Campus Security for all of their work as it relates to campus activities.
- A Creative Arts Session was held recently which resulted in many ideas and suggestions and he will be following up with the appropriate individuals to see what can and should be done.
- As noted in his remarks on Monday, succession planning continues to be one of the top-of-mind items and the search for the Dean of Unama'ki College is near completion.
- Also noted in his remarks, CBU continues to move forward with the three-step Zero Carbon Plan; energy efficiency, thermal electrification and renewable energy.

7.2 Report of the Vice-President Academic & Provost

Vice President Academic & Provost, R. MacKinnon, referred to the Creative Arts session noted by President Dingwall and his excitement of the possible outcomes from it. He noted that the Board of Governors met on April 23rd where the 2021-22 operation budget was approved and he has attended various meetings on the CDI. He has also recently attended various external board meetings including MPHEC and Destination Cape Breton.

8. Question Period

Respectfully, has progress has been made on improvements to faculty hiring procedures. I would like to know specifically what initiatives are underway to normalize/improve timing of decisions to hire, advertising timelines, and hiring procedures.

If there is little measurable progress on these items (this is understandable given the timelines of previous discussions), I also ask if there are any initiatives in development that aim to address acknowledged deficiencies in our faculty hiring practices?

G. MacInnis responded that, in his view, progress has been made in developing a more integrated planning framework; acknowledging that more work needs to be done. Specifically, to faculty hiring process, he noted the need to establish anticipated demands for courses requiring teaching resources. To do this, the establishment of enrolment projections and

enrollment capacities, a review of program design and possible new program development are being considered at high-level planning sessions. As many may be aware, Fabian MacKenzie has been trained in the Lean Process, and has recently completed a report of nine different processes at CBU, including the timetable and registration processes. Of the recommendations, two included a move to an earlier timetable development process and earlier registration; both of which could assist, if implemented, in the timely hiring of faculty.

R. MacKinnon added that he is in full support of this but noted that as we are still in the throws of the pandemic, last minute and short-term decisions had to be made and that long-term hires can not be considered at this time.

9. Approval of Minutes

9.1 It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by G. MacInnis, the approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2021 meeting. M. Tanchak suggested that the noted edits to the prerequisites for MGMT XXX Exploration of Indigenous Business did not fully represent the discussion. It was agreed that the prerequisites changes noted should include that the course is not suitable for first year students, it is intended for third year students and requires at least 30 credits as a prerequisite. **Motion carried as amended. Abstentions: 1**

10. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

11. Report of the Executive Committee

T. Urbaniak reported that the Executive Committee met on April 16th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. The Committee also had a discussion on the forthcoming working group on Senate's structure and succession. Committee Chairs were also asked to confer with their members to confirm who plans to continue on the committee for the coming year. He was also previously requested by the Executive Committee to convene a meeting with a Chair of the Volunteer Advantage Program working group, the Directors of the institutes named in the report on the VPA to discuss a simple architecture for a pilot. An initial meeting was held, with a second one planned, and more will be reported during the next meeting of Senate.

12. Students' Union Report

On behalf of Senate, the Vice Chair welcomed the new Students' Union executive members taking office on May 1st: Madlyn O'Brien-President, Logan Collins-Executive Vice President, Courtney DeGiobbi returning in a new role to her-VP Finance and Operations, and Mandy Nguyen-Vice President Promotions.

He also thanked the outgoing student Senators for their service during what has been an

unusual year: President - Amrinder Singh, Executive Vice President - Tom Joseph Scaria, Vice President Finance & Operations - Ryan Magee, and Haeley Langlois and Senators -Harsha Sai Bandari, Emma Drohan, Manini Sethi, and Mackayla Townsend.

Students' Union President, A. Singh, then provided an extensive year end report and at the request of the Vice Chair, the full report will be attached to the minutes.

It was also noted that on April 21st, the Student's Union awarded Mr. Gordon MacInnis with the 2021 Father Paul Abbass Award.

13. Reports of Other Committees

1) Academic

Items for Information:

Cross-listing of MGMT 3613 - Exploration of Indigenous with ENVS 3103 – Environment and Business. This discussion took place during the approval of the minutes and it was confirmed that the prerequisites will note that the course is not suitable for first year students, it is intended for third year students, and requires at least 30 credits as a prerequisite.

With regard to the noted joint session being planned to discuss the exam policy, M. Tanchak questioned if the two committees have considered incorporating wording which will address the reporting of grades and the proper channels for students to obtain grades, for example, not contacting the faculty member. It was suggested that the Academic Committee should add this consideration to their deliberations on this topic.

Recommendation(s):

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by A. Walsh, approval of **the revised New Course Proposal form**. She noted that this is a fillable PDF form and with the advances in technology and the different modes of delivery that are used or under consideration, it is important that the form includes categories to capture the information related to non-traditional delivery and the priorities of the Academic Plan. G Lee-Dadswell suggested that open text books ought to be mandatory and a reasoning for them not being used should be justified. Members discussed the topic of dual delivery and how this form might capture it; M. Keating suggested this might be caught in the pilot of the course and it was suggested that either Academic Committee of TLEC ought to review the development of guidelines surrounding dual delivery. **Motion carried.**

2) Research Committee

É. Thériault referred to the informational report circulated with the meeting material which included the recipients for this year's RISE Research Grant, the revised wording of the Dr. Margaret Dechman Community-Engaged Research Champion Award, and he noted that ORGS has been actively working on rolling out the research networks as part of the Strategic Research Plan and encouraged Senators to attend the upcoming events if they are able.

3) Bylaws Committee

MB Doucette referred to the report circulated with the meeting documents. As noted earlier, the Committee has drafted terms of reference for establishment of a working group that will meet over the summer to look at the workings of Senate, committee recruitment, succession, support, and structure.

It was moved by MB Doucette, seconded by M. Tanchak, **to approve the statement of mandate for a Working Group on Senate Structure and Succession to address the questions prompted by the co-chair pilot. Motion carried.** Referring to the last line of the document which notes that the Executive Committee of Senate would designate a Chair, MB Doucette requested that any Senator interested in serving in this role to please forward their name to the Executive Committee. She also noted that further documentation is available to the working group once established.

It was moved by MB Doucette, seconded by P. Howard , to approved the **revised bylaws for the Department of Education as presented. Motion carried.**

4) QA – No report.

5) TLEC – G. Lee-Dadswell reported that much of the Committee work has been on the exam policy and they are preparing for a joint meeting with the Academic Committee to finalize and consolidate the policy. The Committee is also working on faculty development with regard to Digital Strategy of the Academic Plan, as well as a detailed discussion on possible policy changes with regard to the course evaluations and their usage.

6) P&R – No report.

14. Board of Governors' Report

B. MacLennan reported that the Board of Governors met on April 23rd where members were provided with a presentation on a Sexual Consent Module Taskforce as well the presentation, and subsequent approval, of the 2021-22 Budget.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by G. MacInnis, seconded by J. Gerrie, to **adjourn the meeting at 3:47 pm. Motion carried.**

**Debbie Brennick
Secretary to Senate**

CBUSU Year-End Report 2021



Cape Breton University
Students' Union



By Amrinder Singh
President & CEO
CBU Students' Union

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.”
— Steve Jobs

First and foremost, I would want to thank everyone for doing a wonderful job this year. Thanks to all the SRC members for bringing their perspective to the meetings, the coordinators for putting in a tremendous amount of work to make 2020-2021 a very productive term. A huge thank you to the full-time staff Dawn MacDougall and Alex MacNeil for always being there and providing the absolute support any executive could ask for. A very special thank you to all the three VPs, Tom, Ryan and Courtney for their incredible leadership during the most unprecedented times the world has ever seen. And last, but not least all the students who believed in us and put their confidence in us for representing them and leading the CBU Students' Union. Last but not the least, thank you to the CBU administration for always sitting down with us and working on student issues and to all the members of this board for always coming forward for a very healthy discussion about any issue we have raised here.

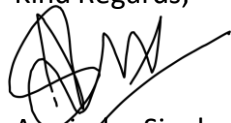
The last 12 months have been the most different we all have ever seen. When we started at Students Union last, our plans were very different as compared to what we have done during the year. Where we were planning to host some of the biggest student events CBU has ever seen, working with the municipality to better the transit and more student representation around the region, we ended up fighting for issues like better online delivery of courses, financial needs, safety and food insecurity for students.

Wins:

1. Perseverance Covid-19 Relief Fund of \$200,000 which helped approx. 400 students with financial support ranging from \$500 to \$750.
2. \$750 one-time Covid-19 grant from the provincial government that helped almost 12,000 students across Nova Scotia with technology like computers and tablets required for online learning.
3. Chaired the committee formed to review our governance documents which were long due to being reviewed and updated this year since 2016.
4. Successfully advocated and implemented the inclusion of Post-Bach students for in-course scholarships which provides semester-based scholarships ranging between \$300-\$500 based on academic performance.
5. Set up the first-ever CBUSU downtown location in downtown Sydney which included our Foodbank, Women's Center, Pride & Ally Center and also provided bus pass services to students.
6. Successfully advocated the provincial government to have mandatory Covid-19 testing for all the students coming to Nova Scotia which took place in January.
7. Expanded the use of the Foodbank through receipt reimbursement program, home deliveries, and mobile foodbank setups that was able to help almost 1500 students.
8. Supported the student by decreasing the Students' Union fee during the fall 2020 semester when Covid-19 was at its peak.
9. Under the leadership of Ryan, thrived our local newspaper Caper Times to put out a record number of articles and increased readership which went up to 5,000.
10. Also, held the grad gown program where students could come to borrow grad gowns
11. Under the leadership of Tom, we supported a record number of students with academic issues, appeals, and registrations.

12. Under the leadership of Courtney, we reached our yearly Capers Helping Capers goal of \$10,000 for four local charities.
13. One of the first stakeholders in the community to start advocacy work for the J.A. Douglas McCurdy airport which brought together different groups. It is great to see our airport thriving once again.
14. Even though times were tough and student engagement was less, we did some great in-person and online events that engaged students ranging from 10 to 100.
15. Our advocacy efforts for Open Educational Resources led almost 12 professors to use them which makes us the leaders in that area. We have been applauded on various platforms and will save thousands of dollars for our current and future students.
16. \$235,500 for the subsidy to support international students self-isolating in which has supported 306 students to date and will continue to support students until its depleted.
17. This also led to the \$300,000 allocation to the CBU budget-2022 to support students coming to CBU during the pandemic.
18. Additional funding of \$180,000 in the form of Special Covid-19 bursary which is helping almost 400 students ranging from \$600 to \$1000.
19. Following our work on Open Education, we recently made a recommendation in the CBU Budget Committee to have funding allocated for the development of OERs which lead to the investment of \$50,000 for next year.
20. For students of CBU who could not afford to attend conferences and competitions due to financial restrictions, we made a recommendation in the CBU's Budget Committee for funding allocation which resulted in the funding of another \$50,000 for the next year.
21. Created the first-ever Indigenous Student Center in the CBU Students' Union building to create a safe space for the indigenous community.
22. To make CBU a better and safer place, we advocated the Board of Governors for mandatory Consent Training for every student before they set foot on campus. This led to the forming of a task force by President Dingwall which has made the recommendation of adopting the policy, and if adopted soon, will make CBU the first school in the Atlantic provinces to undertake such a policy.
23. Increased SU scholarships and expanded the program to include more students.
24. Was involved in more than 50 interviews with media such as Cape Breton Post, CTV, CBC, Caper Times to bring out our work to the community.
25. Met with more than 30 MLA's MPs across Nova Scotia to work on post-secondary issues such as MSI, breaking the barriers to Post Secondary Education and more support

Kind Regards,



Amrinder Singh

President and CEO (2020-2021)

CBU Students' Union