

# Senate Minutes

**September 17, 2021  
MS Teams**

The Chair, T. Urbaniak, 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.

All Senator were welcomed back to

## **1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

### **Present:**

Faustina Amoako, Catherine Arseneau, Sahand Ashtab, Stephen Augustine, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Bettina Callary, Mark Campbell, Simon Chen, Logan Collins, Mary Beth Doucette, Ayse Ersoy, Ava Graham, Jasmine Hoover, Katherine Jones, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Janet Kuhnke, Doug Lionais, Jason Loxton, Richard MacKinnon, Bernie MacLennan, John MacMillan, Marjorie McGillivray, Martin Mkandawire, Mandy Nguyen, Madlyn O'Brien, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, Michelle Prendergast, Scott Rodney, Karen Rowe, Ann Sylliboy, Laurianne Sylvester, Tom Urbaniak, Wendy Wadden, Audrey Walsh, Lacie White, Bilynda Whiting, John Mayich, Terry MacDonald

### **Regrets:**

Carol Beaton, Lloyd Chartrand, David Dingwall, Terry Gibbs, Michael Henick, Patrick Howard, Gordon MacInnis, Marcia Ostashewski, Mohammed Faraaz Rahman, Éric Thériault

After quorum was declared, T. Urbaniak welcomed all returning Senators and new Senators: Sahand Asha, Ayse Ersoy, Katherine Jones, Jason Loxton, Marcia Ostashewski, Michelle Prendergast, Karen Rowe and Lacie White, to the new VP Finance and Operations for the Student's Union, Simon Chen and extended congratulations to the Laurianne Sylvester as the new Dean of Unama'ki College.

## **2. Consent Agenda – N/A**

## **3. Confidential Business – N/A**

## **4. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session**

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

**It was moved by** C. Arseneau, seconded by S. Augustine, to move to Open Session following the completion of confidential business. **Motion carried.**

With regard to the CIC graduation list, A. Parnaby expressed sincere thanks to Rowaida Magdy for her efforts and work. He noted that the files were well prepared and easy to access, this acknowledgement was also echoed by B. Whiting.

## **5. Matters Forwarded for Information – N/A**

## **6. Special Presentations – N/A**

## **7. Reports Vice-President, Academic (Provost)**

Dr. Richard MacKinnon reported that the summer months have been quite busy planning for the return to on campus activities. He noted that in June ACOA announce funding for the new satellite campus of the Gaelic College which, in collaboration with CBU, will offer post-secondary students' Gaelic culture and event management courses. The MPHEC continued to meet during the summer months, they normally break during this time, and have been busy catching up on submissions. One of which, just recently approved, was CBU's Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety Management (he noted this was only approved by the Senate in June). He was happy to report that at a recent meeting of the Destination Cape Breton Board, they announced they are optimistically hopeful for the fall tourism season. He passed on congratulations to all those involved in the well-organized, student orientations and the new employee orientation. The working group formed to review the feasibility of the tri-semester model has provided their report to the Provost Group and is awaiting the finalization of a Chair for the Planning and Review committee for it to be sent to them. He also drew attention the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cape Breton Highlanders taking place later this month.

## 8. Question Period - N/A

## 9. Approval of the Minutes

**9.1 It was moved** by L. Sylvester, seconded by C. Arseneau, the **approval of the minutes from the June 4, 2021. Motion carried. Abstentions: 7**

## 10. Business Arising from the Minutes

In reply to a question on the Senate representatives that were suggest to serve on the subcommittees being developed by the Board's Audit Committee, R. MacKinnon noted that the Board has not met since and will likely have this addressed during the October meetings. M. Keating suggested that Senate ought to have a list of potential names of interested faculty members.

Referencing the answer to the question of the last meeting, S. Rodney noted that the reply given did not quite answer the question he had posed. His intention of the question was not surrounding faculty input, rather in-depth and meaningful consultation with faculty on hiring practices. Unfortunately, G. MacInnis was not present, therefore a follow-up question will be presented to him for the next meeting.

In response to the review of the exam policy, M. Keating noted that Academic Committee has made the housekeeping update but has not had the opportunity to begin the more detailed work but that it is on their agenda for this term. She also noted that the committee on Senate Structure and Succession was mandated to have a report competed by October 2021 however, a complete report will not be possible and the Committee requested that Senate accept a preliminary report in October and that a Take Note Debate occur to have Senate's input on the work done to date.

## 11. Report of the Executive Committee

J. Hoover reported that the Executive Committee met on September 10<sup>th</sup> to set the agenda for this Senate meeting, they discussed the remaining committee vacancies and the work of the working group and decided to have a Take Note Debate on the initial report coming from this committee. It was also decided to have a Senate Orientation following the regular business of Senate today.

Referring to the updated committee membership list circulated, **it was moved** by J. Hoover, seconded by K. Jones, to approve the revised list as circulated. For information, it was noted that J. Loxton has been appointed the Chair of the TLEC committee and that M. Giovannetti has left the Registrar's office and that a replacement will be needed. **Motion carried with the noted corrections.**

M. Mkandawire provided Senators with a review of the evolution of the Senate Working Group on Structure and Succession, and the work they have done over the summer months.

With regard to historical participation rates from the various unions and if the Committee has been exploring why low rates may exist from the NSGEU, M. Mkandawire noted this has not been drilled in to at this point but is certainly one that the Committee should and will explore. J. Loxton suggested the reasoning may be that Friday afternoon's is typically a high-level teaching day for those in this union and which would preclude them from being able to participate.

## 12. Student's Union Report

SU Executive Vice President, L. Collins, reported that the Union has welcomed a new Vice President Finance & Operations, Simon Chen and new Senator, Ava Graham. He reported that during the early summer the Union was busy helping international students facing barriers with booking vaccination appointments; as noted by many of the previous student union leaders this issue would not exist if MSI coverage was available to international students upon entry (this is an issue this Union will also pursue). The Union worked with CBU's OER working group to compile a list of courses that do not have a text book requirement, which now consists of approximately 75 courses. The Refresh Orientation week was very successfully and very well attended. In response to unfortunate new from a western university, the Union is taking-action to ensure the safety of the CBU students, one example is the reusable drink covers that have been ordered and will be readily available. Most of the coordinator positions have been put in place and he was excited to announce that the Hello Baby program will be relaunched. A new student position has been created to help better serve students with the food bank. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual golf classic was a huge success and he thanked everyone for their support and noted that this year's recipients of Capers Helping Capers will be the Jane Paul Indigenous Centre, ACAP Cape Breton, Loaves and Fishes and Epic Pier Youth Program.

## 13. Reports of Other Committees

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

**It was moved**, by M. Keating, seconded by R. MacKinnon, that Senate approve the updated Calendar of Events, recognizing that it is contingent upon receiving agreement from CBUFA that classes can start on the Wednesday after Labour Day. **Motion carried.**

b) **Bylaws** – MB Doucette reported that the committee met once and she was elected Chair.

c) **Planning & Review** – R. MacKinnon reported that the committee met but was unable to identify a Chair at that meeting and a second meeting has been scheduled.

- d) **QA** – G. Karaphillis reported that the committee has not yet met.
- e) **Research** – T. Urbaniak noted that É. Thériault reported via email that the committee has met and he was elected Chair.
- f) **TLEC** – J. Loxton reported that the committee met and he was elected Chair.

## **15. Board of Governors' Report**

S. Rodney reported that the Board of Governors' met on June 25<sup>th</sup> where the Treasurer's and Investment Reports were presented, the Draft Financial Statements were presented and approved, along with the approval of the auditors for 2021/22. In his report, among other things, President Dingwall highlighted that CBU continues to work the Public Health on the return to campus plan, that CBU will be hosting an event on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cape Breton Highlanders, ten \$3,000 scholarships will be offered in honour of Wanda Robson, new awards being offered; Charles MacDonald, Inspiring Women in Business, Hugh J. Young Memorial, and CBU has partnered with all business schools in Atlantic Canada on the Promise Scholars Initiative which has a goal to increase diversity and inclusion in our business schools and business community. He highlighted the research grants that have been awarded and noted that the full report could be shared should anyone request it. He referred to the Summer Student Research Lecture Series which ran in June, which was a huge success and was presented very well and offered congratulations to Geoff Dadswell and Andrew Reynolds for their work on the series. He responded to questions he had received on the issue of a conflict-of-interest, noting that because these discussions have taken place during the prologue session he is not a liberty to speak to them and directed anyone with further questions to the Chair of Senate.

## **16. Adjournment**

Before adjournment, L. Sylvester advised Senators that a memorial service to honor September 30<sup>th</sup> will take place on September 29<sup>th</sup> in the Boardmore Playhouse and that details would be shared once finalized. T. Urbaniak then asked Senators to remain on the call to receive a Senate Orientation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm.

**Jasmine Hoover**  
**Secretary to Senate**