

Senate Orientation

T. Urbaniak thanked everyone for taking the time to participate in this orientation. He posed the following questions as those that would be addressed during the session:

1. What is the role of a University Senate?
2. How can an individual senator be effective?
3. Is Senate procedure complicated, and how is on-line procedure different?
4. Why are committees important?
5. How does our work as a Senate tie into the strategic directions of the university?
6. How does Senate benefit from student perspectives?
7. Is there additional information that would assist you with Senate orientation?

Through a PowerPoint presentation, he provided a history on the creation of the Cape Breton University Senate and the core responsibilities for Senators. He also detailed procedural motions that most often occur during meetings and how these are actioned.

Questions & Comments

On the question of the collegial aspect of Senate and its relationship with regard to collective agreements, T. Urbaniak replied that in no way do any aspects of Senate supersede any collective agreements and that the CBU Senate has been very successful in maintaining fairness.

With regard to Senate's involvement in enrolment planning and management, M. Keating responded that Senate would be involved the academic quality pieces through the Planning and Review or Academic committees and the Quality Assurance committee reviews the programs in year five of delivery.

On the question of confidentiality and if Senate has a document that Senators are expected to signed, T. Urbaniak noted that no formal document exists at this time. M. Keating offered that most confidential items deal with graduation lists and that a statement exists within the Academic Calendar that would cover this statement of confidentiality.

S. Rodney reiterated the timeline for submitting questions for Question Period and noted that it is important for Senators to know that a spontaneous question can also be posed after any of the reports on the agenda as well as during the Business Arising from the Minutes.

M. Keating suggested that at the time that notice is sent to the Executive Committee on the timing of their meeting, that a note also be sent to all Senators for any Matters for Information that should be included on the agenda.

T. Urbaniak noted that the slides viewed today, Senate governance documents, and the various other documents referred during this orientation will be shared with Senators and thanked everyone for their participation.