

Senate Minutes

**December 10, 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.

Dana Mount was welcomed to Senate as a replacement Senator for the Chair and Dr. Scott Rodney was thanked for his service to Senate as he will be on sabbatical beginning January 1st.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Faustina Amoako, Catherine Arseneau, Stephen Augustine, Carol Beaton, Mark Campbell, Simon Chen, Logan Collins, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Ava Graham, Michael Henick, Jasmine Hoover, Patrick Howard, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Janet Kuhnke, Doug Lionais, Gordon MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, John MacMillan, Martin Mkandawire, Dana Mount, Mandy Nguyen, Madlyn O'Brien, Marcia Ostashewski, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, Scott Rodney, Karen Rowe, Ann Sylliboy, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Tom Urbaniak, Wendy Wadden, Audrey Walsh, Lacie White, Bilynda Whiting, John Mayich, Terry MacDonald

Regrets:

Sahand Ashtab, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Bettina Callary, Lloyd Chartrand, Ayse Ersoy, Terry Gibbs, Katherine Jones, Jason Loxton, Bernie MacLennan Marjorie McGillivray, Michelle Prendergast, Mohammed Faraaz Rahman

2. Consent Agenda – N/A

3. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session/Confidential Business – N/A

4. Reports and Items for Information

4.1 EDI Working Group

Unfortunately, T. Brann-Barrett was unable to attend the meeting, but did request that the Chair remind Senators about the EDI working group's request for their input through a survey on how, through their roles as Senators, they can help advance CBU's EDI initiative. Senators were strongly encouraged to complete this survey if they have not already done so.

4.2 President

President Dingwall reported on the following:

- A session was held with Stan Kutcher on need with regards to mental health
- A. Parnaby has begun work on a proposal for Bachelor of Social Work
- Phases I and II of the carbon reduction plan have been completed and round-table discussion is being planned for the new year
- An RFP has gone out for the Chair in Healthy L'nu Communities
- After a lengthy process, the University, with consent of the Board of Governors, has acquired a piece of land adjacent to University Boulevard; there are no immediate plans for it
- The book launch for Keith Brown's book will be taking place at 4:00 pm

4.3 Vice President Academic

R. MacKinnon reported on the following:

- On December 7th an event was held for the signing of an MOU between CBU and the Community United for Black Education. Also announced, was a \$500,000 donation to establish the Wanda Robson scholarship
- Work continues on revising and updating the MOU with the CCGC
- He met with Susan Spence from CONSUP; she is meeting with various individuals at all universities to find ways to explore shared services opportunities
- The Library QA report is nearing completion

4.4 Student's Union

L. Collins reported that the Union attended Student's Nova Scotia Advocacy Week in Halifax and they continued to advocate for MSI and OER. He noted that various ministers have indicated their support for their revised ask for MSI and will look in to the application process as it is currently cumbersome with no online application in place. The Union also suggested that an investment of \$250,000 be put toward Atlantic OER and again, this suggestion was also met with positive feedback and all indications point toward this moving forward. The Indigenous Student Centre is thriving due to the efforts of Nathan Breitenbach, Indigenous Liaison Officer. He offered thanks for a very successful Giving Tuesday and the supports it will offer to students.

4.5 Executive Committee

J. Hoover reported that the Executive Committee met on December 3rd to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. The Committee made some moderate changes to reports to allow for a report from the EDI Working Group and added a supplemental document regarding a question

received on the Cineplex announcement. A Take Note Debate from the Planning & Review Committee on the pre-budget was added to the agenda as determined during the November meeting. The Committee will be reaching out to Dr. Marie Battiste to have a special presentation to Senate and a report from L. Sylvester will be added as a regular reporting item.

4.6 Board of Governors

S. Rodney reported that the Board of Governors met on December 3, 2021 where the Student's Union provided much of the information already presented. He congratulated them for their continued efforts to obtain MSI coverage for international students. The Union also noted that they are looking to move away from the Canadian Federation of Students and they will report positively following a recent audit. G. MacInnis provided the Treasurer's Report indicating a positive cash flow, a specific influx of enrolments to SSOB's Post Baccalaureate programs for January, current enrolment is approximately at 4,400 and will likely see the budget expectations for tuition exceeded, and expenditure are in line with budget expectations.

5. Special Presentation & Question Period - Brief Presentation on Cineplex / Downtown Satellite Site

Referring to the December 2nd announcement sent to the CBU community with regards to the utilizing the Cineplex as a downtown campus, R. MacKinnon noted that recently there has been a significant influx of student to the Post Baccalaureate programs offered in the Shannon School of Business (39% of January 2022 enrolment). Due to space constraints, off-campus facilities were deemed necessary to meet this demand. In the search of possible options, it was discovered that this model is used at other universities across Canada and Cineplex is very familiar with the logistics of how to best support the needs. Referring to the specific questions, he noted that the SSOB Dean will assign faculty members that will teaching in this space and office space has also been secured just outside the cinemas. All policies and procedures will be followed for those attending/teaching in this space, including the Vaccination Policy. Technical services will be available and an office coordinator will be on site to assist with any issues that may arise. He also noted that while CBU is on the premises, the theaters will not be open for business and therefore, there will be no Canadian copyright law infringements. G. MacInnis also noted that support services for new students, such as obtaining a CBU ID card, will be offered for the first few weeks on that site.

W. Wadden offered that the students she has spoken to in a baccalaureate program seem to be quite keen on the idea and looking forward to it. With regard to concerns with security services, OHS and work place compensation, G. MacInnis responded the policy framework for CBU will follow to this site and that a full-time security officer will be on site.

It was suggested that all the classes being offered in once space may provide a disconnect for the students from campus and that the Campus Life Coordinator ought to be tasked with identifying way to ensure they are integrated to campus.

6. Take Note Debate – Pre-Budget Recommendations

T. Urbaniak provided members on the process of the pre-budget recommendations which provides the University Senate's suggestions for the budget from an academic view. J. MacMillan thanked Senate for the opportunity today and for those that have already provided feedback. He also noted that on Tuesday, December 14th the Planning and Review Committee will offer an open house meeting to all Senators who may not be able to provide input today. While not limiting any suggestions, he added that emphasis from today's discussion, will be given to recommendations that align or support the ongoing strategic directions. He then posed the following question to being the debate:

"When Senate members reflect on the objectives and goals identified within the CBU Strategic Plan, Academic Plan, Strategic Research Plan and the soon-to-be completed CBU Enrollment Management Plan, what do they consider to be some of the top priorities for investment and financial commitment in the 2022 Budget?"

T. Urbaniak then opened the floor for discussion after a moment of discernment for Senators to reflect on the question.

L. Sylvester suggested that recourses for the Mi'kmaq language course offerings and programs be added to recommendations as this would be in direct response to the Strategic and Research Plans. MB Doucette fully supported this recommendation, and noted that an extensive ask was added to last year's recommendations and hopes for a more robust response should the recommendation be incorporated in the report.

S. Rodney strongly suggested that investment in full-time faculty members and staff is necessary as it would reduce the requirement of ICA positions and continuous short-term contracts. He added this would add to a higher quality education for students and would speak directly to all of the Plans.

L. Collins noted that the student saving with the OER Grant Program is significant and suggested that it be considered as part of the recommendations.

M. Keating suggested that additional resources for mental health issues and access to academic integrity supports (for example: International Center for Academic Integrity) should be considered.

J. Mayich referred to the report generated in 2020 by the task force on student advising, he noted that it is clear that additional supports for student advising is extremely important and of course, would be in direct response to the Strategic Plan. M. Keating suggested that a way to track efficiencies, in relation to interventions, should be identified in order to place resources in the appropriate areas.

Referring to Motion 2: CBU should allocate staff time and resources to initiate annual student surveys as a joint initiative of Student Affairs and CBUSU, L. White suggested concern with quantifying these surveys and that individual concerns may be lost if recourses are not added.

7. Approval of Minutes – November 19, 2021

It was moved by L. Sylvester, seconded by M. Keating, the **approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2021**. With one minor house keeping item accepted, **the motion was carried. Abstentions: 2**

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

With regard to the Working Group on Senate Succession and Planning, M. Keating advised that the group is in the process of forming their recommendations from the various consultations. C. Beaton noted that the background documents indicate one member of the Board of Governors is appointed to Senate, but according to the Board bylaws this number should be two.

With regard to the motion passed during the November meeting on the request of administration to put forward a plan for faculty and staff hiring procedures and regular updates to Senate on the process, T. Urbaniak responded that his interruption was for the updates to be provided regularly but not necessarily at every meeting. He noted he would add this to the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

9. Reports of Other Committees of Senate

i) Academic

M. Keating referred to the material circulated with the meeting material as follows:

Items for Information:

Three Articulation Agreement between CBU's SSOB and Bermuda College:

- Bermuda College Business Administration program to CBU BBA
- Bermuda College CIS diploma to CBU BBA
- Bermuda College Hospitality Management Diploma to CBU BHTM

W. Wadden noted that the numbering under the Admissions Criteria of the Bermuda College Business Administration program to CBU BBA has nothing under #2 and suggested it be reviewed to see if it is a typing error or if information is missing. G. Karaphillis reviewed the agreement and confirmed it was a typing error.

On the questions of the ITECH courses listed in the Bermuda College CIS diploma to CBU BBA agreement, it was noted that although these courses are not currently offered at CBU, they are indeed offered at the campuses in Cairo. It was suggested that efforts should be made within the new system, to allow capabilities to search for dated courses.

Recommendation:

1. Approval of the proposed Changes to Convocation.

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by B. Whiting, to approve **proposed Changes to**

Convocation which is to take effect as of Spring 2022. She detailed the suggested changes and welcomed any comments or questions. **Motion carried.**

ii) Research

É. Thériault reported that due to yesterday's inclement weather the Committee was unable to meet and therefore, has no report at this time.

iii) TLEC – No report.

iv) QA – No report.

v) Planning & Review

J. MacMillan referred to the informational report circulated with the meeting material and noted there was nothing further to add.

vi) Bylaws – No report.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, **it was moved** É. Thériault, seconded by C. Arseneau, to adjourn the meeting at 3:10. **Motion carried.**

**Jasmine Hoover
Secretary to Senate**