

Senate Minutes

**January 21, 2022
MS Teams**

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

In her native language, Marcia Ostashewski 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 the 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:

Faustina Amoako, Catherine Arseneau, Sahand Ashtab, Carol Beaton, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Bettina Callary, Simon Chen, Logan Collins, Mary Beth Doucette, Ayse Ersoy, Ava Graham, Michael Henick, Jasmine Hoover, Patrick Howard, Katherine Jones, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Janet Kuhnke, Doug Lionais, Jason Loxton, Gordon MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, Bernie MacLennan, John MacMillan, Dana Mount, Mandy Nguyen, Marcia Ostashewski, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, Michelle Prendergast, Erin Robertson, Karen Rowe, Chloe Stewart, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Mya Trimm, Tom Urbaniak, Audrey Walsh, Lacie White, Bilynda Whiting, John Mayich, Terry MacDonald

Regrets:

Mark Campbell, Lloyd Chartrand, David Dingwall, Terry Gibbs, Marjorie McGillivray, Martin Mkandawire, Mohammed Faraaz Rahman, Ann Sylliboy, Wendy Wadden

Before proceeding, the Chair shared the news of the passing of a long-time colleague, Professor Emeritus Ken Bryson. Professor Bryson was associated with Cape Breton University for more than 50 years, and to honour his contributions and his friendship, Senate observed a moment of silence.

The Chair noted that Senate will be made aware of some changes in the Students Union leadership later in the meeting but welcomed new student Senators, Chloe Stewart and Mya Trimm.

2. Consent Agenda

Items for Information:

- Change to the requisite for Math 2016

Items for Approval:

- New Course: Math 2XXX – Data Structure and Algorithms I
- New Course: Math 3XXX – Data Structure and Algorithms II
- Change to BSc Mathematics program

With no questions on any of the items, **it was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by L. Sylvester, to accept and approve the report of the Academic Committee as presented. **Motion carried.**

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

4. Reports and Items for Information

4.1 President

No report.

4.2 Vice President Academic

R. MacKinnon reported on the following:

- MPHEC is working on a multi-year strategic business plan
- Collaboration meetings are taking place with Rodney MacDonald and the Gaelic College on language revitalization
- Several meetings have occurred on the update to the MOU with the CCGC
- The search for the Dean of Nursing continues; interviews are expected to happen in the coming weeks

He then referred to the circulated report of the Library Quality Assurance Review. He provided an overview of the self-study process, and **it was moved** by R. MacKinnon, seconded by G. Karaphillis, to endorse the VPA's recommendations in response to the Library Quality Assurance Review Report as circulate. C. Arseneau passed on thanks to the Committee and for everyone who participated in the process to ensure the result was a current and accurate report.

Motion carried.

On the question of an update on the Return to Campus Plan, T. Brann-Barrett provided Senators with an update as of the time of the meeting and reminded everyone that the situation is ever-evolving and changes are most likely to occur often. She noted the one-week delay to the beginning of classes and the multiple layers of safety in place to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff. To reduce the density on campus, many individuals working in support units are rotating in the workplace. She noted that the Return to Campus Committee is still meeting regularly and welcomes any questions and feedback, and they will do their very

best to respond in a timely manner. She also added that everyone will notice an increase in security at the entrances; as was done in the fall, they are checking for proof vaccination as there are new students on campus.

M. Keating suggested that additional security or signage might be needed in common areas as many students are not socially distancing or wearing masks while in these spaces.

In reply to how faculty are to respond to students who indicate that they have tested positive for COVID-19 and minimum class number, she responded that faculty should work with students as they always have concerning illness and if the faculty member is unwell themselves, they should contact their Dean and CTL and work with them in terms of whether or not the class needs to be cancelled or to see if there is some other mechanism that can be put in place. She also noted that CBU is not collecting data on the number of students or staff absent due to COVID-19 and that any shift to online classes would be in line with Provincial rules.

On the question of class and lab sizes regarding social distancing, she responded that the post secondary education sector does not fall under the six-meter rule but rather a two-meter rule. If this is not possible, institutions must ensure that the maximum possible social distance is maintained; this is the same as last semester's framework. She noted this information can be found in the FAQs on the CBU website.

With regard to returning to campus after discovering one has COVID-19, she replied that at this time, the isolation period is seven days from either the onset of symptoms or a positive test.

4.3 Dean, Unama'ki College

L. Sylvester thanked Senate for including a regular report to Unama'ki College to the agenda. She shared that the strategic framework was completed in November 2021 and that the goals are in line, and connected to, CBU's Strategic and Academic Plans. She highlighted some of the goals as improving student success and wellness, team wellness, languages research, education and knowledge sharing, and community connection. In February, the In.Business program will host an opening conference with 25 students already enrolled. The College currently has six Canadian community programs in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec and has begun work to rezone with provincial funding. She also noted that the Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch position is currently open, but support is being sought for the Atlantic university presidents to provide some financial assistance for the coordinator position as it was previously absorbed by CBU in the past. The process of hiring an L'nu Chair in Indigenous Health. She also noted several other positions they are actively working to fill.

Strong support was offered on the importance of filling the Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch position. It was noted that as long as there's nobody in that role, there will be no research happening with Mi'kmaw people anywhere in Atlantic Canada, and research can not continue. The Chair offered that the Senate ask the President to raise this with the university presidents to see if a cost-sharing arrangement could be developed while keeping the position at CBU.

4.4 Student's Union

L. Collins reported that the Union is revising some of its policies and documents internally, including the Elections Act, to allow a smooth virtual nominations procedure. He was happy to report that they have seen some movement on the issue of lack of data surrounding low uptake among eligible MSI recipients. A questionnaire on MSI for international students across the province has been developed, and it will allow students to address their concerns with MSI and provide actual data for some of the reasons that uptake is low. The Union partnered with the University to offset the costs of bus passes for students studying at Cineplex. Virtual events were planned for new students who joined CBU in January. They also met with Laurianne Sylvester to discuss new ways to create additional opportunities for Indigenous students. As mentioned earlier, there was a change in the executive team with the departure of Madlyn O'Brien (she was offered a position as Parliamentary Assistant). Logan Collins is now the President and Chloe Stewart has been appointed as the Executive Vice President, and Mya Trimm has also joined as a Student Senator.

4.5 Executive Committee

A. Walsh reported that the Executive Committee met on January 7th to set the agenda for this Senate meeting. The Committee also discussed some items related to the recommendations from the Senate Working Group on Structure and Succession, in particular, sharing the set agenda to Schools prior to the Senate meeting, communication of said decisions to the University community, an orientation for new Senators, and the possibility of a comprehensive university-wide review of the pandemic to ensure records of any emergency or extraordinary decisions that we made and lessons learned. The Committee also added a report from Unama'ki College as a standing agenda item. A special presentation from Dr. Marie Battiste was also added to the agenda and an election for a replacement Senator on the Board of Governors. She then listed the following changes to committee memberships: Erin Robertson will replace S. Rodney, and L. Sylvester will replace S. Augustine on Academic Committee, D. Mount will serve on the Bylaws Committee. **It was moved** by A. Walsh, seconded by É. Thériault, to approve the changes listed. **Motion carried.**

4.6 Board of Governors

No report as the Board has not met since the last meeting of Senate.

5. Initial Senate Conversation with Dr. Marie Battiste

The Chair introduced Dr. Marie Battiste as a Special Advisor to the Vice President Academic on Decolonizing the Academy, which aligns with implementing our strategic direction to Indigenize The L'nu Way. He noted that this initial conversation will inevitably lead to many more collaborations with Senate and its committees.

Dr. Battiste thanked Senate for asking her to join today. In a PowerPoint presentation, she began with the notion of indigenization and noted her delight to have been brought into the University to be an advisor on decolonizing the academy and will be available to help the University make more significant inroads in this regard. She provided a history of the histories of mandates of indigenization (reconciliation or decolonization) and the calls to action from the TRC with respect to universities. She noted them as an essential element to Canada's

constitutional change. She requested Senators to keep this question in mind as she proceeded with her presentation: What is indigenization at CBU?

In detail, she then explained and defined a global decolonization as a move from Empires to Nation States, from colonialism to human rights and dignity, and from Eurocentric colonialism and cognitive imperialism to cognitive justice. She provided specific examples of how to indigenize with inclusion and access and suggested a required course for all University students, faculty and staff in an effort to educate everyone on reconciliation in a way building a place where indigenous knowledge will flourish.

In conclusion, she asked all Senators to reflect on the following question and to pose their thoughts in the meeting chat: What do you think is CBU's vision of Indigenization at CBU? Senators then paused for a moment for reflection and the opportunity to pose thoughts in the meeting chat.

From the meeting chat, the following comments are recorded.

M. Ostaszewski

Engaging with local Mi'kmaw leadership and Knowledge Holders, as well as those within CBU's leadership and campus community, to shape and articulate directions and priorities for the institution.

L. Sylvester

Lots of collaboration, sharing, facilitating, partnering, opportunities to learn alongside one another. This includes students as well. Some barriers would be around funding.

A. Walsh

Coming together, learning from one another, sharing our strengths – Growing.

C. Arseneau

CBU has a history of community relevancy, and this is our opportunity to ensure the inclusion of our Indigenous heritages, knowledges and peoples.

D. Mount

I would hope the vision involves supporting Indigenous students and all students to think critically about their own education and to help us lead them through a two-eyed seeing approach to all of their studies. This would be a strong path towards decolonizing the education we provide.

B. Callary

Everyone (faculty, staff, students, larger community) working towards understanding, learning, and appropriately engaging with Indigenous ways of knowing.

T. Urbaniak

Rethinking -- often deeply rethinking -- curricula, governance, community partnerships, the official languages of the university. Challenging our collective awareness. New approaches to hospitality and community.

J. Parish

Reframing collective agreement language to reflect the decolonizing of structures that currently work to prevent advancement of Indigenous colleagues by not recognizing credentialing granted by Indigenous communities.

J. Mayich

Engage non-indigenous staff in understanding history and perspectives to ensure well-rounded perspectives. The L'Nu Way is a great start - what can we do to foster ongoing discussion and collaboration across campus.

L. White

Listening, reading, learning being guided by Indigenous elders, scholars and community members toward seeing/acting differently and in partnership - at all levels.

MB Doucette

Currently, I think it is divided somewhere between Inclusion and reconciliation. It depends on who you talk to.

M. Henick

Embracing the pride that it is to share in each other's culture.

M. Keating

At present, the vision is somewhat opaque in that while CBU is committed to Indigenization, I don't feel we have arrived at a thorough understanding of what that means, and as a result, we have struggled with the path to get there. Ultimately, including indigenous perspectives in all areas of learning and research and in all units would ideally be our goal.

After discussing those mentioned in the chat, Dr. Battiste was thanked for her participation in the meeting today, and the Chair noted looking forward to further discussions and collaboration with her.

6. Question Period – N/A

7. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2021

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by MB. Doucette, the **approval of the minutes of the December 10, 2021. Motion carried. Abstentions: 5**

8. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

9. Reports of Other Committees of Senate

i) Planning & Review

J. MacMillan referred to the Pre-Budget Report circulate in advance of the meeting and, as suggested by T. Urbaniak, confirmed that in two weeks to address and vote on the recommendations, Senate will convene in two weeks. J. MacMillan then provided the process led by the Committee to the presentation of the report today. The Committee is presenting twelve recommendations to the budget process for consideration. Senators were invited to review the recommendations, which will be voted on during the meeting scheduled for February 4, 2022.

ii) Working Group on Succession & Planning

M. Keating referred to the preliminary report as circulated. She detailed many aspects of the report and advised that the final report would be presented for acceptance during the next meeting. Any comments, questions, or suggestions were welcomed and appreciated in advance of the Committee's completion date in the next two weeks.

iii) Academic – No report

iv) Bylaws – No report.

v) Research

É. Thériault reported that the Committee will have a recommendation on the Center for Sound Communities for the next meeting. They are now asking for calls for interest in the Excellence in Research Awards, the Rising Researcher, in the new inaugural, Dr. Margaret Dechman Community-Engaged Research Champion Award. He also noted the following as members of the RAC: SSOB-Sahand Ashtab, Jasmine Alam SSAS - Ian Brodie, Bernard Farenkia SHE - Cyndee MacPhee, Sandra Jack-Malik, Odette Griscti SS&T - George Chen, Xu Zhang, Michelle Jetha.

vi) QA

K. Jones reported on the following:

- Virtual Site Visit for CTL Review – January 26th
- Revised Graduate Attributes will start making their rounds for input and feedback
- Preparing for three upcoming reviews: Cultural Assets, Registrar, and BET
- Outstanding reviews/coming through Student Affairs, BBA, BA, BSc, Enrolment Services, Emergency Management, and the original business post-bac programs

vii) TLEC

J. Loxton provided a written report on the following:

- Instructional Leadership Award: TLEC met to consider nominations for the Instructional Leadership Award. We decided to honour two nominees this year. While the Committee believes that only a single awardee should be recognized in normal years, to avoid diluting the value of the award, the situation during COVID was so unusual, and the contributions of the two nominees so significant that they believe an exception is justified this year. This year's dual awardees are Dr. Geoff Lee-Dadswell (Physics) and Dr. Rob

Power (Education). Both Dr. Lee-Dadswell and Dr. Power played key roles in guiding faculty during the online year, particularly modelling assessment practices for online courses. Both also played key roles in the design of the University Teaching Program. In addition, Dr. Power built out most of the faculty Moodle support page and provided ongoing technical support in real-time throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, while Dr. Lee-Dadswell Chaired TLEC, helping to guide exam policy during a time of rapidly changing conditions. Both candidates' qualifications and contributions go well beyond these point form notes, and both are very well deserving of their recognition. Congratulations to both!

- Online Exam Policy & Retrospective: The development of a policy for online exams was paused in early 2021 due to a need for expert opinion on outstanding legal issues. Concerns recently brought up by members from the Psychology department at Senate regarding off-campus invigilation of online courses, as well as concerns raised at the school meeting of SST about the switch to online examinations in Dec. 2021, renew the need for consideration on policy related to online examination. Following recent discussions at the Senate Executive and with Psychology and the deans of SASS and SST, TLEC plans to renew the process of formalizing online examination policy, with a retrospective aspect to consider the impacts of the rapid transition in 2021, to better plan for potential future emergency shifts. We will be seeking insight. If anyone wants to play a role in this discussion, you are invited to participate in the subcommittee.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, **it was moved** C. Arseneau, seconded by G. Karaphillis, to adjourn the meeting at 3:35. **Motion carried.**

Jasmine Hoover
Secretary to Senate