

Senate Minutes

February 4, 2022
MS Teams

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

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.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present:

Faustina Amoako, Catherine Arseneau, Sahand Ashtab, Carol Beaton, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Bettina Callary, Simon Chen, Logan Collins, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Ayse Ersoy, Terry Gibbs, 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, Martin Mkandawire, Mandy Nguyen, Marcia Ostashewski, Joe Parish, Rick Pierrynowski, Michelle Prendergast, Erin Robertson, Karen Rowe, Chloe Stewart, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Mya Trimm, Tom Urbaniak, Wendy Wadden, Audrey Walsh, Lacie White, Bilynda Whiting, John Mayich, Terry MacDonald

Regrets:

Mark Campbell, Lloyd Chartrand, Marjorie McGillivray, Dana Mount, Mohammed Faraaz Rahman, Ann Sylliboy

Planning & Review Committee – Pre-Budget Report

T. Urbaniak welcomed everyone and noted that today's meeting aims to receive the yearly Pre-Budget report from the Planning and Review Committee. For information, he explained that this Committee is charged with bringing before the entire Senate pre-budget recommendations which, if adopted by Senate, becomes Senate submission into the budget process for the consideration of the Budget Advisory Committee.

J. MacMillan then provided members with an overview of the process and referred to the resulting report as circulated with the meeting package. He then detailed each of the recommendations as they were presented.

Motion 1 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by W. Wadden, that CBU should continue to invest in Open Education Resource Grants to maintain leadership in affordable education opportunities amongst other regional and national post-secondary institutions.

He added that this had been a very positive development at CBU and the Committee leaned heavily on some of the advice and feedback from the Student Union, who are very strong advocates for this.

J. Loxton also provided strong support for this motion. He noted that many students are impacted due to the high costs of textbooks, which some just cannot afford.

M. Keating questioned how faculty could adopt this process for courses that content is in the textbook and under copyright (literature, for example), to which J. Loxton responded that this motion is an effort to facilitate the development of those types of courses and to help close the gaps where possible.

C. Arseneau added that OER initiatives at CBU have been successful, and they are indeed recognized as providing leadership in the region and in the Province. She also noted that she, J. Loxton and J. Hoover work alongside the Council of Atlantic University Libraries.

In response to J. Parish's request for further clarification on how OER are adopted, J. Loxton responded that the grant works in three tiers. The first is the largest single amount, \$5,000, which could be utilized to support the development of wholly original OER. The second tier, \$2,000, would allow for the modification of existing OERs. The third-tier smaller grant allowed for the development of ancillary materials, test bank questions etc. He noted the outcome of all tiers is that the funds would be principally used to employ students in the assisting at all tiers but could also be used for buying copyrighted materials illustrations.

J. Hoover added that many universities are beginning to use OERs as a recruitment tool by offering entire degree programs with zero textbooks or zero textbook costs and also agreed this is something CBU ought to take advantage of.

Motion carried.

Motion 2 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by D. Lionais, that Senate recommend a commitment to purchase an enterprise-level site license for survey software, preceded by the formation of a working group to review potential survey software tools and identify options and preferred choices.

He further explained that this was brought to the committee as a suggestion to have everyone at CBU using the same tool. It is a commonplace in many Atlantic universities to have a universal survey software. For clarification, he confirmed that this would be a tool like Survey Monkey.

É. Thériault and J. Parish offered strong support for this motion and provided examples where CBU students or faculty had great difficulty gathering data on research projects and even having to borrow log-on credentials for tools like Survey Monkey.

G. MacInnis offered support for the motion but urged caution about where the data resides for some of the products. CBU must be mindful that the data cannot cross borders.

Motion carried.

Motion 3 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by M. Henick, that CBU should review its investment portfolio to ensure it aligns with CBU's Mission and Value statements and should consider how other post-secondary institutions are formally adopting Environmental, Social and Governance Model frameworks.

On the question of CBU's current portfolio, G. MacInnis responded that CBU is mindful of its ESG rating and noted that some funds are highly rated, others are midstream, but none are at the low end of the ESG scale. Although the Board of Governors has not moved to have the ESG rating as a primary lens on any investment strategy, they have underscored the importance of these weightings. They have also set up a fund at the high end of the rating scale as an alternative for any donors who wish to see their contributions invested in such a vehicle.

Motion carried.

Motion 4 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by K. Rowe, that an investment in infrastructure to increase and improve space for offices, classrooms, students' societies, student services and library services to better accommodate the growing student population.

K. Rowe noted that with the growing student population, the area of space has become an important topic, and the use of the Cineplex has certainly alleviated this to some degree but does not see this as a long-term solution.

A friendly amendment to the motion was accepted to add students' societies to the list.

Revised motion: "that an investment in infrastructure to increase and improve space for offices, classrooms, *students' societies*, student services and library services to better accommodate the growing student population."

Motion carried.

Motion 5 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by K. Rowe, that work securing funding for the proposed new Centre for Discovery & Innovation should continue to be a priority while investigating alternative short and mid-term physical infrastructure solutions.

Motion carried.

Motion 6 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by A. Walsh, that CBU continues to improve campus accessibility in accordance with the new Accessibility Act.

J. Mayich noted that the Accessibility Advisory Committee launched their work in early January and hopes to have a draft report prepared by early to mid-March. He advised that through the Provincial Accessibility Act, all universities are prescribed public sector bodies and must submit a plan by April 1, 2022.

MB Doucette questioned why a recommendation to meet a minimum legal minimum standard is being presented, to which J. MacMillan responded that intent is not solely to meet minimum standards and that it goes much further than physical infrastructure, for example, teaching and learning, communications, and web developments.

Motion carried.

Motion 7: It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by MB Doucette, that CBU adopt a transparent reporting framework (AASHE STARS) to measure our performance on post-secondary sustainability initiatives as they compare to similar institutions in order to provide a framework for future action.

Motion carried.

Motion 8 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by L. Sylvester, that Senate encourages CBU to make investments towards identifying and overcoming barriers to communication with students, including superimposing (ghosting) a more user-friendly student email system above the current cloud-based Microsoft infrastructure, and enhancing the effectiveness of electronic LCD hallway messaging as part of a renewed strategy to improve digital communications.

Motion carried with one opposition.

Motion 9 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by L. Collins, that Senate recommend that in the 2022 fiscal year, that CBU engages with the CBU Student Union to consider investments, governance models and support for the revitalization of Caper Radio to support academics, community outreach and for the dissemination of academic pursuits at CBU to the community via Caper Radio.

M. Henick noted this recommendation is in an effort to provide more funding for an underutilized opportunity that could be used to promote CBU, its research and our student body both internally and externally.

Motion carried.

Motion 10 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by MB Doucette, that a budgetary commitment should be made to provide the resources and fuel the initiative required to "Indigenize the L'nu Way" through Unama'ki College and Mi'kmaw/L'nu Studies investments.

During a fulsome discussion on the motion, the following friendly amendments were suggested:

- 1st amendment: guided by the submission of the Unama'ki College, Senate submits that budgetary commitments should be made to provide the resources and fuel the initiative required to "Indigenize the L'nu Way" through Unama'ki College and Mi'kmaw/L'nu Studies investments.
- 2nd amendment: guided by the submission of Unama'ki College, the pre-budget submission recommends that budgetary commitments should be made to provide the resources to fuel the initiative required to "Indigenize the L'nu Way," including through Unama'ki College and Mi'kmaw/L'nu Studies investments.
- 3rd amendment: Guided by the submission of UC, a budgetary commitment should be made to provide the resources to support Indigenous students and fuel the initiatives required to "Indigenize the L'nu Way" across the University, including through UC and Mi'kmaw/L'nu Studies investments.

T. Urbaniak suggested that that motion be held on the table for a short time. Over the weekend, he, L. Sylvester, and a few other Senators would work on the motion's wording and forward via email the revised recommendations. With no objections, **the item was tabled.**

On February 8th, the following revised recommendation was circulated to Senators, and with no suggestion to defer for further discussion, the recommendation was accepted with two abstentions and one opposition:

Guided by the submission of Unama'ki College, Senate recommends a budgetary commitment to augment support for L'nu language, knowledges, and students in-community and on campus, and to fuel the multiple initiatives required to implement the University's strategic commitment to "Indigenize the L'nu Way" across the University;

ADDITIONALLY, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, Senate underlines the importance and necessity of investments in the growth and development of Unama'ki College and Mi'kmaw/L'nu Studies.

Motion 11 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by M. Henick, that CBU should consider funding support for a S.T.E.M Industry Liaison officer to assist and enhance academic programming and to better support future graduates and industry.

M. Keating questioned if the recommendation should include both S.T.E.M and S.T.E.A.M, to which M. Henick replied that he would agree with that suggestion. Several other suggestions in support of the recommendation were offered. However, after much discussion on S.T.E.M versus S.T.E.A.M, it was decided to let the motion stand as presented.

On the question of promoting diversity for the position, J. MacMillan responded that the committee did not take that lens when formulating the recommendation; however, as per CBU's diversity initiatives noted, when the job description is drafted, he assumes this would be included.

Motion carried. Abstentions: 6

Motion 12 - It was moved by J. Macmillan, seconded by A. Walsh, that CBU should continue to invest in online and in-person mental health supports while encouraging assessments of the relative effectiveness of each to ensure investments are meeting the needs of students, staff, and faculty. Support usage assessments (as well as perceived barriers or deficiencies) should be regularly conducted and analyzed in consultation with Max Bell Health Services staff and the Mental Health Advocacy Committee to maximize impact within the CBU community.

Motion carried.

T. Urbaniak reminded faculty Senators that a brief meeting would be held after adjournment to elect a replacement Senator for the Board of Governors'.

Adjournment

There was no further business, and it was moved by A. Ersoy moved it to **adjourn the meeting** at 4:01 pm.

**Jasmine Hoover
Secretary to Senate**