

## **Senate Minutes**

**April 28, 2022  
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 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.

He also noted that April 28<sup>th</sup> is the National Workers' Memorial Day. It is a day when respect is paid to those who lost their lives on the job and recognizes the impact these tragic losses have on families, co-workers, and communities. Senate then paused for a moment of silence to acknowledge this important day.

Outgoing members of the Student's Union were thanked for their contributions to Senate during their term: Mr. Logan Collins, President, Ms. Chloe Stewart, Executive Vice President, Mr. Simon Chen, VP Finance and Operations, Ms. Mandy Nguyen, VP Marketing & Communications.

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

#### **Present:**

Faustina Amoako, Catherine Arseneau, Carol Beaton, Tanya Brann-Barrett, David Gerbasi, Logan Collins, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Ava Graham, Michael Henick, Jasmine Hoover, Patrick Howard, Katherine Jones, George Karaphillis, Mary Keating, Doug Lionais, Jason Loxton, Gordon MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, John MacMillan, Martin Mkandawire, Dana Mount, Mandy Nguyen, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, 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, Terry MacDonald, John Mayich

#### **Regrets:**

Sahand Ashtab, Bettina Callary, Mark Campbell, Simon Chen, Ayse Ersoy, Terry Gibbs, Janet Kuhnke, Bernie MacLennan, Marjorie McGillivray, Marcia Ostashewski, Mohammed Faraaz Rahman, Ann Sylliboy

## **2. Consent Agenda**

### **2.1 Academic Committee**

For Approval:

New Course: ENGI 3XXX – Technical Project Management

**It was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by L. Sylvester, to accept the consent agenda item 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**

President Dingwall reported on the following:

- He attended three virtual meetings with the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP), two with the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) and with Universities Canada International Committee.
- The President's Leadership Dinner will take place on June 22, 2022, at the Halifax Convention Centre. This will mark the first time CBU has hosted an event on this scale in the Halifax region. The event will feature entertainment from the Men of the Deeps, Island Girls, Bette MacDonald and Maynard Morrison, and other Cape Breton entertainers. The main feature of the President's Leadership Dinner will be a fireside-style interview between President Dingwall and former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney.
- On March 24, CBU signed two gift agreements with the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish. Their gift, totaling \$250,000, will support the establishment of both the Sisters of St. Martha Indigenous (Mi'kmaw) Education and Sisters of St. Martha Indigenous (Mi'kmaw) Nursing Scholarships in support of students from eastern Nova Scotian Indigenous communities entering Cape Breton University.
- CBU continues to work with the African Nova Scotian Development Officer to host an African Nova Scotian alumni event in August 2022.
- The CTL has created another installment of its teaching and learning podcast, "Beyond the Class." It features Dr. Marie Battiste in conversation about decolonizing education. They are also working on enhancing its new space in Campus Centre, with furnishings and technology to support professional development and faculty engagement.
- The CTL has received the Quality Assurance Report prepared by external reviewers. The report presents positive feedback and solid recommendations to allow the CTL continued success in faculty development initiatives.

- CBU's Community-Student Research Connection program has matched 23 students with 19 community groups to complete a range of academic research projects.
- ORGS is working with Caper Radio to feature 'Conversations with Colleagues'. These are recorded interviews with CBU employees to talk about equity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Two initial interviews focused on EDI in sports and related research.
- CBU researchers attended a professional development opportunity to incorporate equity, diversity and inclusion into research planning and funding applications.
- Dr. Alana Pindar, Weston Family Visiting Professor in Ecosystem Health and Food Security, was featured on Research Nova Scotia's podcast in April.
- Dr. Corrine McIsaac, Associate Nursing Professor, presented her research in wound care at the World Union of Wound Health Societies (WUWHS) Congress, which was held in Abu Dhabi in early March.
- Several funding awards have been granted: SSHRC Insight Grant, Dr. Stephanie Gilbert, SSHRC Connection Grant, Dr. Marcia Ostashewski, NSERC Discovery Development Grant, Dr. Xu Zhang, NSERC Discovery Development Grant, Dr. Ken Oakes, SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, and Dr. Heather Sparling, NSERC Alliance Mission Grant, Dr. Ken Oakes and Dr. Xu Zhang.
- Led by Dean Parnaby, a Program Development Advisory Group continues to work on developing a Bachelor of Social Work program. The group is finalizing the program's mission, goals, and learning objectives and is moving to curriculum development. This work is being supported by ongoing consultation with an external advisory group of practicing social workers.
- The issue of ongoing support for the Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch (MEW) process was recently discussed at a meeting of the Atlantic Indigenous Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AIEDIRP) Steering Committee. Dr. Tanya Brann-Barrett met with her counterpart, Dr. Richard Isnor, at St. FX to discuss the coordination of the MEW. Given that all Nova Scotian universities benefit from the work and support of the MEW in the undertaking of research in partnership with Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia, the goal was to explore options for a shared sustainable funding model for supporting the work of the MEW going forward.

#### **4.2 Vice President Academic**

R. MacKinnon reported on the following:

- He attended a recent meeting of the Destination Cape Breton Board, who are excited to see the sector bouncing back from the pandemic.
- He has attended several MPHEC meetings; the finance Committee, quality assurance committee and the main board.
- On behalf of the President, he and T. Brann-Barrett met with the barrister society on CBU's strategic health initiative.
- He opened the family violence prevention week at CBU, which has been a long-standing tradition that CBU opens the week and announces the activities that will take place.

### **4.3 Unama'ki College**

L. Sylvester reported on the following:

- She was in Toronto, where Chief Terry Paul was being honoured at the Public Policy Forum.
- The L'nu Chair starts Monday, May 2, 2022.
- The Bachelor of Science cohort finished their second course with an 86.5% average.
- Indigenous Science program, offered in high schools, will be called the Mi'kmaw Science Advantage Program, and the goal is to begin it in September.
- The Unama'ki College Graduation Banquet will take place on May 20, 2022, with keynote speaker Regional Chief, PJ Prosper.
- The Mi'kmaw Resource Center Coordinator position has been posted. Postings for an operations manager and marketing specialist will soon be open.

### **4.4 Students' Union**

C. Stewart thanked Senators for the experience and guidance offered to the student representatives this past year. She then provided a fulsome year-end report, including the following:

- A record number of student employees were hired for the 2021-2022 academic year, while also reducing Union fees by 6.3% and maintaining a strong financial position.
- The new Ekkian Indigenous Centre was launched.
- The Union worked with Students' Nova Scotia to recommend that the provincial government launch a grant to address the financial concerns of students relating to COVID-19 and the housing crisis specifically, this recommendation has been accepted, and all Student Financial Assistance borrowers will receive a non-repayable grant of \$875
- The CBUSU is now an official member, through full membership, of Students' Nova Scotia.
- A zero textbook cost course list was launched and is available on the CBUSU website.
- The Union successfully advocated for the renewal of the OER grant of \$50,000.
- A COVID-19 vaccination assistance booking program was launched to assist international students without MSI.
- A very successful refresh orientation week was held in September with many in-person events.
- The first on-campus party since the beginning of the pandemic was held, and the Last Class Bash saw a sold-out crowd in The Pit. It was also an incident-free event.
- The food bank served a record number of students this year and a successful breakfast program was launched. Support from the Giving Tuesday campaign allowed the Union to expand food bank services.
- Over 25 societies were ratified this year.
- A record was reached in fundraising for Capers Helping Capers' charity organization. This year's recipients will be Loaves and Fishes, the Jane Paul Indigenous Centre, ACAP Cape Breton and the EPIC Youth Peer Program.
- A variety of meetings were held with politicians and key stakeholders in the past year to address two main areas of advocacy; MSI for international students and provincial funding for OER.
- The Union was also able to provide students free access to the Nova Scotia Power Makerspace.

In conclusion, she again thanked Senators for making their terms in office one that has provided an exceptional learning opportunity.

L. Collins added that on April 27, 2022, the Father Paul Abbass was presented to CBU's Director of Student Affairs, Mr. John Mayich. He thanked Mr. Mayich for all he has done and continues to do for the students of Cape Breton University. He also thanked Senators for their support and for keeping students top of mind.

#### **4.5 Executive Committee**

J. Hoover reported that the Executive Committee met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to set the agenda for today's meeting. The Committee also discussed the date for this meeting, scheduling Laurianne Sylvester to provide her presentation on Truth and Reconciliation, and added a take note debate on the Accessibility Report from J. Mayich. A discussion took place on some items that could be easily implemented from the report of the Senate Working Group. She also asked that when the election of Senators takes place, she be sent the names of new or returning Senators.

T. Urbaniak added that the Committee also noted that he would be putting together an orientation session of the Senate that this invitation will be sent to the entire University community.

#### **4.6 Board of Governors**

On behalf of B. MacLennan, T. Urbaniak read a written report from the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He noted that this was an unusually shorter meeting because the budget was presented/approved during the March meeting. Chair Sampson provided a copy of a report from ASNUT titled Board of Governor's Structures at Nova Scotia universities. Mr. MacInnis presented the Treasurer's Report highlights included a positive tuition variance in 2021-2022, collection of outstanding student fees remains a significant issue, the cash position is healthy, and, likely, CBU will not require reliance upon the operating reserve to balance the 2021 2022 fiscal results of operations. Reports were also received from Senate, the Students Union and the President.

### **5. Special Presentation – N/A**

### **6. Question Period – N/A**

### **7. Take Note Debate – Accessibility Plan**

Referring to the circulated plan, J. Mayich reiterated that the University is a prescribed public sector body, and this plan is CBU's steps toward becoming a fully accessible campus. He drew particular attention to such items in the plan that are specific but noted a lot of flexibility will be necessary. This flexibility is needed because provincial standards are still to be developed in some of the seven key areas. CBU focused on those within the provincial framework for post-secondary institutions as well as its plan; the standards, the built environment standards will be

finalized within 2022, the education standards will be finished in 2023, and then the employment standards have just begun work, and the Province is expected to be completed by 2025. A campus audit has recently been completed; therefore, the time has not yet permitted a fulsome review of it, and items will likely arise from what is currently working well and what needs improvement. A further plan will include action items divided into short-term, medium-term and over the three-year period goals. He noted that the committee's two-year term will end in 2023, and although some current members will continue, they may be seeking new members for a two-year period.

T. Urbaniak asked if the benchmarks indicated are firm dates and if the Committee will be reporting back on which of those items had been achieved or which have been rethought. J. Mayich responded that yes, the Advisory Committee would take responsibility for this and report back with a recording mechanism to ensure that things are moving forward. He added that pieces would be added in as the Provincial standards are developed, which may cause some of the benchmarks to alter.

M. Keating referred to the commitment to deal with the online accommodation piece and recording online courses may present issues for other students in the class. She said this may present a class with privacy issues versus the issues of accommodation. She also suggested that the commitment to assessment must be carefully navigated and that assessment tools must be adequate.

J. Mayich responded that they certainly do not want to proceed without the proper resourcing and without ensuring that CBU has the mechanisms to support and deal with students in the classroom. He added that the Jennifer Keeping Center (JKC) needs to be the liaison between faculty and any committee of Senate to provide support, solutions and assistance, especially with new supports available.

On the feedback question, J. Mayich noted that the deadline for final submission would be in the following week, and input would be considered before that deadline.

With regard to the kinds of accommodations envisioned, J. Mayich responded they would be individualized per student but that current services from JKC would be maintained. He also clarified that the IPP in the school system is not an accommodation made at the college or university level; however, these IPPs are built into the accommodations for students who register with the JKC.

## **8. Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2022**

**It was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by MB Doucette, the **approval of the minutes of March 25, 2022. Motion carried. Abstentions: 3**

## 9. Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. MacInnis was called from the meeting and posted in the Teams chat that he wishes to express concerns with the reporting of his role in the presentation of the CBU budget to the Board of Governors as per item 4.6 in the minutes and requested permission to address this matter at the next meeting of Senate. Senate agreed to approve this request for the next meeting of Senate.

## 10. Reports of Other Committees of the Senate

### i) Academic Committee

M. Keating to the report circulated with the meeting material.

#### 1. Approval of the Modified Program Proposal for the Diploma in Government Management.

**It was moved by** M. Keating, seconded by L. Sylvester, to approve the **Modified Program Proposal for the Diploma in Government Management.** A. Parnaby noted this is a modification to an existing undergraduate diploma, moving it from a 16 option to a smaller and more focused diploma. He noted the significant changes in terms of current course offerings take place largely in the elective categories. **Motion carried.**

#### 2. Approval of the Proposal for the Certificate of Proficiency in French Language.

**It was moved by** M. Keating, seconded by C. Stewart, to approve the proposal for the **Certificate of Proficiency in French Language.** M. Keating noted this is not a standalone certificate but rather an internal certificate and allows students to bundle French courses in such a way that it identifies their degree of proficiency. A. Parnaby noted the champions of this certificate as Bernard Mulo-Farenkia and Dawn White and their time and dedication to developing this certificate. **Motion carried.**

### ii) Bylaws

MB Doucette referred to the report circulated with the meeting material. She noted that at a recent meeting of the Committee, they discussed the report of the committee on Senate Structure and Succession and the implications of the recommendations. In response to the report, the Committee identified three main topics.

1. Immediate issues related to senate structure resulting from the creation of a Nursing School. Implications for Senate Membership complement.
2. Longer-term issues of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization outlined in the report from the Working Group on CBU Senate Structure and Succession.
3. The need for a transition plan to ensure purposefully move from the current state to something more equitable.

She identified, from the report, each of these topics and put forth the following motions:

**It was moved** by MB Doucette, seconded by C. Arseneau, that **Senate addresses the**

**immediate issue of the Senate school complement for a transition period of one academic year (2022 – 2023) by temporarily reducing the number of seats for senators from the School of Education and Health, from six seats to four seats, and by creating four seats for senators from the School of Nursing. We will re-evaluate the possibility of extension of the transition period at the end of the year. Motion carried.**

**It was moved** by MB Doucette, seconded by L. Sylvester, that **Senate name a Special Advisory Panel consisting of Mary Beth Doucette, Marie Battiste, and Tom Urbaniak to prepare a short discussion paper for Senate by September 2022. Guided by EDID principles, the short discussion paper will offer a specific model(s) and specific options for implementing the report of the recently concluded Senate Working Group on Structure and Succession in respect to a) the Senate composition (membership), b) the specific mechanisms for nominating and preparing members for Senate and Senate committees, and c) changes/updates to committee mandates. Motion carried.**

### **iii) Planning & Review**

J. MacMillan referred to the report circulated with the meeting packaged, which contained updates on the post-budget response, Senate's policy review and the trimester model.

### **iv) QA**

K. Jones referred to the report circulated with the meeting package, which contained updates on the revised BET Self Study and the Cultural Resources Self Study, the CTL External Reviewers' Report, the Quality Assurance Monitoring Process for the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, and the Emergency Management Program, BSc Quality Assurance, Post Bac Business Management, and Post Bac Supply Chain Management reviews have all been launched. She then presented the Draft Revised Graduate Attributes for consideration. **It was moved** by K. Jones, seconded by C. Arseneau, to approve the **Graduate Attributes** as presented. **Motion carried.**

### **v) Research**

É. Thériault reported that the Committee has been working on the policy on research groups, commercialization and intellectual property, and collaborating with ORGS and J. Hoover on a thesis storage policy.

### **vi) TLEC**

J. Loxton reported that the Committee worked on a suite of recommendations with regard to reducing the impacts of COVID-19 on the 2022 Winter exams. These recommendations and responses were circulated to Senators on April 5, 2022. Although the exam period has now passed, he welcomed any comments or questions on the recommendations and responses. He also noted that post-pandemic, the Committee will be reviewing the governance of exams, emergency decision making, and policies specifically on communication. A sub-committee is reviewing if the University should have a policy on anti-plagiarism software, and early indications from their deliberations is that it is a policy CBU should have.



**11. Adjournment**

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

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