

Senate Minutes

December 16, 2022
CE339 / MS Teams

The Vice Chair, E. Robertson, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum and Land Acknowledgement

The Vice Chair 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.

Present:

Catherine Arseneau, Sahand Ashtab, Carol Beaton, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Danielle Boudreau, Nofisat Banjo-Saibu, Mary Beth Doucette, Philip Eappen, David Gerbasi, Jan Hancock, Michael Henick, Jasmine Hoover, Patrick Howard, Himali Kadam, Mary Keating, Karen Kennedy, Carolin Kreber, Kimberley Lamarche, Doug Lionais, Jason Loxton, Gordon MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, John Nadeau, Felix Odartey-Wellington, Peter Oyedijo, Andy Parnaby, Rick Pierrynowski, Michelle Prendergast, Erin Robertson, Karen Rowe, Damanpreet Singh, Samarjeet Singh, Chloe Stewart, Ann Sylliboy, Laurianne Sylvester, J. Tunnicliff, É. Thériault, B. Whiting, T. MacDonald, J. Mayich

Regrets:

David Dingwall, Ayse Ersoy, Samantha Hodder, Katherine Jones, Harkanwal Kaur, Janet Kuhnke, John MacMillan, Marcia Ostashewski, Natalia Parsons, T. Urbaniak

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Research Committee – the report was moved to the regular agenda to address questions/comments.

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

4. Reports and Items for Information

4.1 Acting President

Acting President MacInnis reported on the following:

- Thanks were extended to the SSOB for the recognition from the Canadian China Business Council for the bilingual MBA.
- Discussion on the medical file continue and an event was held to celebrate medical professionals from Cape Breton.
- Preparations for a major capital investment in the new year continue and Perkins & Will have been engaged to develop a campus plan.
- There are weekly meetings on the January intake and housing taking place.
- A very successful family Christmas party was held on December 3rd and the staff party will be held on December 20th.

4.2 Vice President Academic and Provost

R. MacKinnon reported on the following:

- That he continues to attend regular MPHEC meetings
- The Board of Governors met on December 2nd
- The Bachelor of Social Work was approved by MPHEC
- The CBU Honours Banquet was held on November 30th
- The search for the new Dean of Education continues
- On behalf of the President he attended several events including the Accepted Students Social, the Medical Recognition Event, the Health Care Recognition Event, the CBRM Educators Event and the Sarah Deny Event

4.2 Unama'ki College

L. Sylvester provided updates on the following:

- The L'nu Chair has been active in establishing many partnerships within the communities. The Native Women's Association of Canada has reached out on possibly developing courses or a program on midwifery. She has also partnered Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech on the Aboriginal Children's Hurt & Healing initiative which is addressing language and learning barriers.
- A committee has been formed to review the culturally safe care community course Dalhousie is offering to see how it could be used at CBU.
- Discussions continue with the School of Education & Health on opportunities of offering the BEd program in-community.
- The Bachelor of Science cohort is being reviewed to identify who will continue on in to the Nursing program and write the CASPer test.
- The Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch coordinator, the communications and branding specialist and an in-business coordinator are posted and the hope is to have these filled as soon as possible.

4.3 Students' Union

P. Oyedijo provided updates on the following:

- The Honors Banquet held on November 30th honoured approximately 200 students.
- The SU gathered with other student union leaders to advocate on the most critical issues pertaining to students on our campus and they had the chance to meet with several MLA's, Stakeholders, as well as policy makers around the post-secondary sector.
- It was noted that the request for funding the Atlantic Open Educational Resources and the ask for more supports and services for international students were well received.
- A three-year MOU has been signed with Caper Radio.
- Upcoming events include a town hall, January orientation events, and advocacy meetings with local politicians.
- CBU and the CBU Board of Governors were thanked for their donations to the CBUSU food bank.

4.4 Executive Committee

J. Hoover reported that the Executive Committee met on December 1st to set the agenda for this meeting. The Committee decided that a special meeting of Senate will be held on January 13th to discuss and vote on Planning & Review's Pre-Budget Report. The Committee also reviewed the SEM Plan Take Note Debate, Senate's membership and elections, and revising the membership.

It was moved by J. Hoover, seconded by C. Kreber, that Acting Chair continue for the remainder of term at the request of the Chair. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by J. Hoover, seconded by M. Keating, to extend the modified Senate membership with the School of Education and Health and the School of Nursing consisting of four members elected to Senate for the 2023-24. **Motion carried.**

4.4 Board of Governors

M. Henick reported that the Board of Governor's met on December 3rd. Members received regular reports including the Treasurer's report and in lieu of holiday gifts for members a donation was made to the Student's Union food bank on their behalf.

5. Take Note Debate – Strategic Enrolment Plan (SEM)

E. Robertson referred to the document circulated in advance of the meeting and welcomed Rod Nicholls and John MacKinnon who will present the document. **It was moved** by K. Lamarche, seconded by P. Oyedijo, to give John MacKinnon and Rod Nicholls speaking privileges for the purposes of the presentation and the Take Note Debate. **Motion carried.**

J. MacKinnon and R. Nicholls provided Senators with context as to why CBU needs a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan. The appendix at the end of the document was referred to as a summary of the numbers with regard to enrolment. These numbers were the budgeted

numbers for 2022-2023 and they have changed significantly with the deferred acceptances due to the pandemic. The projected enrolments were detailed as estimates. Due to the many variable that still exist post-pandemic, such as VISAs and housing availability, and that the deferrals could be pushed out further if students are unable to secure these prior to coming to CBU. It was also noted that the additional enrolments prior to the deferrals was in fact projected to decline before modestly growing to the projected 7000 in 2026-27. To address the issues it is suggested that because the post-bacs have seen the most growth, that program caps be put in place as well a application limits. It was also noted that a focus of the plan is to grow the programs for domestic students and stabilize the international components.

Before proceeding to the disucssion, **it was moved** by M. Keating, seconded by A. Parnaby, that Senate receive the SEM plan and set up a working group to operationalize aspects of the plan that are related to Senate's responsibilities.

J. Nadeau thanked all those who have worked on the SEM Plan as it has sparked conversations and work to take place in terms of managing that growth in the SSOB and to work through some of the issues and challenges. T. Brann-Barrett echoed these comments and added that the Plan will put CBU in a place to be proactive as opposed to reactive.

F. Odarety-Wellington questioned if the University will be releasing any public communications to ensure the external communities are aware that CBU is taking actions with regard to housing and that stuendts are fully aware that they must find accommodations prior to coming to CBU. J. MacKinnon responded that to his knowledged, the University will be releasing a public communication. M. Henick suggested that gaining the alumni perspective may also be beneficial as many students stay in Cape Breton after graduation and this would also add to the housing issues. J. MacKinnon responded that yes this type of data will be most helpful and is included in the Plan.

J. Mayich added that every student has been notified that if they have not secured accommodations by December 15th that they ought to defer until next semester. He also noted that for the student support staff this Plan will be invaluable.

On questions of the Tartan Downs project, R. Nicholls responded that the CBRM been has indicated its willingness to be helpful but the major issue with proceeding has been CMHC and that the non-repayable contribution formula does not calculate for any city other than the four major cities in the country.

A. Parnaby questioned the longer-term impacts with regard to the implications for governance, human resources investments and how it will be operationalize, and if the Plan will address the timing and execution of hiring of faculty. R. Nicholls responded that yes, with better information the hiring process will most certainly improve. With regard to operationalizing the Plan he noted that departments working with Deans will be essential but that the governance will be with the Provost Group operationalizing the Academic Plan with a SEM lens.

M. Henick questioned if the deferral process has a time limit and J. MacKinnon detailed the

history of the current deferral process. During COVID CBU allowed students two deferrals and that most Universities only offer one. After this group of deferred enrolments CBU will revert back to the one deferral. On his question of the postbaccalaureate students being back on the CBU campus by 2025, G. MacInnis responded that CBU is looking at any and every possibility to accelerate the return of the post bac students to campus.

Motion carried.

6. Approval of the Minutes: November 18, 2022

It was moved by M. Keating, seconded by K. Lamarche, the **approval of the minutes of November 18, 2022. Motion carried. Abstentions: 2**

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Referring to the tabled motion during the November meeting, J. Loxton suggested that the recommendation should have been to referred back to the Committee for further review and that letting this motion fall from the table would be appropriate. The Committee will require more meaningful time to review the document and will bring it back at a future meeting of Senate.

8. Report of Other Committees of Senate:

i) Planning & Review

On behalf of the Chair, M. Henick reported that the committee has finalized the Pre-Budget Report, which will be circulated to Senators for, as mentioned earlier in the meeting, a special meeting on January 13th.

ii) Academic

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

Items for Information:

Course changes: ENGL 2610, ENGL 2403, ENGL 2404, ENGL 3424, and FOLK 3401.

Course retirements: ENGL 2404 and ENGL 2684.

Items for Approval:

1. Revised Program Proposal: BET Environmental Studies Program

It was moved, by M. Keating, seconded by R. Pierrynowski, that Senate approve revisions to the BET Environmental Studies Program as presented. **Motion carried.**

2. Approval of the changes to the Appeals Policy

It was moved, by M. Keating, seconded by P. Oyedijo, that Senate approve the revised Appeals Policy as presented. M. Keating detail the proposed changes and bringing everything together in one policy, the introduction of an appeal form that will go through the Registrar's Office, differentiating the types of appeals, and allowing students to bring a support person to any requested meeting.

With regard to allowing students to bring a support person to the meeting and the possibility of opening the door to it becoming a legal process, it was clarified that the wording is that the person must an internal CBU individual.

On the question of a funded ombudsperson, M. Keating noted that the Committee did speak at length on this topic and it was suggested, that because such that person's role would be so related to student matters, that the request should come from the Students' Union. It was proposed to the Student's Union last year and they were very much in support of it.

It was noted that the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) contains a guide for faculty member to generate the level of infraction. On the question of Senate document management, C. Arseneau advised that a University Records Officer has been hired and will begin in January.

Motion carried.

3. Approval of the changes to the Academic Performance Policy

It was moved, by M. Keating, seconded by K. Lamarche, that Senate approve changes to the Academic Performance Policy. **Motion carried.**

iii) Bylaws & Procedures

On behalf of the Chair, MB Doucette, noted that the committee met where they received recommendations from the Executive Committee on modifications to the Senate structure and membership.

iv) Quality Assurance

Co-Chair, R. MacKinnon, reported that the committee began its external review of the Bachelor of Emergency Management Program and CBU's QA Report has been submitted to MPHEC and they will be on campus in March 2023.

v) Research

É. Thériault reported that the committee met earlier in the week and they are working on updating the policy on Centers and Institutes and Commercialization and Intellectual Property and changes were made to the Presidents' awards as circulated with the meeting material.

It was moved by D. Lionais, seconded by R. MacKinnon, to accept the changes to the President's Research awards as circulated. **Motion carried.**

vi) **Teaching, Learning and Evaluation – No report.**

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, **it was moved by, C. Arseneau**, seconded by P. Oyedijo, to adjourn the meeting at 3:25pm. **Motion carried.**

**Jasmine Hoover
Secretary to Senate**