

Senate Minutes

March 3, 2023
CE339 / MS Teams

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

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum and Land Acknowledgement

The 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, Danielle Boudreau, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Geoff Carre, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Ayse Ersoy, David Gerbasi, Michael Henick, Samantha Hodder, Jasmine Hoover, Patrick Howard, Himali Kadam, Mary Keating, Karen Kennedy, Janet Kuhnke, Carolin Kreber, Kimberley Lamarche, Doug Lionais, Jason Loxton, Gordon MacInnis, Richard MacKinnon, John MacMillan, John Nadeau, Mandy Nguyen, Felix Odartey-Wellington, Peter Oyedijo, Natalia Parsons, Rick Pierrynowski, Michelle Prendergast, Erin Robertson, Karen Rowe, Damanpreet Singh, Chloe Stewart, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Bilynda Whiting

Regrets:

Nofisat Banjo-Saibu, Philip Eappen, Jan Hancock, Catherine Jones, Harkanwal Kaur, Hannah Lewis, Marcia Ostashewski, Andy Parnaby, Samarjeet Singh, Jamie Tunnicliff, Tom Urbaniak, Terry MacDonald, John Mayich

2. Consent Agenda – n/a

3. Reports and Items for Information

3.1 President

President Dingwall began by thanking Senators for their kindness and the expressions of condolences on the passing of his spouse. He then provided updates on the following:

- The CBU Medical Campus planning continues and will have three distinct elements; the med school, a 10,000-person collaborative center and the health and wellness facility. He also announced that the pilot project to fund five seats for September of 2022 with the

Dalhousie School of Medicine will continue in 2023. Senators were invited to a special announcement concerning the med school on March 7th at 4:00 pm in the Yvonne Lavert Hospitality Suite.

- Renovations continue on existing residences to increase the number of beds available on campus and, once completed, will allow for an additional 220 beds in the campus residences. The existing meal plans are being reviewed, and the hope is to create additional options that will allow more flexibility for students. In addition, 40 beds on campus have been purchased from our colleagues at the Cape Breton language center in the McDonald residence.
- The Tartan Downs initiative is being supported by the Province of Nova Scotia but is being held up by the CMHC and the CBRM.
- Facilities Management is addressing items in the accessibility audit, and the Accessibility Advisory Committee is making progress on addressing some of the items as well.
- Currently, CBU provides approximately \$2.6 million in scholarships and bursaries. Through the capital campaign, CBU will focus on adding another \$10 million to increase scholarships and bursaries.
- Discussions and consultations continue with regard to the Center for Discovery and Innovation.
- The recommendation on a retirement policy from the Pre-Budget Report is being reviewed, and a committee has developed a draft policy. The policy will be brought to Senate at a later date.
- A committee is being formed to discuss a framework on sustainability for CBU.

J. Loxton thanked President Dingwall and his team for taking action on items concerning the environment, accessibility, and openness.

3.2 Vice President Academic and Provost

R. MacKinnon provided updates on the following:

- A celebration for those who have retired from CBU was held on January 24th.
- The Academic All-Canadian Breakfast was held on January 25th.
- Several Budget Advisory and Budget Committee meetings have been held as the budget process continues. The budget is slated to be presented to the Board of Governors during the March 10th meeting.
- The State of the Province was held in Sydney on January 27th.
- Several MPHEC Commission and QA meetings have been held.
- A memorial service for student Rajesh Gollapudi was held on Feb 8th.
- The Destination Cape Breton, which he is a member of, held a meeting Feb 22nd.
- The Forever CBU campaign was launched on February 23rd.
- Senators were asked to encourage students to complete the National Survey of Student Engagement survey, which remains open until March 23rd.

3.3 Unama'ki College

L. Sylvester provided updates on the following:

- During the days of Integrative Science and Two-Eyed Seeing at CBU, March would be referred to as Si'ko'ku's, which means maple sugar time.

- A tentative schedule has been developed for the second Bachelor of Science cohort to prepare students to enroll in the nursing program at CBU for 2025. Fourteen students have completed the CASper test and will register in the School of Nursing for September 2023.
- Unama'ki College is working with the African Nova Scotia on an open house on March 7th.
- Twenty-four students are officially enrolled in the In.Business program and are expected to graduate in June.
- Furnishings for the Maw'iom room have arrived and is being set up, and drums made by Elder Ernest Johnson were purchased with donated funds to Unama'ki College.
- A call will be put out to indigenous alums for those who may wish to be highlighted in a gala in May of 2024 as part of CBU's 50th anniversary.
- First Nation University conference will be held in March, and L. Sylvester will be attending, along with a student from CBU, as part of her work as a member of the National Indigenous University senior leadership association.

3.4 Students' Union

P. Oyedijo provided updates on the following:

- All centers have reorganized events on campus, and several have arranged numerous events to engage with the student body. They hope to have more fun events through the last stretch of the semester.
- Highlights of the CBUSU actions during the labour disruption were detailed.
- The CBUSU food bank continues to see increased usage. CBU Students' Union has received \$10,000 in funding from the Department of Community Service and \$500 from Nova Scotia Health Authority for the food bank.
- Feb 27th to March 3rd was the CBUSU's Healthy Living Week.
- The annual general election was held in February, and Shail Chata will be the 2023-24 SU President, and Gideon Othobio will be the Executive VP.
- The referendum for the CBU SU to become full-time permanent members of students in Nova Scotia passed.
- The CBUSU donated \$1 million to the Forever CBU Campaign.

In his conclusion, he noted that the Union has heard from many students concerned about the lost class time during the strike. **It was moved** by P. Oyedijo, seconded by F. Odarety-Wellington, that Senate support a commitment of academic units and instructors to remain flexible in making alternate arrangements this term. This can include rescheduling deadlines, flexibility in resubmitting work and adopting other required forms of leniency for students.

Motion carried.

It was moved by P. Oyedijo, seconded by L. Sylvester, that the final date to withdraw from a winter term course without academic penalty be extended from March 10th to March 24th.

It was noted that pushing the date forward compensates when there is an interruption, as CBU has had in both terms. It was also noted that the dates do not work for the nursing program.

Motion carried.

It was moved by P. Oyedijo, seconded by É. Thériault that fair financial compensation for the strike be distributed to students no later than March 15, 2023. After a discussion on Senate's jurisdiction with regards to setting a date for when payments can be made, it was agreed that this is not within Senate's purview, and **the motion was withdrawn.**

President Dingwall noted to the Student's Union members that the issue of MSI coverage for international students might not be as high a priority for some universities in the province and would welcome the opportunity to speak to the SU and their colleagues in an effort to renew talks on the issue.

3.5 Executive Committee

J. Hoover reported that the Executive Committee met on February 17th to set the agenda for this meeting. The Committee also discussed the length of the terms at CBU and make-up days. The report of the SEM Advisory Committee was also added as a regular report. The Committee also discussed the med school and is requesting regular updates on this matter, which was provided in President Dingwall's report. Mark Tanbal, CBU's Records Management Officer, will be working with Senate to mainstream Senate's records. Following the adjournment of the last meeting, Janet Kuhnke was elected as the replacement Senator on the Board of Governors.

3.6 Senate SEM Advisory Working Group

E. Robertson reported that after receiving a presentation on the SEM Plan during the December 16th Senate meeting, a motion was passed to receive the SEM Plan and that a working group be formed to operationalize aspects of the plan related to Senate's responsibilities. This group has been formed, and she and Bilynda Whiting were named co-chairs. The other members are; Mary Keating, Carolin Kreber, John MacMillan, Jason Loxton, Sahand Ashtab, Damanpreet Singh, Peter Oyedijo, Hannah Lewis, Rod Nicholls, John MacKinnon and Becky Chisholm. The group met and had a thorough discussion on their mandate and developed the following: the mandate is to identify, develop and strengthen synergies between relevant academic and operational units to make recommendations on how to implement the Academic Plan through a SEM lens. The group will review the 44 SEM actions to identify and prioritize those involving the Senate and will report, as noted earlier in the meeting, regularly to Senate. She also noted that typical working groups have a defined end date, but because SEM is a long-term plan, it may be decided to add this group as an additional committee of Senate.

4. Approval of the Minutes: January 13th & January 20th

It was moved by C. Arseneau, seconded by R. MacKinnon, the **approval of the minutes of January 13, 2023. Motion carried. Abstentions: 2**

It was moved by P. Oyedijo, seconded by C. Arseneau, the **approval of the minutes of January 20, 2023.** It was noted that the MEW position has not yet been finalized, and for clarification, the session held in Eskasoni was for the current Bachelor of Science cohort.
Motion carried. Abstentions: 1

5. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

6. Report of Other Committees of Senate:

i) Academic

C. Kreber referred to the report circulated with the meeting material and detailed the workings of the Committee since the last meeting of Senate.

Items for Information:

Course title and description changes:

1. GEOL 3101 Hydrogeology: Course title change to "Water Resources". Minor course description change (see appended documentation)
2. ENGI 2171 Thermo-fluid Engineering I: Pre-rec change and minor course description change (see appended documentation).
3. PSYC 3501 'Abnormal Psychology': Course title change to 'Psychopathology'. Minor course description change (see appended documentation).
4. PSYC 2503 'Foundations of Abnormal Psychology': Course title change to 'Foundations of Psychopathology'. Minor course description change (see appended documentation).

Pre-requisite changes:

5. ENGI 2111 'Modelling and Optimization for Engineers'. Pre-requisite change (see appended documentation)
6. ENGI 2101 'Engineering Economics. Pre-requisite change (see appended documentation)
7. ENGI 2169 'Engineering Strength of Materials'. Pre-requisite change (see appended documentation)
8. PSYC 3205 'Sensation and Perception'. Pre-requisite change (see appended documentation)
9. PSYC 3611 'The Psychology of Adolescence'. Pre-requisite change (see appended documentation)

Items for Approval:

1. New Course Proposal: MATH3XXX: Groups and Symmetry

It was moved by C. Kreber, seconded by R. Pierrynowski, to approve MATH3XXX Groups and Symmetry and that it replaces MATH 4103 Modern Algebra I, which will be retired. **Motion carried.**

2. New Course Proposal: MATH 4XXX: Rings, Fields and Modules

It was moved by C. Kreber, seconded by R. Pierrynowski, to approve MATH 4XXX: Rings, Fields and Modules and that it replaces MATH 4204 Modern Algebra II, which will be retired. **Motion carried.**

ii) Bylaws & Procedures

A. Ersoy noted that the committee will be meeting next week to continue the review of several departmental bylaws and will be following up on the report on Senate's structure.

iii) Planning & Review – No report.

iv) Quality Assurance

R. MacKinnon reported that the committee is preparing for the virtual MPHEC Quality Assurance Committee to take place April 25-28, 2023. The committee also continues with the QA reviews for the CTL, Cultural Resources, the Office of the Registrar and Admissions and BET. The BBA self-study will return to the QAC at the end of February for review after the suggested revisions and the search for external committee members has begun. The External Reports for the Student Affairs and Emergency Management QA Reviews are expected next week.

On the question of the external reviewers for the MPHEC review, R. MacKinnon responded that MPHEC selects the individuals and that they are very familiar with the Maritimes.

v) Research

É. Thériault reported that the Committee met and hopes to have updates on the Strategic Research Plan, the Commercialization of Intellectual Property policy, and the policy on Research Groups, Institutes and Centers for an upcoming meeting of Senate.

vi) Teaching, Learning & Evaluation

J. Loxton reported that the committee met and is making every effort to complete their mandated items before the end of the term. The committee has identified leads for the following items and suggested that if Senators require any further information to reach out to him: Audio Visual Support for Teaching and Students in Teaching Related Activities, affordability and informed consent, an off campus exam policy, and a potential policy that addresses minimizing harm or accountability for harassment threats or abuse from students to faculty members in teaching evaluations.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, **it was moved by** P. Oeydijo, seconded by C. Arseneau, to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 pm. **Motion carried.**

**Jasmine Hoover
Secretary to Senate**