Senate

Minutes

**September 15, 2023**

**CE339**

The Chair, C. Kreber, 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:**

Hamid Andishan, Catherine Arseneau, Sahand Ashtab, Tammy Bernasky, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Sean Campbell, Martin Chandler, Sahilpreet Singh Chatha, Paula Condon, Mary Beth Doucette, Phillip Eappen, Ayse Ersoy, Kylie Ewing, Harmanjot Singh Ghuman, Virginia Gunn, Jan Hancock, Michael Henick, Samantha Hodder, Carrie Karsgaard, Harkanwal Kaur, Karen Kennedy, Janet Kuhnke, Carolin Kreber, Kimberley Lamarche, Hannah Lewis, Tracy Lillington, Brandi Jean Lind, Doug Lionais, Ellyn Lyle, Jason Loxton, Stephanie McQuarrie, Richard MacKinnon, John Nadeau, Felix Odarety-Wellington, Folorunsho Oduloye, Gideon Otoibhi, Joe Parish, Rick Pierrynowski, Michelle Prendergast, Erin Robertson, Karen Rowe, Juveriya Samreen, Nancy Spina, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Jamie Tunnicliff, Viviana Paz Contreras Venegas, Bilynda Whiting, Terry MacDonald, John Mayich

**Regrets:**

Melissa Bishop, Danielle Boudreau, Colton Burke, David Dingwall, Gordon MacInnis, Andy Parnaby

After quorum was declared, C. Kreber welcomed all returning Senators and introduced the following new Senators: Sahilpreet Singh Chatha, Sean Campbell, Kylie Ewing, Tammy Bernasky, Harmanjot Singh Ghuman, Joe Parish, Virginia Gunn, Tracy Lillington, Paula Condon, Martin Chandler.

She then introduced the eight students nominated by the Student Union including Gideon Otoibhi, Colton Burke, Brandi Jean Lind, Juveriya Samreen, Hannah Lewis, Folorunsho Oduloye, Harmanjot Singh Ghuman, Viviana Paz Contreras Venegas and extended congratulations to Ellyn Lyle, the new Dean of the School of Education and Health, and Stephanie McQuarrie the new Dean of the School of Science and Technology.

C. Kreber invited Senators to arrive a half an hour early to the next Senate meeting and advised that an opportunity will be provided for Senators to meet at one o'clock for refreshments and an opportunity for getting to know each other.

C. Kreber provided the following two items for information:

* Senate decided to return to face to face meetings for Senate meetings unless there are exceptional circumstances; and
* Unless elections are being held, voting will take place via voice and all senators including those participating via Teams will be asked to indicate any abstentions by raising their hand.

**2. Consent Agenda – N/A**

**3. Matters to be Considered in Closed Session/Confidential Business**

**It was moved** by M. Henick, seconded by T. Brann-Barrett, to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting confidential business**.**

**A point of Order** was raised in regards to ex officio members and it was confirmed that ex officio members do vote.

**Motion carried.**

Following a closed session, **it was moved** by T. Brann-Barrett, seconded by J. Kuhnke, to move to Open Session. **Motion carried.**

**4. Reports and Items for Information**

**4a) President**

R. MacKinnon, on behalf of President Dingwall, provided the following:

* A thank you to all for taking part in the Grand Meeting on August 22, and for thoughtful suggestions for our renewed strategic plan. It is important to engage Senate, faculty, Deans and all those associated with our academic endeavours at CBU.
* He extended a special welcome to our new Deans, Dr. Ellen Lyle and Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie.
* Working collaboratively with addressing support for student housing. And CBU’s recent residence renovations have increased housing capacity on campus by 26 percent.
* Two other significant projects underway. One with the Government of Nova Scotia that should be announce by the end of the month. The other is Tartan Downs, which as recently as September 8, Mr. Dingwall met with the federal minister of housing to advocate for phase one of this $60 million project.
* We continue to work hard on our Strategic Enrolment Management Plan. We are hitting some bumps along the way but colleagues you need to know that I fully support this plan, and the bumps are not permanent.

**4b) Vice President Academic and Provost**

R. MacKinnon provided updates on the following:

* Destination CB Board meetings
* Naming Event – the Murdena Marshall Student Centre
* CBU Healthcare Awards June 20
* Board of Governors’ Meeting and Retreat in Baddeck - June 22/23
* Dr. Sarita Verma, the Dean of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine – June 26
* MPHEC Commission Meeting June 28
* Attended several Quality Assurance meetings
* CBU Executive Committee Retreat July 17
* Flag Raising event at City Hall to observe India’s 76th Independence Day August 15
* Nursing Pinning Ceremony was held on August 17
* An Advisory Board meeting was held at the Gaelic College in St Ann’s on Aug 18
* Attended the CBU Grand Meeting
* NS Council on Admission and Transfer
* Met with the students from Chem Com Committee
* Attended the CBU Bi-annual New Employee Orientation was held on August 30
* A CAUBO, Atlantic Roundtable was held September 6
* A Q & A was held with President Dingwall and John Bragg Fireside was held on September 13

**4c) Unama'ki College**

L. Sylvester provided updates on the following:

* 8 students who completed the Nursing Pathway are now on campus in the School of Nursing, 8 from the cohort will be ready for the program in May.
* The Second Cohort BSc Pathway to Nursing after reading week
* The Proposal of a new program as part of the nursing diversification budget through the province is called the old new Health Science Advantage Program and is for grades 9 to 12
* They are working with Eskasoni School Board to set up a “study space” in the building where students have classes (TEC Training Education Center)
* UC is holding comfort/sharing circles in the Mawio’mi Room
* The rebrand of the Mi’kmaw Resource Center - It will be renamed after Sister Dorothy Moore.
* Positions/New Hires
* Upcoming events - October is Mi’kmaw History Month
  + September 27- Every Child Matters/Orange Shirt Day for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
  + October 12- Sister Dorothy Moore L’nu Resource Center
  + October 24- Indigenizing the Academy
  + October 26- Mawio’mi (Gathering/Powwow)
  + November 13-15 - Two Eyed Seeing Conference- Etuaptumumk

**4d) Students' Union**

G. Otoibhi presented the Students’ Union Report which was included in the Senate Meeting Package, he highlighted the following:

* Since the reopening of the registration process, many students currently are on the wait list have successfully secured desire classes or schedule adjustments
* Success of the Week of Welcome
* The CBUSU Drive Home Program
* Academics: Course/Program Advising
* Government-Student Roundtable

Following the update, J. Loxton advised that his Department (MPG) has been dealing with concerns with registration issues and presumably waitlist as well. He advised that they try to monitor the kind of online discussions that students are having and from his position on teaching and learning there seems to be a lot of chatter about issues with last minute timetable adjustments extending even into the start of the semester, which is impacting the wellness of students in particular students who have families or students who have very strict wage schedules. He asked for comments and whether or not it is something that's been brought to the attention of the Students’ Union.

In response to the question, Gideon advised that he has received a lot of emails, SMS messages from concerned students regarding the waitlist issue, they've shared their concern that some plan these courses before registration, and courses were being removed without further notification to them. Gideon explained that he had reached out to the Director of the Post Baccalaureate Program about the issue. He noted that there is impressive progress so far for the waitlisted students and sees that there's an improvement.

S. Chatha also expressed concern that students’ classes are getting cancelled last minute when students had to travel quite a distance and he feels they deserve an apology.

Jason Loxton suggested that a representative on the SEM group could bring this to the next SEM board meeting for discussion.

It was clarified that the issues seemed to be at the Cineplex Office and it was advised that there would be a commitment that discussion would be had to resolve the issues.

**4e) Board of Governors**

J. Kuhnke advised that a report on behalf of the Board of Governors was sent and provided a brief update. She advised that a Retreat was held as mentioned by Dr. Richard MacKinnon for the Board of Governors in June where there was discussion on the academic information and plans for expansion of CBU.

**4f) Executive Committee**

É. Thériault provided an update and advised that the Executive Committee met and welcomed new members, discussed the structure and composition of the SEM Working Group, and the initiative on micro-credentials and how a special presentation to Senate would be beneficial. The Committee members presented updates from their committees and their mandates.

**It was moved** by É. Thériault, seconded by A. Ersoy, that Senate approve the Senate membership and the membership of the Senate Standing Committees.

**It was amended** that the spelling of Kimberley be corrected and Tammy Barrett be removed from the list as she is no longer serving on the Board of Governors. **Motion Carried.**

**4g) Senate SEM Advisory Working Group**

B. Whiting provided an update on the Senate SEM Advisory Working Group and advised that they met the end of August before classes started and that there were discussions regarding the advising review with the academic schools and 13 recommendations were identified in a report. They are going to be looking at next steps in their upcoming meetings. They also discussed the draft Terms of Reference for the Senate SEM Advisory Committee and where it sits within Senate. She noted that there will be ongoing discussion on next steps at the Senate meeting in October.

1. **Presentation – Update on CBU Microcredentials, A.J. Fraser- Senior Project Manager, Microcredentials**

A.J. Fraser, provided a presentation on Mircrocredentials that was included in the Senate meeting package and discussed the following:

* Project Background – Mircrocredentials Presidential Task Force
* Overview of Microcredentials at CBU
* Strategic Planning
* What value can Microcredentials provide to CBU
* Ongoing tasks/ project timeline
* What’s happening going forward

Following the presentation, Senators shared their views and questions on the role of Senate in regards to Microcredentials, and asked questions regarding who will teach the material and the credits for such courses.

**6. Approval of the Minutes**

**It was moved** by É. Thériault, seconded by G. Otoibhi, that Senate approve the minutes from the June 16th Senate meeting. **Motion Carried. 11 abstentions.**

**7. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A**

**8. Report from Senate Committees**

**a) Planning and Review**

K. Rowe advised that the Committee only met once over the summer and are in the process of gathering information to help them prepare their pre-budget recommendations. She explained that faculty should have received a survey to complete and submit to any one of the committee members. Their focus will be meeting with other groups around the university for any concerns and input.

1. **Teaching, Learning and Evaluation**

J. Loxton advised that the Committee has not met yet in the new academic year but the two main things that the Committee are going to try to deal with over the next couple of months is a continuation of last year, specifically a revision of the outdated Policy on student employees as well as, clarification of AI and a policy governing off campus examinations which is currently not included within our examination policy. He noted that any members who would like to be involved can reach out to him.

**c) Academic**

Joe Parish advised that the Academic Committee met twice over the summer and the Academic Performance Report from the Registrar was discussed and adjustments to the policies regarding students at risk of low performance were made. He noted that there will be a report brought to Senate later in the year. Three forms were also discussed, two of which he brought before Senate with recommendation for approval. He added that discussions continue on the external Academic Agreement Policy and Student Performance Policy.

**It was moved** by J. Parish, seconded by L. Sylvester, that Senate approve both the new Course Change form and the new Minor Change to Program form. **Motion Carried.**

**d) By-Laws and Procedures**

A. Ersoy advised that the Shannon School of Business (SSOB) has gone through the restructuring of their departments due to an increased number of classes, students and programs. There are now four departments in SSOB and each of these departments are currently working on their new bylaws. Once approved by the Committee, the Bylaws will be brought to Senate for approval.

She advised that the Committee has revised and approved the School of Nursing Bylaws and are recommended them for approval by Senate.

**It was moved** by A. Ersoy, seconded by F. Odarety-Wellington, that Senate approve the School of Nursing Bylaws which are outlined in the Senate Meeting Package. **Motion Carried.**

**e) Quality Assurance**

S. Ashtab provided an update on behalf of the Quality Assurance Committee and highlighted the following:

* MPHEC external reviewers provided a report with recommendations on the assessment of their process and procedures. They are working on the policy of CBU’s Framework and once the Report is finalized, it will be shared with Senators for information purposes.
* an external reviews report response was received on the BBA QA from the that align with our recommendations and how we see as improving our programs. Currently waiting for VP academics response before any actions in terms of implementation, including adding indigenous scores to our QA program.
* There are some additions of courses and accreditation of some of the measures that are in the business school, the academic programs that they have.

**f) Research**

J. Hancock advised that the Research Committee met for the first time this academic year to finalize the revisions to the Commercialization of Intellectual Property Policy at CBU. That process is ongoing in consultation with stakeholders and is anticipated that the Committee will bring that revised policy to the Senate, either at the October or November meeting.

The Research Assistance Committee has completed the process of revising the Research Innovation Scholarship and Exploration Grant Policy, it's the recommendation of the Research Committee that Senate approve the adoption of the revisions to the Rise Policy as listed in the Meeting package.

**It was moved** by J. Hancock, seconded by S. Chatha, that Senate adopt the Rise Policy. **Motion Carried.**

Questions were raised in regards to whether or not criteria was included in the Policy that acknowledges the difference in availability of time for research between NSGEU members and CBUFA members and if the 16 month timeframe was appropriate. It was suggested that the Research Committee include a section on the application form, inviting the applicant to make a case for their specific application, given their position and/or other modifications be made to the Policy prior to the applications deadlines in the spring.

J. Hancock finished off by making a point of note as a matter of information that last year, the Senate amended the awards application process to allow for librarians to be nominated for awards however the wording in the criteria for nominating anyone to receive those awards basically precluded librarians to be nominated because it requires a letter of nomination from a chair which doesn't apply in the case of librarians. So, he suggested a minor amendment to the wording of those awards in future to allow, in the case of a librarian being nominated, the option of sending letters of nomination from the dean and from a fellow librarian rather than from the Chair.

Prior to adjournment, C Kreber requested that all faculty members remain to hold an election of a Senate member to the Board of Governors and that following the election, a Senate orientation will be held.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, **it was moved by** T. Brann-Barrett, seconded by A. Ersoy, to adjourn the meeting at 3:29 pm. **Motion carried.**

**Eric**

**Secretary to Senate**