Senate

Minutes

**November 24, 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, Tammy Bernasky, Melissa Bishop, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Colton Burke, Martin Chandler, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Ayse Ersoy, Kylie Ewing, Harmanjot Singh Ghuman, Virginia Gunn, Jan Hancock, Samantha Hodder, Carrie Karsgaard, Karen Kennedy, Carolin Kreber, Janet Kuhnke, Brandi Jean Lind, Doug Lionais, Ellyn Lyle, Jason Loxton, Stephanie McQuarrie, Gordon MacInnis, John Nadeau, Rod Nicholls, Felix Odartey-Wellington, Gideon Otoibhi, Folorunsho Oduloye, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Michelle Prendergast, Erin Robertson, Karen Rowe, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Viviana Paz Contreras Venegas, Bilynda Whiting

**Regrets:**

Sahand Ashtab, Danielle Boudreau, Sean Campbell, Sahilpreet Singh Chatha, Paula Condon, Phillip Eappen, Michael Henick, Harkanwal Kaur, Kimberley Lamarche, Hannah Lewis, Tracy Lillington, Juveriya Samreen, Nancy Spina, Jamie Tunnicliff, Terry MacDonald, John Mayich

C. Kreber welcomed Dr. Rod Nicholls to Senate in his new role as Interim Vice-President Academic (Provost).

C. Kreber announced two items for information:

* Senate Executive was asked to nominate a Senator to sit on the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Accessibility and Decolonization Government Task Force. Tammy Bernasky was nominated and agreed to sit on the Task Force.
* Changes to 2022/23 the Fall Graduation list were forwarded to Senators by the Registrar for information.

**2. Consent Agenda – N/A**

**3. Items to be Considered in Closed Session – N/A**

 **3.1 Approval of the confidential minutes from October 20, 2023**

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

Following the closed session, **it was moved** by C. Arseneau, seconded by K. Lamarche, to move to open Session. **Motion carried.**

**4. Reports and Items for Information**

**4.1 President**

President Dingwall, provided the following updates:

* He shared a special thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the CBU Fall Open House on October 28. He advised that 137 attended and the Admissions Hub had 40 on-site registrations during the event.
* He congratulated the Fall 2023 Graduating Class and advised that on November 1, 2023, 314 new members were welcomed into the CBU Alumni family in a ceremony at Centre 200. He sent a special thank you to all who made the event a great success. He added that during the convocation, Associate Chief Justice Lawrence O’Neil was honoured with a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, in recognition of his commitment to serving his community and his commitment to judicial outreach.
* A special convocation took place on Saturday, November 4, 2023, in Petit de Gras to honor, the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc, both who share strong connections with the Acadian community, making it a fitting choice to celebrate their achievements in this particular region of the province.
* He extended warm congratulations to the CBU Capers on taking home the Gold at the 2023 USPORTS Men’s Soccer Championship who faced off against the best university teams in Canada. He also recognized Head Coach, Deano Morley and Athletics Director, John Ryan and their respective teams for providing CBU’s student-athletes with the support, guidance and edge to accomplish this triumphant milestone.
* Premier Tim Houston and Minister Brian Comer attended CBU on Friday, November 17. Their visit centered around healthcare and while here they engaged with nursing and social work students to gain insights into their program experience and discuss ways in which the Province could provide support during and after their program completion. The visit also included a meet and greet with members of the Cape Breton Blizzards, and tour of the renovations to the Canada Games Complex.
* Over the next few weeks, he will hold strategic consultations with each school to discuss the ongoing capital improvements, the strategic enrolment plan and to hear directly from faculty and staff. He will also consult with the Library.
* He congratulated Dr. Adango Miadonye, on being selected as a finalist for the Professional of Distinction in the 2023 Discovery Awards.

**4.2 Vice President Academic and Provost**

R. Nicholls provided updates on the following:

* He attended a Provost Summit in Montreal where the main theme was in regards to the role of Senate. He suggested that over the next few years work be done to increase enthusiasm and incentive in participating on Senate.
* The Provost Group on academic and SEM planning have been discussing the issue of student advising.
* The Budget process is underway with SEM planning helping shape the process.
* Registration is aligned with enrolment targets. The forecast for January registration is 7800 students which includes 600 new students.
* An update on the process for program development will be provided in December.
* The Quality Assurance Monitoring Action Plan was submitted to MPHEC for review on November 1st in response to a QAM External Review Report.

In response to a question regarding updates on the medical school, R. Nicholls advised that Associate Vice President Tanya Brann-Barrett would be bringing forward an update to Senate in the near future.

**4.3 Unama'ki College**

L. Sylvester provided updates on the following:

* **Counselling Therapist** Chris Bourque was hired through a collaborative effort by the Nancy Dingwall Counselling and Wellness and Unama’ki College. An office space will be available next week so that Chris can carry out appointments that have already been made with students.
* **Mental Health First Aid**- Eight team members at UC are now certified as Mental Health First Aiders.
* **In-Business Opening Conference -** This was held this week. Students in Grades 10-12 are from all over Mi’kma’ki (NL, NS, NB, PEI, and Quebec). The program will continue throughout the school year with the support of the coordinator Andrea Curley, peer mentors, and mentors.
* **Two Eyed Seeing Conference** - Shout out to CBU faculty who shared experiences during a panel discussion during the conference. All shared leading practices in Indigenization and Decolonization. She spoke with some faculty with ideas of how to continue this conversation and the sharing of leading practices here at CBU.
* **Funds designated for Knowledge Keepers and Elders** to support Indigenization and Decolonization throughout programs in the individual schools. This was approved last year during a senate meeting and each school was allotted funds for these activities.
* **Career Fair-** Two team members from UC are participating in a Career Fair in Gesgapegiaq. They will also connect with Listuguj while in the area.
* **Artist in Residence**- -Joined a Meet and Greet at the Center for Sound Communities to meet Mi’kmaw Artist Meagan Musseau. Unama’ki College is looking forward to collaborating with Meagan during her residency.
* **NS Health Authority (Eastern Zone)-** Unama’ki College provided a meeting space for NSHA and Indigenous Health Directors in early November. The group was interested in leading practices at CBU as it relates to Indigenous Initiatives, hiring, recruitment, retainment etc.

In response to a question on how to apply for money to support inviting knowledge keepers into the classroom, it was mentioned that each school has an honorarium for knowledge keepers and that faculty members or Chairs can make application to the Dean. L. Sylvester highlighted the importance of taking advantage of this because if the money is not used it may be seen as not required and therefore not be available in the future.

**4.4 Students' Union**

G. Otoibhi presented the Students’ Union Report, he highlighted the following:

* **Center Updates -** The centers at the Students' Union have been quite active lately, coming up with many events and creative ideas to involve the student body. Starting this week, all centers have weekly schedules to be present at the Cineplex location.
* **Administrative Update -** The executive team has recently brought on full-time administrative staff to assist the director of finance and operations. Additionally, the Union has expanded its student administrative team at Cineplex, now operating from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day.
* **The CBUSU Drive Home Program (DHP) -** The program has been operating smoothly since October 3rd, running six nights a week from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. They hired three drivers, and students are actively using the service. Last month alone, there was 4,432 passengers, and during the two-day transit strike, over 70 students were shuttled per day from downtown to CBU. Starting in January, they will also be introducing Sunday grocery runs for residents. Additionally, we're exploring collaboration with Unama’ki to provide assistance for students in Membertou.
* **SNS Advocacy Week -** This week, they engaged in advocacy for crucial issues affecting students both on campus and across the province. They had the opportunity to meet with several MLAs, stakeholders, and policymakers in the post-secondary sector. Some of the notable individuals include:
* NDP Caucus Leader Claudia Chender and MLA Lisa Lachance
* Liberal Critic for Advanced Education (Lorelei Nicoll)
* Members and the Caucus Chair of the Progressive Conservatives (PC's) MLA Dave Ritcey
* MLA Sheehy-Richard, MLA Barkhouse, and MLA Larry Harrison
* Department of Service Nova Scotia. Minister Colton LeBlanc,

The student's priorities, as discussed in our meetings, include investing in student financial assistance, ensuring equitable healthcare access for international students, collaborating on student housing projects, leading in online learning initiatives, and supporting graduate research.

**CBUSU Academic Integrity Week**

The Students' Union Academic Integrity Week is set to happen before the exam period begins. They have a range of events planned to assist students in preparing for their exams and promoting academic success. In terms of advocacy, they have several meetings lined up in the coming weeks. This includes a meeting with Minister Brain Comer and other key stakeholders in the post-secondary sector.

**Events - Cultural Fest**

A committee has been established to plan and organize the cultural festival, aiming to create a memorable and enriching experience for all participants. This is in preparation for the CBU 50th-anniversary celebrations. Additionally, the Students' Union is gearing up to host its annual Dean’s list banquet next week, along with a town hall to actively engage with the student body.

President Dingwall shared his support and appreciation to the Students’ Union for their representation as it relates to MSI and encouraged them to continue to pursue and underline the significant health risks that could potentially affect all students and the community.

G. Otoibhi in response to questions advised that the Students’ Union is still waiting to hear whether the number of hours international students can work during the academic term can be extended and that they are also looking into transportation into Membertou and Eskasoni.

**4.5 Board of Governors N/A**

**4.6 Executive Committee**

É. Thériault provided an update from the Executive Committee. He advised that they met November 10 to set the agenda for the meeting, they also finalized the mandate for the several Senate Committees, and Chairs provided updates from their respective Committees. It was advised that the Executive received the parliamentarian’s opinion on what oversight Senate would have on microcredentials and that it will be brought to the December meeting of Senate.

Éric explained that the composition of the ad-hoc Attendance Committee is almost complete with only the Lab instructor position to be filled. He recommended that Senate approve the Committee composition as is and then approve the last position when filled.

**It was moved** by É. Thériault, seconded by J. Hancock, to move the ad-hoc Attendance Committee as presented. **Motion Carried**.

The Executive Committee also discussed the SEM sub-committee which provides guidance on which Senate actions to prioritize this year. The new Senate subcommittee held its first meeting as a subcommittee where Bilynda whiting and Erin Robertson were elected as co-chairs and Mary Keating was elected the secretary. The Executive also discussed and set a date of December 8 for the Special Senate meeting on the budget recommendations.

**5. Approval of the non-confidential minutes from October 20, 2023**

**It was moved** by C. Arseneau, seconded by D. Lionais, that Senate approve the minutes from the October 20th Senate meeting. **Motion Carried. 2 abstentions**

**6. Business Arising from Minutes – N/A**

**7. Report from Senate Committees**

**7.1 Academic Committee**

J. Parish provided updates from the Academic Committee and advised that the committee has met twice since the last meeting of Senate. At the November 3rd meeting, Dean Kimberly Lamarche of the School of Nursing joined and a discussion was had regarding the organisational needs of the new School of Nursing with regard to policies and “important dates” that need to be adapted from the old School of Professional Studies. The issues are many and ongoing and they will be incrementally updating Senate as new policies are developed to better serve the SON.

J. Parish introduced the following for Information:

**PHIL3116B: Symbolic Logic -** The Academic Committee of Senate discussed the pre-requisite change and presents it to Senate as information.

**It was moved** by J. Parish to approve the New Course Proposal for MUSI2XXX: Community Music. **Motion Carried.**

C. Kreber advised that Proposal to Modify Program Bachelor of Education will be held in closed session.

**It was moved** by L. Sylvester by C. Arseneau, to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting confidential business**. Motion carried.**

Following a closed session, **it was moved** by C. Arseneau, seconded by E. Lyle, to move to open Session. **Motion carried.**

**7.2** **Research**

J. Hancock provided an update from the Research Committee and highlighted the following:

* The Research Committee met three times since the last Senate meeting. The main agenda items were the nominations to the Margaret Dechman award, Rising Researcher and Research in Excellence awards. This year, the Committee is also tasked with recommending the recipients for the 50th Anniversary Scholars Award. They met on 22nd of November to review nominations.
* The Committee is finalizing revisions to update the Commercialization of Intellectual Property (CIP) Policy.
* Revisions to the CIP policy are ongoing in light of consultations with stakeholders. The current expectation is that an updated policy will be submitted for the consideration of Senate at the December 2023 meeting.
* A sub committee was established on planning to review to review the CBU strategic research plan. The current Research Plan expires in 2025.
* A 2nd sub committee was established to review and update the CBU policy on Centres and Institutes. This sub committee has been engaged in an outreach process to Deans and directors of Centres and Institutes to obtain feedback on how to improve the current policy. The subcommittee held an information gathering meeting via Teams with Marcia Ostashewski (director CSC).
* Currently working to repopulate the Research Assistance Committee to its full contingent of 12 members.

J. Hancock advised that the Research Committee received six outstanding nominees this year for the Rising Researcher award and it was suggested and endorsed by all members that the high caliber 5 runner-up nominees receive a letter of congratulations with honorable mention from the President marking their research achievements in being nominated for the award.

**7.3 Planning and Review**

K. Rowe provided an update from the Planning and Review Committee and advised that they have met twice since the last meeting and are just putting the finishing touches on pre-budget recommendations. They are also looking at their mandate for this year and policies that will be up for review.

**7.4** **Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation**

J. Loxton provided an update on the Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation Committee and advised that the Committee has had discussions on items for their mandate. He advised that the Committee will be sending out a request for nominations for the Instructional Leadership Award and encouraged Senators to send in their nominations. He also noted that the Committee will be sending out a survey that will be directed to Deans to share with their Chairs regarding revisions to the policy governing student employees and teaching. He explained that the current policy is very outdated and they are trying try revise it to reflect current practice.

* 1. **By-Laws and Procedures**

A. Ersoy provided an update from the By-Laws and Procedures Committee and advised that they met only once since the last meeting. They received their mandate letters and are working on the four major items as follows:

* New bylaws from SON and SSOB
* Calendar for all departments
* Following up with EDID and Senate composition
* Aiming work with Catherine, updating policy documents repository for the university easy access.

**7.6 Quality Assurance**

C. Kreber advised that Sahand Ashtab sent his regrets for the meeting but advised that the Quality Assurance Committee is considering the BSC Program Quality Assurance Self Study Report.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

**Éric Thériault**

**Secretary to Senate**