Senate

Minutes

**December 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, Melissa Bishop, Danielle Boudreau, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Martin Chandler, Paula Condon, David Dingwall, Mary Beth Doucette, Kylie Ewing, Virginia Gunn, Michael Henick, Samantha Hodder, Carrie Karsgaard, Harkanwal Kaur, Karen Kennedy, Carolin Kreber, Janet Kuhnke, Kimberley Lamarche, Tracy Lillington, Brandi Jean Lind, Doug Lionais, Jason Loxton, Gordon MacInnis Stephanie McQuarrie, John Nadeau, Rod Nicholls, Felix Odartey-Wellington, Gideon Otoibhi, Folorunsho Oduloye, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Michelle Prendergast, Karen Rowe, Juveriya Samreen, Nancy Spina, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Jamie Tunnicliff, Viviana Paz Contreras Venegas, Bilynda Whiting, Terry MacDonald

**Regrets:**

Colton Burke, Sean Campbell, Sahilpreet Singh Chatha, Phillip Eappen, Ayse Ersoy, Harmanjot Singh Ghuman, Jan Hancock, Hannah Lewis, Ellyn Lyle, Erin Robertson, John Mayich

Item for information

C. Kreber advised that Mohamad Musa and Michelle Prendergast have accepted the position of co-chairs of the Ad hoc Committee on attendance.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**It was moved** by J. Parish, seconded by D. Lionais, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following:

a. New course proposal for MGMT3602: Contemporary Issues in Human Resource Management

b. New course proposal for ENGL26XX: Reading Sex & Gender: Pre-1800

c. New course proposal for ENGL26XX: Reading Sex & Gender: Post1800

d. New course proposal for FOLK2XXX: Children’s Folklore

e. Minor programme changes to MEd SCI programme

f. Minor programme changes to MEd TECH programme

**Motion Carried.**

**3. Reports and Items for Information**

**3.1 President**

President Dingwall provided the following updates:

* In consideration of the time of year and to allow for more time to prepare, the strategic consultations with the schools and other departments have been postponed until the New Year.
* He advised that Denise Allen will replace Robert Sampson as the chair on the Board of Governors.
* He thanked all Senators for their time and effort in the pre-budget report and associated recommendations. He noted that many recommendations have merit, specifically, on daycare, and incorporating additional daycare space into the Marconi renovation, and options downtown.
* He wished all Senators and their loved ones a very happy holiday and reminded everyone about the holiday party on Tuesday, December 19 in the Pit and Great Hall. He also noted that the family party is on Sunday, December 17. He also noted that there will be two President Designated Holidays on December 22 and January 2 to give all CBU employees more time to spend with loved ones.

**3.2 Vice President Academic and Provost**

R. Nicholls provided updates on the following:

* B.Ed modification has been examined by MPHEC
* SEM Provost Group has almost completed the package of recommendations regarding faculty positions and work has been done on proposals to enhance support for students.
* Presidents Creative Campus Initiative
* Replacement of the furniture in classrooms CC 262 and 263
* CTL revamped Moodle instructional videos
* Project Manager cybersecurity microcredential course completed.

Following the Report, the importance of and impacts made by investing in effective learning spaces was noted.

**3.3 Unama'ki College**

L. Sylvester provided updates on the following:

* **Counselling Therapist** Chris Bourque from the NDHW center has been spending time connecting with students during events at Unama’ki College. He also started setting up appointment with students.
* **Bus run**- The team at UC is looking at ways to accommodate students’ schedules in the new year. The Eskasoni/Membertou bus does one run in the morning and one at the end of the day. There are students that require transportation accommodations in the new year in order to be successful in their programs.
* **Communication/Branding Specialist -** Working on a contract with Anchored Recruiting to help fill this position that has posed some challenges to fill.

Community Engagement Lead - Ann Denny will be fully retired at the end of this month. We are planning a retirement celebration for January at the Membertou office as requested by Ann so that people see the office space there.

* **Office Space -** Recently renovated office space in the language lab to accommodate the Starr Paul, Tuma Young, and Annie Battiste so they available to students on campus.
* **Strategic Plan (UC)-** UC team continues to work on Strategic Plan and are working on a report to communicate what has been done to date. We have been updating the Elders’ protocols to share on campus. Within this document, an Elder/Knowledge Keeper database will be shared and managed by Tara Johnson (L’nu Resource Center).

Unama’ki College has been very busy this semester with many supports requested. November was very busy with academic supports and student support circles. The last class bash was well attended.

**3.4 Students' Union**

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

* **PAST/ ONGOING EVENTS/ PROJECTS**

Since the previous senate meeting, the CBUSU team has been tirelessly working on behalf of CBU students.

* **Center Updates**

Almost every center at the Students' Union has hosted events in the past month.

* **CBUSU Academic Integrity Week**

The Students' Union, under the guidance of Bilynda Whiting, organized an on-campus academic event. The purpose was to provide exam tips and promote ethical behaviour, particularly considering the influx of new students who may not be familiar with the academic environment at CBU.

* **Honors Banquet**

On the 24th of November, the Students' Union successfully hosted its annual banquet. Over 200 students celebrated their achievements with certificates and pins. He expressed his gratitude once again to the registrar's office, the Alumni, and Development for their support.

* **Advocacy**

Sahil and Gideon attended a student government roundtable with fellow student leaders from across the province since the last senate meeting. During this roundtable, we had the chance to highlight key issues and successes on our campus, advocating for them in the Q&A session with Minister Brian Wong and Deputy Minister Ryan Grant. They are pleased to report that their request for funding for Atlantic OERs was well received.

**UPCOMING EVENTS / PROJECTS**

* **CBUSU Town Hall**

 Townhall was held this week to engage with the student body, it was good to hear from fellow students sharing their concerns and successes during their academic journey at CBU. SU intends to host another town hall this coming January to actively engage with our fellow students.

* **Events**

Brandi Jean and the Promotions team have collaborated closely with the university to organize orientation events for the winter intake of students. Numerous exciting events are in the pipeline for our students.

* **Internal Policy Revision**

Currently in the process of revising certain internal policies within the Union. These revisions are crucial to ensuring a seamless general election and a smooth transition.

The Chair thanked G. Otoibhi and his team for their work on the student experience.

**3.5 Board of Governors**

Janet Kuhnke provided the following update on behalf of the Board of Governors’:

* The Cape Breton University Board of Governors met once since the last Senate meeting.
* Gordon MacInnis gave his usual treasurer's report in addition to an update on major project funding.
* President Dingwall updated the Board on his successes and future goals.
* Student Union updated the board on their successes throughout the current term. Student Union addressed the board regarding the expediency of academic appeals.
* New Board of Governors members were introduced to the board with a brief orientation to CBU board governance.
* A lunch was held to thank Robert Sampson. Robert will be leaving the Board and stepping down as chair after 9 years of dedicated service to CBU. Former Vice Chair Denise Allen serves as the next Chair of the Cape Breton University Board of Governors.

**3.6 Executive Committee**

É. Thériault provided an update from the Executive Committee. He advised that the Senate Executive met on December 1st to set the agenda for today’s Senate Meeting. He noted that the Committee voted on the members of the Senate-SEM Committee as follows:

Carolin Kreber
Jason Loxton
Sahand Ashtab
Geoff Carre
Caleb Gibbons
Erin Robertson
Mary Keating
Martin Chandler
Bilynda Whiting
John MacKinnon
Becky Chisholm
Sahilpreet Singh Chatha
Gideon Otoibhi
Hannah Lewis

He advised that Erin Robertson and Bilynda Whiting were elected co-chairs and Mary Keating was elected as secretary and continued with the following updates:

* The executive received an update on the Advising sub-committee of the Senate-SEM Committee and was informed of consultations being done.
* A list of recommendations is being prepared, and stakeholders (including the Senate, and Schools) will be consulted.
* A Senate-SEM 1st year Experience committee is being explored.
* The Executive received the report from the University Parliamentarian, and after a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to hold a take-note debate on the matter.
* The development of a Senate ad hoc committee on EDID was discussed.
* The Executive received a submission for a special presentation on the Regional Campus (Cape Breton) of Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine. It was agreed that this would be welcomed and that it would take place during today’s meeting.
* Senate executive will meet next on January 5th, 2024.
1. **Special Presentation: CBU Medical Campus**

Dr. Tanya Brann-Barrett and Dr. Kevin Orrell provided an overview and update on the CBU Medical Campus that was outlined in the presentation included in the Senate Meeting Package. They highlighted the following:

* In January of 2023, the Premier of Nova Scotia announced the establishment of the Cape Breton Medical Campus - a regional campus of Dalhousie University.
* A Cape Breton Medical Campus means we are delivering Dalhousie’s curriculum on the Cape Breton Medical Campus, and we will be accredited in association with Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine. ​​The intention is to be a stand-alone medical school by 2035.
* The medical campus will host its own student affairs and will have its own and potentially different governance and reporting structure​ than the rest of CBU.
* The mandate is to educate medical students who wish to become family medicine physicians with a particular focus on rural family practice.
* The first cohort of 30 students will start in August, 2025.

Intentions and Objectives

* + Increase the number of family physicians in rural Nova Scotia
	+ Train physicians to provide culturally-safe care & meet regional needs
	+ Increase inter-professional education
	+ Promote collaborative care models
	+ Improve health outcomes through research

Rural Focus

* + Undergraduate and postgraduate medical training in a rural setting can increase the likelihood of a physician practicing in a rural area.
	+ All students will come from rural communities across Nova Scotia and we will also have the opportunity to recruit family physicians from rural communities to help deliver the curriculum.
	+ In the first year of medical education, there is a rural week and all of our 30 students will spend that time in rural communities.
	+ The third year of medical education students complete a clerkship that will be done in rural communities.
	+ All students will sign a return of service with the Province of Nova Scotia where they commit to practicing rural family medicine in a rural community for at least five years in Nova Scotia.

Benefits

* + ​​An opportunity for local students to train at or near home.
	+ Physicians want to come to communities where there are medical campuses or medical schools.
	+ Medical students tend to practice where they have learned.
	+ Through research there is the opportunity to deal with and address issues of importance to rural populations when it comes to health.

Medical School Curriculum

* + The first two years of the four-year Medical school curriculum in the undergraduate years can broadly be divided into the med one and med two years with learnings taking place on campus at CBU.
	+ The medical school students learn in a block system.
	+ Lectures delivered to and from all 3 campuses (DMNS, DMNB, and, eventually, CBMC)​
	+ Small group tutorials ​​
	+ Clinical skills, simulation lab, and interprofessional learning ​​
	+ Clinical Exposure with practicing physician each week ​​
	+ Research in Medicine (RIM)​
	+ Competency-based curriculum
	+ The second half of their training are the clinical years and this takes place in year three and four.
	+ Clinical years
	+ Year 3: Core (required) clinical rotations
	+ Year 4: Elective clinical rotations (combination of electives and selectives)

CBMC Implementation Team

The composition and work of the Steering Committee, Working Group, CBU Planning Team, and the CBU leadership group were discussed, and it was noted that there is also integration with every faculty of medicine committee at Dalhousie.

Integration with Faculty of Medicine Committees

In June of this year, a notification was submitted of the new campus to the Committee of Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools. The notification has been acknowledged and there are no additional steps needed to be taken at this time

* CBU is involved in the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine Accreditation in 2025. Every 10 years Canadian medical school go through the accreditation process and as our campus will open in 2025 we are sitting on the steering committee and accreditation working group.

Infrastructure

* March 2023 the Premier announced $58.9 million 49 million of which will be used to build the medical school. Construction will begin first of the year. We will also have space needs within the Cape Breton Regional Hospital.
* A 10,000-person collaborative care clinic will be located in what is currently the NSCC Marconi campus.

Engagement

* The campus is a provincial project located at Cape Breton University that will be integrated across rural Nova Scotia and it will engage physicians from across Nova Scotia.

Admissions

* Started work in the spring of 2023 to develop with our colleagues at Dalhousie the Cape Breton Medical Campus Admissions Pathway. The pathway and terms of reference for the CBMC sub-committee were presented to the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine General Admissions Council on October 30th and was approved. It was then presented it to the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine Faculty Council. It will also be presented to the Dalhousie Learning & Teaching Committee of Senate in January 2024.
* In the position to begin to put out the call to populate the subcommittee and start the onboarding training that will be required.

Research

* CBU through the Centre of Excellence for Healthy Aging is involved in a nation-wide clinical trial research initiative entitled, the Accelerated Clinical Trial Consortium. Currently most clinical trials take place in large urban centres. This means often people living in rural and remotes regions do not have opportunities to participate in studies that can lead to improving their health and the health of others in their communities. This initiative aims to change this by building the capacity in regions outside urban centres to be sites for clinical trial research. ​
* Three broad areas of focus population health, clinical trial Research, and Health System Services.

After the presentation, the following items were discussed:

* It was confirmed that the first cohort will be in 2025 and the building will be ready.
* Reporting structure and governance.
* Capacity for training exists across the province.
* To make the program happen efficiently, CBU had to align with a medical school. In doing so we can start in 2025 whereas starting a stand-alone would take eight or more years. We will have real collaboration and education taking place in rural communities sooner. The goal is to be a stand-alone medical campus by 2035.
* Infrastructure and accommodations.
* Foreign credentials.
* In regards to Indigenous communities it was explained that case studies will be introduced that will make the students aware of the special, very specific things that exist from community to community.
* Specific education space requirements in the accreditation document
* Questions can be emailed to cbmc@cbu.ca
* For more information you can sign up for the monthly CBMC newsletter.
* If faculty want to be involved they reach out to Tanya or Kevin. Members of the planning team are more than happy to come to the school and meet with faculty or students.

**5. Items to be Considered in Closed Session**

 **5.1 Approval of the confidential minutes from November 24, 2023**

**It was moved** by J. Parish, seconded by C. Arseneau, to move into Closed Session to conduct confidential business**. Motion Carried.**

Following the closed session, **it was moved** by J. Hancock, seconded by B. Whiting, to move to open Session. **Motion carried.**

1. **Take-note debate on Micro-credentials (in response to the University Parliamentarian’s memorandum shared on December 8)**

C. Kreber provided background information on the issue and advised that following a recent presentation by A.J. Fraser on Microcredentials to Senate, questions were raised by Senators regarding Microcredentials and whether Senate should have some involvement in the evaluation or approval process.

C. Kreber advised that upon receiving a response from the University Parliamentarian regarding his opinion on Senate's oversight and its scope regarding Microcredentials, the Senate Executive made the decision to present his opinion, which had been included in the Senate meeting materials, to Senators for a Take Note Debate.

She advised that the Take Note Debate would be limited to a maximum time of 30 minutes, and provided the following questions for guidance and consideration:

1. Do Senators agree with the Parliamentarian’s opinion that Microcredentials fall within Senate’s jurisdiction?
2. Should Senate take an oversight role?
3. What form of oversight role would be best?

J. Loxton suggested that the 2nd point above not be considered based on the fact that if Senate does have an- oversight role they would have an obligation to exercise it. He recommended that items 1 and 3 be discussed in sequential order.

In response to a question on Senate Executives' thoughts on the issue, the Chair, C. Kreber advised that not all members of the Executive held the same position but most shared their opinions on what oversight authority could look like.

C. Arseneau noted that a quick response is required when looking at industry for the community. She shared her hope that Senate would move in a way that provides a standardized system of rigor or quality but also allows the decision-making flexibility to be responsive to communities. She expressed the importance of being able to strike the right balance between having the right people in place with the skill sets to be responsive to the programmatic delivery and being able to address the regularly changing requirements of the clients.

R. Nicholls referred to the two Ontario models that were included in the Parliamentarian's report, and agreed that they could work at CBU. The models were prompted by requests from the university Senates for increased clarity regarding continuing education procedures. They also requested a proposal review of the quality assurance policy concerning continuing education. In each school the Provost has the authority and oversight over all continuing education offerings subject to the recommendations of the relevant unit. In these instances, the Provost brought the results of the review to Senate which provided them with the clarity and quality assurances they needed. He suggested that the MEAC Committee could be transformed in various ways and could do the review which could focus on exactly what Senate wanted to do - transparency and definitional clarity regarding non-degree offerings.

R. Nicholls also noted that microcredential learners are not admitted to CBU and in an operational sense they are not CBU students. He added that microcredentials do not appear on the Academic Calendar which contains all courses under the purview of Senate, nor the timetable. They are not subject to academic regulation. He discussed the Nova Scotia microcredentialing framework and explained that they demand clarity and quality assurance and that the current policies and procedures are not clear and need to be reviewed.

J. Loxton shared his opinion that the Board of Governors' policies are vague Senate’s purview falls within the general consideration of educational offerings such as all forms of examinations are to be covered. and bylaws unintentionally things they provide oversight authority of Senate.

J. Kuhnke shared thoughts from her perspective working for a not-for-profit organization and her experience developing microcredentials. She advised that linking the learner to a strong, credible organization that may potentially build an adult learner is very important and may get missed if the opportunity is lost by not having Senate involved.

S. Ashtab shared his view on the issue and stated that it is very important that Senate’s jurisdiction is protected. He also highlighted the need for school representatives to look into unintentional overlapping of courses.

A. Parnaby referred to how the Microcredential Taskforce Report seems to contain precisely what is being discussed and that Senate’s role would come to play at the threshold of for-credit offerings. He discussed the Microcredential Evaluation and Approval Committee (MEAC) and that it has a robust reporting relationship with Senate that would provided constant updates on the work being done and any potential for developing for-credit courses.

É. Thériault expressed his appreciation for the work being done to have the discussion of microcredentials brought before Senate because he felt they would not have come had the request not been made.

J. Loxton expressed his thoughts that the language in the Board of Governors’ Bylaws should be clarified because if Senate does have oversight then they have an obligation to do so. He expressed the importance to ensure that there is quality in the delivery and that the CBU brand is not diluted by poor quality delivery or misinformation and that Senate should be able to intervene if so.

C. Karsgaard noted that at the Okanagan Campus there is a Senate Policy around microcredentials and other non-credits that provides clarity around activities in relation to academic activities and the expectations for quality and the types of credentials that are offered and the types of certificates a person receives.

C. Kreber advised that the Senate Executive is there to listen to the senator concerns and if following the meeting anyone wanted the issue discussed further can let the executive know. She explained that although no decision was made, perhaps in the new year the VPA will work on the development of a more refined version of the model that was proposed based on the recommendations and suggestions heard today.

Following the meeting the chair, C. Kreber circulated a memo clarifying the timelines of when, how and why the issue of MC was brought to senate, a process which started with the invitation for the MC Taskforce to give a presentation to senate on Sept 15.

**7. Approval of the non-confidential minutes from November 24, 2023**

**It was moved** by F. Odartey-Wellington, seconded by J. Kuhnke, that Senate approve the minutes from the November 24th Senate Meeting. **Motion Carried.**

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

**9. Report from Senate Committees**

**9.1 Planning and Review N/A**

**9.2** **Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation**

J. Loxton provided an update on behalf of the Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation Committee and advised that they plan to will meet over the break to discuss the Exam Policy.

**9.3 Academic Committee**

J. Parish provided an update from the Academic Committee and advised that they met twice since the last meeting of Senate.

The committee has had ongoing discussions concerning rewording the Academic Performance Policy to give better clarification surrounding the processes embedded in the policy and these changes will be brought to Senate in the next semester as they become finalised.

A new course proposal form is still being discussed and is in the final stages of revision. This should be available next semester as well.

He then introduced the following Items for Information:

* 1. Course changes for EDUC4124 (name)
	2. Course changes for EDUC4125 (name)
	3. Course changes for EDUC4133 (descr.)
	4. Course changes for EDUC4167 (name)
	5. Course changes for ENGL2685 (level and descr.)
	6. Course retirement of ENGL2640: Women’s Literature

**9.4 By-Laws and Procedures N/A**

**9.5 Quality Assurance**

S. Ashtab provided an update from the Quality Assurance Committee and advised that they continue to review the Bachelor of Science Quality Assurance.

**9.6** **Research**

É. Thériault provided an update from the Research Committee and highlighted the following:

* 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 January 2024 meeting of Senate.
* They reviewed all applications to the Rising Researcher award, Excellence in Research award, and Margaret Dechman award. The committee has delivered its recommendations to the President for his consideration.
* Reviewed all applications to the 50th Anniversary Scholars Award and has sent its recommendations to VPA Rod Nicholls for his consideration.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

**Éric Thériault**

**Secretary to Senate**