

Senate Minutes

February 21, 2025
CE339

The Chair, F. Odartey-Wellington, 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:

Harsimran Kaur Antaal, Catherine Arseneau, Sahand Ashtab, Tammy Bernasky, Matthias Bierenstiel, Melissa Bishop, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Geoff Carre, Martin Chandler, Carrie Karsgaard, David Dingwall, Ayse Ersoy, Ava Graham, Virginia Gunn, Michael Henick, Chad Hillier, Carrie Karsgaard, Harkanwal Kaur, Kimberley Lamarche, Doug Lionais, Terry MacDonald, Emily MacLeod, Stephanie MacQuarrie, John Mayich, Bishakha Mazumdar, Rod Nicholls, Felix Odartey-Wellington, Olabode Peters Olaniran, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Rebecca Seymore, Nancy Spina, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Bilynda Whiting

Regrets:

Sophia Butler-Doucette, Karen Butterworth, Sean Campbell, Linda Cavanaugh, Paula Condon, Kylie Ewing, Ali Heydari, Janet Kuhnke, Tracy Lillington, Ellyn Lyle, Sophie Mordi, Gordon MacInnis, John Nadeau, Kathleen Nash, Marcia Ostashewski, Michelle Prendergast, Karen Rowe, Nancy Samson Ann Sylliboy, Jamie Tunnicliff

2. Consent Agenda:

2.1 Course Template for Course Developed as Part of a New Program

Motion:

Moved by L. Sylvester, seconded by M. Bishop, to approve the Consent Agenda for February 21, 2025.

Motion Carried.

3. Reports and Items for Information

3.1 President

President Dingwall reported the following:

- Earlier this week, CBU renewed a partnership agreement with NSCC Sydney Waterfront Campus to strengthen the long-standing relationship with the renewal of articulation agreements. Additionally, he announced new scholarships and bursaries for various students from throughout Nova Scotia coming to CBU. He shared his appreciation to Dean Andy Parnaby and his team for making that happen.
- On January 28, he attended a meeting in Halifax that celebrated Dr. Alison Grittner's securing of the largest research grant in CBU's 50-year history. A \$12.4 million award for a seven-year project titled Homeward Bound: Enhancing Healthcare, Housing and Social Support for Aging Rural Nova Scotians. The initiative will develop and pilot programs in selected communities in Nova Scotia's eastern zone to improve healthcare, social support, and sustainable housing for aging rural residents, and will evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions in helping seniors age in place.
- Recent legislation introduced by the Government of Nova Scotia regarding an Act Respecting Advanced Education and Research came as a complete surprise to university presidents across the province. He noted that he and his colleagues at CONSUP are actively working to understand the implications of these changes and will provide further updates as more information becomes available.
- Due to the decline in student enrollment at CBU, he reviewed several initiatives to address the issue, including:
 - Requesting budget managers to reduce all departmental goods and services budgets by 30%.
 - Moving the Cineplex and George Street operations back to campus.
 - Reviewing the status of all term employment contracts.
 - Ensuring every financial decision is made with careful consideration and necessity.
 - In the coming weeks, additional long-term measures will be explored, and updates will be provided.

He invited ideas for business opportunities and revenue generation by submitting them to ideas2025@cbu.ca. All suggestions will be compiled and evaluated for future viability.

3.2 Vice President Academic and Provost

Rod Nicholls provided a presentation on 3-Year SEM Numbers and highlighted the following:

Enrolment Numbers: *Process*

- Modelled returning student numbers, program by program for next 3 years

- Worked with Deans & Recruitment team on new student numbers
- Determined domestic/international breakdown
- Calculated impact of program suspensions
- Estimated impact of new program development
- Determined average course load by program to calculate projected 3-credit registration count
- Distinguished SEM targets from projected budget numbers

Enrolment Numbers: *Assumptions*

- Continued IRRC impact
- Suspension of diplomas in BM, HCM, GM
- Approval of new master's programs
- Approval of BACS online
- Renewal/modification of BET programs
- Increased marketing effort for BHSc (PH)
- Doubling of OHSM
- Key articulation agreement opportunities

Current vs Projected FW Student Count

Current vs Projected 3-Credit FW Registrations

Following the presentation, A. Parnaby discussed new programs, mentioning some during the meeting and confirming that he would send the full list afterward. The complete list of new programs is included below:

- 8th month BED
- MEd Critical Curriculum Studies
- MEd Holistic School Health and Wellbeing
- Master of Social Work
- Master of Healthcare Leadership & Innovation
- Master of Digital Marketing
- BACS online
- MA Community, Sport, & Health
- BSc Nursing (international pathway)
- MNursing – Nurse Practitioner
- Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Mechanical)

Discussion continued with the following items:

- Rod advised that he will update Planning Review committee on program development
- CBU's plan for student enrolment numbers and plan for potential worst-case scenario
- New programs and the investment of existing programs/disciplines
- Program architecture, teaching load and cross school collaboration.
- President Dingwall emphasized the importance of cross-school cooperation and stated that he will be urging the Provost and Vice-Provost to expedite the approval of programs through the MPHEC. He also noted that he will recommend to the Dean of Nursing that

the International Nursing Pathway and the Master's in Nurse Practitioner program should progress at a faster pace.

- President Dingwall met with Nova Scotia university presidents, provosts, and other key stakeholders. Alongside with the President of St. Mary's University, he co-authored a letter to the Federal Minister of Immigration, highlighting a study that found Atlantic Canada has been more impacted than any other region in the country regarding international student enrollment. The federal response to this letter has opened the door for further discussions on a special immigration program for Atlantic universities. A follow-up presentation to the Federal Government is currently in development. Meetings with key stakeholders, including the Deputy Minister of IRCC, the President of ACOA, and the Executive Secretary to the Atlantic Premiers, are ongoing. He recently spoke with the Premier of Nova Scotia, working to develop a proposal for Federal Government support, which could also be pursued under a future administration.

3.3 Unama'ki College

L. Sylvester reported on the following:

- The opening conference will be held virtually at the beginning of March with the In. Business Program. An MOU with Grenfell Campus (Memorial University) will be signed.
- Alumni Gathering/Annual Student Grad Banquet is underway. May 30. The money from ticket sales will go towards a Scholarship Fund for Indigenous students.
- L'nu Health and Science Advantage Program - The team is working with the SS&T Dean Stephanie MacQuarrie and Kelly White in BASE with promoting science and health in Indigenous communities.
- In-community is looking for an instructor to teach an in-community course (COMS- Applied Research).

3.4 Students' Union

A. Graham provided an update on behalf of the Students' Union as outlined in her report in the Senate meeting package. She highlighted the following:

- The Students' Union hosted Pride Week at the end of January.
- Healthy Living Week began with a trip to Cape Smokey, where almost 40 students got the chance to try snowboarding, snowshoeing, and skiing for only \$25 a person. They also held their Health Fair in partnership with the PBAS Group. Representatives from GuardMe visited campus to chat with students at this event. Aside from these two events the week included a free breakfast giveaway, a "puppy room" in the Yvonne Levert Hospitality Suite, pottery painting at Fired Creations, and Zumba and yoga classes.

- Rebecca has been hosting Career Readiness Series in collaboration with Tracy MacMullin from Career Services through the month of February.
- Winter scholarship applications have officially opened. Eight \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students. Three awards will be allocated to undergraduate international students, three to post-baccalaureate international students, and two to Indigenous students.
- Operational changes have been made within their Food Bank where they now offer two separate food bank programs. Their basic Package Program provides students with essential items every two weeks and uses a simple online application and they also have their specialized Support Program which offers larger packages every two weeks.
- Olabode, and Rebecca are spending reading week in Halifax with Students Nova Scotia to participate in Advocacy Week.
- General elections have concluded for the 2025-2026 school year. They had two slates run for President and Executive Vice President. Harsimran Kaur Antaal and Rebecca Seymour were elected. They also had 16 students run for our Students' Representative Council, filling 12 seats.
- Rebecca is hosting an IRCC and PGWP Information Session on February 25th.
- Ava will be hosting an Academic Question & Answer Sessions at the end of February to provide students the opportunity to meet with Dr. Rod Nicholls, CBU's Vice President Academic and Provost, to discuss academic issues.
- They are planning a Student Research Poster Showcase in collaboration with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.
- A Child-Minding Survey will be launched to gauge the need for a child-minding service on campus. They've created the survey and have been in discussion with the Registrar's Office and CBU's Privacy Officer to ensure student information is protected.
- The Women's Centre Coordinators have been working to plan our annual Women's Week, which will be hosted next month. They are also working with the Games Room Coordinator to plan a Women's Game Night to make all students feel more included in the space. In addition to this event, they are starting up pool and FIFA leagues in the Games Room, which will be held throughout the remainder of the semester.
- They're working with Athletics to take students to Halifax so they can cheer on the CBU Capers in the AUS Basketball Championships.

The Vice-Chair announced that Laurianne Sylvester been awarded the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal. Senators shared their congratulations.

3.5 Board of Governors

No Report.

3.6 Executive Committee

Éric Thériault reported on the following:

The Senate Executive Committee met on February 7th to set the agenda for today's Senate meeting. A key focus of the discussion was the placement and implications of the recommendations from the Academic Committee. During the meeting, committee representatives

presented their reports and outlined what they planned to bring forward. Some feedback was provided on how to best present certain reports and recommendations. Additionally, the agenda planning led to a broader discussion on how to effectively examine the implementation of Quality Assurance recommendations. The next Senate Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for March 7th.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- Special Senate – January 17, 2024

Motion:

Moved by C. Arseneau, seconded by G. Carre, that Senate approve the minutes from the January 17th Senate meeting.

Motion Carried. (3 abstentions)

- Senate – January 24, 2025

Motion:

Moved by T. Brann Barrett, seconded by D. Lionais, that Senate approve the minutes from the January 24th Senate meeting.

Motion Carried. (1 abstentions)

5. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

6. Report from Senate Committees:

6.1 Planning and Review

G. Carre advised that the Committee continues to work on the review of the Academic Plan.

6.2 Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

T. MacDonald introduced recommendations to the Involvement of Students in Teaching-Related Activities Policy and advised that it supersedes the existing 2004 policy. He explained that the updated policy retains the requirement for departments to have their own policy related to students involved in teaching related activities, but that they have updated the procedures and guidelines to simplify the process in terms of what is required. The new policy includes definitions and role specifications to clarify responsibilities as outlined in the Senate Meeting Package.

Motion:

Moved by T. Macdonald, that Senate approve the Involvement of Students in Teaching-Related Activities Policy.

Following discussion on the motion, T. MacDonald advised he would make the following revisions to the Policy:

- Students Union should be Students' union
- Use the definition section up front for all definitions
- Specifying that the policy applies to on-campus, online, and dual-mode courses
- Graduate and undergraduate courses
- Adding a note within the departmental policy guidelines on a mechanism for enrolled students to report conflict of interest

Motion Carried.

6.3 Academic

J. Parish reported on the following:

The Academic Committee continue to work on revisions to the Appeals Policy.

He explained that program suspensions and terminations will be happening given the recent impact of the IRCC decisions. The Committee created a framework for a process to provide a way for the Committee to have a standardised way of suspending programs with the next step being the implementation of a policy and they are welcoming feedback.

After he outlined the process, it was recommended to include "library resources" in the last section of Part C.

6.4 By-Laws and Procedures

The Chair advised that J. Tunnicliff sent regrets but that the Committee continues to work on Department Bylaws and Terms of Reference for the Senate sub-committees.

6.5 Quality Assurance

S. Ashtab reported the following:

Progress has been made in completing the CBU Quality Assurance Monitoring (QAM) Process (Action Plan), and the report is included in the Meeting Package for the Senators' information.

He recommended revisions to the Cape Breton University Quality Assurance Framework, including the establishment of implementation committees for academic schools and service units, clarifying the timeline and streamlining processes to reduce redundancy for accredited programs.

Motion:

Moved by S. Ashtab, that Senate approve the revisions to the Cape Breton University Quality Assurance Framework as outlined in the Quality Assurance Committee Report dated Feb 14, 2025.

Discussion on the motion included the following recommendations:

- Item 6.4.1 – To include the word normally after shall
- Item 6.4 – There should be more flexibility in the wording referring to the approved recommendations being implemented and the mechanism in place for that.
- Item 2.2 of the Appendix: Generic Terms of Reference for External Reviewers – to clarify the reference to the external reviewers visits on-site only and also to include an acceptable timeline for the submission of the external reviewers' final report.
- The self-study should also go to the school.
- Should compensation for the Chair of the review committee be included

Motion Tabled.

6.6 Research

M. Bierenstiel advised that the Committee is working on Policies.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

É. Thériault
Secretary to Senate