



Senate Meeting  
Skype for Business

May 20, 2020  
2 p.m.

## MINUTES

Present: M. Bluechardt (Chair), K. Allan, P. Barry-Mercer, A. Benzaquén, G. Boulet, P. Cantelo, A. Card, P. Cormier-MacBurnie, D. Cox, P. Crouse, C. Dawson, R. Farmer, T. Findlay, D. Fisher, C. Hardy, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, G. MacDonald, J. MacLeod, J. McMullin, M. Nadeem, S. Perrott, D. Piccitto, D. Plumb, K. Ritchie, T. Sawyer, C. Schneider, S. Seager, D. Shiner, C. Slumkoski, J. Sutherland, R. Zuk

Guests: W. Brewer, J. Brown, T. Franz-Odendaal, A. Humble, J. Lamb, D. Rodrigues, N. Street, J. Valcke

*The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. Observers were identified, welcomed, and reminded that they may be granted speaking privileges but are not eligible to vote on motions. New student Senators C. Hardy and J. Sutherland were welcomed. Senators whose terms are ending were acknowledged and thanked for their service to Senate: Faculty members P. Cormier-MacBurnie, T. Findlay, J. MacLeod, S. Seager, D. Shiner, R. Zuk, and D. Fisher (returning to Senate in a different role) and ex-officio members D. Plumb and G. MacDonald.*

*A moment of silence to reflect on the recent Nova Scotia tragedies was held.  
P. Crouse, Senate Secretary, reviewed the procedures to be used during the meeting.*

### 1. Indigenous Land Recognition

M. Bluechardt provided an acknowledgement that the Mount is built on traditional unceded Mi'kmaq territory and paid respect to the Indigenous peoples of the land on which Senate meets.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- "7.3.3 UCC History" was removed from the agenda; remaining agenda items will be renumbered accordingly.
- A report from SCOITS was added to Committee Reports as agenda Item 7.4.
- Agenda items 5. Administration Updates and 6. Question Period were moved to follow committee reports to ensure that the business of Senate is addressed first.
- "Teaching and Research – Fall 2020" was added as New Business.
- 4.2 Central Listing of Committees was added to Business Arising.

**Moved** by C. Schneider, seconded by T. Sawyer, to approve the agenda as amended.  
CARRIED with one opposed and one abstaining

3. Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2020  
**Moved** by Paul Cantelo, seconded by C. Schneider, to approve the meeting minutes of February 28, 2020, as circulated. CARRIED
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 4.1. Changes to Terms of Reference, WIC, Bylaw 14.10.1  
**Moved** by D. Piccitto, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Writing Initiatives Committee, effective immediately. CARRIED
  - 4.2. Central List of Committees  
D. Piccitto requested an update on the progress on the proposed central list of University committees, stressing the increasing importance of the list, especially in the midst of a pandemic. Senators were informed that the development of the central list was started pre-pandemic; this work will resume as soon as possible. (D. Piccitto, J. McMullin, M. Nadeem)
5. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)
  - 5.1. Senate Executive
    - 5.1.1. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion Due to Significant Disruption of Operations  
J. McMullin spoke to the EX meeting on March 13, 2020, where the President declared a state of significant disruption and the policy on Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations was invoked. At that time, EX moved to allow faculty members to make changes to their course outlines as the University moved to deal with the pandemic. As per the policy, the motion made at EX at that time is to be ratified by Senate.  
  
A question arose with regard to the length of time this motion affecting course outlines would be in effect; clarification was provided to Senators that the policy will continue until the University is outside the pandemic situation. (S. Seager, J. McMullin)  
  
**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by T. Sawyer, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's decision to approve changes to relevant aspects of course outlines, including deadlines, dates, requirements, methods of evaluation, and exam procedures in accordance with the policy on Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations. CARRIED with one opposed
    - 5.1.2. Ratification of Senate Executive Motions for Grade Changes  
J. McMullin spoke to EX's decisions to permit undergraduate students achieving a grade of D or higher and graduate students achieving a grade of B- or better to opt to change their grades to a pass on a one-time basis.

A question arose and clarification was provided on whether the pass/fail option is extended to students within the MountAbility program. It was noted that participants within the MountAbility program have an audit status only; while they will receive their participation certificate and portfolio materials, a final grade does not apply to this group. (W. Brewer, C. Schneider)

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by K. Allan, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's decision to permit undergraduate students achieving a grade of D or higher and graduate students achieving a grade of B- or better to opt to change their grades to a Pass. CARRIED

5.1.3. Ratification of Senate Executive Motions Regarding Convocation

A question arose and clarification was provided on the impact of the cancellation on confirmed Honorary Degree Candidates; these members have been notified and have agreed to receive their honours at the fall convocation. (T. Findlay, M. Bluechardt)

**Moved** by T. Sawyer, seconded by C. Schneider, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's decision to cancel the May 2020 convocation, allow for the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor to confer all degrees in absentia following the approval of the graduation list by Senate Executive, and invite graduates to attend a later convocation ceremony to cross the stage and have their parchment presented to them. CARRIED

5.1.4. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion Regarding UBP and GPP Registrations

T. Harriott spoke to the decision of EX to waive the requirement for concurrent credit-bearing course registration for students taking the University Bridging Program (UBP) and Graduate Preparatory Program (GPP) programs in Summer 2020.

**Moved by** T. Harriott, seconded by S. Perrott, that Senate ratify EX's decision to waive the requirement for concurrent credit-bearing course registration for students taking the University Bridging Program (UBP) and Graduate Preparatory Program (GPP) programs in Summer 2020. CARRIED

5.1.5. Ratification of Nomination for Senate Parliamentarian

**Moved** by N. Kayhani seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's nomination to renew Dr. Tina Harriott's appointment as Parliamentarian for the term July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023, effective July 1, 2020. CARRIED

Congratulations were extended to T. Harriott on behalf of Senate.

5.2. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

5.2.1. Applied Human Nutrition

5.2.1.1. New Course Proposals

5.2.1.1.1. GAHN 6670: Quantitative Methods of Nutrition Research

5.2.1.1.2. GAHN 6675: Qualitative Methods of Nutrition Research

5.2.1.2. Deletion of Course

5.2.1.2.1. GAHN 6608: Methods of Nutrition Research

**Moved** by K. Kienapple, seconded by K. Allan, that Senate approve the addition of GAHN 6670: Quantitative Methods of Nutrition Research and GAHN 6675: Qualitative Methods of Nutrition Research and the deletion of GAHN 6608: Methods of Nutrition Research. CARRIED

5.2.1.3. Calendar Changes

5.2.1.3.1. Calendar Description and Admissions Requirements for Master of Science Applied Human Nutrition and Master of Applied Human Nutrition

**Moved** by K. Kienapple, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the Calendar description and admission requirements for Master of Science of Applied Nutrition and Master of Applied Human Nutrition. CARRIED

5.2.2. Communications

5.2.2.1. New Course Proposal

5.2.2.1.1. GPRL 6310: Capstone Project Seminar

5.2.2.2. Deletion of Course

5.2.2.2.1. GPRL 6220: Project Seminar

**Moved** by K. Kienapple, seconded by J. McMullin, that Senate approve the addition of GPRL 6310: Capstone Project Seminar and deletion of GPRL 6220: Project Seminar. CARRIED

5.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

5.3.1. Political/Canadian Studies

5.3.1.1. Deletion of Course

5.3.1.1.1. CANA 1101/POLS 1101: Critical Perspectives on Canadian Society

A question arose on how this change would affect the Non-Profit Leadership Certificate requirements. Other than updating the Calendar page, there are no expected changes. (C. Hardy, C. Dawson, P. Cantelo) **Moved** by C. Dawson, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the deletion of CANA 1101/POLS 1101: Critical Perspectives on Canadian Society. CARRIED

5.3.1.2. Changes to Existing Program

5.3.1.2.1. Changes to requirements for Major, Combined Major, Concentration, Minor

5.3.1.2.2. Revisions to Canadian Studies Emphasis Courses List

**Moved** by C. Dawson, seconded by T. Findlay, that Senate approve the identified changes to requirements for the Major, Combined Major, Concentration and Minor in Canadian Studies. CARRIED

5.3.2. Sociology/Anthropology

5.3.2.1. New Course Proposal

5.3.2.1.1. SOAN 3554: Race & Racism

**Moved** by C. Dawson, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the addition of SOAN 3554: Race & Racism. CARRIED

5.3.3. Changes (*for Information*)

5.3.3.1. Applied Human Nutrition

5.3.3.1.1. New course name and description for NUTR 2260

5.3.3.2. Biology

5.3.3.2.1. New prerequisites and description for BIOL 2202

5.3.3.2.2. New description for BIOL 2207

5.3.3.3. Political/Canadian Studies/History

5.3.3.3.1. New cross-listing for HIST 1121

5.3.3.3.2. New cross-listing for HIST 1122

5.3.3.3.3. New prerequisites for CANA 3301/POLS 3301

5.3.3.3.4. New prerequisites for CANA 3306

5.3.3.3.5. New prerequisites for CANA 3307

5.4. SCOITS

G. Boulet provided an update on recent SCOITS initiatives and discussions including the forming of a subcommittee to research a tool to replace LimeSurvey, the preparing of office computers for home use, and the upcoming move from Skype for Business to Microsoft Teams over the summer. She spoke to a concern for those involved in online teaching from rural areas without access to Internet and/or cell service and the hiring of two additional TLCOL instructional developers to support faculty with online delivery of courses. She cautioned about the use of YouTube videos when teaching students in other countries; faculty members are asked to contact IT&S for assistance making videos available as firewalls in some countries prohibit access to certain sites.

Discussions were held and clarification was provided on the ability to access the SCOITS report later, the need for plugins to prepare to teach fall math courses (plugins expected to be ready for fall), and one of the new TLCOL instructional developers designated to STEM studies. Faculty were encouraged to contact D. Plumb, Director of Teaching and Learning, regarding options for software in the fall. (S. Seager, G. Boulet)

N. Kayhani requested clarification on the three software programs (Qualtrics, REDCap, SimpleSurvey) being assessed to replace LimeSurvey, expressed concern about the academic integrity of unproctored online exams, and asked that the University purchase software to enable the monitoring of students during online exams. It was noted that virtual proctoring software packages have been considered; the option of cost sharing with other institutions is being discussed. It was suggested that K. Smyth, Director of IT&S, be contacted regarding software. (N. Kayhani, G. Boulet, P. Cantelo)

5.5. Nominations

5.5.1. Report on Elections by the Faculty Complement

The report on Elections by the Faculty Complement was provided for information purposes; no questions or comments were received.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Term Begins</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Senate	Dr. Germaine Chan	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Dr. Katherine Darvesh*	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Ms. Judy Fraser Arsenaault	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Dr. Tina Harriott	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Prof. Elizabeth Hicks	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Dr. Meredith Ralston	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Dr. Jonathan Roberts	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Dr. Amy Thurlow	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Ms. Lindsey MacCallum	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
Nominations	Dr. Francois-Xavier Eygun	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
	Dr. Tracy Moniz	January 1, 2021	June 30, 2023

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
University Review (Lab Instructors)	Prof. Paulette Cormier-MacBurnie (Faculty Representative)	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
University Review (Librarians)	Dr. Alla Kushniryk (Faculty Representative)	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2023
Board of Governors	Dr. Robert Bérard	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2022

5.5.2. Nominations for Senate-Elected Committees

**Moved** by S. Perrott, seconded by P. Cormier-MacBurnie, that having received no written notice of additional nominations, Senate ratify the following slate of nominations to Senate-elected committees for the terms indicated. CARRIED

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Academic Appeals	Dr. Amelie Lemieux (Alternate)	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Mirwais Qaderi (Alternate)	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Information Tech. & Services	Dr. Geneviève Boulet	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Research and Publications	Dr. KelliAnne Malinen	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Mirwais Qaderi	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Kyly Whitfield	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Student Experience Committee	Dr. Scott MacMillan	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships and Awards	Dr. Michelle Eskritt	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Suzanne Seager	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Univ. Research Ethics Board	Dr. Ardra Cole	1 January 2021	30 June 2023
	Dr. Joan Turner	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Jeff Young	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Nancy's Chair Committee	Dr. Mary Delaney	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Advisory Committee for Chair in Learning Disabilities	Dr. Michelle Eskritt	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Student Discipline Appeals	Dr. Joan Turner (Regular)	1 July 2020	30 June 2023

5.5.3. Acceptance of Late Slate

**Moved** by S. Perrott, seconded by D. Shiner, that in accordance with Senate By-law 11.2.5, Senate accept a late slate of nominations for Senate committee vacancies commencing in the 2020-21 academic year. CARRIED

5.5.4. Nominations for Senate-Elected Committees: Late Slate

**Moved** by S. Perrott, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate ratify the slate of nominations to Senate-elected committees for the terms indicated. CARRIED

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Senate Executive	Dr. Cornelia Schneider	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Grad. Studies Program & Policy	Dr. Bohdan Luhovvy	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Undergraduate Curriculum	Dr. Roni Gechtman	1 July 2020	30 June 2022
Library	Dr. Danielle Cox	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Roni Gechtman	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Amelie Lemieux	1 January 2021	30 June 2023
Writing Initiatives	Dr. Shannan Grant	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Student Judicial	Dr. Danielle Cox (Regular)	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Candace Blayney (Alternate)	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Shane Theunissen (Alternate)	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Student Discipline Appeals	Dr. Candace Blayney (Alternate)	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Shane Theunissen (Alternate)	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
Joint-Board Senate	Dr. Geneviève Boulet	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Amy Thurlow	1 July 2020	30 June 2023

## 5.6. Research and Publications

### 5.6.1. Interim Strategic Research Plan

G. MacDonald outlined changes previously suggested by Senate and undertaken by CRP. A question posed at a previous meeting on whether consideration could be given to a wider scope of faculty input and consultation in the selection process was raised and discussed. Recent changes to that section of the Plan, processes at other institutions, and brief and informal consultation with another local university were noted.

**Moved** by G. MacDonald, seconded by J. McMullin, that Senate approve the Interim Strategic Research Plan (2019-2021) to replace the previous Strategic Research Plan (2015-2018), as per the federal requirements of the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat and the Canada Research Chairs Program, this replacement to become effective immediately. CARRIED

## 5.7. University Research Ethics Board

### 5.7.1. Changes to Terms of Reference, Bylaw 14.13 (Notice of Motion)

Notice of a motion coming forward to the next Senate meeting was given; there were no comments or questions.



## 6. Administration Updates

### 6.1. President

M. Bluehardt spoke to the Federal government's support for research and infrastructure (but not for operations) and the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU)'s suggestion that Vice Presidents meet more formally to move the University sector ahead as a unit rather than individual entities. She explained how cross university meetings of Associate Vice Presidents and of Vice Presidents filter up to the Provincial level of Government and how the work of Universities Canada (UA) on a Federal level feeds into the work of the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP). CONSUP's mandate was highlighted. She noted that Government is regularly reminded of the impact of NS universities on the economy and spoke to recent CONSUP meetings where the immediate and longer-term impact of COVID-19 was discussed. A presentation from CONSUP to the Premier is in the works; other initiatives at the Federal and Provincial levels were highlighted.

She outlined the success to date of (and the ongoing need for) the President's Emergency Fund for students, updated Senators on progress related to the Strategic Plan, and reminded Senators of the Senate Self-Evaluation available to Senators in June.

### 6.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

J. McMullin acknowledged and expressed appreciation to all for their work during the pandemic. She spoke to current enrollment and very preliminary numbers for the fall and the work of the Registrar's Office, Student Experience, and others in reaching out to connect with and support students.

She spoke of CAPP's resuming and reviewing of Senate policies and working through MPHEC review processes and the Mount's postponement of the faculty hiring process. As well, she updated Senators on K. Kienapple's agreement to extend his term as Dean, D. Fisher's agreement to assume the role of Acting Associate Vice-President Research and K. Darvesh's agreement to assume the responsibilities of the Director of Teaching and Learning for one year.

In conclusion, she acknowledged the hard work and dedication of G. MacDonald and D. Plumb during their terms as Associate Vice-President Research and Director of Teaching and Learning, respectively. She congratulated J. Brady, S. Pictou, S. Reddington, M. Siddiquee, N. Street, T. Yu, and S. Sawchuk on their reappointment; D. Cox and D. Picitto, granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor; E. Henderson, promoted to Associate Professor; and J. MacLeod, promoted to Full Professor. The URC was recognized for their work reviewing the files.

### 6.3. Vice-President Administration

M. Nadeem spoke to the components (react, stabilize, invest, and growth) within a frame being used to manage the current pandemic, recognized that we are moving into “stabilize” mode, and expressed optimism for the future.

He updated Senators about the current financial situation of the University and spoke to significant challenges being faced given the uncertainty of the overall impact of the pandemic. Operational and core business requirements, budget considerations, and the option of running a financial deficit (or not) are being considered. Stewardship, collaboration, and putting the institution (including faculty and staff) on solid footing are principles being contemplated.

He then spoke to the current operations of the University and the importance of compliance to Public Health standards and directives in not reopening the Campus until a safe Campus environment can be provided. He noted the reduced capacity to physically distance on Campus and the monitoring of reopening plans of universities in other jurisdictions. While the first areas back will be research and academic areas, a protocol is being prepared to enable reopening in a timely but safe manner. During the Vice-President Administration update, the following motion was made to extend the Administration updates:

**Moved** by G. MacDonald, seconded by C. Slumkoski, that the Administration Updates be extended. CARRIED

## 7. Question Period

### BEd Program

C. Schneider stressed the importance of face-to-face meetings with students (in particular, BEd and School Psychology students) and questioned whether it will possible to have a model in the fall, where small staggered groups of students can be invited to Campus to interact with different faculty. The importance of the question was acknowledged; however, at this time, it is unknown whether this will be a possibility in the fall. (C. Schneider, J. McMullin)

### Resources

S. Seager questioned what and when resources would be available to faculty and, in particular, the possibility of printing material in large quantity for mailing to students. As part of the planning process, the role the Print Shop and Bookstore can safely play is being considered; the need/importance to print and copy was acknowledged. (S. Seager, M. Nadeem)

### CAPP Work

K. Allan questioned whether an immediate change to the exam policy could be made, in particular to require faculty to provide feedback to students at least 48 hours before the

deadline to withdraw without academic penalty. The review process was outlined; this proposed change will be provided to CAPP for consideration at its next meeting. (K. Allan, J. McMullin)

#### Balanced Budget versus Deficit

N. Kayhani questioned who makes the decision on whether to balance the budget or to run a financial deficit for the year, what parameters are used to make the decision, whether the Board is running the University as a business or a government office, and the problem with running a deficit for a year or two with the hopes of rebalancing once the pandemic is over. She stressed that running a deficit as a business is different than as a government office. The budget process was explained, and the Board of Governors' fiduciary responsibility to the University; consideration of stewardship of public and tuition dollars; the short- and long-term sustainability of the University; and impact on students, staff and the University as a whole were discussed. Both options (balanced budget versus deficit budget) have consequences. (N. Kayhani, M. Nadeem)

#### Part-Time Faculty

Related to her question on whether the University should run a deficit or balance the budget, N. Kayhani questioned whether part-time faculty budgets are facing cuts; she stressed the importance of the part-time positions on courses and programs and the impact cutting the positions would have on students. An explanation was provided on the University's department by department collaborative approach in considering what can be cut without negatively impacting students. Recent full-time faculty hiring was noted. (N. Kayhani, J. McMullin)

#### Movement to Fall Online Classes

R. Zuk asked for clarification on the process used in the decision to move classes to an online platform in the fall and the corresponding memo to faculty about preparing for online delivery of courses, noting that EX had not been consulted. An overview was provided of consultation held with on-campus groups in consideration of operational requirements (social distancing and required safety measures), directives from Health Canada, discussions held at the EX March meeting, and the need to advise students to allow them to plan accordingly for the fall. It was noted that with all the moving pieces in play during a first-ever pandemic, it was not the intention of the University to make an academic decision without the input of Senate. (R. Zuk, M. Bluechardt, J. McMullin)

#### Strategic Plan Consultation

D. Piccitto noted that the circulation of the Strategic Plan during the exam period did not allow adequate time to provide feedback on a strategic plan in place for seven years and questioned the consultation process planned for the final version of the Plan. Senators were advised that, despite having received substantial feedback on the plan, additional opportunities will be provided for further consultation. They were reminded that the plan is a high-level document; each unit and department will have the opportunity to create a

strategic and operating plan from the higher-level strategic plan. (D. Piccitto, M. Bluechardt)

#### Crows at Child Study Centre (CSC)

Concern was expressed on behalf of the CSC about the presence of crow feces that, despite complaints to Facilities Management, has escalated to the point where it is now seen as a health and safety issue for the children who will attend the CSC when it reopens. Having not been made aware of health and safety concerns of the CSC, M. Nadeem will investigate, ensuring that when the CSC opens the University will be in compliance with public health directives and OH&S regulations. (T. Findlay, M. Nadeem)

#### Sisters of Charity Formal Apology

C. Slumkoski queried whether a response has been received on a question raised at a past meeting about whether a formal apology had been issued from the Sisters of Charity for their part in the residential school system in Shubenacadie. While a response has not yet been received, the President will follow up with the Chancellor. (C. Slumkoski, M. Bluechardt)

#### Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion

C. Slumkoski referenced the option of a one-year deferral of reappointment, tenure, or promotion; outlined the financial implications of a deferral; stressed the inequity to junior faculty that this deferral would cause; and suggested alternatives to mitigate the long-term impact. A brief discussion was held; it was noted that these matters are being addressed at the Joint Committee and will be reviewed for a best solution. (C. Slumkoski, J. McMullin)

#### Deleted Classes

W. Brewer questioned how students would know that classes were cancelled. The use of the Academic Timetable to advise students was explained. (W. Brewer, J. McMullin)

#### President's Scholarship

C. Hardy outlined an existing situation where some students are not able to meet the course/practicum requirements to remain eligible for the President's scholarship. It was noted that prior to the pandemic, this item was to be an agenda item for consideration by the Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships and Awards Committee and will be addressed once the Committee is able to meet again. (C. Hardy, P. Cantelo)

#### Library Support for Faculty

T. Harrison spoke to an earlier discussion about classes that would normally be taught face to face and require access to resources. Recognizing that material is needed for research and teaching, she stressed the mandate of the Library in supporting faculty and the large portion of the Library budget (80%) spent on online resources. She outlined a number of resources maintained by the Library and encouraged faculty teaching in an online

environment to contact the liaison librarians for assistance accessing online resources to support their research and teaching.

#### Student Access to Computers and Lab; Academic Integrity of Online Exams

P. Crouse asked, as decisions are made going forward, and under the guidance of what would be safe health wise, that decision makers consider whether students might have access to computers and labs (while adhering to social distancing guidelines), and, out of concern for academic integrity for tests and exams, if software is not available for proctoring, whether students might be able to come to campus to write exams.

#### Health and Counselling Services Available to Students

K. Allan questioned, with classes moved to online in September, whether Campus amenities (Health Services and Counselling Services) would be available to students. She also questioned whether there was a plan in place to support students who otherwise would have been living in residence in the fall. Clarification was provided on services currently available including the Health Office which is open and available for students (via a tele-health model) and counsellors who are working remotely on a secure platform (through Healthy Minds NS) to provide video counselling. Should there be an opportunity in the fall that on-campus service could resume, the University would consider that as well. It was noted that the University is awaiting information from Public Health on physical distancing regarding residences. (K. Allan, P. Barry-Mercer)

#### Strategic Plan – Consultation with the Broader Community

K. Ritchie questioned whether there is a plan for broader community engagement involving soliciting feedback from outside organizations on the strategic plan. Clarification was provided on the internal and external engagement held in the first six months of developing the strategic plan and advised of a communication plan that will be rolled out to the internal and external community. (K. Ritchie, M. Bluechardt)

#### Refunds/Rebates for Students

D. Shiner questioned, with all classes online in the fall, whether a tuition reduction policy has begun to be framed. While ancillary fees are being waived, tuition is being determined through the budget process; accessibility, the MOU with the Province, and institutional needs are also considered in determining the budget and tuition. (D. Shiner, M. Bluechardt, M. Nadeem)

The solid teamwork of the University during difficult times and with competing interests was recognized. Senators were thanked for their discussion, opinions, and suggestions.

During Question Period, the motion below was made to extend the session:

**Moved** by C. Slumkoski, seconded by D. Cox, to extend Question Period by 30 minutes.  
CARRIED

## 8. Other Reports

### 8.1. Students' Union

K. Allan updated Senators on the plans of the SU in holding their general elections with the fall by-elections (both possibly online only), the selection of a firm for the SU Governance Review, and several new initiatives to address food insecurity. The University was thanked for providing the governance review process.

### 8.2. Board of Governors

No Board of Governors report was given.

## 9. New Business

### 9.1. Teaching and Research – Fall 2020

D. Piccitto asked that those making decisions about the fall keep in mind the stresses associated with an increasingly heavy and intense workload for faculty in moving to an online platform, especially for those who have not taught online courses, are in strained home environments, or have inadequate space or equipment/technology. Now that teaching online has moved from an emergency situation to longer term (fall), she questioned whether the University is making available resources to ensure IT&S can adequately support faculty (equipment, training, bandwidth) in preparing for and teaching online classes, and given the increasing number of Mac users on Campus, why support for Apple products is not available.

An in-depth discussion was held on staffing levels within (and support of) IT&S, the multi levels of support provided through collaboration with TLCOL in preparation for the fall, current bandwidth level at MSVU, a survey for faculty input on equipment needs, recent equipment deliveries for faculty, and whether technology tools will be available to part-time faculty. Faculty were encouraged to contact TLCOL regarding strategies to address bandwidth, troubleshooting online sessions, available training, and other needs for preparing classes for online delivery. As well, support for Macs and the incompatibilities of some software across platforms (Mac versus Windows) were discussed. Appreciation was expressed for the level of support provided by IT&S both within and outside regular work hours to faculty, staff, and students. (D. Piccitto, M. Nadeem, M. Bluechardt, D. Plumb, D. Cox, J. McMullin, P. Cantelo)

R. Zuk questioned how those in book-centered programs and faculty who have a limited capacity for online reading can access physical books and whether faculty would be responsible for the cost. A discussion was held, and faculty were encouraged to contact the Library with regard to departmental book and/or research material needs (hardcopy/online) and other services offered by the Library. The role of the Bookstore in ordering course required books (hardcopy/online) in the fall is being considered; faculty will be advised once this is determined. (R. Zuk, T. Harrison, N. Kayhani, J. McMullin)

K. Allan questioned the impact to graduate students in research-based thesis programs who do not have access to their lab and what resources might be available to support them. Options available, including the delay of research or changing research to a theoretical approach, were discussed and the ability for these students to still qualify for application to post-doctoral programs considered. (K. Allan, K. Kienapple)

D. Piccitto questioned choices faculty would have in the delivery of full-year courses in the winter term and options available as the University transitions back to face-to-face operations during the pre-vaccine periods. The importance of respect for personal circumstances/choices pre-vaccine, faculty autonomy in the process, and the commitment of Administration to be as flexible as possible with regard to faculty, staff and students throughout the ongoing impact of the pandemic were expressed. (D. Piccitto, J. McMullin, M. Bluechardt)

D. Piccitto questioned whether search committees for Administrative hires recently suspended would resume their work in the fall or whether new search committees would be formed. She also requested an update on the upcoming retirement of the Director, Facilities Management. It was explained that search committees currently on hold are expected to resume once it is safe to do so and that the Senate Nominations Committee is working through steps to confirm which elected members are available and eligible to continue on the search committees; it was noted that the current Director, Facilities Management, has delayed his retirement for the time being. (D. Piccitto, M. Nadeem, J. McMullin, P. Crouse)

Appreciation was expressed to those who contributed to the success of the first Senate online meeting. During the discussion above, a motion was made to extend the Senate meeting to 5:30 p.m.

**Moved** by G. Boulet, seconded by T. Harrison, that the Senate meeting be extended to 5:30 p.m. CARRIED with 3 opposed and 1 abstention.

## 10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- The minutes of the February 28, 2020, meeting
- Changes to WIC's Terms of Reference, Bylaw 14.10.1
- Ratification of Senate Executive's motion due to significant disruption of operations
- Ratification of Senate Executive motions for grade changes
- Ratification of Senate Executive motions regarding Convocation
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion regarding University Bridging Program (UBP) and Graduate Preparatory Program (GPP) registrations
- Ratification of Senate Executive's nomination of Tina Harriott for Senate Parliamentarian continuing as of July 1

- Several graduate and undergraduate curriculum changes
- The Interim Strategic Research Plan
- A slate of nominees for standing committees of Senate and other committees

Senate received for information:

- Several undergraduate curriculum changes
- A report on elections by the Faculty Complement
- Notice of motion re changes to the UREB Terms of Reference, Bylaw 14.3

Senate acknowledged the Senators whose terms are ending: P. Cormier-MacBurnie, T. Findlay, D. Fisher, G. MacDonald, J. MacLeod, D. Plumb, S. Seager, D. Shiner, R. Zuk

#### 11. Adjournment

**Moved** by D. Fisher, seconded by C. Hardy, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.