



Senate Meeting

Alice Egan Hagen Board Room (Rosaria 312)/MS Teams

November 24, 2023

2 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: J. Dickinson (Chair), K. Allan, K. Blotnicky, R. Bursey, A. Card, P. Crouse, C. Dawson, G. Durepos, M. Eskritt, L. Francis, T. Franz-Odenaal, J. Fraser Arsenault, J. Gahagan, R. Gechtman, M. Gonick, S. Hale, M. J. Harkins, K. Jones, N. Kayhani, G. MacInnis, J. MacLeod, S. MacMillan, C. McLean, M. McGonnell, I. Nault, D. Rodrigues, K. Schlieff, C. Schneider, L. Steele, A. Thurlow, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, R. Zuk

Regrets: S. Brigham, C. Cameron, S. Goswami, C. Slumkoski, G. Sneddon, J. R. Sylliboy

Observers: K. Gallant, E. Tran

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed. K. Allan was welcomed back, and M. McGonnell was acknowledged for her tenure on Senate. It was announced that the December Senate meeting is cancelled. Procedures to be used during the meeting and while voting on motions were outlined.

1. Indigenous Land Recognition

J. Dickinson 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

8.1 FA President's Report on Board of Governors' Meeting was removed, and the remaining items in this section were renumbered.

Moved by M. McGonnell, seconded by R. Bursey, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. October 27, 2023

Moved by C. McLean, seconded by R. Gechtman, to approve the minutes of October 27, 2023, as amended. CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Gender pay gap vs. compensation review

Firstly, it was clarified that in a previous Senate meeting a question about the gender pay gap may have been conflated with the ongoing compensation review for non-union positions that HR is working on.

The review of gender pay gap was then addressed, with it being noted that gender is a binary concept, and as we do not currently have data regarding gender identification, this data needs to first be collected. It was reported that MSVU is continuing to improve data management and collection processes and is committed to continue looking into the gap. The Statistics Canada gender pay gap report was mentioned, as well as the gender pay gap data publicly available through the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). It was noted that the gap between racialized and non-racialized individuals should also be reviewed. (J. Dickinson, I. Nault, T. Franz-Odendaal)

4.2. Microcredentials pilot

S. MacMillan reported on the Mount's microcredentials pilot, the origins of microcredentials and the future goals of microcredentials at the Mount. He reported that microcredentials are short continuing education courses that are typically developed for skill-based areas and that while they may be taken by students to supplement their degree, they are promoted to community members at large. S. MacMillan further shared that microcredentials are being offered at institutions nation-wide and that they have strong governmental support here in Nova Scotia.

S. MacMillan reported that the Mount's goal is to explore the microcredentials field by carefully selecting the courses to be piloted in order to see how viable it is and if they are meeting the community's needs. With this in mind, S. MacMillan reported that the Mount's microcredentials working group selected two courses in the elder care area to pilot: Continue Caring and Case Management Fundamentals. He reported that the Continue Caring course had 109 participants and received very positive feedback, while the Case Management Fundamentals course has 30 participants, with an end date of November 30, 2023.

Lastly, S. MacMillan addressed the working group's intention to evaluate the pilot after the CMF course ends but noted that the need in the community for these types of courses has been seen and recognized and that the pilot also showed gaps in our infrastructure to fully support these programs.

Discussion ensued regarding the Mount's pilot; who the instructors are and how they were chosen; who the participants are; and what other institutions are doing in terms of Senate oversight. S. MacMillan shared that participants are largely community members who would not have otherwise been engaged with the Mount and that the CMF course in particular is aimed at people who are working in the elder care sector. He offered to find out what other institutions are doing provincially and report back to Senate. It was reiterated that based on the vote at Senate's last meeting, Senate will have oversight over the microcredential program at the Mount. It was acknowledged that post-pilot consultation is needed and will certainly be

sought. (T. Franz-Odendaal, J. Dickinson, S. MacMillan, R. Gechtman, J. MacLeod, G. Durepos)

The microcredential framework distributed by the Nova Scotia government was discussed, including the apparent lack of independent thought/critique and the type of assessments in microcredential courses. In particular, it was asked what kind of assessments were conducted in the two courses the Mount offered. S. MacMillan reported that the Continue Caring course was purely information based, while the students in the CMF course have both tests and assignments. (R. Zuk, S. MacMillan).

4.3. Course cancellation policy review update

On behalf of L. Francis, I. Nault reported that CAPP is actively working on the course cancellation policy review, as well as identifying which policies are overdue or due for review at CAPP.

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

J. Dickinson reported that the projected 2024-2025 operating budget will likely be balanced due to various factors, including increased registrations, student retention strategies and various unfilled positions.

J. Dickinson congratulated the Modern Languages Department for a newly signed agreement with the Association des Collèges et des Universités Canadiennes which will see 12 MSVU students receive “French as a Second Language” bursaries in 2024-2025.

J. Dickinson also commented on the success of the MSVU 150th Gala and its contribution to the Access & Impact Fund, also noting that MSVU’s 150th anniversary was recognized at the Nova Scotia Legislature.

J. Dickinson reported on several other initiatives, including the EDIA data collection project which received funding through the Canada Research Chairs program, the ongoing government ask to enable a 0% tuition increase and the Mount’s joining of the CEO Climate Action Charter, which in partnership with business leaders across Halifax, will explore initiatives dedicated to reducing our footprint.

Lastly, J. Dickinson shared that Cape Breton University announced their intent to decrease the number of international students they accept. In response, MSVU has received inquiries from many agents, particularly from India, but we have declined as we do not want to be dependent on one particular cohort of students and are working on international diversification plans.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

On behalf of L. Francis, I. Nault reported that the University Librarian search is ongoing, with three candidates visiting campus in December. I. Nault also reported that the Nancy's Chair search is ongoing, with C. Dawson adding that interviews will be taking place in early December.

I. Nault reported on the success of various campus events, including an MSVU hosted event for a delegation from the Emerging Leaders of the Americas program, the Student Research Symposium, the Black and Indigenous Speakers series and the CAASS "one-stop shop" event.

5.3. Vice-President Administration

I. Nault reported that the budget planning process has been initiated. In regard to the security audit report, I. Nault reported that an external company is cloning our current system so MSVU can go back to see what hardware needs to be implemented.

6. Question Period

C. Schneider questioned which positions remained unfilled [in reference to J. Dickinson's statement regarding unfilled positions assisting in the projected balanced budget], emphasizing that staff positions not being filled is a detriment to everyone. In response, it was clarified that the situation is currently a sector-wide issue and that actions are being taken by the Mount to rectify it. Issues stemming from unfilled positions is noted as high-risk in the budget report. (J. Dickinson, I. Nault)

T. Franz-Odendaal sought an update on the hiring timeline for the AVP People and Culture position and the Manager of Procurement Services position. In regard to the AVP People and Culture position, I. Nault reported that a committee has been struck, the draft Terms of Reference are being reviewed by the search firm and the objective is to have that position filled by April 1. In regard to the Manager of Procurement Services position, I. Nault reported that the job description has been reviewed and the position will be posted soon.

M. Gonick requested an update on the status of the online portal for graduate admissions. S. Hale reported that the work on the portal is ongoing but that extra support will be in place this year to alleviate the application bottleneck points experienced in previous years. J. Dickinson added that a province-wide shared admissions portal is still being discussed, but it would not have the capacity to include graduate admissions.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Report on policy reviews with no changes

For information, P. Crouse referenced the memo in the meeting materials identifying three policies that had been reviewed and deemed current as is.

7.2. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

7.2.1. Child and Youth Study

7.2.1.1. New Course Proposals

7.2.1.1.1. GCYS 6120: Applied Research Seminar in Child and Youth Study

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by C. McLean, that Senate approve the new course GCYS 6120. CARRIED.

7.2.1.1.2. GCYS 6121: Graduate Project in Child and Youth Study

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by C. McLean, that Senate approve the new course GCYS 6121. CARRIED.

7.2.1.2. Change to Existing Program

7.2.1.2.1. Addition of non-thesis option for MCYS

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by C. McLean, that Senate approve the addition of a non-thesis option for MCYS. CARRIED.

C. McLean gave thanks to L. MacFarlane, S. Reddington and S. Schnare for their work on bringing the non-thesis route and other changes to fruition.

7.2.2. Family Studies and Gerontology

7.2.2.1. New Course Proposal

7.2.2.1.1. GFSG 6616: Global Aging and Health

R. Zuk proposed a friendly amendment to the calendar description, which was agreed upon by S. Trenholm and S. Hale.

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the new course GFSG 6616. CARRIED.

7.2.2.2. Change to Existing Program

7.2.2.2.1. Addition to elective courses list for MAFSGN and MFSGN

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the addition of GFSG 6616 to the elective courses list for MAFSGN and MFSGN. CARRIED.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Business Administration and Tourism & Hospitality Management

7.3.1.1. Changes to Existing Course

7.3.1.1.1. Revisions to BUSI 4430 – Marketing Research, including new cross listing with THMT

- 7.3.1.2. Deletion of Course
 - 7.3.1.2.1. THMT 3312 – Research Methods for Tourism and Hospitality
Moved by A. Card, seconded by R. Bursey, that Senate approve the revisions to BUSI 4430 and the deletion of THMT 3312. CARRIED.
- 7.3.1.3. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.1.3.1. Requirements for Certificate in Marketing, Diploma in Business Administration, Bachelor of Business Administration (General, with a Major, with a Major in Nonprofit Leadership, International Option, with Concentration)
 - 7.3.1.3.2. Requirements for Accounting concentration and Accounting minor for Students in Professional Degree programs
 - 7.3.1.3.3. Program descriptions for Honours degree and Professional Exemptions listing
 - 7.3.1.3.4. Requirements for Tourism and Hospitality Management Diploma, Bachelor degree and Honours degree
Moved by A. Card, seconded by R. Bursey, that Senate approve 7.3.1.3.1 through to 7.3.1.3.4. CARRIED.
- 7.3.2. Canadian Studies (PECS)
 - 7.3.2.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.2.1.1. Canadian Emphasis Courses List
Moved by A. Card, seconded by J. MacLeod, that Senate approve changes to the Canadian Emphasis Courses List. CARRIED.
- 7.3.3. Child and Youth Study
 - 7.3.3.1. New Course Proposal
 - 7.3.3.1.1. CHYS 3305 – Animals in the Lives of Children and Youth
 - 7.3.3.2. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.3.2.1. Program requirements for minor
Moved by A. Card, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the new course, CHYS 3305, and approve the change in requirements for a minor in Child and Youth Study. CARRIED.
- 7.3.4. Economics (PECS)
 - 7.3.4.1. Deletion of Courses
 - 7.3.4.1.1. ECON 2207 – Current Issues in the Canadian Economy
 - 7.3.4.1.2. ECON 2211 – Intermediate Microeconomics
 - 7.3.4.1.3. ECON 3342 – Introductory Econometrics II
 - 7.3.4.1.4. ECON 4401 – Regional Economics
 - 7.3.4.1.5. ECON 4420 – Advanced Microeconomic Theory

- 7.3.4.1.6. ECON 4421 – Advanced Macroeconomic Theory
Moved by A. Card, seconded by J. MacLeod, that Senate approve the deletion of ECON 2207, ECON 2211, ECON 3342, ECON 4401, ECON 4420 and ECON 4421. CARRIED.
- 7.3.5. Family Studies and Gerontology
 - 7.3.5.1. New Cross-Listing
 - 7.3.5.1.1. FSGN 4416: Global Aging and Health with GFSG 6616
Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the new cross-listing of FSGN 4416 with GFSG 6616. CARRIED.
- 7.3.6. Political Studies (PECS)
 - 7.3.6.1. Deletion of Courses
 - 7.3.6.1.1. POLS 3308 – Language and Politics
 - 7.3.6.1.2. POLS 4406 – Public Affairs and Policy Management
 - 7.3.6.1.3. POLS 4413 – Seminar on Political Ideas: Current Controversies
 - 7.3.6.2. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.6.2.1. Program requirements for Major and Combined Major
 - 7.3.6.2.2. Areas of Concentration listing
Moved by A. Card, seconded by J. MacLeod, that Senate approve the changes from 7.3.6.1.1 to 7.3.6.2.2 CARRIED.
- 7.3.7. Public Policy (PECS)
 - 7.3.7.1. Change to Existing Program
 - 7.3.7.1.1. Program requirements for Major
Moved by A. Card, seconded by J. MacLeod, that Senate approve the changes to the program requirements for Major in Public Policy. CARRIED
- 7.3.8. Changes
 - A. Card presented the following changes for information:
 - 7.3.8.1. Business Administration and Tourism & Hospitality Management
 - 7.3.8.1.1. New prerequisite for BUSI 3308
 - 7.3.8.2. History
 - 7.3.8.2.1. New course name and description for HIST 2210
 - 7.3.8.3. Psychology
 - 7.3.8.3.1. New prerequisite for PSYC 3330 and PSYC 3331
 - 7.3.8.3.2. New description for PSYC 3312
 - 7.3.8.4. Women’s Studies and Family Studies and Gerontology
 - 7.3.8.4.1. New prerequisite for WOMS 3305/FSGN 3305

7.4. Nominations

7.4.1. Nomination for Senate committee vacancy

Moved by J. Fraser-Arsenault, seconded by M. McGonnell, that Senate elect the following faculty member to the indicated committee for the indicated term. CARRIED.

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
University Research Ethics Board	Dr. Daniel Wadden	January 1, 2024	June 30, 2026

8. Other Reports

8.1. Students’ Union

K. Allan highlighted the recent and successful research symposium, hosted in collaboration with the research office. J. Gahagan echoed this sentiment, thanking the MSVUSU for their collaboration on the event.

8.2. Strategic Plan Update

J. Dickinson reported that I. Nault and K. Smyth have been working on an online dashboard which will display strategic plan metrics and that they are nearing the trial phase of the project. She also confirmed that metrics from the Dimensions Action Plan will be captured in the dashboard, due to its overlap with key areas in the Strategic Plan.

9. New Business

9.1. Enrollment Report

S. Hale presented an enrollment report for Fall 2023, showcasing student and unit counts over the past five years and noting from where most of our students are coming. She emphasized that although we have fewer students overall, they are registered in more courses.

Discussion ensued regarding the Ghanaian agent working with the Mount. It was shared that the agent is only able to assist with undergraduate applications which is problematic due to the large number of graduate applications received from Ghana. (J. Dickinson, S. Hale, S. Trenholm).

R. Bursey sought clarification on the use of the term “Fall 2023 applications”; S. Hale confirmed that it means applications from students looking to start their studies Fall 2023.

Questions were asked about the Jinshan students: numbers enrolled in 2022 and 2023 and why they were identified separately. S. Hale noted that they are included in enrollment numbers but are taking their courses in China. S. Hale will bring enrollment numbers to the next Senate meeting. (G. Durepos, C. McLean)

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of October 27, 2023
- Graduate and undergraduate curriculum changes
- Nomination for Senate committee vacancy

Senate received for information:

- Report on policy reviews with no changes
- Undergraduate curriculum changes
- Enrollment report

Senate acknowledged the service of M. McGonnell, whose term is ending.

11. Adjournment

Moved by C. Dawson, seconded by R. Bursey, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.