



**Senate Meeting**  
Skype for Business

October 2, 2020  
2 p.m.

## MINUTES

Present: M. Bluechardt (Chair), K. Allan, P. Barry Mercer, A. Benzaquén, G. Boulet, P. Cantelo, A. Card, G. Chan, D. Cox, P. Crouse, K. Darvesh, C. Dawson, D. Fisher, J. Fraser Arsenault, C. Hardy, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, E. Hicks, N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, L. MacCallum, J. McMullin, M. Nadeem, S. Perrott, D. Piccitto, M. Ralston, K. Ritchie, J. Roberts, T. Sawyer, C. Schneider, C. Slumkoski, J. Sutherland, A. Thurlow

Guests: N. Buchanan, K. Gallant, K. Healy, J. Lamb, K. Smyth

*The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m. Observers were identified, welcomed, and reminded that they may be granted speaking privileges but are not eligible to vote on motions. New faculty members, G. Chan, J. Fraser Arsenault, E. Hicks, L. MacCallum, M. Ralston, J. Roberts, and A. Thurlow and ex-officio members, K. Darvesh (Acting Director, Teaching and Learning) and D. Fisher (Acting Associate Vice-President Research) were welcomed to Senate.*

### 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.

*P. Crouse, Senate Secretary, reviewed the list of procedures to be used during the meeting.*

### 2. **Agenda**

Confidential business items (7.19 and 7.4) were moved to the end of the meeting (following agenda item 9.6) so observers will need to leave the meeting only once; remaining agenda will be renumbered accordingly.

Given the full current agenda, concern raised about details, and the absence of the recording of the roll call votes, the minutes of June 19 and 24 were removed from the agenda and will be reviewed at a special meeting of Senate yet to be called.

**Moved by** D. Fisher, seconded by J. McMullin, that the agenda be approved as amended.  
CARRIED

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

#### **3.1. May 20, 2020**

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by G. Boulet, that the minutes of the meeting held May 20, 2020, be approved as circulated. CARRIED

### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **5. Administration Updates**

#### **5.1. President**

M. Bluehardt expressed appreciation for Senators' efforts in preparing the University for the start of the academic year and for their commitment to the Mount and its students.

She spoke to government advocacy initiatives including a recent meeting of the Federal Cabinet ministers to set the direction of Government's social and economic recovery, the collective advocacy of CONSUP member institutions and Universities Canada to ensure that the post-secondary sector is kept front and center, and a recent one-on-one discussion with the NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education where the President and two vice-presidents had the opportunity to advocate for and provide an update on behalf of the Mount. With Government's view that the impact of COVID on universities will be felt for 3-4 years, the President took the opportunity to ask about stabilization funding; universities should anticipate no word on this until at least late October/November.

As well, she spoke to encouraging post-secondary sector news in the September Throne Speech including a Government commitment to invest in infrastructure and skills and training programs and a recognition of Canada's opportunity to become a top destination for global talent. The Speech also underscored the importance of inclusion highlighting women, youth, Black Canadians, Indigenous people, LGBTQ2, and rural Canadians as key demographics both during the pandemic and throughout the recovery. The President will continue to work with Universities Canada to engage with members of Cabinet, Members of Parliament, and the senior public service on the importance of universities in driving the recovery. In conjunction with CONSUP and Universities Canada, she will continue to advocate for stabilization of the sector and for investments in research and innovation.

She provided an update on the President's Student Relief Fund and its transition from emergency-based reactive funding to proactive critical support to enable students to continue their education, the success of the Alexa McDonough Institute (AMI)'s AGM, her attendance at the Aboriginal Academic Access Post-Secondary (AAAPS) Orientation session, and chairing of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

(MMIWG) Focus Group to examine and determine the ways in which MSVU can play an active role in addressing the MMIWG Report recommendations.

Finally, she spoke to a meeting of the L'nu Advisory Circle earlier this week, where she shared Theme 3 – Truth and Reconciliation from the Draft Strategic Plan and engaged in an interesting discussion that provided helpful (and supportive) feedback.

## **5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost**

J. McMullin reiterated the President's appreciation to Senators for the successful beginning of the term. She spoke to the work of the Pandemic Equity Advisory Committee (PEAC) and expressed appreciation to G. Durepos for her leadership on the committee; the committee membership, goals, work, and timeline of committee meetings were shared. Senate will receive regular updates on committee outcomes.

She also reported on the Mount's participation in the National Dialogues and Action for Inclusive Higher Education in Communities and its recent focus on anti-black racism and black inclusion; a debriefing on the learnings from that process will be shared in the coming weeks. As well, a brief report was given on the status of several executive searches that have now resumed their work; updates will be forthcoming as the searches proceed through the fall.

In conclusion, she recognized C. Dawson, Dean of Arts and Science, in her promotion to the status of Full Professor.

The following motion was made to extend Administration Updates:

**Moved** by D. Piccitto, seconded by C. Hardy, that Administration Updates be extended for an additional 10 minutes. CARRIED

## **5.3. Vice-President Administration**

M. Nadeem spoke to the equity lens used in making the decision to close the University in preparation for the recent hurricane; feedback on the decision is being considered and will be used in planning possible future closures due to weather or winter conditions.

He advised Senators that the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) is in the process of determining whether and how the T2200 may be used by employees working from home during the pandemic. Information will be shared once the details are worked out.

As well, he provided an update on the progress related to setting up and maintaining a list of University committees on the Mount's website. With the recent completion of his assistant's secondment to TLCOL, work on the project has resumed and is a high priority for completion. Senate will be updated on progress of the project.

In conclusion, he provided an update on Campus operations; things appear to be going well from an OH&S perspective. Senators were thanked for their support and part in following protocols.

## **6. Question Period**

### External Reviews

D. Piccitto acknowledged a tough year and thanked everyone involved with moving classes online. She then spoke to external reviews, referenced the University Charter's function related to the promotion of academic excellence through the provision of a strong liberal arts and science core, and expressed concern for faculty in small departments on whom the weight of recommendations of academic department reviews are levied. She pointed to the Department of Economics as an example of a shrinking department and questioned what supports Administration is providing departments following an external review, in terms of resources available to implement recommendations and/or assist in recruitment of students for some programs. A brief discussion was held on positive evaluations completed in recent years, the work of CAPP to streamline the process for reviews, the proactive approach of the Dean in reaching out to faculty to offer supports (including curriculum mapping at TLCOL, monies for retreats for long-term planning, etc.), and the commitment to figure out how best to support programs through the review process. With the connection between recruitment and enrollment, it was suggested that the recruitment office can work with struggling programs to increase enrollment. (D. Piccitto, C. Dawson, J. McMullin)

### Out-of-Sequence Exams

N. Kayhani expressed concern for students who, for various reasons, may miss their final exam. She explained the past role of the Registrar's Office in rescheduling out-of-sequence exams and questioned the process that will be used now that exams will be on Moodle. The challenge of administering out-of-sequence exams in a COVID and online setting was noted. The Registrar's Office is prepared to assist with rescheduling; however, because it is paper-free, they will not be able to manage it without coordinating with the faculty member and possibly TLCOL. Supports currently offered by TLCOL for students requiring accommodations were noted; faculty are encouraged to contact TLCOL for assistance. The Registrar's Office will continue vetting students who miss exams. (N. Kayhani, P. Cantelo, K. Darvesh, D. Piccitto)

## **7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)**

### **7.1. Senate Executive**

#### 7.1.1. Report on Senate Self-Evaluation

E. Henderson presented an overview of the 2019/20 Senate Evaluation results including the current environment and the challenges of comparability to prior years given the impact of COVID, percentages and the number of negative responses, the impact of individual responses on the overall results, and a year-over-year comparison. "Things Done Well" and "Areas to

Improve” were reviewed, and key comments from the evaluation were considered. In conclusion, the slightly lower positive results were noted as less negative than expected given the pandemic. Areas for improvement will be reviewed.

7.1.2. Editorial Change to Senate Policy GSPP 2015-01

P. Crouse directed Senators to the memo within the meeting materials; she advised that the approved procedure for making editorial changes was followed for GSPP 2015-01.

7.1.3. Ratification of Senate Executive Nominations to GSPP and GSAA

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Grad. Studies Program & Policy	Dr. Reina Green	1 January 2021	30 June 2023
Graduate Scholarships, Assistantships & Awards	Dr. Mary Jane Harkins	1 July 2020	30 June 2023
	Dr. Jonathon McDrano	1 July 2020	30 June 2023

**Moved** by N. Kayhani, seconded by E. Hicks, that Senate ratify Senate Executive’s acceptance of the May 22, 2020, slate of nominations from the Senate Nominations Committee. CARRIED

7.1.4. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion re Vacancy on Search Committee  
N. Kayhani outlined the approval by EX on the nomination from the SNC to elect Dr. Meredith Ralston to fill a vacancy for a faculty senator on the Search Committee for the Associate Vice-President Research effective July 1, 2020.

**Moved** by N. Kayhani, seconded by J. McMullin, that Senate approve Senate Executive’s approval of the nomination from the Senate Nominations Committee for a vacancy on the Search Committee for the Associate Vice-President Research. CARRIED

7.1.5. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion HCA

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by C. Schneider, that Senate ratify Senate Executive’s approval of the Calendar entry for the Graduate Certificate in Health Communication and Aging. CARRIED

7.1.6. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion TESOL

Two errors identified by the Secretary of Senate and the Calendar editor during the review of the Calendar copy were noted: (a) changes to the course lettering in several places—GRCD to GCRD and (b) change to #1 of the

admission requirements on the DTESOL clean copy to match the marked-up version. The corrections were made prior to the Calendar being published.

**Moved** by C. Schneider, seconded by A. Card, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's approval of the Calendar entries for the TESOL certificate and diploma programs, including the changes noted. CARRIED

7.1.7. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion Regarding Convocation

T. Sawyer outlined the motion approved by EX on August 13 to cancel the face-to-face fall convocation ceremonies and to have the Chancellor or, in her absence, the Vice-Chancellor, confer degrees in absentia.

**Moved** by T. Sawyer, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's decision to cancel the face-to-face Fall 2020 Convocation ceremonies, allow for the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor to confer all degrees in absentia following the approval of the graduation list by Senate Executive, and provide some form of recognition of graduates. CARRIED

7.1.8. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion Regarding SNC Elections

T. Harriott spoke to Senate Executive's approval by e-mail on August 26, 2020, of a proposal from the Senate Nominations Committee to proceed with Faculty Complement elections using an electronic voting method since the pandemic restrictions made voting on campus difficult.

**Moved** by T. Harriott, seconded by N. Kayhani, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's approval of the Senate Nomination Committee's proposal that while the University is operating under a significant state of disruption, elections be conducted by university e-mail and SharePoint surveys, noting that care will be exercised to mitigate any risk to the integrity of the process. CARRIED

**7.2. Academic Policy and Planning**

7.2.1. Report on External Review of Economics

J. McMullin referred Senators to CAPP's report within the meeting materials on the external review of the Department of Economics; the reviews are provided for information.

7.2.2. Revisions to Adjunct Professor Policy

J. McMullin outlined the work of CAPP in the review of the policy and the recommendations that resulted from the policy review.

C. Slumkoski questioned whether the change in policy would enable adjunct professors to receive remuneration for serving as co-supervisors of theses. An

example was given of how, in the past, an adjunct professor or part-time professor who was co-supervising a thesis was paid as though teaching a part-time class. A discussion was held on the inconsistency of practices around whether or not adjunct professors are compensated (or provided honorariums) as co-supervisors versus supervisors of a thesis, what would happen in the circumstance that an external supervisor became adjunct, and the circumstances under which an external faculty member or an adjunct professor could supervise thesis students. It was noted that the revisions to the policy being considered are related to the procedure to become an Adjunct Professor and not to the payment piece, recognizing that there are inconsistencies, and that the payment piece is separate. It was suggested, however, that the payment piece be considered as part of giving the title, understanding which commitments are paid and which are not. As well, concern about voting on the policy given recent part-time faculty cuts and the impact the inequities of not being paid might have on the tension between faculty and student were expressed. (C. Slumkoski, T. Harriott, K. Ritchie, K. Kienapple, D. Fisher, A. Benzaquén, K. Allan)

The following motion was made, but given the level of feedback and concern expressed, Senate agreed that the policy be withdrawn and returned to CAPP for further consideration.

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the revised policy for granting Adjunct Professorship, effective immediately. (Withdrawn)

7.2.3. Revisions to Guidelines for Spiritual Observances

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by E. Hicks, that Senate approve the revised policy for the Accommodation of Students' Religious and Spiritual Observances, effective immediately. CARRIED

7.2.4. Revisions to MOU with Post-Secondary Institutions Policy

J. McMullin advised Senators of the revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding policy; Dr. Anna Smol's contribution to the revised policy was acknowledged.

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by K. Kienapple, that Senate approve the revised MOU Policy, effective immediately. CARRIED

7.2.5. Department Name Change

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by K. Darvesh, that Senate approve the request to change the name of the Department of Mathematics and

Computer Studies to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, effective immediately. CARRIED

- 7.2.6. Report on External Review of Department of Political and Canadian Studies  
CAPP's Report on the external review of the Department of Political and Canadian Studies was provided for information.

### 7.3. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

- 7.3.1. Revision of Graduate Certificates and Diplomas Policy  
**Moved** by K. Kienapple, seconded by J. McMullin, that Senate approve the proposed change to the Graduate Certificates and Diplomas Policy, effective immediately. CARRIED

### 7.4. Nominations

- 7.4.1. Nomination for Committee Vacancy

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Committee on Research and Publications	Dr. Chérif Matta	When Elected	30 June 2023

**Moved** by S. Perrott, seconded by C. Hardy, that Senate elect Dr. Chérif Matta to the Committee on Research and Publications, for a term starting upon election and ending June 30, 2023. CARRIED

### 7.5. Research and Publications

- 7.5.1. Statement on Research Data Management  
D. Fisher provided context for the Research Data Management Statement in the Senate materials for information.
- 7.5.2. Revisions to Policy and Procedures for Integrity in Research and Scholarship  
D. Piccitto identified an inconsistency between the list to whom this policy applies (page 287) and the list on page 329 in the Research Ethics Policy for Research Involving Human Participants (agenda item 7.6.1). She questioned the term "part-time lecturers" and whether policies can actually apply to Professor Emeriti. An explanation was provided on circumstances where the policy would apply to Professor Emeriti. A friendly amendment was recommended and accepted to replace "part-time lecturers" with "part-time academic employees." (D. Piccitto, D. Fisher, P. Crouse)

**Moved** by D. Fisher, seconded by J. McMullin, that Senate approve the revisions to the Policy and Procedures for Integrity in Research and Scholarship, to be effective once approved by Senate. CARRIED



7.5.3. Revisions to Conflict of Interest Policy

**Moved** by D. Fisher, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the revisions to the Conflict of Interest Policy, to be effective once approved by Senate. CARRIED

**7.6. University Research Ethics Board**

7.6.1. Revisions to Research Ethics Policy for Research Involving Human Participants and Retirement of Research Ethics Training Requirement Policy

As per the discussion during agenda item 7.5.2 above, it was accepted as a friendly amendment to revise the list for whom the policy applies (page 329) to match the list within Policy and Procedures for Integrity in Research and Scholarship.

**Moved** by D. Fisher, seconded by L. MacCallum, that Senate approve the proposed changes to the Research Ethics Policy for Research Involving Human Participants, as amended, and retire the Research Ethics Training Requirement Policy for the University Research Ethics Board, effective the date of Senate approval. CARRIED

**8. Other Reports**

**8.1. FA President's Report on Board of Governors' Meeting**

D. Piccitto provided an overview of the past practice of Faculty Association (FA) presidents in providing Senate with a report on Board meetings at Senate and spoke to her support of the recent FA Past President in his decision not to give the report. She advised Senators of discussions held at the recent FA Executive Committee meeting where it was agreed that the FA President provide a report to Senate on Board meetings, not as a representative of the Board of Governors, but as the FA President. This will provide her the ability to give the FA President's perspective on the meetings of the BoG and not a report on behalf of the Board of Governors.

She spoke to the size, membership, meetings, and mandate of the Board and to her sense that the Board members appreciate the Mount's identity and mission and are conscious of their fiduciary duty, which is understood mainly as a financial responsibility. She identified what she perceived to be a gap between what the Board knows and what it should know about the issues that are important to faculty; she advised that she is committed to representing faculty and identifying our concerns to the Board to help bridge this gap. She expressed the importance of communication between the Board and Senate and the need to reactivate the Board Senate Liaison Committee to foster a connection between the two bodies that govern the Mount. In conclusion, she advised Senators that the FA President serves by virtue of her position on the Board; she suggested that Senate Executive and Senate consider changing Senate's membership in the bylaws to make the FA president ex-officio on Senate. This would enable more consistent reporting between the governing bodies.

## **8.2. Students' Union**

T. Sawyer updated Senators on its partnership with an external provider on a tutor app to assist students in locating tutors and other resources for their courses, the recent hires within the Students' Union, the progress on the Students' Union Governance and Operations Review, and the status of the search for the SU General Manager.

An update was also provided on the timeline for the SU fall general elections. Senators were encouraged to promote to their classes that the SU is looking for two student members to participate on the Student Elections Committee to determine the dates for the fall general election; those interested should contact T. Sawyer.

As well, an update was provided on progress related to the new Student Representation Program that will help in populating committees with students and an Academic Appeals Support Program Policy to provide support for students who find themselves in that process. This will be the first year for student participation on Senate under the new Student Representation program.

In conclusion, he announced the reopening of the Students' Union food bank using a "curbside pickup" model and encouraged Senators to reach out to the VP Advocacy, J. Sutherland, at [vpadvocacy@msvu.ca](mailto:vpadvocacy@msvu.ca) to support this initiative.

## **9. New Business**

### **9.1. Draft Strategic Plan**

M. Bluehardt, President, updated Senators on a meeting held with the Faculty Association (FA) with regard to the strategic planning timeline and clarification on questions, a recent town hall where a discussion resulted in good feedback, an upcoming session with the FA on anti-black racism that will result in additional considerations, and a communication to the Campus Community. Senators were encouraged to provide further feedback and asked to be specific when dealing with proposed changes. The document will return to Senate at the end of October.

G. Boulet advised that at the town hall she questioned the rationale for the ordering of the themes within the Strategic Plan and how they are presented. She proposed reordering the themes as (1) Transformative Teaching and Learning, (2) Research and Scholarly Work, (3) EDIA, (4) Truth & Reconciliation, (5) Community and Engagement, (6) Healthy University Campus, and (7) Operational Excellence and Sustainability. A number of Senators indicated their agreement with G. Boulet's reordering.

C. Slumkoski spoke to a question raised in the past with regard to whether the Mount had apologized for its role in the residential schooling. He referenced an acknowledgement by Dalhousie to recognize its role in slavery and suggested that, given that many that taught at the residential schools would have received their training at the

University, the Mount should acknowledge its role in the residential schools. A discussion was held on information shared at and following the Town Hall and the investigation and inclusion of wording within the history section of the Plan. It was noted that while the University does have some secondary documents, the primary records related to the Shubenacadie Residential Schools are in the possession of the Sisters of Charity Archives and not within the University Archives; permission to use that material would require approval of the Sisters of Charity. It was suggested that the investigation into the role of the University be led by the University. As well, it was suggested that, if the Mount shares responsibility, documents should be maintained by the University within its archives. (C. Slumkoski, J. McMullin, M. Bluehardt, L. MacCallum, K. Ritchie)

K. Allan questioned whether students were invited to attend the recent town hall and the number of town halls held on the Strategic Plan recently that have included student participation. It was noted that a World Café and several town hall sessions for students have been facilitated, though none after March 2020; however, Campus bulletins on the Strategic Plan have invited all members of Campus to participate in the strategic planning process. A town hall specific to student feedback was proposed and supported. (K. Allan, M. Bluehardt, J. McMullin)

## **9.2. Annual Reports of Senate Committees**

Senators were reminded that Senate Committee annual reports are presented for information and discussion; reports were listed individually, and Senators were provided with the opportunity to make comments or raise questions.

9.2.1. Academic Appeals

9.2.2. Academic Policy and Planning

9.2.3. Appointment, Promotion and Tenure or Permanence for Academic Administrators

9.2.4. Executive

9.2.5. Graduate Scholarships, Assistantships and Awards

9.2.6. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

9.2.7. Information Technology and Services

9.2.8. Library

9.2.9. Nominations

D. Piccitto raised a question and clarification was provided on the status of the Searches Working Committee to consider various matters relating to administrative searches. This committee will be restarted in the near future.

9.2.10. Research and Publications

9.2.11. Student Experience

L. MacCallum questioned, given the terms of reference for the committee, why the membership does not include ex-officio status positions for the Black Student Support Coordinator or the Special Advisor on Aboriginal Affairs and what work this committee has done, and will do, on anti-racism and EDIA. A brief discussion was held on both the Student Experience Committee and the Retention Committee; both ex-officio positions noted above are being reviewed for inclusion on these committees. The terms of reference for the Retention Committee will be reviewed this year; the terms of reference for Student Experience may also be reviewed this year. (L. MacCallum, P. Barry Mercer)

#### 9.2.12. Student Judicial

K. Allan raised concern about members not feeling adequately trained or prepared to hear a case this year, suggested that there be some reform in the way the student judiciary processes are carried out, and questioned whether there was a plan to make those changes going forward. A brief discussion was held, and it was noted that as was shared at an earlier Senate meeting, the non-academic discipline policy is governed by the Senate Student Experience Committee; a scan for other progressive policies with a more investigative slant to the process is being conducted. The SE Committee will meet on Thursday, and a group will be struck to begin this work. If, in the meantime, the committee must hear another case, additional training will be provided to committee members in advance of that hearing. (K. Allan, P. Barry Mercer)

#### 9.2.13. Student Discipline Appeals

#### 9.2.14. Teaching and Learning

#### 9.2.15. Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships and Awards

D. Piccitto questioned whether there is a timeline on a new plan for a more equitable distribution of in-course scholarships and awards. An overview of discussions held at a recent CAPP meeting was provided; a new technology system to receive faculty scholarship nominations must be in place before the end of the 2021 academic school year. Options are being investigated with a temporary solution expected before this date. (D. Piccitto, P. Cantelo)

L. MacCallum questioned the process in awarding in-course bursaries and whether students with more financial need are receiving the bursaries over those with less financial need. A brief discussion was held, and it was noted that means-testing is a consistent process currently used for student loans processing. (L. MacCallum, P. Cantelo)

L. MacCallum questioned the difference in the percentage of Finance Need Met between 2013-2014 (40%) and 2019-2020 (15%) and what actions have or will be taken to increase this percentage of financial need being met. Factors including a greater number of students applying for bursaries and less stigma attached to applying for them than in former years were credited as contributing to the increased financial need; the impact of the number of bursaries offered on the percentage of financial need met was noted. An increase of \$350K for financial aid for bursaries (within the budget) and the President's Student Relief Fund to enable students to continue their education were also noted; it is expected that these increases in financial aid will increase the percentage of financial need met over the next year.

9.2.16. Undergraduate Curriculum

9.2.17. University Research Ethics Board

9.2.18. Writing Initiatives

The following motion was made to extend the meeting:

**Moved** by G. Boulet, seconded by E. Henderson, that the meeting be extended to 5:30 p.m. CARRIED

### **9.3. Annual Report of Nancy's Chair Committee**

D. Piccitto requested clarification on whether Nancy's Chair holders are compensated equally. A brief discussion was held on the decision to let the Chair remain vacant for a year and the compensation of Chairs based on their experience and qualifications. It was acknowledged that Chairs are compensated differently for the same work, a topic which C. Dawson agreed to take back to the Committee for discussion. (D. Piccitto, C. Dawson)

### **9.4. Annual Report of Gail and Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Learning Disabilities**

A. Card advised that, despite not being noted in the report, Dr. Jamie Metsala was the Chair for the Gail and Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Learning Disabilities; the Committee was very impressed with her work.

### **9.5. Winter 2021 Semester**

J. McMullin provided an overview of a meeting she and M. Nadeem recently had with Dr. Strang, Deputy Minister Duff Montgomery, and others from the post-secondary sector. She shared with Senators Dr. Strang's appreciation to the University community for their resolve in managing the pandemic by adherence to public health guidelines. She spoke to the three pillars needed if success is to continue – border control monitoring and oversight, good access to testing and timely access to 811,

and the support of all Nova Scotians to collectively continue with measures to keep all safe including physical distancing, limiting social gathering, hand washing, enhanced cleaning, and mask-wearing.

With a second wave of the virus expected over the fall/winter and the clear expectation that the pandemic will be around for a long time, the University will need to evolve with this new reality and understand that there are real capacity limits and added cleaning requirements that the University must adhere to. Those that can work at home are encouraged to continue to do so through the winter term.

While through the fall, occasional access was accommodated for all and regular access was granted for a few, for the winter an enhanced flexibility will be offered with respect to Campus access. As a result, and after consultation with members of the FA Executive, the Students' Union Executive, members of Management Forum and with discussion and advice from the Senate Executive, she suggested that courses continue to be offered primarily online and that proposals for face-to-face courses or meetings will be considered if virtual delivery is accommodated and the public health safety guidelines are met.

D. Piccitto asked that with any correspondence to students with regard to possible face-to-face classes, Administration manage student expectations and not put faculty in a position where they feel pressured to conduct classes face-to-face. A brief discussion was held; it was noted that only in exceptional circumstances will there be face-to-face instruction, and even in that situation, there will be an alternative as all face-to-face classes would include a virtual option (multi-access model). TLCOL is working on a communication to go to Departments as they consider their mode of delivery (asynchronous online, synchronous online, and multimode online). TLCOL encourages those considering asynchronous online or multimode online classes to contact TLCOL to help with the upfront planning. Clarification was provided that the face-to-face classes might also include more sporadic components like smaller group work, workshops, etc. often used within the BEd program. (D. Piccitto, J. McMullin, K. Allan, K. Darvesh, C. Schneider)

The timeline to submit proposals for face-to-face classes and who will be responsible for approving the requests was also questioned; proposals can be submitted to J. McMullin at any time. While it is unknown at this time who will have final approval, Senators were advised that all requests received during the fall term were able to be accommodated. (A. Benzaquén, N. Kayhani, J. McMullin)

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by K. Kienapple, that for winter 2021 MSVU courses continue to be offered primarily online and that proposals for face-to-face courses or meetings will be considered if virtual delivery is accommodated and the public health safety guidelines are met. CARRIED

**Moved** by C. Schneider, seconded by N. Kayhani, that the meeting move in-camera.  
CARRIED

**9.6. Nominations for Honorary Degrees**

**9.7. Senate Governance Award**

**9.8. Appointment, Promotion and Tenure or Permanence for Academic Administrators**

9.8.1. Professor Emeritus Nomination CONFIDENTIAL

The in-camera session was used to consider nominations for Honorary Doctorates, the Senate Governance Award, and Professor Emeritus. Four Honorary Doctorate nominations were approved, and Senators were reminded that the names of these nominees and the outcome of the voting process are confidential.

**Moved** by J. McMullin, seconded by G. Boulet, that the meeting move out of the in-camera session. CARRIED

**10. Items for Communication**

**Senate approved:**

- Minutes of the May 20, 2020, meeting
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion to elect faculty to GSPP & GSAA
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion to elect a faculty member to the Associate VP Research Search Committee
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion to approve Calendar entry for the Graduate Certificate in Health Communication and Aging
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion to approve Calendar entries for TESOL certificate and diploma programs
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion regarding fall convocation
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion regarding the medium for Faculty Complement elections
- Revisions to Guidelines for Spiritual Observances
- Revisions to MOU with Post-Secondary Institutions Policy
- Name Change of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Studies to Department of Mathematics and Statistics
- Revision of Graduate Certificates and Diplomas Policy
- Election of faculty member to CRP
- Revisions to Policy and Procedures for Integrity in Research and Scholarship
- Revisions to Conflict of Interest Policy
- Revisions to Research Ethics Policy for Research Involving Human Participants and Retirement of Research Ethics Training Requirement Policy
- Three nominations for honorary degrees
- Awarding Professor Emeritus status on Dr. Brook Taylor

- Awarding Senate Governance Award to Dr. Robert Farmer and Dr. Nargess Kayhani
- The following motion regarding the Winter 2021 semester:
  - That for winter 2021 MSVU courses continue to be offered primarily online, and that proposals for face-to-face courses or meetings will be considered if virtual delivery is accommodated and the public health safety guidelines are met.

**Senate received for information:**

- Report on the Senate Self-Evaluation 2020
- Notice of editorial change to Graduate Certificates and Diplomas Policy
- CAPP report on External Review of Economics
- CAPP report on External Review of Political and Canadian Studies
- Statement on Research Data Management
- Annual reports of Senate-related committees

**11. Adjournment**

**Moved** by P. Barry Mercer, seconded by N. Kayhani, that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.