



Senate Meeting
Skype for Business

April 23, 2021
2 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Regrets: C. Cameron, K. Darvesh, D. Goree, J. Roberts

Observers: K. Gallant, K. Healy, J. Lamb

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed; all observers were reminded that they may be granted speaking privileges but are not eligible to vote on motions. Student Senators J. Sutherland, C. Hardy, K. Allan, N. Buchanan, C. Cameron, and D. Goree were thanked for their service to Senate over the last year. Interim Vice-President Academic and Provost B. Taylor was welcomed.

Procedures to be used during the meeting and while voting on motions were outlined.

1. Indigenous Land Recognition

R. Lumpkin 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

Two changes were requested: Removing item 8.1. FA President's Report on Board of Governors' Meeting and moving item 7.3 to follow item 8.0 to group confidential business.

Moved by E. Hicks, seconded by E. Henderson, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. March 26, 2021

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by C. Hardy, to approve the minutes of March 26, 2021, as presented. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

R. Lumpkin, in honour of National Poem in Your Pocket Day (April 29, 2021), read a poem by African American Poet Maya Angelou, "Human Family". She spoke to the many accomplishments, challenges, and difficulties that the Mount family has faced and overcome during the past year. She expressed pleasure in being back among the Mount family, noting that we will continue to work and support each other during these trying and stressful times.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

B. Taylor shared that he, too, was glad to be back among the Mount family and added that he was prepared to dedicate himself in doing his best. He stated that he was looking forward to connecting with old faces and meeting new ones. He spoke to the changes that had occurred in the past two years, noting that he looked forward to implementing those items established in the new strategic plan. He thanked J. McMullin for her generous support during this time of transition. He then gave an update on the search for the Dean of Professional Studies and Graduate Studies as well as the search for the Associate Vice President Research.

5.3. Vice-President Administration

M. Nadeem reported on the recent changes to the restrictions surrounding the pandemic. He also reported on the year-end audit which will begin next week, with the final audited statements due to the Board in June.

6. Question Period

C. Hardy wondered if students could attend the same course either via online learning or in person, as needed, or if they must register for one of those two delivery methods per course and be locked into that method all semester.

B. Taylor responded that a student must decide on a delivery method and stay with this method throughout the semester. Those students with pressing health concerns will be evaluated on an individual basis. C. Hardy questioned why this option would not be available to all students and asked that allowing students the option to alternate between delivery methods when needed should be seriously considered.

D. Piccitto asked M. Nadeem if he was concerned with audit security (considering what happened at Laurentian University with KPMG). M. Nadeem responded that, although we are using the same audit firm, our auditors are not the same as those at Laurentian. He added that he has not noticed any issues with their audit approach or risk mitigation.

In response to the recent hires during the Black cluster hiring initiative, T. Findlay asked if there is a specific plan in place for the retention of Black Faculty. B. Taylor responded that it is critical to retain these faculty, noting that he will be in consultation with the EDIA Advisor as well as the Deans regarding a retention strategy. R. Lumpkin added that Black Student Advisor R. Headley is in the early stages of planning a Black Scholars Conference.

G. Durepos asked for additional details regarding the upcoming governance review: When will the review take place, what motivated the review, what is being reviewed, and who is conducting the review? R. Lumpkin responded that she has a meeting with the Board Chair and Vice-Chair next week to discuss the governance review, adding that she will report more at our next Senate meeting. The overall goal is to improve our operations in the fields of governance. She expects that an external organization will be hired to work with an internal steering group for a collaborative effort. D. Piccitto commented that, if this is a review of our bi-cameral governance system, both Senate and the Board of Governors should be able to evaluate and approve the proposed review. K. Ritchie added that we should co-construct the review plan. R. Lumpkin responded that she would take both comments back to next week's meeting.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

A. Thurlow introduced the curriculum items for both Biology and Applied Human Nutrition.

7.1.1. Biology

7.1.1.1. New Course Proposal

7.1.1.1.1. BIOL 6100: Advanced Directed Study

MOVED by A. Thurlow, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the new course proposal for BIOL 6100: Advanced Directed Study.

CARRIED

7.1.2. Applied Human Nutrition

7.1.2.1. Change to Calendar Entry

MOVED by A. Thurlow, seconded by J. Fraser Arsenault, that Senate approve the Applied Human Nutrition change to the Calendar entry.

CARRIED

7.2. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.2.1. Biology

7.2.1.1. New Course Proposals

7.2.1.1.1. BIOL 3374 – Genetics: Genes and Genomes

A. Card introduced the new course proposal for Biology.

MOVED by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the BIOL 3374 new course proposal – Genetics: Genes and Genomes. CARRIED

7.2.1.2. Course Deletions

A. Card brought forward the deletion of both BIOL 3370 and 3372.

7.2.1.2.1. BIOL 3370 – Principles of Heredity

7.2.1.2.2. BIOL 3372 – Molecular Genetics

MOVED by A. Card, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the deletion of BIOL 3370 – Principles of Heredity and the deletion of BIOL 3372 – Molecular Genetics. CARRIED

7.2.1.3. Changes to Existing Program

A. Card presented the changes in requirements for the Biology Major, Combined Major, and Honours degree for approval.

7.2.1.3.1. Changes in requirements for Biology Major, Combined Major and Honours degree

MOVED by A. Card, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Biology Major, Combined Major, and Honours degree. CARRIED

7.2.2. Changes (*for Information*)

7.2.2.1. Psychology

7.2.2.1.1. New prerequisite for PSYC 2213

A. Card presented the new prerequisite for PSYC 2213 for information.

7.3. Student Experience

7.3.1. Non-Academic Discipline Policy

Moved by P. Barry, seconded by E. Hicks, that Senate approve the revisions to the non-academic discipline policy and that the revised policy become effective immediately. MOTION WITHDRAWN

P. Barry reviewed the revisions to the Non-Academic Discipline Policy, highlighting the change in process from a hearing to an investigative model. She also noted the trauma informed approach included in this policy as well as training for this approach.

A lengthy discussion ensued in which Senators provided feedback and raised several concerns. Questions arose regarding the response to off-campus student conduct resulting in a complaint from the community; the timeline of the entire process, especially considering a trauma informed approach; the necessity to clarify the role of an advocate/support person; and the option for a complainant to choose or decline a restorative approach to justice.

(E. Hicks, G. Boulet, D. Piccitto, K. Ritchie)

Other concerns involving an investigator were brought forward: the investigator's credentials, the omission of 'investigator' in the definitions (item 2.3), cost and budget for an investigator, whether the investigator will remain anonymous, the process for selecting an investigator, and the weight of the investigator's report on the ultimate decision of the committee. P. Barry responded that the intent is not to hire external investigators for every case, but to build upon our own institutional capacity for investigation. This raised another concern regarding internal training, to which P. Barry elaborated that identifying appropriate and diverse community members is difficult and is a shared concern among all institutions. She assured Senators that this would not be added to faculty workload, noting that we will also continue to lean on our sister institutions for external investigators. She emphasized that, given the uniqueness of the post-secondary sector, we need to invest further in our roster of shared investigators. (G. Durepos, L. MacCallum)

K. Allan wondered if the driving factor for creating internal capacity is philosophical or budgetary. She also commented that the EDIA Advisor should be consulted to review the policy. P. Barry responded that it is both philosophical and budgetary, noting that all Universities are expected to deal with student conduct, seeking external help when warranted. J. Sutherland suggested two policies, one for minor infractions and one for major infractions.

P. Barry withdrew her motion, noting that she would take Senators' comments and concerns back to the Committee.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Students' Union

J. Sutherland reported on hiring for the Soup Kitchen Coordinator position; the hiring of the new SU General Manager; the implementation of the health and dental benefits; the incoming Student Council reps, and upcoming and ongoing training.

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

8.2.1. Professor Emeritus Nomination **CONFIDENTIAL**

Moved by E. Henderson, seconded by E. Hicks, that the meeting be moved in camera. CARRIED

R. Lumpkin brought forward the candidate for Professor Emeritus. A confidential vote was held. The title of Professor Emeritus was approved.

9. New Business

9.1. Nominations for Honorary Degrees **CONFIDENTIAL**

R. Lumpkin brought forward the nominees for Honorary Degrees. Two nominations were approved.

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by E. Henderson, that the meeting be moved from in camera. CARRIED

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of March 26, 2021
- Graduate and undergraduate curriculum changes in Biology and Applied Human Nutrition
- Two nominations for honorary degrees
- Awarding of Professor Emeritus status on Dr. Suzanne Seager

Senate received for information:

- An undergraduate curriculum change in Psychology

11. Adjournment

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by A. Thurlow, that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.