



Senate Meeting
Alice Egan Hagen Boardroom (Rosaria 312); MS Teams

April 28, 2023
2 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: J. Dickinson (Chair), K. Allan, K. Blotnicky, S. Brigham, N. Buchanan, C. Cameron, A. Card, G. Chan, P. Crouse, M. Eskritt, T. Findlay, J. Fraser Arsenault, T. Franz-Odendaal, G. Fraser, R. Gechtman, M. Gillis, M. Gonick, S. Hale, C. Hardy, M. J. Harkins, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, K. Jones, J. MacLeod, S. MacMillan, M. McGonnell, M. Ralston, C. Schneider, C. Slumkoski, L. Steele, J. R. Sylliboy, B. Taylor, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, R. Zuk

Regrets: C. Dawson, G. Durepos, J. Gahagan, S. Goswami, G. Morrison

Observers: K. Gallant, K. Barrett

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed. J. MacLeod was welcomed as substitute parliamentarian, and J. R. Sylliboy was welcomed to his first in-person Senate meeting. Student Senators were thanked for their service on Senate.

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

Two changes were identified:

Addition of 7.4, Information Technology and Services, and the moving of Professor Emeritus Nominations to the end of the meeting.

Moved by S. Hale, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. March 31, 2023

Moved by S. Brigham, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, to approve the minutes of March 31, 2023, as amended. CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

P. Crouse shared that an updated PowerPoint presentation from the special budget meeting will be shared with Senators and that it will provide clarity to the discrepancies discussed at that meeting.

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

J. Dickinson reported that Dr. Lori Francis will be joining the Mount this summer as the Vice-President Academic and Provost and Isabelle Nault, as the Vice-President Administration. J. Dickinson thanked interim VP's Dr. Brook Taylor and Dr. Gabe Morrison on their commitment to the Mount while in their interim roles.

J. Dickinson provided an update on the University Librarian search, noting that the search is in its early stages, with a preliminary meeting of the search committee having taken place.

J. Dickinson thanked S. MacMillian for the successful Celebration of Teaching and Learning event, and she also congratulated the MSVU Dimensions team, whose work to support the advancement of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in research has been recognized by the Government of Canada. She announced that the Mount was one of ten institutions across Canada and the only institution in Atlantic Canada to receive this recognition.

J. Dickinson concluded her update by reporting on the recent Universities Canada meeting that she attended, noting that many other institutions are in a recovery period right now.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

B. Taylor reported on his preparations for incoming VPAP, Dr. Lori Francis. B. Taylor also reported on the status of improving the Mount's admissions processes, noting that an internal team is consulting with Ellucian to investigate possible technological solutions and that extra support will be put in place in the interim during the busiest periods of the admissions cycle.

B. Taylor briefly spoke about ChatGPT, sharing that CAPP has established a working group to investigate what other higher education institutions are doing to prevent/detect ChatGPT, and the strengths/shortcomings of our current plagiarism policies when dealing with ChatGPT or AI generated work.

5.3. Vice-President Administration
No report as G. Morrison was not present.

6. Question Period

T. Franz-Odendaal questioned if the results of the safety audit would be available for review. J. Dickinson commented that we have not yet received a full report but did receive a summary. J. Dickinson will look into how and when the full report will be available.

C. Hardy followed up on her previous question about a sign language course. J. Dickinson responded that typically a new course proposal would start at a department level and to speak with K. Allan regarding the next steps.

S. Brigham questioned whether a Mi'kmaq language course is still being considered.
B. Taylor will follow up with C. Dawson.

S. Brigham asked why no funds were currently available for internal research grants.
B. Taylor will follow up with J. Gahagan regarding the details; however, J. Dickinson commented that the fund was depleted early due to the increased number of course relief credits coming from the internal research grants fund in accordance with the Collective Agreement.

G. Fraser referenced his Department's concerns when courses have been cancelled and asked if data are being collected from students who have been impacted and how such cancellations affect retention. A detailed discussion ensued, with many Senators sharing details of how course cancellations, including last-minute cancellations, have impacted them. Senators pointed out the oxymoron of the Mount actively advertising its "small class sizes" as a selling point for applicants but that those same courses are cancelled due to low enrollment. Other Senators noted that historic enrollment numbers and graduating class sizes should be considered before the cancellation of courses. (G. Fraser, C. Hardy, N. Buchanan, M. Gillis, P. Crouse, T. Franz-Odendaal).

B. Taylor noted that the cancellation of courses falls within the purview of the Deans and that hard decisions do sometimes have to be made based on class sizes. J. Dickinson commented on cost-savings of a student doing an independent study or letter of permission course versus running a course with only a few students enrolled and emphasized the need for clear communication so that students impacted by course cancellations are connected with academic advisors promptly. Discussion then ensued regarding independent studies: their cost vs. running a course, the impact of the extra workload on faculty, and difficulties for students in 2+2 programs. Finally, it was suggested that implementing a policy regarding course cancellations would be useful, recognizing that exceptions may be needed and that enrollment patterns besides numbers should be considered. This topic was referred to B. Taylor for further discussion at the Vice President Academic Advisory Committee. (K. Allan, K. Blotnick, C. Schneider, P. Crouse).

R. Zuk questioned if the results of the accessibility audit are available. J. Dickinson commented that we have received the results, along with the cost of the recommendations, noting that some recommendations are already being implemented. The Mount has until 2030 to become fully accessible so recommendations will be implemented over time.

T. Franz-Odendaal commented that the Research Grants Coordinator position is currently advertised but that the community was not informed about it. She also noted that she did not receive an update regarding a previous question on the overhead policy being applied to researchers differently. B. Taylor and T. Franz-Odendaal will meet privately to discuss this.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Ratification of Senate Parliamentarian

Moved by R. Zuk, seconded by J. MacLeod, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's nomination to renew Dr. Gabie Durepos' appointment as Parliamentarian effective July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2026. CARRIED.

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

7.2.1. External Review of Biology

B. Taylor presented for information the results of the external review of the Biology Department.

7.2.2. External Review Schedule

B. Taylor presented for information the external review schedule for academic and academic support units through 2025-2026.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Applied Human Nutrition

A. Card packaged the following four items in one motion.

7.3.1.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.1.1.1. NUTR 3311: Applied Nutrition Research Methods

7.3.1.2. Deletion of Courses

7.3.1.2.1. NUTR 3313: Research Methods in Nutrition and Dietetics

7.3.1.2.2. NUTR 4406: Seminar in Nutrition

7.3.1.3. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.1.3.1. Program requirements for Bachelor of Science Applied Human Nutrition (Nutrition), Bachelor of Science Applied Human Nutrition (Dietetics), Internship Education Program

Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve new course NUTR 3331, delete the courses NUTR 3313 & NUTR 4406 and approve the change in

program requirements for Bachelor of Science Applied Human Nutrition (Nutrition), Bachelor of Science Applied Human Nutrition (Dietetics), Internship Education Program. CARRIED.

7.3.2. Business Administration

7.3.2.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.2.1.1. Certificate in Marketing program requirements **Moved** by A. Card, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate approve the change in program requirements for the Certificate in Marketing. CARRIED.

7.3.3. Child and Youth Study

7.3.3.1. New Course Proposals

A. Card packaged the following two new course proposals in one motion.

7.3.3.1.1. CHYS 3340: Special Topics in Child and Youth Study

7.3.3.1.2. CHYS 3341: Special Topics in Child and Youth Study

Moved by A. Card, seconded by C. Hardy, that Senate approve the new courses CHYS 3340 and CHYS 3341. CARRIED.

7.3.4. Family Studies and Gerontology

7.3.4.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.4.1.1. Program requirements Combined Major, Concentration and Minor in Family Studies and Combined Major, Concentration and Minor in Gerontology

Moved by A. Card, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate approve the change in program requirements for Combined Major, Concentration and Minor in Family Studies and Combined Major, Concentration and Minor in Gerontology. CARRIED.

7.3.5. Sociology/Anthropology

A. Card packaged the following two program changes in one motion.

7.3.5.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.5.1.1. Program requirements for Combined Major with Honours Degree

7.3.5.1.2. Addition of Combined Major Honours Certificate

Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the change in program requirements for Combined Major with Honours Degree in SOAN and the addition of Combined Major Honours Certificate in SOAN. CARRIED.

- 7.3.6. Tourism and Hospitality Management
 - 7.3.6.1. Deletion of Course
 - 7.3.6.1.1. THMT 4440: Special Topics in Hospitality Management
Moved by A. Card, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate approve the deletion of THMT 4440. CARRIED.
- 7.3.7. Changes
 - A. Card presented the following changes for information.
 - 7.3.7.1. Business Administration and Tourism
 - 7.3.7.1.1. New description for BUSI 2225/THMT 2225
 - 7.3.7.2. Child and Youth Study
 - 7.3.7.2.1. New description for CHYS 3311
 - 7.3.7.2.2. New course name, WebAdvisor name, prerequisites and description for CHYS 4416
 - 7.3.7.3. Mathematics and Statistics
 - 7.3.7.3.1. New prerequisites for MATH 4498
 - 7.3.7.3.2. New prerequisites for MATH 4499
 - 7.3.7.4. Political and Canadian Studies
 - 7.3.7.4.1. New prerequisites for POLS 3320/CULS 3320
 - 7.3.7.5. Tourism and Hospitality Management
 - 7.3.7.5.1. New course name and WebAdvisor name for THMT 4442

7.4. Information Technology and Services

J. Valcke reported on the status of the committee and that she is serving as the committee's chair. She reported that multi-factor authentication has reduced the number of phishing attacks but that the hackers have adapted and are finding new ways to phish, one of which is through Outlook's "global address book"; therefore, IT&S will trial removing access to the global address book for student email accounts while investigating options where this decision impacts teaching requirements.

J. Valcke also reported that IT&S plans to start reimaging computers earlier in the summer. P. Crouse questioned when faculty would be asked to test the image and how the images would be updated, noting that new versions of software used in teaching are often not available earlier in the summer. J. Valcke responded that IT&S will revisit computers that require updating and that she will follow up on the timeline for testing.

K. Allan requested that, during the trial of removing access to the global address book for student email accounts, students will still have the functionality to search Students' Union email addresses.

Senators questioned if an alternative address book could be in place for students, noting that by making contact information more difficult to find, students would be discouraged from reaching out to access supports and would not be able to verify

correct addresses. (K. Allan, K. Jones, P. Crouse). These concerns will be brought forward to SCOITS for discussion.

- 7.5. Appointment, Promotion and Tenure or Permanence for Academic Administrators
This agenda item was held following New Business in order to facilitate voting.

7.5.1. Professor Emeritus Nominations CONFIDENTIAL

Moved by L. Steele, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate move in-camera to review the Nominees for Professor Emeritus. CARRIED

Moved by K. Allan, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate move out of the in-camera session. CARRIED.

The in-camera session was used to review and vote on 6 nominees for Professor Emeritus.

8. Other Reports

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

S. Brigham reported on the discussions had during the last Board meeting, which included the approval of the new VPAP and VPA, passing of the budget and the shortfall recovery plan with emphasis on fundraising. The Board also received updates on the 150th anniversary celebrations which will include a golf tournament at Digby Pines, updates on Advancement and the annual presidential review process.

- 8.2. Student's Union

K. Allan reported on the special general meeting wherein changes to various core governing documents, bylaws and positions were approved.

N. Buchanan reported on course development for the incoming VP Communications, which will highlight the fundamentals and responsibilities of the role. He also reported on the success of the MSVUSU Awards Night and thanked Senators for their support and attendance at this event.

C. Hardy echoed N. Buchanan's sentiments of the success of the MSVUSU Awards Night and thanked him for his hard work in planning the event. C. Hardy reported that renovations in the food bank and kitchen are almost complete and that the food bank is well stocked and concluded by thanking Senators for their support.

C. Schneider questioned if a food donation box could be available at Senate, suggesting that an email could be sent out prior to meetings that highlighted the specific items that are needed most. C. Hardy commended the idea and will suggest it to her successor.

8.3. Strategic Plan Update

J. Dickinson reported that there is now a live progress report on the MSVU website; the link was shared with Senators in Teams chat and will later be circulated by email.

9. New Business

9.1. *Atlantis*

T. Harrison presented an update on the *Atlantis* journal, highlighting key changes, commitment to open access and Erudit, SSHRC funding awarded, and work underway including the 50th anniversary of *Atlantis*. K. Barrett, Managing Editor, joined the meeting for this presentation and discussion.

S. Brigham questioned if there was a single editor or a plan to have one. T. Harrison confirmed that they are actively seeking a single editor to support the managing editor.

C. Schneider commented that various print copies of *Atlantis* are in the Seton storage area should T. Harrison be looking for any particular issues of *Atlantis* for record-keeping.

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of March 31, 2023
- Ratification of EX's recommendation for Senate Parliamentarian
- Several undergraduate curriculum changes
- Awarding of Professor Emeritus status on Dr. Elizabeth Church, Dr. Kim Kienapple, Dr. Gayle MacDonald, Dr. Anna Smol and Dr. Joan Turner
- Awarding of Librarian Emeritus status on Meg Raven

Senate received for information:

- A report of the external review of Biology
- External review schedule
- Undergraduate curriculum changes

Senate thanked student Senators whose terms end in April: K. Allan, N. Buchanan, C. Cameron, M. Gillis, S. Goswami, and C. Hardy.

11. Adjournment

Moved by G. Fraser, seconded by S. Hale, that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.