



Senate Meeting

Alice Egan Hagen Boardroom (Rosaria 312); MS Teams

January 26, 2024

2 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: J. Dickinson (Chair), K. Blotnicky, S. Brigham, R. Bursey, A. Card, C. Cameron, A. Card, M. Coolen, P. Crouse, G. Durepos, M. Eskritt, D. Fisher, L. Francis, T. Franz-Odendaal, J. Fraser Arsenault, J. Gahagan, R. Gechtman, M. Gonick, S. Hale, M. J. Harkins, K. Jones, N. Kayhani, G. MacInnis, J. MacLeod, C. McLean, I. Nault, K. Schlieff, C. Schneider, M. Siddiquee, G. Sneddon, L. Steele, J. R. Sylliboy, A. Thurlow, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, R. Zuk

Regrets: K. Allan, S. Goswami, D. Rodrigues, C. Slumkoski

Observers: K. Gallant

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed. New Senators M. Coolen, D. Fisher and M. Siddiquee were welcomed.

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

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

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. November 24, 2023

Moved by R. Gechtman, seconded by J. Valcke, to approve the minutes of November 24, 2023, as presented. CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. S. Hale reported on the number of Jinshan students enrolled from 2019-2023, noting a downward trend of Jinshan students studying on campus at MSVU but an upward trend of enrolled Jinshan students overall.

G. Durepos asked if Jinshan students studying on campus at MSVU pay the MSVU international student tuition rate or the local Jinshan tuition rate. S. Hale will inquire with Financial Services and notify G. Durepos.

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

J. Dickinson congratulated T. Franz-Odendaal for receiving a significant research grant from the Canadian Space Agency and the CFI-JEFL.

J. Dickinson updated Senators on various government relations projects, including the Memorandum of Understanding on negotiations with the province, Doctor of Psychology program and clinic and the relocation and potential expansion of the Child Study Centre. She also touched on the IRCC's recent announcement regarding the cap of international student visas, noting that applications submitted before January 22, 2024, will not be impacted.

Lastly, J. Dickinson shared MSVU's intention to host the Atlantic Aboriginal Postsecondary Education conference in 2025.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

L. Francis reported on two vacant administrative positions: the University Librarian and the Acting Director of Teaching and Learning. She shared that the University Librarian search committee has identified a preferred candidate, and in the meantime, D. Rodrigues has agreed to extend her tenure as Interim University Librarian until April 30, 2024. L. Francis shared that she received expressions of interest from three faculty members in regard to the Acting Director of Teaching and Learning position and that she intends to meet with each individually next week.

L. Francis reported on the announcement by IRCC regarding a 35% reduction in the number of approved visas for international students. She reported that any applications received after January 22, 2024, will require an attestation letter, that Quebec is the only province that has a model/process to provide these letters, and that we are actively working on developing our own process. L. Francis also noted that while post-graduate certificates and diplomas are currently included in the cap, Masters and Doctoral programs are excluded from the cap.

5.3. Vice-President Administration

I. Nault reported on several ongoing projects, including the budget process and projection; upgrades from the security audit report; the hiring of a Microcredentials Coordinator; a new funding opportunity from the Labour, Skills & Immigration Department to offer local, market-specific microcredentials; and the AVP People and Culture search.

6. Question Period

S. Brigham asked for clarity regarding the AVP People and Culture job, noting that when she viewed the ad on LinkedIn, there was no language regarding its being an equity deserving position. Discussion regarding the job ad ensued, with it being noted that a comprehensive job ad can be found on KBRs' website and that a specific singular clause may not be in the ad, as it is interwoven within the 8-page document. (S. Brigham, I. Nault, J. Dickinson)

N. Kayhani requested that the clocks in the Seton Academic Centre classrooms be adjusted as they are currently not accurate. I. Nault will follow up with Facilities.

N. Kayhani also inquired if it is possible to get class lists with students' photos included. S. Hale will follow up on this inquiry, noting that some distance students do not come on campus to get a photo ID card and, therefore, would not have a photo online.

The topic of academic security was discussed, with Senators voicing concern over a recent incident of online hate toward a MSVU faculty member. Security protocols were discussed, including the possibility of instructors requesting their name be removed from the publicly accessible WebAdvisor. (J. MacLeod, J. Dickinson, L. Francis, S. Brigham)

R. Zuk sought more information on the Mental Health First Aid workshop being offered by MSVU Counselling Services for faculty and staff, as well as clarification on the \$78 cost of the workshop. It was shared that Mental Health First Aid is a national program with the goal of participants who take the course to be prepared to interact confidently about mental health and that the fee goes directly to the governing body who issues the certificate of completion. It was further elaborated that MSVU has paid for our counsellors to be trained at delivering this course so that the need to bring in and pay for an external trainer is negated and that it is being offered to faculty and staff due to high demand. The source of funds to cover the fee was discussed, with Senators noting professional development allowances and suggesting absorption by MSVU. (R. Zuk, L. Francis, K. Jones, G. Durepos, S. Trenholm, I. Nault, T. Franz-Odendaal)

P. Crouse inquired about the shredding bins on campus, noting that they were recently removed. I. Nault responded that Interuniversity Services (ISI) engaged a new vendor, a breakdown in communication on removal and installation dates occurred and that communication will be shared with the community once a resolution is known.

T. Franz-Odendaal asked about the decision-making process for appointing the Interim Director of Teaching and Learning. L. Francis responded that despite the tight timeline, she is committed to transparency during the process, with the intention for future processes to be more predictable, consistent, transparent and documented.

M. Gonick inquired on the status of hiring extra personnel to process graduate admissions. L. Francis confirmed that there will be an extra support person hired, with the posting to go up shortly.

A. Card asked J. Dickinson to speak on the eight-month online B.Ed. program approved at CBU. J. Dickinson obliged, sharing further details on the structure of the program.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Revision to Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations Policy

L. Francis prefaced the motion by explaining that the current policy cites a rescinded policy within its text and the proposed change will eliminate this inconsistency.

Moved by L. Francis, seconded by C. Schneider, that Senate approve the revisions to the policy on Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations (EX 2012-02), effective immediately. CARRIED.

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

7.2.1. Academic Calendar Dates 2024-2025

L. Francis presented the academic calendar dates for 2024-2025 for information.

Senators commented on several areas, including having study breaks at the same time as the other universities in Halifax, the tight deadline of the exam period end date and the final day to submit grades in the winter semester, as well as the mental toll surrounding “designated” class days for intensive courses such as accounting. (N. Kayhani, S. Hale, L. Francis, T. Franz-Odendaal, R. Burse)

The start date of the academic year was also discussed, with it being noted that different dates define the academic year, workload year, fiscal year and calendar year. (M. J. Harkins, S. Hale, D. Fisher)

7.2.2. Report on external review of Women and Gender Studies

L. Francis presented the report on the external review of the Women and Gender Studies program for information.

No discussion occurred.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Biology

7.3.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.1.1.1. GPA requirement for honours courses

Moved by A. Card, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate approve the new GPA requirement for Biology honours courses. CARRIED.

7.3.2. Business Administration and Tourism & Hospitality Management

A. Card presented the following as an omnibus motion:

7.3.2.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.2.1.1. THMT 2307/BUSI 2307: Introduction to Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Tourism

7.3.2.2. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.2.2.1. Requirements for Tourism and Hospitality Management certificate, diploma and degree

7.3.2.2.2. Requirements for Bachelor of Business Administration with Tourism and Hospitality Management concentration

7.3.2.2.3. Requirements for Tourism and Hospitality Management Minor, Students in Professional degree programs

Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the new course THMT 2307/BUSI 2307, as well as the related changes to the Business and Tourism Hospitality Management programs. CARRIED.

7.3.3. Education

7.3.3.1. New Course Proposals

A. Card presented the following as an omnibus motion:

7.3.3.1.1. EDUC 5204: Interdisciplinary Foundations of Education for Elementary Schools

7.3.3.1.2. EDUC 5206: Indigenous Knowledges and the Elementary Curriculum

7.3.3.1.3. EDUC 5220: Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning

7.3.3.1.4. EDUC 5221: Mental Health in Education

7.3.3.2. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.3.2.1. Requirements for Bachelor of Education, Elementary Education

7.3.3.2.2. Requirements for Bachelor of Education, Secondary Education

Moved by A. Card, seconded by C. Schneider, that Senate approve the new courses EDUC 5204, 5206, 5220, 5221, as well as the related changes to the Bachelor of Education Elementary and Secondary programs. CARRIED.

- 7.3.4. English
 - 7.3.4.1. New Course Proposals
 - A. Card presented the following as an omnibus motion:
 - 7.3.4.1.1. ENGL 2264: Introduction to Popular Literature
 - 7.3.4.1.2. ENGL 3343: Issues in Canadian Literature and Theory
 - 7.3.4.1.3. ENGL 3347: Imagining America
 - 7.3.4.1.4. ENGL 3367: Nineteenth-Century American Literature
Moved by A. Card, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the new courses ENGL 2264, 3343, 3347 and 3367. CARRIED.
 - 7.3.4.2. Deletion of Courses
 - A. Card presented the following as an omnibus motion:
 - 7.3.4.2.1. ENGL 2262: Science Fiction
 - 7.3.4.2.2. ENGL 2263: Detective Fiction
 - 7.3.4.2.3. ENGL 3352: Nineteenth-Century American Literature
 - 7.3.4.2.4. ENGL 3354: Issues in Modern Canadian Literature and Theory
 - 7.3.4.3. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.4.3.1. Calendar description for English, including prerequisites for University Study of English
 - 7.3.4.3.2. Requirements for Major, Combined Major, Combined Major with Honours, Honours degree
Moved by A. Card, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the course deletions of ENGL 2262, 2263, 3352, 3354, and implement the subsequent changes to the existing English programs. CARRIED.
- 7.3.5. Family Studies and Gerontology
 - 7.3.5.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.5.1.1. Requirements for Combined Major, Concentration and Minor in Gerontology
Moved by A. Card, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate approve the revised requirements for a Combined Major, Concentration and Minor in Gerontology. CARRIED.
- 7.3.6. History
 - 7.3.6.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.6.1.1. Requirements for Combined Major with Honours
Moved by A. Card, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the revised requirements for a Combined Major with Honours degree in History. CARRIED.

- 7.3.7. Physics
 - 7.3.7.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.7.1.1. Requirements for Minor
 - Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the revised requirements for a Minor in Physics. CARRIED.
- 7.3.8. Politics, Economics, and Canadian Studies
 - A. Card presented the following as an omnibus motion:
 - 7.3.8.1. New Course Proposal
 - 7.3.8.1.1. ECON 2215/POLS 2215: Political-Economy for Social Justice
 - 7.3.8.2. Deletion of Course
 - 7.3.8.2.1. POLS 3531/SOAN 3531: Civil Society, Engagement & Activism
 - 7.3.8.3. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.8.3.1. Areas of concentration in Political Studies
 - 7.3.8.3.2. Requirements for Major in Public Policy
 - Moved** by A. Card, seconded by M. Siddiquee, that Senate approve the new course ECON 2215/POLS 2215, the deletion of POLS 3351/SOAN 3531 and implement these changes to the existing PECS programs. CARRIED.
- 7.3.9. Psychology
 - 7.3.9.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.9.1.1. Requirements for Combined Major with Honours, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – Psychology and Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Psychology
 - Moved** by A. Card, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the revised requirements for a Combined Major with Honours, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – Psychology and Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Psychology. CARRIED.
- 7.3.10. Changes
 - A. Card presented the following changes for information:
 - 7.3.10.1. Business Administration and Tourism & Hospitality Management
 - 7.3.10.1.1. New prerequisite for BUSI 4400
 - 7.3.10.2. Child and Youth Study
 - 7.3.10.2.1. New description for CHYS 2601
 - 7.3.10.2.2. New description for CHYS 4601
 - 7.3.10.3. Education
 - 7.3.10.3.1. New course name and WebAdvisor title for EDUC 5205
 - 7.3.10.3.2. New course name, WebAdvisor title and description for EDUC 5212

- 7.3.10.4. English
 - 7.3.10.4.1. New description for ENGL 1155
 - 7.3.10.4.2. New description for ENGL 1171
- 7.3.10.5. Mathematics and Statistics
 - 7.3.10.5.1. New course name and description for MATH 4411
 - 7.3.10.5.2. New course name for MATH 4412
- 7.3.10.6. Tourism and Hospitality Management
 - 7.3.10.6.1. New prerequisite for THMT 3305
 - 7.3.10.6.2. New prerequisite for THMT 4407

7.4. Student Experience

- 7.4.1. Calendar revision re Student Judicial System (2.2.26)

K. Jones noted that the proposed revisions to the Calendar for Regulation 2.2.26: Student Judicial System would bring it in line with the Non-Academic Discipline Policy. A friendly amendment was suggested and agreed upon to clearly differentiate between informal and formal proceedings: changing “an investigation” to “the formal process” (Sentence 3 in *Procedures*).

Moved by K. Jones, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the Calendar revisions of Regulation 2.2.26: Student Judicial System, effective immediately. CARRIED.

8. Other Reports

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

On behalf of S. Brigham, T. Franz-Odendaal reported that the BoG met November 30, 2023, and the next meeting will be held on March 7, 2024. At the November meeting, they received a presentation on the Sisters of Charity Celebrating 150 years, the July 2023 annual report regarding Reappointment, Tenure & Promotion, as well as enrollment statistics for Fall 2023. It was shared that a call went out for nominations and applications to join the BoG.

T. Franz-Odendaal also shared that S. Brigham reported to the BoG an amendment to the MSVUFA’s constitution to add a standing research and scholarship committee, ongoing bargaining and strike vote results, class cancellation practices, AVP People & Culture role, security and safety on campus, lack of transparency regarding appointment of interim positions and lack of Senate involvement in Microcredentials.

- 8.2. Students’ Union

C. Cameron reported on several items, including the ongoing naloxone distribution and administration training project, operations of the student food bank, student support during Ramadan and the 2024 MSVUSU general elections and hiring.

8.3. Strategic Plan Update

J. Dickinson reported on the strategic plan mid-term report, which will include a reevaluation and/or elaboration of priorities and objectives. She also shared an update regarding the ongoing pilot of the strategic plan dashboard.

J. Dickinson shared various initiatives under each pillar of the strategic plan, including:

- EDIA: A rough draft of the EDIA action plan is undergoing a validation process
- Truth and Reconciliation: V. Paul's first few months focused on students and transforming the student centre and now will begin to focus on aiding faculty with decolonizing curriculum. V. Paul and J. Dickinson also have plans to travel to and engage with various Mi'kmaq communities to determine barriers to post-secondary education that students may be facing and what MSVU can do to support educational initiatives in those communities.
- Community engagement: 150th year events, A Talk with Michelle Obama event, Centre for Women in Business/SPICE program
- Operational excellence and sustainability: priority on digitization
- Research, scholarly work and professional activity: collection of EDIA and TRC information, alignment of research with strategic pillars, ongoing plans for the Black and Indigenous speaker series.
- Healthy and campus safety for all: BoG approved the policy against sexual violence

J. R. Sylliboy wondered if the community engagement includes the 2SLGBTQIA community in the region and if engagement will encompass the Indigenous identity matter. J. Dickinson acknowledged the importance of hearing all intersectional voices and noted that Indigenous identity is an ongoing discussion at the L'Nu Advisory Circle and that we are working closely with the province (who is working with the Indigenous community).

9. New Business

9.1. Honorary Doctorate Nominations (**CONFIDENTIAL**)

Moved by D. Fisher, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate move in-camera to review the nominations for Honorary Degrees. CARRIED.

Moved by L. Steele, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate move out of the in-camera session. CARRIED.

During the in-camera session, four nominees for an Honorary Degree were approved.

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of November 24, 2023
- Revision to Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations Policy
- Undergraduate curriculum changes
- Calendar revision to Regulation 2.2.26, Student Judicial System
- Four nominations for an honorary doctorate degree

Senate received for information:

- Academic Calendar dates 2024-25
- Report on external review of Women and Gender Studies
- Undergraduate curriculum changes

11. Adjournment

Moved by J. R. Sylliboy, seconded by K. Jones, that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.