



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

January 27, 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, C. Dawson, T. Findlay, T. Franz-Odendaal, J. Fraser Arsenault, G. Fraser, J. Gahagan, R. Gechtman, M. Gillis, M. Gonick, S. Goswami, S. Hale, C. Hardy, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, K. Jones, J. MacLeod, S. MacMillan, M. McGonnell, G. Morrison, M. Ralston, C. Schneider, C. Slumkoski, L. Steele, J. R. Sylliboy, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, R. Zuk

**Regrets:** G. Durepos, B. Taylor, A. Xia

**Observers:** K. Gallant, J. Lamb, L. MacFarlane, B. Russo, P. Small Legs-Nagge, M. Walls

*The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed. Returning Faculty Senator R. Gechtman was welcomed, as were A. Brewster as recording secretary and J. MacLeod as acting parliamentarian.*

*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 25, 2022

**Moved** by C. Dawson, seconded by S. Trenholm, to approve the minutes of November 25, 2022, as amended. CARRIED

### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

T. Franz-Odendaal questioned whether a budget is allocated to implement suggested changes after completion of departmental reviews. J. Dickinson responded that no budget currently exists but that the topic will be reviewed and discussed in the budgeting process.

S. Brigham requested further information on what was showcased in the previous Senate meeting regarding the strategic plan and if it is available now for Senators to view.

J. Dickinson referenced the spreadsheet which was displayed, noting that it will be available on the public website once the formatting is refined. J. Dickinson further explained that it will function as a live tracking tool to view how work currently being completed relates to and supports the strategic plan.

## **5. Administration Updates**

### **5.1. President**

J. Dickinson reported that the VP searches are well underway and thanked those serving on the search committees. J. Dickinson also thanked the University Relations team for the very successful 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary launch event that they organized.

J. Dickinson reported that a call went out for committee members for the Truth & Reconciliation Committee, which resulted in 40 expressions of interest. She noted that small break-out groups will likely be formed to target specific areas of the strategic plan in the first year with later outcomes being addressed in the future.

J. Dickinson thanked everyone involved in the accessibility plan launch and commented that the event was well attended. J. Dickinson updated that anti-racism and anti-homophobia trainings are planned and that they are working toward a town hall type event, which will be facilitated by an expert.

### **5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost** No report as B. Taylor was not present.

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

G. Morrison reported that preparations are underway for the 2023-2024 budget and that, due to lower enrollment numbers over the past two years, resourcing and maintaining financial health is a priority for this budget year.

G. Morrison updated that a firewall upgrade is coming soon to enhance cyber security and that IT&S is interested in profiling the importance of cyber security education across campus. She reported that the implications of provincial funding support for daycares and how it will affect the Mount's daycare is being reviewed.

G. Morrison also updated that collective bargaining and continuity planning are underway to ensure any eventuality stemming from negotiations is covered.

## **6. Question Period**

R. Zuk questioned when the Art Gallery Director search will be inaugurated as well as the policy of inaugurating such searches after a resignation within administration.

J. Dickinson responded that following a productive meeting with the outgoing Art Gallery

Director, they are taking the time to determine if this is an opportunity to use the art gallery in a different way and that they are exploring other possible models rather than hiring for the exact type of position. J. Dickinson also noted the question regarding policy and will follow-up by the next Senate meeting.

R. Zuk then asked for clarity regarding the interview process and whether public participation would be enforced in the hiring process of the Art Gallery Director, as it had been in the past. J. Dickinson responded that she would look at policy and report back but if no policy is in place, typically, past practice would be the default method followed.

T. Findlay spoke about a previous request for a public list of all those who serve on non-Senate related university committees and questioned if there was an update.

P. Crouse indicated that M. Innes was compiling that information to be displayed on a public website. G. Morrison will follow up with M. Innes and provide an update to J. Dickinson on the status of this website.

T. Franz-Odendaal questioned regarding the anonymity and confidentiality of the Dean's review surveys, who has access to the data and if the data is protected. S. Hale shared that the only identifying information that the committee sees is the group that the submission came from (faculty, staff, etc.). J. Dickinson added that the information is stored on a server in the U. S., which is not ideal, and that a new policy will be created for future reviews and the collection software will be reconsidered. Lime Survey was suggested as an alternative to collect anonymous feedback, as this is what the Research Office recommends university researchers use. (K. Allan, T. Franz-Odendaal, J. Dickinson)

T. Franz-Odendaal questioned EDIA in future Dean reviews and when these policies would come into effect. J. Dickinson responded that a draft policy on reviewing Deans has already been requested and that the suggestion of including EDIA practices will be added to the review process.

S. Brigham asked for clarification on the summary that the Deans receive (quantitative or qualitative data), whether the survey link could be shared to people not on the review list or if that mattered. J. Dickinson responded that she or B. Taylor would be able to provide clarity on these questions prior to the next Senate meeting.

T. Findlay questioned the possibility of again extending the deadline to complete the Dean's review survey so that the questions may be answered before reviews are due. J. Dickinson responded that getting answers to these questions would be prioritized.

In response to K. Allan's question about eligibility for receiving a Dean's review survey, the November 25 minutes were referenced. The fact that students, including those outside of student governance, were not included in that list was discussed. It was recommended that a new process for deciding who gets to provide feedback be established. J. Dickinson noted the suggestion of more student participation. (T. Franz-Odendaal, K. Allan, T. Findlay)

C. Schneider sought an update on the long lead times to replace support staff, noting no improvement since her initial inquiry in the fall, and emphasized the need to retain support staff. J. Dickinson and G. Morrison agreed to discuss this when they meet next week. S. Brigham recommended that position reevaluations be considered earlier for known retirements and resignations so vacancies do not exist longer than necessary.

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

### 7.1. Senate Executive

#### 7.1.1. Revisions to Policy on Policies

Clarification was sought on the intent of the changes under the Policy section. P. Crouse responded that the proposed edit clarifies current practice and inserts here language that is used in another Senate-approved document regarding annual reports and which documents go to Senate for approval or for information. Some Senators were opposed to the change, citing concerns that some policies contain procedures or guidelines that should be brought to Senate for approval, rather than just for information. (T. Findlay, P. Crouse, T. Franz-Odendaal, R. Zuk)

K. Jones spoke in support of current practice regarding approvals, commenting that Senate is responsible for approving the policies and the committees or working groups are then responsible for setting procedures and guidelines to implement those approved policies. She suggested that if a procedure or guideline came to Senate for information and went beyond the role of simply implementing the policy, it could be raised at that time; otherwise, the workload of Senate would be substantially increased.

Senators noted concerns about another policy which included criteria as part of the procedures. In response, a Senator noted that criteria should be a part of the policy and not in the procedures section. P. Crouse referenced the policy project which has been underway for many years and noted that, as old policies were moved to the new template, committees were to separate policy, procedures and guidelines within the policy document. Senators asked for more time before voting on this motion to allow them to review various policies. It was agreed that EX would revisit this policy revision. (M. Gonick, J. Dickinson, K. Jones, T. Findlay, P. Crouse, T. Franz-Odendaal)

**Moved** by C. Schneider, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on Policies. WITHDRAWN.

#### 7.1.2. Revisions to Bylaw 12 (*Notice of Motion*)

J. Dickinson brought forward a notice of motion which will be presented to Senate for approval at the next Senate meeting.

## 7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

### 7.2.1. Academic Calendar Dates 2023-2024

Academic Calendar dates for 2023-2024 were brought forward for information.

### 7.2.2. Revisions to Calendar Entry for Deans' List Regulation

C. Dawson presented Senators with updated information to support the proposed changes to the Deans' List. C. Dawson noted that the number of students recognized would remain largely flat, due to the inclusion of more part-time students on the list and the creation of a new BEd specific Deans' List. It was also suggested that the Mount may be out of step with our competitors as only 9% of the 43 institutions researched have a minimum GPA requirement of 3.5 to achieve Deans' List status.

Senators raised concern over raising the GPA minimum to 3.7, citing that it may disadvantage particular groups such as those registered with Accessibility Services and those in specific faculties or departments. Clarification was sought on the percentage of students on the Deans' list with a 3.5 GPA vs. a 3.7 GPA from 2017-2022 and whether other institutions include part-time students on their Deans' Lists (C. Cameron, K. Allan, T. Franz-Odendaal, R. Zuk, C. Hardy).

In response, C. Dawson noted that by dropping the minimum unit count to 3.0, the list will be more accessible to part-time students and those registered with Accessibility Services (who may not be taking a full course load). J. R. Sylliboy questioned if a student who had a grade of "F" could still be included on the list, with C. Dawson clarifying that under the proposed criteria, they could as long as the minimum GPA of 3.7 was met. C. Dawson also noted that the exception to this would be a grade of "F\*" which denotes an academic integrity violation.

The Mount's value system and the type of students that the Mount attracts were also discussed, with Senators noting that the Mount has a larger proportion of part-time and mature students than other institutions. (K. Blotnicky, K. Allan, C. Hardy)

The conversation moved to discuss whether a Deans' List based solely on academic merit is the best option, with Senators voicing that through the lenses of decolonization and EDIA, students should be honoured for more than just their academic abilities. Senators voiced support for a decolonized, equity-deserving list, but it was also noted that the feasibility of creating such a list was low (K. Jones, J. R. Sylliboy, J. MacLeod, M. Gillis, C. Dawson).

**Moved** by C. Dawson, seconded by S. Trenholm, to approve the revisions to the undergraduate Calendar entry for Academic Regulation 2.2.18 Deans' List and its corresponding glossary entry. DEFEATED.

7.2.3. Merger of Department of Economics and Department of Political and Canadian Studies

**Moved** by C. Dawson, seconded by T. Findlay, that Senate approve the merger of Department of Economics and Department of Political and Canadian Studies, effective immediately.

P. Crouse questioned when the decision should be effective. C. Dawson and T. Findlay agreed that it should be effective July 1, 2023, and this change was accepted as a friendly amendment.

**Moved** by C. Dawson, seconded by T. Findlay, that Senate approve the merger of Department of Economics and Department of Political and Canadian Studies, effective July 1, 2023. CARRIED.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Business Administration

7.3.1.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.1.1.1. BUSI 3501: Data Analytics for Business

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the new course BUSI 3501: Data Analytics for Business. CARRIED.

7.3.1.2. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.1.2.1. Program requirements for Certificate in Accounting and Accounting Major

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Certificate in Accounting and Accounting Major. CARRIED.

7.3.1.3. Articulation Agreement

7.3.1.3.1. MSVU's BBA and Xi'an International University, PRC

R. Zuk questioned if our students go to China under this agreement. A. Card responded that they do not.

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the articulation agreement between MSVU's BBA and Xi'an International University, PRC. CARRIED.

- 7.3.1.3.2. MSVU's BTHM and Bermuda College, AASHM
- 7.3.1.3.3. BBA in Association with Bermuda College

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the articulation agreement between MSVU's BTHM and Bermuda College, AASHM, and that Senate renew the articulation agreement BBA in Association with Bermuda College. CARRIED.

### 7.3.2. Child and Youth Study

#### 7.3.2.1. New Course Proposals

- 7.3.2.1.1. CHYS 2601: Early Childhood Education: Culturally Responsive Pedagogy
- 7.3.2.1.2. CHYS 3601: Early Childhood Education: Curriculum Approaches
- 7.3.2.1.3. CHYS 3602: Early Childhood Education: Infant and Toddler Care
- 7.3.2.1.4. CHYS 3603: Early Childhood Education: Nature and Outdoor Play
- 7.3.2.1.5. CHYS 4601: Early Childhood Education: Pedagogical Documentation

With the agreement of Senate, A. Card presented the following omnibus motion:

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve five new Early Childhood Education courses: CHYS 2601, CHYS 3601, CHYS 3602, CHYS 3603 and CHYS 4601. CARRIED.

#### 7.3.2.2. Changes to Existing Program

- 7.3.2.2.1. New Concentration in Early Childhood Education  
C. Hardy sought clarification on the difference between ECE level 3, which graduates of the Child & Youth Study degree qualify for, and the new concentration. S. Trenholm responded that the province was consulted in the development of the new concentration, so that students of the concentration are graduating with the specific early childhood

education knowledge and skills that are currently in high demand.

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the new concentration in Early Childhood Education. CARRIED.

### 7.3.3. Communication Studies

#### 7.3.3.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.3.1.1. Bachelor of Public Relations program requirements description, required courses, Co-Operative Education and Work Experience options

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the changes to the Bachelor of Public Relations program requirements description, required courses, Co-Operative Education and Work Experience options. CARRIED.

7.3.3.1.2. Addition of Communication to Programs at a Glance table “BA or BSc (Combined Major)” and departmental sections

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the addition of Communication to Programs at a Glance table “BA or BSc (Combined Major)” and departmental sections. CARRIED.

### 7.3.4. Cultural Studies

#### 7.3.4.1. New Course Cross-Listing

7.3.4.1.1. CULS 2209/RELS 2201: Evil

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the new course cross-listing of CULS 2209/RELS 2201: Evil. CARRIED.

#### 7.3.4.2. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.4.2.1. Program requirements for Major, Combined Major, Concentration, Minor

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the changes to the program requirements for Major, Combined Major, Concentration, and Minor in Cultural Studies. CARRIED.



7.3.5. English

7.3.5.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.5.1.1. ENGL 3225/WRIT 3225: Critical Approaches to Teaching Writing: Histories, Practices, and Pedagogies

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by G. Fraser, that Senate approve the new course ENGL 3225/WRIT 3225: Critical Approaches to Teaching Writing: Histories, Practices, and Pedagogies. CARRIED.

7.3.6. Political and Canadian Studies

7.3.6.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.6.1.1. Program requirements for Major, Combined Major, and Minor

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by T. Findlay, that Senate approve the changes to the program requirements for the Major, Combined Major, and Minor in Political and Canadian Studies. CARRIED.

7.3.7. Political and Canadian Studies & Sociology and Anthropology

7.3.7.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.7.1.1. POLS 3543/SOAN 3543: Environmental Politics and Social Justice

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by T. Findlay, that Senate approve the new course POLS 3543/SOAN 3543: Environmental Politics and Social Justice. CARRIED.

7.3.8. Psychology

7.3.8.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.8.1.1. PSYC 3334: Foundations of School Psychology

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the new course PSYC 3334: Foundations of School Psychology. CARRIED.

7.3.8.2. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.8.2.1. Program requirements for Bachelor of Arts—Psychology, Bachelor of Science—Psychology, Combined Major, Bachelor of Arts (Honours)—Psychology, Bachelor of Science (Honours)—Psychology

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the changes to the Program requirements for Bachelor of Arts—Psychology, Bachelor of Science—Psychology, Combined Major, Bachelor of Arts (Honours)—Psychology, Bachelor of Science (Honours)—Psychology. CARRIED.

7.3.9. Sociology/Anthropology

7.3.9.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.9.1.1. New option for Combined Major with Honours Degree

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the changes to Sociology/Anthropology's new option for Combined Major with Honours Degree. CARRIED.

7.3.10. Women's Studies & Political and Canadian Studies

7.3.10.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.10.1.1. WOMS 2300/POLS 2300: Global Women and Gender Issues

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by L. Steele, that Senate approve the new course WOMS 2300/POLS 2300: Global Women and Gender Issues. CARRIED.

7.3.11. Women's Studies & Sociology and Anthropology

7.3.11.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.11.1.1. WOMS 3401/SOAN 3401: Ecofeminism and Ecological Justice

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the new course WOMS 3401/SOAN 3401: Ecofeminism and Ecological Justice. CARRIED.

7.3.12. Changes

A. Card referred to the following changes, which were presented for information.

7.3.12.1. Child and Youth Study

7.3.12.1.1. New course name and description for CHYS 2208

7.3.12.2. Mathematics and Statistics

7.3.12.2.1. New description for MATH 1113

7.3.12.2.2. New description for MATH 1114

7.3.12.3. Changes to New Course Offerings Guidelines

- 7.3.13. Revisions to Terms of Reference, Bylaw 14.3.2 (*Notice of Motion*)  
 A. Card brought forward a notice of motion which will be presented to Senate for approval at the next Senate meeting.

7.4. Nominations

7.4.1. Nomination for Senate Committee Vacancy

**Moved** by J. Fraser Arsenault, seconded by S. Brigham, that Senate elect the following faculty member to the indicated committee for the indicated term. CARRIED.

| Committee                        | Nominee           | Term Begins  | Term Ends    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Committee on Teaching & Learning | Kevin Shaughnessy | When elected | 30 June 2025 |

7.5. Research and Publications

7.5.1. Research Strategic Plan

J. Gahagan introduced the new Research Strategic Plan, noting that it was co-created by the MSVU community through a series of online and in-person consultations coordinated by the Research Office.

**Moved** by J. Gahagan, seconded by T. Harrison, that Senate approve the new Research Strategic Plan, effectively immediately. CARRIED.

It was questioned why the CRC nomination process falls to the Deans, AVPR and AVP, with no consultation with faculty, active researchers or the wider Mount community, and a request was made for future CRC nominations to be more transparent on who is involved in this consultation process. (T. Franz-Odendaal, T. Findlay). J. Gahagan noted these points and will bring them forward at the next CRP meeting.

7.6. Student Experience

7.6.1. Revisions to Terms of Reference, Bylaw 14.9 (*Notice of Motion*)

K. Jones brought forward a notice of motion which will be presented to Senate for approval at the next Senate meeting.

**8. Other Reports**

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

S. Brigham reported on the Board of Governors’ retreat on November 28, which hosted two guests who offered sessions/workshops. Concerns were shared regarding one guest who was not particularly open to questions and expressed a narrow world-view on governance.

S. Brigham also noted several items discussed at the Board of Governors meeting on December 1, including the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary kick-off, a report shared by the Harassment & Discrimination Advisor that noted an increase in reports, and an Employment Equity Committee report that highlighted groups underrepresented in the Mount's workforce, particularly women in technology, Indigenous representation overall and those racially visible. S. Brigham also commented on the panel discussion "Public Forum on University Governance: Perspectives from Faculty and Students" and advised that a link will be distributed to Senators if they wish to view the discussion.

## 8.2. Students' Union

K. Allan reported on several items, including the success of the MSVUSU semi-annual general meeting, the recruitment of a new food bank manager, appointments of new counsellors and the new strategic plan. K. Allan thanked the facilities management team for their hard work on setting up the new furniture in Rosaria and encouraged Senators to visit the Rook Café and Pub. K. Allan also updated on the NIMBUS tutoring program and shared that graduation photo sessions will be held on campus from February 13-17. S. Hale commented that the Registrar's Office will send a targeted email to graduating students about the grad photo sessions.

N. Buchanan updated that the student handbook design is nearing completion, that printed copies are expected to be available next week and that the handbook also doubles as a notebook. N. Buchanan reported on the various story-telling campaigns and features that have gone out, including a feature on "Giving Tuesday" about the Mount's food services team. N. Buchanan thanked everyone who contributed to the holiday food drive.

S. Goswami updated on the graduate student committee which has held its first meeting with representatives from almost every graduate studies program and expects to meet monthly to discuss policies, programming or other items that impact graduate students. She reported on several other initiatives, including the creation of onboarding modules for several new SU positions, the Indigenous Canada course, the tax filing services for students and the soup kitchen.

C. Hardy reported that the Indigenous Canada course is now required for all SU counsellors and staff. She reported on the increased use of the campus food bank; the assistance of the holiday food drive and monetary donations from Feed NS and "Giving Tuesday"; the pop-up table in Rosaria for food donations; and the Caritas Day partnership with students from the Business Department's Learning Passport Program, the food bank and Captain Crow Café.

C. Cameron updated on GAC day (Gender Affirming Care Day) which is a cross-collaboration with Dalhousie, a counsellor hired for the Pride Centre, meetings with B. Taylor regarding CUPE and the outdoor play initiative. In response to S. Brigham's

question about student events planned for African Heritage Month, C. Cameron noted that the SU typically takes direction from the Black Student Support Office and acts more in a support capacity but that she will connect with the BSSO.

## 9. New Business

### 9.1. Indigenous collection/Mi'kmaw space in Library (*Presentation and discussion*) (T. Harrison, B. Russo, P. Small Legs-Nagge, M. Walls)

B. Russo introduced the group's presentation regarding the showcasing of a pan-Indigenous collection in the library and the creation of a centralized space in the Mount's main campus that is dedicated to the Mi'kmaw culture and Indigenous knowledges.

After an excerpt of the video presentation was shown, T. Harrison then reported on the project's vision and goals and provided information on how the repurpose and redesign of the MacDonald Room is being supported through a recent donation to reallocate the rare book collection, thus freeing up the space to be used by this project. T. Harrison reported that the group is engaging with many people to find donors, grants, and external funders and that the Mount is supporting an Indigenous Librarian position.

J. R. Sylliboy commented on the source of knowledge from oral tradition and the need to incorporate that into the space, suggesting that the design of the space be non-linear or circular. J. R. Sylliboy also questioned if the change of name to be in L'nu or Mi'kmaq has been discussed and offered to collaborate on the process as a community member.

### 9.2. AMI Report and Budget

C. Dawson presented for information the AMI Annual Report and Budget for 2021-2022.

Senators questioned what will develop from the recommendations, how the recommendations will be actioned and whether people who have been involved with AMI could be included in that discussion (R. Zuk, T. Findlay). J. Dickinson responded that the recommendations will be discussed by the Steering Committee, and C. Dawson volunteered to ask the Steering Committee about including people previously involved with AMI.

## 10. Items for Communication

### Senate approved:

- Minutes of November 25, 2022
- Merger of Department of Economics and Department of Political and Canadian Studies
- Several undergraduate curriculum changes

- Nomination for Senate committee vacancy
- Research Strategic Plan

**Senate received for information:**

- Academic Calendar dates 2023-24
- Undergraduate curriculum changes
- Notice of motion for revisions to Voting Procedures for Honorands, Bylaw 12; UCC ToR, Bylaw 14.3.2; and SE ToR, Bylaw 14.9

**11. Adjournment**

**Moved** by K. Allan, seconded by S. Hale, that the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.