



Senate Meeting
MS Teams

January 28, 2022
2 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), K. Allan, A. Benzaquén, G. Boulet, S. Brigham, N. Buchanan, A. Card, G. Chan, P. Crouse, C. Dawson, G. Durepos, T. Findlay, T. Franz-Odendaal, J. Fraser, Arsenault, G. Fraser, J. Gahagan, M. Gillis, S. Hale, C. Hardy, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, J. Lumsden, L. MacCallum, J. MacLeod, S. MacMillan, M. Nadeem, D. Piccitto, M. Ralston, J. Roberts, C. Schneider, M. Shortt Robertson, A. Thurlow, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, R. Zuk

Regrets: B. Taylor

Observers: S. Anadkat, K. Crawley, K. Gallant, J. Lamb

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. R. Lumpkin welcomed new Senators S. Hale as Interim Registrar, S. MacMillan as Interim Director of Teaching and Learning, and K. Allan in her new role as Students' Union President. Observers were identified and 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

R. Lumpkin requested that item 7.1.4 *Revision to Rules of Order Rule 15.3.8* be presented for discussion instead of approval.

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

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. November 26, 2021

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by G. Boulet, to approve the minutes of November 26, 2021, as amended. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Revisions to Bylaw 14.10

Moved by S. MacMillan, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the proposed changes to SCOTL's Terms of Reference, effective immediately. CARRIED

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

R. Lumpkin congratulated recipients of the Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award: Sarah Reddington and Susan Brigham.

She spoke about upcoming events which will be held next month in recognition of African Heritage Month including the BE-STEMM conference hosted by the Canadian Black Scientist Network which aims to attract and retain Black Canadians in Science. She noted that the Mount will be sponsoring a Science Communications award as part of the conference.

She highlighted work being done by the Students of African Descent Advisory Committee which includes creating culturally supported spaces on campus, supporting mental health and research among our black students, celebrating the decade of peoples of African descent, as well as fundraising for black student scholarships, and establishing an emergency fund.

R. Lumpkin informed Senators that the Healing Ceremony with the L'nu Advisory Circle will be postponed until Public Health restrictions allow larger gatherings.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

The report was given by A. Card on behalf of B. Taylor. B. Taylor extended thanks and well wishes to P. Cantelo who resigned as Registrar to join NSCC as Lead Registrar. He extended special thanks to S. Hale, serving as Interim Registrar, and to S. MacMillan, serving as Interim Director of Teaching and Learning.

He announced the status of the search for the AVP of Student Experience and referenced a recent meeting of the Chief Medical Officer with university presidents to discuss recommendations regarding returning to in-person learning. While the Mount decided to proceed with a return to campus on January 31 with some exceptions, B. Taylor acknowledged that no option would satisfy all parties involved but that Deans worked with Chairs and Directors to manage exceptions and communicate with instructors to give them the opportunity to change the delivery mode of their course.

5.3. Vice-President Administration

M. Nadeem indicated that his team has been busy supporting the shift that occurred last December from a public health perspective as well as assisting with the return of

in-person classes next week. He stated that campus is ready to welcome students, staff, and faculty back starting January 31. He indicated that students who were unable to travel over the Christmas break were allowed to remain in residence. He acknowledged and thanked the various staff and units who have ensured campus has remained opened, operational, and safe during this time.

6. Question Period

R. Lumpkin reminded Senators that the question period does not apply only to the topics covered in administration updates.

C. Schneider asked if there were any developments regarding a new digital admissions system for the BEd program, a question she posed last year. M. Nadeem confirmed that discussions about modernizing our business processes, which would include admissions, have taken place and that action has been delayed because of the current situation but is to be addressed soon.

G. Durepos asked for clarification regarding the role the university and faculty play in ensuring students are abiding by self-isolation requirements, particularly international students attending campus when they have travelled recently or tested positive for COVID.

J. Lumsden confirmed that the university is following up with students to ensure they are abiding by the vaccination mandate, but staff are no longer monitoring self-isolation of students. The current public health protocol is for students who test positive to isolate for 7 days and receive a negative test before coming to campus. She offered to follow up with any students to educate them on the NS Public Health policies. D. Piccitto stated that she's received great advice from M. Brewer and T. Strapps on specific concerns she's had recently.

D. Piccitto asked for clarification regarding the flexible return-to-campus plan specifically why a balance of in-person and online classes is necessary when considering pedagogy, health, and safety. She also asked if there was a standard approach to approving faculty requests regarding their course delivery. A. Card indicated that one factor for the flexible return was overall capacity of campus, and he believes that we are returning at approximately 50/50 in person and online. He highlighted that pedagogy, student experience, and confidential health issues of faculty were a few things being considered when approving faculty requests. C. Dawson mentioned that one main concern for her was to ensure students had a balanced timetable which allowed them to attend in-person classes without causing issues. S. Trenholm echoed the previous statements made by the other Deans and indicated that many students expressed their desire to return to campus so that was something she considered when reviewing faculty requests, most of which were approved. G. Fraser asked why some instructors were approved to return later than the January 31 deadline while others were denied and why they were not given the option to change their delivery mode depending on the health directives at the time. He believes that a gradual and safe return to campus could have involved staggered return dates that were well defined and communicated to faculty and students. R. Lumpkin confirmed that the

same directive was given to all Deans to provide to their respective faculty and noted there were certain faculty members who had specific circumstances that would not allow them to return immediately. C. Dawson indicated that they were not working on a gradual return, but they were working on a return to campus with some flexibility and that very few exceptions were approved. Many different aspects were considered including student safety, additional cleaning, security, and timetabling changes so it was necessary to have a date set in place for a return.

T. Findlay asked if the third booster shot will be incorporated into the vaccine mandate or if students will be encouraged to get their booster. M. Nadeem indicated that an individual is fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose and the mandate will be updated if the Public Health recommendations change.

Students inquired about health care coverage for international students referring specifically to pre-existing conditions and the reimbursement of expenses. A student guest expressed difficulty as an international student navigating the student health plan and believes the coverage is insufficient. (K. Allan, S. Anadkat, K. Crawley) J. Lumsden stated that she would investigate the questions posed and encouraged international students to see the doctor in the Health Office.

C. Hardy referred to a recent communication to students regarding the vaccination mandate for the winter term and asked if individuals who were not fully vaccinated are required to undergo testing. R. Lumpkin confirmed that anyone who is not fully vaccinated will be required to get tested twice a week until they are considered fully vaccinated and that the only exemption to the vaccine mandate in place is for medical reasons.

L. MacCallum asked to what extent students were consulted with respect to the return-to-campus plan. R. Lumpkin responded that students selected their courses prior to the semester start and were aware of the delivery mode at that time and confirmed that students were notified this week of any changes in delivery mode.

During Question Period, the following motions were made:

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by G. Fraser, to extend the Question Period by ten minutes.
CARRIED

Moved by K. Allan, seconded by T. Harrison, to extend the Question Period by an additional 10 minutes.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion Regarding Winter 2022 Exams

Moved by T. Harriott, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's decision to endorse the following procedures for examinations scheduled for the Winter 2022 academic term:

- Courses with only on-campus sections have proctored examinations on campus.
- Courses with only online sections have online examinations.
- In the interest of fairness and consistency in assessing all students, Departments with courses that have both online and on campus sections consider offering an online examination for all sections.
- The due date for take-home final examinations be scheduled in the Final Examination. CARRIED

7.1.2. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion Regarding the Winter 2022 Start

Moved by C. Schneider, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's decision to move the start date for Winter 2022 classes from Wednesday, January 5, to Monday, January 10, with all courses beginning online and on-campus courses migrating back on campus, Monday, January 31, or when public health guidelines indicate it is reasonable to do so.

Concerns were presented regarding the return-to-campus date that was chosen in December since the public health situation has changed since that time. Senators cited insufficient consultation with faculty, faculty feelings of pressure to return or to stay online, student concern for faculty who felt pressure to return to campus, and surveys of students revealing significant concerns about the return date being premature (D. Piccitto, K. Allan, G. Fraser, K. Crawley).

It was reiterated that consideration was made to return to campus based on Public Health's guidance at a meeting in mid-January and that the decision to return on January 31 has been an ongoing discussion since it was announced in December. Although there are students who prefer to remain online, it was acknowledged that other students would rather attend in person and need time to plan accordingly which would be complicated by a further delay to return to campus (R. Lumpkin, A. Card, M. Nadeem, C. Dawson).

Several Senators spoke about how Chairs and other faculty members are working together to provide flexible and creative solutions to accommodate students (C. Schneider, A. Thurlow, M. Ralston). R. Lumpkin confirmed that

faculty members have the ability to provide students with options which better serve them.

An amendment to the main motion was proposed to allow for a flexible return, and it was noted that the ‘faculty to choose’ line contradicts the Collective Agreement as Deans are removed from the process. It was reiterated that a staggered return to campus would have a greater impact on operational units who need time and notice to ensure a safe return and that the short timeframe would prove difficult for communicating with students as well as for Chairs who would need to discuss the matter with their faculty members (A. Card, C. Dawson, S. Trenholm, R. Lumpkin, J. MacLeod). T. Findlay acknowledged that the Collective Agreement likely didn’t anticipate a global pandemic and therefore should not be considered. G. Durepos shared her experience when communicating with her students, noting responses came almost immediately.

Senators stated that Senate should have been consulted on these decisions and that the regular meeting schedule has made it difficult to propose an amendment to the EX motion considering the timing of the return to campus. The opinion was offered that Senate should be meeting more or be consulted between meetings (D. Piccitto, J. MacLeod, S. Brigham).

The following amendment to the motion was proposed:

Moved by L. MacCallum, seconded by D. Piccitto, that the main motion be amended to replace the wording following “January 31” with “with flexibility for faculty to choose their mode of delivery for the remainder of the winter term in consultation with their department.” FAILED

Senators asked if the requests from the few faculty members that were denied could be revisited since it would impact a small number of courses. It was suggested that faculty members who chose to remain online should be able to change their delivery mode at a later defined date if they feel comfortable to return in person (D. Piccitto, G. Durepos, A. Benzaquén, G. Fraser). S. Hale noted that a change in delivery mode could have an impact on final exams and that delaying publishing the schedule would have an impact on students who are making arrangements to leave at the end of term.

K. Crawley asked if the student perspectives that were being conveyed by faculty Senators were a result of students being consulted. R. Zuk mentioned that she consulted her students and knows that some other faculty members did as well.

J. Lumsden indicated that some students made the decision to remain in a class because the mode of delivery was moved online and that, if the mode were to change after a certain date, students would not be able to drop the course without penalty. R. Lumpkin stated that faculty members who would like to move their course back on campus should consult with their students and ensure there is acceptance to attend in-person classes.

The following amendment to the motion was then proposed:

Moved by K. Allan, seconded by G. Fraser, that the main motion be amended to replace the wording following “January 31” with “with flexibility for faculty who have chosen to remain online, but whose courses were originally scheduled for in-person delivery, to choose to return to on-campus or hybrid delivery on February 28, 2022, provided they consult with their department by February 14, 2022. CARRIED

Following this accepted amendment, the vote proceeded on the amended main motion.

Moved by C. Schneider, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate ratify Senate Executive’s decision to move the start date for Winter 2022 classes from Wednesday, January 5, to Monday, January 10, with all courses beginning online and on-campus courses migrating back on campus, Monday, January 31, with flexibility for faculty who have chosen to remain online, but whose courses were originally scheduled for in-person delivery, to choose to return to on-campus or hybrid delivery on February 28, 2022, provided they consult with their department by February 14, 2022. CARRIED

7.1.3. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion Regarding Revised Calendar Dates for Winter 2022

D. Piccitto asked if the change to the first day of classes is a permanent change or due to the pandemic. A. Card stated this change was due to the current pandemic and S. Hale confirmed that the first day of class is dictated by the day of the week that follows the January 1 holiday.

Moved by R. Zuk, seconded by L. MacCallum, that Senate ratify Senate Executive’s decision to amend the Winter 2022 Calendar dates as approved January 4, 2022, effective immediately. CARRIED

7.1.4. Revision to Rules of Order Rule 15.3.8

T. Harriott informed Senators that the former President and the AVP and Provost tasked her, as the Senate Parliamentarian, and the Senate Secretary to review the Senate Bylaws and Rules of Order. She gave a summary of the

changes being proposed and reiterated that this was being presented for discussion. Any feedback will be taken back to Senate EX for consideration and perhaps to bring as a motion at a later date.

Several Senators expressed concerns with the new language contained in the exceptions. Some referred to it as restrictive or stifling and cited important discussions and initiatives, such as PEAC, that have occurred when a motion from the floor has been brought forward. Senators offered feedback that the new language was not clear or did not cover all possibilities and that mechanisms exist to overrule or table a motion if Senators did not feel comfortable voting on it immediately. It was stated that the proposed change may lead to Senate meetings being more adversarial and complicated by procedures. (D. Piccitto, L. MacCallum, A. Thurlow, G. Boulet, J. MacLeod)

R. Lumpkin clarified that the intention is to ensure documentation is provided to Senators to allow for a more thoughtful discussion and decision.

J. MacLeod expressed concern about the President and the Chair of Senate being the same person and suggested that this practice be reconsidered in the future. R. Lumpkin noted that the President as the Chair is enshrined in the Charter, which would take a lot to change, and that most Senates across the country have the President as the Chair.

R. Lumpkin thanked T. Harriott and P. Crouse for the work they put into the Bylaw review and indicated that the feedback presented by Senators was appreciated and will be taken back to Senate EX for consideration.

Moved by J. MacLeod, seconded by A. Thurlow, to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. CARRIED

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

7.2.1. Academic Calendar Dates 2022-23

A. Card presented the Academic Calendar Dates for 2022-23 for information on behalf of B. Taylor. He noted a small error on page 37 of the document which states Thursday, May 19, when it should state Thursday, May 18.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Biology/Psychology

7.3.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.1.1.1. Restriction to Minor in Neuroscience

Moved by A. Card, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate approve the restriction to the Minor in Neuroscience in Biology/Psychology. CARRIED

- 7.3.2. Cultural Studies
 - 7.3.2.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.2.1.1. Change in requirements for Major, Combined Major, Concentration, and Minor
Moved by A. Card, seconded by T. Findlay, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Cultural Studies Major, Combined Major, Concentration, and Minor. CARRIED
- 7.3.3. Political/Canadian Studies
 - 7.3.3.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.3.1.1. Change in requirements for Minor Areas of Concentration
Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Political/Canadian Studies Minor Areas of Concentration. CARRIED
- 7.3.4. Psychology
 - 7.3.4.1. Deletion of Course
 - 7.3.4.1.1. PSYC 2255—Evolutionary Psychology
 - 7.3.4.2. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.4.2.1. Change in requirements Bachelor of Arts – Psychology; Bachelor of Science – Psychology; Combined Major – Psychology; Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – Psychology; and Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Psychology
Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the items as outlined in 7.3.4.1.1 and 7.3.4.2.1 for Psychology. CARRIED
- 7.3.5. Public Policy Studies
 - 7.3.5.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.5.1.1. Change in requirements for Major, Global Issues Courses
Moved by A. Card, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Public Policy Studies Major, Global Issues Courses. CARRIED
- 7.3.6. Sociology/Anthropology
 - 7.3.6.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.6.1.1. Change in requirements for Major and Honours Degree
Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Sociology/Anthropology Major and Honours Degree. CARRIED

- 7.3.7. Business Administration/Tourism & Hospitality Management
 - 7.3.7.1. New Course Proposal
 - 7.3.7.1.1. BUSI 2430/THMT 2430—Social Media for Tourism
Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the new course BUSI 2430/THMT 2430—Social Media for Tourism. CARRIED
- 7.3.8. Business Administration
 - 7.3.8.1. New Course Proposals
 - 7.3.8.1.1. BUSI 3330—Digital Marketing Analytics for Business and Tourism
Moved by A. Card, seconded by G. Durepos, that Senate approve the new course BUSI 3330—Digital Marketing Analytics for Business and Tourism. CARRIED
 - 7.3.8.1.2. BUSI 3339—Integrated Marketing Communications
Moved by A. Card, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the new course BUSI 3339—Integrated Marketing Communications. CARRIED
 - 7.3.8.2. Deletion of Courses
 - 7.3.8.2.1. BUSI 3333—Advertising: Theory and Practice
Moved by A. Card, seconded by G. Durepos, that Senate approve the deletion of BUSI 3333—Advertising: Theory and Practice. CARRIED
 - 7.3.8.2.2. BUSI 3336—Direct Marketing
Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the deletion of BUSI 3336—Direct Marketing. CARRIED
 - 7.3.8.3. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.8.3.1. Change to requirements for Bachelor of Business Administration Major (Marketing), Major in Community Leadership, and Concentration (Marketing)
 - 7.3.8.3.2. Change to requirements for Bachelor of Business Administration Major (Marketing) and Concentration (Marketing)
Moved by A. Card, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the change to requirements as outlined in 7.3.8.3.1 and 7.3.8.3.2 for Business Administration. CARRIED

7.3.9. Communication Studies

7.3.9.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.9.1.1. Admission requirements for Bachelor of Public Relations

K. Allan asked why a math requirement was being removed as part of an admission requirement. A. Thurlow confirmed this change resulted from the Department of Mathematics creating a Statistics Placement Test which will be outlined in item 7.3.11.1.1.

Moved by A. Card, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Public Relations, effective immediately. CARRIED

7.3.10. English

7.3.10.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.10.1.1. ENGL 3311—Indigenous Feminisms and Sexualities

Moved by A. Card, seconded by G. Fraser, that Senate approve the new course ENGL 3311—Indigenous Feminisms and Sexualities. CARRIED

7.3.11. Mathematics

7.3.11.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.11.1.1. Calendar description for Prerequisites for MATH 2208

Moved by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the calendar description for Prerequisites for MATH 2208. CARRIED

7.3.12. Public Policy Studies

7.3.12.1. Deletion of Course

7.3.12.1.1. POLS 3399—Internship

Moved by A. Card, seconded by J. MacLeod, that Senate approve the deletion of POLS 3399—Internship. CARRIED

7.3.13. Tourism and Hospitality Management

7.3.13.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.13.1.1. Change in requirements for Certificate, Diploma and Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management

Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Certificate, Diploma and Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management. CARRIED

7.3.14. Changes

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

7.3.14.1. Business Administration

7.3.14.1.1. New description for BUSI 3324

7.3.14.1.2. New prerequisite for BUSI 4415

7.3.14.1.3. New description for BUSI 4427

7.3.14.1.4. New prerequisite for BUSI 4430

7.3.14.2. Tourism and Hospitality Management

7.3.14.2.1. New description for THMT 1101

7.3.14.2.2. New prerequisite for THMT 1188

7.3.14.3. Business Administration

7.3.14.3.1. New description for BUSI 2231

7.3.14.3.2. New prerequisite for BUSI 4430

7.3.14.4. Mathematics

7.3.14.4.1. New prerequisite for MATH 2208

7.4. University Research Ethics Board

7.4.1. Role of Senate in UREB

J. Gahagan referenced a fall Senate meeting where this topic was introduced but was met with concerns from Senators, confirmed that the Research Ethics Coordinator is working on answering those questions, and pasted the link to the Tri-Council Policy Statement in the chat for Senators who wished to review it.

Senators acknowledged that members are aware that the TCP provides operating guidelines for the UREB but are still not sure why the UREB would need to be removed from Senate's purview. Concerns were expressed regarding the final authority being changed to solely senior administration and ultimately the Board of Governors and requested more information regarding the internal accountability of this committee and how students and faculty can have input on important changes that will impact them. (G. Boulet, D. Piccitto, J. MacLeod). J. Gahagan stated that the Research Ethics Board ensures compliance, thus removing the need for Senate to be involved. J. Gahagan concluded by inviting additional feedback and noted that answers to the points raised would be provided later.

8. Other Reports

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

D. Piccitto will postpone this report and bring it forward to the Senate meeting on March 4.

8.2. Students' Union

K. Allan announced that the Fountain Play Centre will be opening next week and encouraged Senators to inform any students who may be interested in this service. She spoke about various student amenities—the Hub, the Captain Crow's Café and Foodbank, and the campus pub—and provided an update regarding their opening status. She confirmed that the Pride Centre has been offering services online while courses were being delivered remotely.

She reported that several VP and other counsellor positions are vacant with applications being accepted until February 2. Senators were asked to encourage any interested students to apply.

She indicated that they have improved processes for information dissemination prior to their meetings to provide clarity regarding the SU's responsibilities and increasing accessibility for their members.

8.3. Bi-Cameral Governance Review Update

R. Lumpkin was asked by the BoG to inform Senators that because of vacancies within their external members they were unable to nominate members for the steering committee and that the Bi-Cameral Governance Review will need to be postponed. The Chair of the Board offered to write to the Senate elected members to apologize and explain the reason for the delay. R. Lumpkin indicated that perhaps the JBSL could meet to see if some of the intention could be moved forward for better communication and coordination between the Senate and Board. Any questions can be addressed during Question Period at the next Senate meeting or with her directly.

9. New Business

There were no items presented under New Business.

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of November 26, 2021
- Revisions to Terms of Reference for SCOTL, Bylaw 14.10
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion regarding Winter 2022 exams
- With an approved amendment, ratification of Senate Executive motion regarding Winter 2022 start
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion regarding revised Calendar dates for Winter 2022
- Several undergraduate curriculum changes

Senate received for information:

- Calendar dates for 2022-2023
- Undergraduate curriculum changes

11. Adjournment

Moved by J. MacLeod, seconded by G. Boulet, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.