



Senate Meeting
Skype for Business

January 29, 2021
2 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Regrets: K. Rana

Observers: N. Buchanan, S. Davis, K. Gallant, J. Lamb, K. Smyth, T. Strapps

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed; the new Director of Facilities Management, Tom Strapps, was introduced and welcomed. All observers were reminded that they may be granted speaking privileges but are not eligible to vote on motions. Returning Senator T. Findlay was welcomed, and New Student Senator, VP Advocacy K. Rana was welcomed in absentia.

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

1. Indigenous Land Recognition

M. Bluechardt 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

An additional agenda item was added under Other Reports: 8.2 Update Joint Board Senate Liaison Committee.

Moved by D. Fisher, seconded by C. Hardy, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes of November 27, 2020

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by J. McMullin, to approve the minutes of November 27, 2020. (Withdrawn)

Revisions to 8.1 FA President's Report on Board of Governors' Meeting were proposed. Following a lengthy discussion of these changes, it was determined that although some changes could be accepted as friendly amendments, the audio recording will need to be reviewed in order to approve other revisions. (P. Crouse, M. Bluehardt, J. McMullin, T. Harriott, D. Piccitto, T. Findlay, K. Allan, M. Nadeem, P. Cantelo, K. Darvesh, J. Sutherland, K. Ritchie, C. Dawson, N. Kayhani, C. Slumkoski, G. Durepos)

Moved by N. Kayhani, seconded by A. Card, that the approval of November 27, 2020, minutes be deferred until the next regular Senate meeting and that the Secretary of Senate and recording secretary review the recording of the November 27 meeting prior to the Feb. 5 special meeting of Senate, at which time discussion will take place. CARRIED (29 in favour 4 opposed)

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Criteria for Student Relief Fund

P. Cantelo reported on the criteria for the Student Relief Fund. He noted that the numbers reported at the November meeting were slightly incorrect. In actuality, 395 applications for funding were received; of these, 284 students did receive funding. Of the 111 applications not approved, 95 had access to other financial resources, in particular the CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit). Criteria stated that if a student was in receipt of the CERB they would be ineligible to access student relief funding. Of the remaining students, 5 were not eligible because they were not registered in Winter 2020 terms or had not completed units since September 2019 as per eligibility requirements, 8 had personal resources available to them and were not in urgent financial need or had requested funding for matters that were not appropriate, and the 3 remaining were exchange students. Factors constituting our determinations for financial need are shelter, food, personal and health care, clothing, cleaning and local transportation. He added that the Mount has also supported the international student quarantine bursary since November 27, with \$31,500 being awarded to 32 students. An additional \$8,500 is still allocated to this award. K. Ritchie thanked P. Cantelo for the detailed and transparent report.

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

M. Bluehardt reported that the strategic plan has been rolled out internally and externally. Next steps will be creating operational plans towards the objectives and indicators of success, as detailed in the plan. Software packages for effective reporting are being considered. Additional details regarding software and reporting as well as opportunities to engage in the operational plan will be forthcoming.

She then acknowledged our AMI colleagues for their well-attended and meaningful virtual ceremony honouring the National Day of Remembrance on December 4, 2020.

M. Bluehardt reported that she was pleased to join the Premier, the Minister of LAE, the Ambassador of Canada in China, and other Senior Government and Education leaders from Fujian province in China in a virtual signing ceremony on behalf of the Mount to sign a new MOU with Minjiang University.

She noted that the RFP has gone out for a contract for a government relations consultant. This ongoing contract will address the previously identified lack of dedicated strategic government relations expertise in advocacy.

M. Bluehardt then mentioned CONSUP's lobbying of provincial and federal governments for investment in our institutions to assist with lost revenue as a result of COVID-19. She then noted that the province has now committed \$1.458 million to MSVU.

She went on to say that the inaugural meeting of the EDIA Committee was held on January 19, and subsequent meetings have been scheduled.

She concluded by mentioning her participation in the RBC Alliance of Young Women Entrepreneurs. This first ever event, hosted by RBC and our own CWB, prepares participants to launch entrepreneurial business of all types.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

J. McMullin reported that several EDIA initiatives are currently underway. She noted that interviews for the EDIA Advisor position have concluded and they are now in negotiation with the preferred candidate. She then thanked the search committee members for their help with the process.

J. McMullin then reported that over 100 applications were received for the Black Scholar Cluster Hiring Program. The hiring review committee, comprised of members from CAPP, the Deans, one faculty member from each Faculty and the AVP&P (Chair) will triage all applications considering unit operational needs and forward to the Department DACs for consideration.

She then mentioned that the Pandemic Equity Advisory Committee is continuing its work in assessing through an equity lens the decisions that have been made during the pandemic.

Coinciding with Black History Month, the research office is launching our Black and Indigenous Scholar virtual speaker series with a lecture by Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden, to be held on February 11 at 12 p.m.

She also noted that search committees for the AVPR and the Dean of Professional Studies and Graduate Studies will begin reviewing applications for these roles during the first two weeks of February.

J. McMullin concluded by saying the TLCOL report was received and is currently under consideration in the unit. She noted that feedback included both recommendations for improvement and accolades for great work that has gone on in the unit to date, especially since March 2020. Planning for fall continues with hopes that more face-to-face classes will be delivered; she noted considerations should be sent to her via email.

5.3. Vice-President Administration

M. Nadeem welcomed Tom Strapps as the new Director of Facilities Management and noted that former Director B. McNeil will be on hand until February 12 when he officially retires.

He reported that the university is working with KPMG on providing documentation, an FAQ, and a calculator to support faculty and staff regarding the T2200 form (Declaration of Conditions of Employment for Working at Home Due to COVID-19). The package will be rolled out through IT&S; more information will be provided.

He also noted that the Budget Committee will be meeting in February to work on the 2021 budget. Two town halls—one for students and one for faculty and staff—will be co-hosted by himself and J. McMullin in late February/early March, with hopes that the budget will be coming to Senate in April before it goes to the Board. He also spoke to the recent announcement of government funding which is intended for operational support. It is hoped that some of this funding can be utilized for recovery of lost revenue, and further investments in IT&S and online support (TLCOL).

6. Question Period

Admissions Software

C. Schneider asked if there are considerations to invest into an efficient admissions program. She added that from her perspective the current SharePoint system is not effective and that printed copies of student applications must be reviewed.

It was recognized that some systems will be reviewed as part of the strategic plan and that the admission process had been a focus for IT&S in recent years. In the past the EDUC faculty were comfortable with their paper process and bypassed an online solution; however, IT&S would be pleased to create a partnership with the Faculty of Education to find a solution.

It was clarified that Ellucian Colleague is our data management system; SharePoint is a document management site. Documents can be retrieved from SharePoint; however, the user interface is certainly not as practical as others. (J. McMullin, K. Smyth, P. Cantelo)

Operations Plan for Strategic Plan

G. Durepos asked the following questions: Who is involved with creating the operations plan, what does this look like on the ground floor, what resources are attached to this initiative, and when would this work begin? J. McMullin responded that Dr. Bonnie Patterson (former President of Trent University and former President of the Council of Ontario Universities) has been brought in to support the process. She is very familiar with strategic plan development and implementation. She will be working with Senior Administration, who will then convene with Department Chairs and unit Directors, who will work with faculty and staff to insure a collaborative process. The process will begin in February at the senior administration level and will be rolled out going forward over the next six months or so.

Unscheduled Holidays

T. Findlay wondered if additional holidays can be scheduled in advance, noting that the unexpected holidays caused some disruption across campus (those with events scheduled, the Child Study Centre, etc.). It was noted that regular days off are communicated in advance. These additional thank you days are one-offs and, for the most part, were met with positive feedback. However, going forward we will extend our consultation and look closer to whom the decision may impact. (M. Nadeem, M. Bluehardt)

Centralized Site

D. Piccitto questioned if the centralized site for all Mount committees and terms of reference is now complete. M. Nadeem responded that to the best of his knowledge this is complete; he will check with M. Innes on this item.

EDIA Advisor

D. Piccitto asked about the role of the newly created position of EDIA Advisor and who sat on the search committee. J. McMullin responded that the committee was comprised of herself, P. Barry Mercer, M. Nadeem, S. Reddington and K. Healy. She explained that the EDIA Advisor will guide the entire campus community, working

very closely with the President's Committee on EDIA as well as developing the implementation part of the strategic plan, completing data analysis and educating on EDIA. It is expected that the EDIA Advisor will consult with many committees on campus to identify gaps and further enhance various aspects of EDIA.

D. Piccitto further questioned if some of the EDIA committees on campus were consulted for their input. J. McMullin responded that members of the search committee also serve on other EDIA committees.

KPMG Package

E. Hicks questioned what type of package KPMG is providing for the T2200. The KPMG package includes information on the T2200 as well as a calculator. This package will assist all employees and help maximize their claim. Use of the KPMG tool will be optional. (M. Nadeem, S. Davis)

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Ratification of Executive Motion re Teaching Mode Summer 2021

J. McMullin presented the Executive Motion re Teaching Mode Summer 2021.

Moved by J. McMullin, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's decision that courses in Summer School I and II 2021 continue to be offered primarily online and that proposals for face-to-face courses or meetings will be considered if virtual delivery is accommodated and the public health safety guidelines are met. CARRIED

7.1.2. Revision to Senate Bylaw 1.1

J. Sutherland brought forward the revision of Senate Bylaw 1.1 as a notice of motion.

7.1.3. Revision to Senate Bylaw 14

P. Crouse brought forward the revision of Bylaw 14 as a notice of motion.

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

7.2.1. Revisions to Adjunct Professor Policy

J. McMullin presented the revisions to the Adjunct Professor Policy.

Moved by J. McMullin, seconded by A. Card, that Senate approve the revisions to the Adjunct Professor Policy. CARRIED

7.2.2. Academic Calendar Dates 2021-22

J. McMullin presented the Academic Calendar Dates for 2021-2022 for information.

7.2.3. Report on External Review of Psychology

J. McMullin presented the report on the external review of Psychology for information.

D. Piccitto questioned if there was a campus unit designated to track and survey graduates. It was noted that the Alumnae Office does do some tracking, but more can be done. The approach is to engage students during the recruitment process by showing them the journey from student to graduate and then to an engaged alum. Many student relationships tend to be formed with faculty members and departments so perhaps there could be more collaboration with faculty and departments. Currently students may keep their Mount email address for 18 months post-graduation. Under the present agreement with Microsoft, students could keep their email as a lifetime legacy. However, to do that, a business relationship would be required between the department and the student; IT&S could not develop that relationship. Software to improve engagement with Alumnae has recently been approved. (J. McMullin, K. Gallant, E. Hicks, K. Smyth, M. Nadeem)

D. Piccitto asked if faculty and students can be provided with more space and time to meet with the actual reviewers. J. McMullin responded that this would certainly be possible and would presumably lead to a better review and report.

D. Piccitto, referring to the report, noted that not all PT faculty have access to a computer, and sometimes computers in the campus resource centres are not available. IT&S currently has Chromebooks available for PT faculty for home use. Resource centres in every building house both computers and printers; additional needs should be communicated to IT&S.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Changes

A. Card brought forward the following items for information.

- 7.3.1.1. Applied Human Nutrition
 - 7.3.1.1.1. New name and description for NUTR 3330/GAHN 6330
 - 7.3.1.1.2. New name, number and description for NUTR 2260
 - 7.3.1.1.3. New name, number, prerequisite and description for NUTR 2261
- 7.3.1.2. Biology
 - 7.3.1.2.1. New prerequisite for BUSI 2205

7.4. Library

D. Cox presented the Senate Library Committee report for information. She noted that Librarian Alina Ruiz joined the Mount on August 1 as the new Archivist and Records Manager and that Nicole Marcoux has been hired as a Limited Term Librarian while Meg Raven is on sabbatical. She also mentioned that the RFID (security system) tagging is almost 50% completed.

D. Piccitto, referring to the Library's decision to discontinue full depository status for the Children's Book Centre Collection, questioned how the titles will be added going forward. T. Harrison responded that the Library expects to collect from the best titles list, the children's awards and in our research areas such as Child and Youth Study and Education. Meg Raven will confirm this process upon her return from sabbatical.

7.5. Teaching and Learning

- 7.5.1. Revisions to Teaching Excellence Awards Guidelines and Form K. Darvesh brought forward the revisions to the Teaching Excellence Awards Guidelines and form for information. She briefly reviewed these changes with Senators and noted that she plans to present additional changes to the guidelines document on February 26.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Students' Union

J. Sutherland reported on the formation of the Mount Mentorship Team Committee, which is comprised of Students' Union members and students at large, faculty, and administration. This large committee has been subdivided into working groups to help support the Students' Union in the areas of governance, operations, equity and diversity, finances, student engagement, training, and education. She also reported that the Students' Union governance and operations and review is underway. She noted that Royer Thompson have completed their interviews regarding this review and the Union is awaiting feedback. She also spoke to the GM hiring process.

J. Sutherland reported on the health and dental referendum op-out policy. However, due to low voter turnout, this referendum has not been recognized by the University Administration. This item will need to be revisited in the Spring. In closing, she added that the SU is currently in the middle of appointments for vacant positions, for which a high number of applications have been received.

8.2. Update on the Joint Board Senate Liaison Committee Meeting

A. Thurlow reported that a very productive meeting of the Joint Board Senate Liaison Committee was held earlier this week. She noted that the first item underway is a governance review, with the first step being finding a facilitator to help build a self-study process involving the Senate and the Board. A review of governance is a great start on determining a clear mandate for the committee. Conversation also took place regarding more effective communication between the Board and Senate. (A. Thurlow, G. Boulet)

9. New Business

9.1. Nominations for Honorary Doctorate (Confidential)

Moved by J. McMullin, seconded by N. Kayhani, that the meeting move in-camera. CARRIED

Moved by E. Hicks, seconded by P. Cantelo, that the meeting move out of the in-camera session. CARRIED

The in-camera session was used to consider nominations for Honorary Doctorate. One Honorary Doctorate nomination was approved, and Senators were reminded that the names of nominees and the outcome of the voting process are confidential.

9.2. 2020 NSSE and Student Retention

In the interest of time, it was decided that the 2020 NSSE survey data would be presented at the February 26 Senate meeting, and P. Barry-Mercer proceeded with her MSVU student retention presentation. She reported that undergraduate retention has increased by 5.4%; BEd, by 4.8%; and graduate, by 6.9%, with an overall increase of 5.7%. She did note that the higher retention rate may be a result of the change to “P” grades in the winter, resulting in our not upholding our dismissal policy and some students not being dismissed. She did confirm that 2020 would still have higher retention rates regardless. She then reviewed retention rates in the individual areas of study, as well as in the various ethnic groups on campus. She identified the various departments and initiatives that have had a hand in this success.

It was noted that the only comparator to other institutions would be McLean's, which only tracks the retention of first-year, full-time high school students, noting that our first-year class is comprised of many transfer students. P. Barry Mercer noted that she can bring back the McLean's comparator. In addition to the various campus departments, it was noted that faculty are also part of this transition to success. (T. Findlay, G. Boulet, K. Darvesh, P. Barry Mercer)

9.3. FA President Ex Officio Position on Senate

D. Piccitto brought forward the memo regarding the FA President Ex Officio Position on Senate for discussion. She reviewed the key points of the document. J. McMullin wondered if we should seek feedback from the Faculty at large (not just Senators) regarding this issue. She suggested that this discussion might be a bit premature in light of the upcoming governance review. J. McMullin also reviewed the current ex officio members of Senate, including the AVPR, the AVP Student Experience and the Director of Teaching and Learning, all of whom are members of standing committees of Senate; she noted that the FA President does not sit on any standing committees of Senate.

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by K. Allan, to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. CARRIED

A discussion of this item ensued. Senators referenced the University Charter and its relevance to this proposal. Some questioned the impact and/or downside of the FA President becoming an ex officio member. Others wondered why the FA President should be granted this position over other faculty. Some Senators compared the FA President position to the SU President ex officio position, noting that it was similar; this point was refuted by stating that the FA President has a labour relationship with the University. It was noted that the FA President position is not ex officio at Dalhousie, Acadia and St. FX, while the FA President is an ex officio member at the University of Waterloo and the University of Prince Edward Island (at UPEI this is a non-voting position). D. Fisher questioned if the FA President would take up an existing faculty position or an additional position. G. Boulet, referencing section 8.2 of the Charter, noted that the ex officio position would not replace a faculty member but add to the overall Senate. Many Senators were in agreement of the FA President becoming an ex officio member, while others questioned the overall goal of making this position ex officio. (D. Piccitto, J. McMullin, G. Boulet, E. Hicks, K. Allan, C. Dawson, D. Fisher, T. Findlay, A. Card, J. Sutherland, L. MacCallum, G. Durepos, M. Nadeem, C. Slumkoski, N. Kayhani)

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Ratification of Senate Executive motion regarding teaching mode for Summer 2021
- Revisions to the Adjunct Professor Policy
- One nomination for honorary degree

Senate received for information:

- Notice of motion re changes to Senate Bylaws 1.1 and 14
- Academic Calendar dates for 2021-22
- Report on external review of Psychology
- Undergraduate curriculum changes in Applied Human Nutrition and Biology
- Revisions to Teaching Excellent Awards Guidelines and form
- Report on student retention

11. Adjournment

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by N. Kayhani, that Senate be adjourned. CARRIED
The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.