



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

March 31, 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, G. Durepos, M. Eskritt, T. Findlay, J. Fraser Arsenault, T. Franz-Odendaal, G. Fraser, J. Gahagan, R. Gechtman, M. Gillis, M. Gonick, S. Hale, C. Hardy, M. J. Harkins, T. Harrison, E Henderson, K. Jones, J. MacLeod, S. MacMillan, M. McGonnell, G. Morrison, M. Ralston, C. Schneider, C. Slumkoski, L. Steele, B. Taylor, S. Trenholm, R. Zuk

Regrets: S. Goswami, J. R. Sylliboy, J. Valcke

Observers: K. Gallant, J. Lamb

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. Observers were identified and 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 S. Hale, seconded by S. Brigham, to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. March 10, 2023

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by N. Buchanan, to approve the minutes of March 10, 2023, as presented. CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Revisions to SLC Terms of Reference, Bylaw 14.6

Moved by M. Gonick, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the proposed name change from Senate Library Committee (SLC) to the Senate Committee on Library & Archives (SCOLA), and additional proposed changes to Bylaw 14.6, effective immediately. CARRIED.

4.2. Graduate and undergraduate admissions processes

B. Taylor reported on his ongoing work in regard to the graduate and undergraduate admissions process. He shared that, after meeting with a variety of stakeholders, the consensus was that our current admissions process is outdated as it relies too heavily on manual entry, resulting in large delays in processing which, in turn, could give prospective students a negative first impression of the Mount.

B. Taylor further shared that short-term contracts have been implemented where needed to alleviate the backlog of applications; however, he acknowledged that technological solutions will be required for long-term success and that meetings will be scheduled with Academica and Ellucian to discuss possible solutions.

J. Dickinson added that the extra short-term contracts will be in place for next year's admissions process as any technological solutions could take a year or more to fully implement.

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

J. Dickinson reported on various items, including the official launch of the EDIA hub, the IDPAD X MSVU event planned by PBRL 4405 students and the early registration and advising events.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

B. Taylor provided his report during the Business Arising section of the meeting. No further report was given.

5.3. Vice-President Administration

G. Morrison reported that a tentative agreement has been reached between the IOUE Local 71 and the Mount and that both parties will be recommending ratification. She also reported on the accessibility project on the 3rd floor of Assisi Hall, the HR sponsored work-from-home survey (noting that Chairs and Directors will be invited to provide feedback in the survey), how the University is addressing the problem of mice on campus and the protocols regarding closures of the on-campus daycare due to inclement weather.

6. Question Period

K. Jones commended the responsiveness of the Facilities Management team regarding the accessible residence rooms in Assisi, noting that there will be two fully accessible rooms when the project is complete.

K. Blotnicky sought clarification regarding the use of a ChatGPT detector when assessing student work. In response, B. Taylor referenced a 2006 Senate motion regarding the use of plagiarism tracking software and noted that a working group regarding ChatGPT and its

ramifications will be established. K. Blotnicky asked that a policy be in place before the Summer I semester or at least the Fall to address the concerns of ChatGPT generated work.

C. Hardy requested that a sign language course (whether it be internal or external) be recognized at the Mount for credit.

T. Findlay asked that a substantive conversation be had with faculty prior to the next early advising event so that the scheduling and logistics can allow for the most beneficial event for students.

G. Durepos sought an update regarding the submission of University governance materials to the provincial government last spring. J. Dickinson shared that the provincial government intends to provide a full report on its findings but, in the meantime, had suggested that an internal governance review be undertaken.

R. Zuk requested an update on the status of the VP searches. J. Dickinson commented that the final hiring decisions will be made at the next Board of Governor's meeting with a campus-wide announcement to closely follow.

P. and C. Small-Legs Nagge's upcoming retirements were discussed, with Senators noting their tremendous contributions to the University and seeking information on how their replacements will be chosen. It was recommended that a local Indigenous elder be included on the selection committee. J. Dickinson shared that she has been consulting with both individuals on how their job descriptions and roles have evolved during their time at the Mount in order to provide the most accurate job posting. She will also ask for the ToR for each search committee. (T. Findlay, J. Dickinson, M. J. Harkins).

In response to G. Chan's comment that unconscious bias training for the Supplemental Interview Committee VP Administration Search would have been beneficial, the notion of an EDIA trained interview committee was discussed. Senators noted that some other institutions have a committee where all members have training on critical equity interview principles and every interview conducted has one of those committee members attending the interview. (G. Chan, S. Brigham, J. Dickinson, K. Jones).

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

7.1.1. Child and Youth Study (*for Approval*)

7.1.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.1.1.1.1. Removal of winter admission to GCYS

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by K. Allan, that Senate approve the removal of winter admission to GCYS. CARRIED.

K. Jones sought clarification on the decision-making process and how it would impact international

students. S. Trenholm responded that the change was requested from the department to allow time for prospective international students to acquire a study visa.

7.2. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.2.1. Child and Youth Study

7.2.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.1.1.1. Program requirements Bachelor of Arts (Child and Youth Study)

Moved by A. Card, seconded by C. Hardy, that Senate approve the change in program requirements to Bachelor of Arts (Child and Youth Study). CARRIED.

7.2.2. Communication Studies

7.2.2.1. New Course Proposal

7.2.2.1.1. COMM 4201: Special Topics in Communication

Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the new course COMM 4201. CARRIED.

7.2.3. Education

7.2.3.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.3.1.1. French early admission requirements for Elementary and Secondary Education

Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Brigham, that Senate approve the French early admission requirements for Elementary and Secondary Education. CARRIED.

7.2.4. English

7.2.4.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.4.1.1. Addition of Combined Major with Honours and Combined Major Honours Certificate

Moved by A. Card, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the addition of a Combined Major with Honours and Combined Major Honours certificate in English. CARRIED.

7.2.5. Modern Languages

7.2.5.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.5.1.1. New Calendar description for Pathway to Education for French Major students

Moved by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the new Calendar description for Pathway to Education for French Major students. CARRIED.

- 7.2.6. Political and Canadian Studies
 - 7.2.6.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.2.6.1.1. Addition to Areas of Concentration
Moved by A. Card, seconded by T. Findlay, that Senate approve the addition of POLS/SOAN 3543 to the Areas of Concentration Calendar entry for Political and Canadian Studies. CARRIED.

- 7.2.7. Changes
 - A. Card referred to the following change, which was presented for information.

- 7.2.7.1. Modern Languages
 - 7.2.7.1.1. New prerequisite for FREN 4498

7.3. Nominations

- 7.3.1. Nomination for Senate Committee Vacancy
Moved by J. Fraser Arsenault, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate elect the following faculty members to the indicated committees for the indicated terms. CARRIED.

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships & Awards	Dr. Alexandra Tsedryk	When elected	30 June 2025
Committee on Teaching & Learning	Dr. Adriana Benzaquén	When elected	30 June 2025

- 7.3.2. Election of Senator to Search Committee for University Librarian
 J. Fraser Arsenault reported the results of the call for nominations for a faculty Senator to serve on the Search Committee for the University Librarian. She then called for nominations from the floor three times and, receiving no further nominations, declared Dr. Mary Jane Harkins acclaimed.

8. Other Reports

- 8.1. FA President’s Report on Board of Governors’ Meeting
 S. Brigham reported on the discussions had during the last Board meeting, which included the lack of funds the Mount received by the provincial government, the ongoing VP searches and the Dismantling Racism and Hate Act of Nova Scotia.
- 8.2. Students’ Union
 K. Allan reported that her successor will be joining Senate in May. She also highlighted the SU’s strategic report, copies of which were given to each Senator.

N. Buchanan reported on the SU elections results, the SU's AGM and SU's Awards Night which will highlight contributions to the campus community made by Mount students, employees and University members.

C. Hardy reported the temporary closure of the Captain Crowe Café and food bank due to renovations and encouraged Senators to visit the new space once renovations are complete. She noted that the food bank table located in Rosaria will be stocked during this temporary closure.

C. Cameron reported on the status of the harm reduction campaigns, as well as an upcoming drag show on campus.

Senators expressed thanks to the student Senators for their terms serving on Senate and, in particular, thanked K. Allan for her hard work and dedication to Senate in her role of MSVUSU President.

9. New Business

9.1. Significant Disruption of Operations

J. Dickinson provided background on the Significant Disruption of Operations policy and how it can be enacted and lifted. She shared that she would like to lift the disruption policy for the start of the Summer I semester but would like to discuss with Senators first.

B. Taylor provided information on the specific nature of what lifting the policy would mean, for example, reverting to our normal policy regarding proctoring exams effective Summer I.

P. Crouse added that the revised Calendar entries for the Examination Policy and the Course Outline Policy reference to department policy would also be in effect.

J. MacLeod questioned if this would affect masking to which J. Dickinson commented that it would not as masking is a separate policy but that masking will also be reviewed prior to Summer I.

L. Steele requested that the communication to faculty be very clear with specific statements about what reverting to "normal" policies means in practice.

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of March 10, 2023
- Revisions to Bylaw 14.6, Senate Library Committee ToR
- Undergraduate and graduate curriculum changes
- Nominations for Senate committee vacancies

Senate elected:

- Dr. Mary Jane Harkins to serve as Senate's representative on the search committee for the University Librarian

Senate received for information:

- An undergraduate curriculum change

11. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.