



Senate Meeting
MS Teams

March 4, 2022
2 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: B. Taylor (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, A. Thurlow, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, R. Zuk

Regrets: R. Lumpkin, M. Shortt Robertson

Observers: W. Brewer, K. Gallant, J. Jollymore, J. Lamb

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 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

B. Taylor 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 E. Henderson, to approve the agenda.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. January 28, 2022

Moved by N. Buchanan, seconded by S. Trenholm, to approve the minutes of January 28, 2022. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No items were identified under Business Arising from the Minutes.

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

B. Taylor brought forward the President's report in R. Lumpkin's absence. R. Lumpkin wished to provide updates with respect to the progress on the Mount's commitment to the Indigenous community.

Commitment #1 – Indigenizing course content in all Faculties. Several departments already have initiatives underway, and during the next budget cycle, funding will be available to support indigenizing curriculum. B. Taylor confirmed he is currently working with Deans to create a process by which faculty and departments can apply for various kinds of support.

Commitment #4 – Expand financial supports for Indigenous students. The Board voted in its December meeting to provide \$500,000 from reserve funds to support Indigenous students, the Sisters of Charity gave a gift to increase their Indigenous bursary fund, and an announcement is forthcoming regarding a recent gift to the Mount for this purpose.

Commitment #5 – Promote services of our Indigenous Student Centre, including its provision of residence space for female Indigenous students. Promotion of the Centre (recently renamed Kina'masuti aqq Apognamasuti meaning "Learning and Help") and its services is ongoing. Our Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs and our Indigenous Counsellor offer support and advice to a steady stream of students. This term the residence space is occupied by two Indigenous female students.

Commitment #6 – Host a Healing Circle with L'nu Advisory members and members of the Board and Senate. The Board held a ceremony in November, and Senate members were invited to participate. The Senate will hold a healing ceremony at a suitable time in the future and will invite members of the Board to attend.

Commitment #7 – Ask BoG and Senate to consider their roles and responsibilities in reconciliation including the representation of Mi'kmaq community within the University governance bodies. At their next meeting the Board's nominating committee will bring forward an L'nu nominee who has accepted the role of serving on the Board. A special meeting with the L'nu Advisory Circle was held in response to Senate's desire for further guidance on what form Indigenous representation on Senate should be and an update will be provided at the April 1 Senate meeting.

Commitment #8 – Reinstate Elder in Residence program. Advice was solicited from the L'nu Advisory Circle to the best approach of an Elder in Residence program. A related program, an Auntie in Residence, was proposed where a

female elder or knowledge keeper could be on campus to provide emotional and spiritual support to students. Circle members were supportive of this proposed program and asked that the Mount take the lead in convening a “Council of Elders” from across the province who could advise the Mount and our sister institutions on the engagement of Elders on campus.

Commitment #9 – Build on recent changes in our policies that recognize the value of Indigenous knowledge and research in faculty renewal, promotion, and tenure decisions and that recognize diverse credentials for hiring Indigenous faculty. This work is ongoing through a LOU between the FA and the Board.

Commitment #12 – Seek collaboration with all HRM universities. The following initiatives were mentioned:

- Led by A. Thurlow and supported by the Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs, the Mount has begun exploratory discussions with University of King’s College about a shared Indigenous media course.
- The President of King’s has requested a meeting with the Mount’s President and other staff to learn more about our Indigenous initiatives and ways we can cooperate and share resources.
- The Interim VPA&P and the Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs met with NSCC staff to discuss partnership opportunities around Indigenous education and reconciliation.
- Through CONSUP and its Shared Vision project, the Mount has been asked to be the lead institution for collaboration on equity initiatives across the NS university sector.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

B. Taylor referred to the recent COVID protocols update, citing Public Health’s plan to end most restrictions as of March 21. He referenced a CONSUP meeting in which university Presidents discussed which protocols would remain in place at universities after the public health restrictions are lifted and noted that the three institutions in HRM will proceed in a similar manner for the remainder of term to ensure faculty, students, and staff are safe while being back on campus.

Moved by S. Hale, seconded by A. Thurlow, to extend the Administration Updates time. CARRIED

5.3. Vice-President Administration

M. Nadeem indicated his team has been busy supporting the return to campus which included successfully welcoming staff, faculty, and students to campus and students to residence.

He indicated that maintaining campus operations has been a lot of work given the recent weather. He reviewed the process for determining and announcing a campus closure which includes consultation with the Director of Facilities and Operations, reviewing the weather forecast and advisories as well as considering how the transit system and other universities will proceed. He reported that a morning closure will be announced prior to 6 a.m. and a later closure is decided upon as weather conditions deteriorate.

M. Nadeem concluded by referencing the approaching fiscal year end, audits slated for April or May, and audit statements available to the Board in June and to be published following their approval.

6. Question Period

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

C. Hardy referred to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement, specifically regarding the federal and provincial government's commitment to remove the cost of tuition and textbooks for hundreds of Early Childcare Education courses as well as making bursaries available to students. She indicated that the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recently awarded 25 Child and Youth Studies students with bursaries and was wondering if this funding was a result of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement. She also asked if MSVU will be actively looking to access funding the government has available to support Early Childcare Educators. B. Taylor has asked that C. Hardy summarize her questions in an email to him and he will investigate it on her behalf.

J. Roberts asked about plans to enforce the masking and vaccination requirements as there may be resistance since NS is removing all restrictions approximately 6 weeks before the end of April. It was stated that the Mount is relying on campus members to continue adhering to measures, recognizing that people who are currently on campus chose to return with the knowledge that these restrictions will remain in place. It was acknowledged that there is no effective way to enforce these measures other than relying on personal responsibility (B. Taylor, M. Nadeem).

W. Brewer asked for clarification on the reasons for requiring masks after March 21 as it will not align with NS public health measures. B. Taylor cited a level of moral commitment made to members who returned to campus after the delayed opening that current masking and vaccination requirements would remain in place this semester.

R. Zuk asked for an update regarding the Presidential Search seeing as the current Interim President will finish her appointment as of May 1, 2022. L. MacCallum, the Senate representative on the search committee, confirmed they are in the planning

stage for interviews and that the search will require adherence to the procedures on closed searches to ensure the appropriate campus stakeholders are involved in the interview process. K. Gallant mentioned that an update to campus will be coming soon, and B. Taylor committed to informing the Chair of the Board that this topic was discussed at Senate.

G. Durepos thanked Dean Trenholm for the flexibility given during her delayed return to campus and confirmed it went smoothly and she was grateful to have the option.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Rules of Order Rule 15.3.8

B. Taylor referred to the memo provided in the meeting package and acknowledged T. Harriott and P. Crouse for their work on this topic. He opened it up for discussion; no questions were presented.

7.1.2. Recognizing MountAbility Program Completion

C. Schneider referred to the motion provided in the meeting packaged and indicated this arose from recent discussions regarding the inclusive education program MountAbility, which has been running for the past six years and will see its first two students complete the program this spring. EX is recommending that students who complete the program be able to participate in convocation. No questions were presented.

C. Schneider offered to do a more in-depth presentation at a later Senate meeting and invite students who can speak to their experience in the program.

Moved by C. Schneider, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate endorse the Mount's inclusive post-secondary education program MountAbility and include in the graduation list and in the convocation ceremony students who successfully complete the program. CARRIED

7.2. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.2.1. Business Administration

7.2.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.1.1.1. Change in requirements for Management Major and Concentration

7.2.1.1.2. Change in requirements for Marketing Major and Concentration

Moved by A. Card, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the items as outlined in 7.2.1.1.1 & 7.2.1.1.2 for Business. CARRIED

- 7.2.2. Canadian Studies and Cultural Studies
 - 7.2.2.1. New Course Proposal
 - 7.2.2.1.1. CANA 2301/CULS 2301: Doing It for the Culture: The Politics of Black Culture in Canada
Moved by A. Card, seconded by T. Findlay, that Senate approve the new course CANA 2301/CULS 2301: Doing It for the Culture: The Politics of Black Culture in Canada. CARRIED
- 7.2.3. English
 - 7.2.3.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.2.3.1.1. Change in requirements for English Honours Degree
Moved by A. Card, seconded by G. Fraser, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the English Honours Degree. CARRIED
- 7.2.4. Family Studies and Gerontology
 - 7.2.4.1. New Course Proposal
 - 7.2.4.1.1. FSGN 3552: LGBTQ Families
Moved by A. Card, seconded by M. Ralston, that that Senate approve the new course FSGN 3552: LGBTQ Families. CARRIED
- 7.2.5. History
 - 7.2.5.1. New Course Proposal
 - 7.2.5.1.1. HIST 2261: A History of Pirates
Moved by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the new course HIST 2261: A History of Pirates. CARRIED
- 7.2.6. Mathematics
 - 7.2.6.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.2.6.1.1. Changes in Calendar Description for prerequisites for MATH 1102 and 1113 and Mathematics Placement Test
Moved by A. Card, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate approve the changes in Calendar Description for prerequisites for MATH 1102 and 1113 and Mathematics Placement Test. CARRIED
- 7.2.7. Modern Languages
 - 7.2.7.1. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.2.7.1.1. Change in Calendar Description of Placement Test

Moved by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the change in Calendar Description of Placement Tests for Modern Languages. CARRIED

7.2.8. Psychology

7.2.8.1. New Course Proposal

7.2.8.1.1. PSYC 3333: Foundations of Counseling
Moved by A. Card, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the new course PSYC 3333: Foundations of Counseling. CARRIED

7.2.8.2. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.8.2.1. 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 change in requirements for Bachelor of Arts – Psychology; Bachelor of Science – Psychology; Combined Major – Psychology; Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – Psychology; and Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Psychology. CARRIED

7.2.9. Tourism and Hospitality Management

7.2.9.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.9.1.1. Addition to electives courses listing
Moved by A. Card, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the addition to the electives courses listing for Tourism and Hospitality Management. CARRIED

7.2.10. Changes

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

7.2.10.1. Sociology/Anthropology

7.2.10.1.1. New description for SOAN 2520

7.2.10.1.2. New description for SOAN 2550

7.2.10.1.3. New description for SOAN 2570/WOMS 2570

7.2.10.1.4. New prerequisite and description for SOAN 3572/WOMS 3572

7.2.10.2. Tourism and Hospitality Management & Business Administration

7.2.10.2.1. New course name, cross-listing, prerequisite and description for THMT 3402/BUSI 3402

8. Other Reports

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

D. Piccitto reminded Senate that this report was deferred from the Senate meeting in January. She reported that the Board retreat was held on November 19-20 with both virtual and in-person events. The events included a presentation and guest talk on the Aboriginal Academic Access Post-Secondary (AAPS) Program, the Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs' Evergreen report, and the Kinu Tourism Program. An Indigenous Student Panel was scheduled but was postponed to a later date. A Healing Circle was led by a member of the L'nu Advisory Circle with members of the L'nu, Board and Senate in attendance.

D. Piccitto noted that a question surrounding Indigenous identity claims was posed and that the Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs and Interim President acknowledged it is something they are conscious of when awarding Indigenous student bursaries.

D. Piccitto concluded by referencing the December Board meeting at which two new Board members were approved, the Registrar provided an enrollment report and the AVP University Relations provided a recruitment activities report. During the Senate Highlights report, the discussion from the November 26 Senate meeting surrounding the "Implementation of the Strategic Plan" and motion for the EDIA Advisory Committee to consider "equity tax" were presented. Senate representatives also discussed the importance of Question Period as a way for Senators to engage in an open and ongoing dialogue with Senior Administration.

8.2. Students' Union

K. Allan highlighted the following items: the general election is currently underway, graduate photo appointments are available, the Fountain Play Centre is open by appointment only with spaces available until 7 p.m., and an off-campus Queer Prom event will be hosted on April 6. Updates regarding SU services included the new furniture acquisition for the Crow's Nest, the new coffee system for Captain Crow Café, and information on the delayed opening of the Campus Pub.

9. New Business

No items were presented under New Business.

10. Items for Communication (P. Crouse)

Senate approved:

- Minutes of January 28, 2022
- Endorsement of the MountAbility program and inclusion in convocation of those completing the program
- Several undergraduate curriculum changes

Senate received for information:

- Undergraduate curriculum changes

11. Adjournment

Moved by A. Benzaquén, seconded by S. Brigham, that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.