



Senate Meeting
Skype for Business

November 27, 2020
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, 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, S. Perrott, D. Piccitto, M. Ralston, K. Ritchie, J. Roberts, T. Sawyer, C. Schneider, C. Slumkoski, J. Sutherland, A. Thurlow

Observers: N. Buchanan, K. Healy, J. Lamb, B. MacNeil, K. Smyth

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. Observers were identified, welcomed and reminded that they may be granted speaking privileges but are not eligible to vote on motions. New Students' Union President J. Sutherland, K. Allan returning as Graduate Student Representative, C. Hardy returning as Professional Studies Representative, and S. Schnare returning as Recording Secretary were welcomed. Retiring Senator S. Perrott was recognized for his service to Senate and chairing the SNC.

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 New Business, 9.2: Option to Change Grade to Pass.

Moved by E. Henderson, seconded by D. Fisher, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes of October 30, 2020

Moved by J. McMullin, seconded by C. Hardy, that the minutes of the meeting held October 30, 2020, be approved as amended. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

M. Bluechardt reported that the Strategic Plan was passed by the Board of Governors on November 26. She expressed thanks to Senators for their contributions, commitment and approval of the Plan and asked for continued support for its implementation. Next steps include editing, branding and communication for the launch of the Plan with operational planning to begin early in the new year.

She also reported that, due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in Halifax and the Public Health response, the MSVU Rapid Response Team has been reconvened. It was noted that two meetings have been held, and meetings will continue as required, including over the Holiday closure.

She gave an update on the virtual Convocation held on November 1 and announced that the Student Relief fund has received over \$189,812 in donations, as well as \$64,000 in support from the Department of Labour and Advanced Education. She noted that over 395 students applied for funding and over 294 received support from the fund. The promotion of the Student Relief Fund continues.

She went on to mention that Giving Tuesday is on December 1 and MSVU will be joining all NS Universities (apart from one) on a campaign focused on Student Food Insecurity. The J. W. Murphy Foundation will be providing the Mount with a financial gift to be used as a match for donations secured for giving Tuesday. A social media campaign has been launched to support this initiative.

M. Bluechardt also reported on the virtual transfer of leadership ceremony held on November 21 for incoming Chancellor, Sister Dr. Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick. Sister Margaret comes to us after a 25-year leadership role as President at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, New York. An event to install our new Chancellor and thank outgoing Chancellor, Sister Joan, will be planned.

M. Bluechardt noted that funding is now in place and an 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.

She remarked on the Town Hall meetings that were held mid-November noting that these events were well attended and received positive feedback.

She mentioned the Sixth Annual Tourism Educational Alliance of the Maritimes (TEAM) event in support of the MSVU Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality Management Program. Funds raised from the event are reinvested in program enhancement, supporting students with financial need and providing students opportunities for professional development. She gave kudos to P. Mombourquette, G. Squires (BoG member) and the organizing committee on a job well done.

In closing, M. Bluehardt encouraged everyone to take time to enjoy the upcoming holiday break.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

J. McMullin offered thanks to the Department of Child and Youth Study, particularly Dr. Nunes and Dr. Theunissen, for their role in the launch of a tuition waiver program specifically intended for former youth in care. In partnership with the Child Welfare Political Action Committee, the post care tuition waiver program will host up to 10 students per year. She noted that MUN and other institutions have now followed suit.

She went on to report that several EDIA initiatives are ongoing, including the recruitment of an EDIA Advisor. With funding through the Dimensions Program, a consultant has been hired to monitor our progress on EDIA especially in the research area. She mentioned CAPP's review of the Black Scholar cluster hire program advertisement, which should be ready to post next week, noting that details regarding the hiring process will be worked out through the Joint Committee. A call was also made to Chairs and Directors regarding critical operational needs due to unexpected retirements or resignations over the last two years. It is anticipated that the University will be able to fill some of these roles as well.

She reported that the Pandemic Equity Advisory Committee continues to assess the decisions that have been made during the pandemic through an equity lens; the Research Office is developing an Indigenous and Black Scholar speaker series; and Executive searches are ongoing and an update has been communicated to the Mount community via email.

She then spoke to the review of the TLCOL Department, with hopes that the reviewers' report will be received before the holiday break, and referenced the TLCOL helpline number that has been created for faculty and students.

She then mentioned the Students' Union elections and the Students' Union mentorship committee.

In closing, she remarked that winter classes will commence on January 11, noting that faculty were provided the option to make application for in-person/online delivery for this semester.

5.3. Vice-President Administration

M. Nadeem reported on the Director of Facilities Management search, noting that interviews have concluded and they are now in discussions with the preferred candidate.

He mentioned that an additional person has been recruited for the IT&S Helpdesk and an extension of helpdesk hours are being considered.

In closing, he mentioned that the University Committee list is now final and will be posted on the intranet soon. He thanked his assistant M. Innes for her help with this initiative.

6. Question Period

J. Roberts brought forward a suggestion to help streamline the strategic plan process. He recommended that the next plan be broken into pieces, with hopes that last-minute additions and weak points can be addressed earlier. M. Bluehardt responded that she will take the suggestion back to the strategic plan workgroup.

N. Kayhani questioned why only 294 students out 395 received support from the Student Relief Fund. Insight into the funding process was provided, noting that some funding was reserved for the winter term. Several requests for support were presented to the Financial Aid Officer as primary funding requests to offset tuition costs, which is not listed in the relief fund criteria. No applications are currently in process, so those who were not awarded funding were not eligible. (N. Kayhani, P. Barry Mercer, P. Cantelo)

K. Ritchie questioned why any student would not be eligible. Additional details regarding the criteria will be brought forward at the January Senate meeting.

A. Benzaquén suggested that a helpline for the IT&S Helpdesk would be beneficial. M. Nadeem noted that he would take this request away for consideration. In the meantime, he suggested that folks continue to email the Helpdesk for IT solutions. It was noted that the Helpdesk resolves over 70% of tickets at first point of call; they also assign tickets to the Tier II specialists and endeavour to resolve all issues same day. It was confirmed that there will be IT&S coverage from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the exam period. (A. Benzaquén, M. Nadeem, K. Smyth, E. Hicks)

K. Allan brought forward concerns of a few BEd students regarding heavy workload and safety in practicum. She noted that even if students pause their current practicum, they have expressed unease and confusion on what a practicum pause will mean to their schedule and graduation date. It was noted that BEd students are not obligated to be in practicum, and the Faculty of Education is currently mirroring the school system and HRCE processes regarding face-to-face and online classes. The practicum situation is being monitored very closely, and students are encouraged to contact C. Schneider or K. McCabe to express concerns. Individual modifications, adaptations and accommodations can be made and have been made if necessary. It is understood that students must feel safe. No concerns regarding workload have been brought forward to the Faculty at this time. As there are required weeks for teacher certification, a pause to practicum may result in the extension of the students' program and graduation date. It was also noted that communication regarding practicum has been provided to students via town hall sessions and several emails. Adjustments were made to course schedules in the spring to free up space for practicum in the Fall semester. It was reiterated that the Students' Union will continue to bring general concerns forward. (K. Allan, A. Card, C. Schneider)

N. Kayhani questioned why the use of MS Teams is not being supported for teaching. It was noted that a meeting has been scheduled for December 3 to consider different teaching platforms/options for use in the winter semester. It was also noted that Collaborate is linked to both Colleague and Moodle and Collaborate is currently our only supported platform. An update on this issue will be provided at the December 4 Senate meeting. (J. McMullin, K. Darvesh, M. Nadeem, K. Smyth)

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by K. Allan, to extend Question Period for an additional 10 minutes.

D. Piccitto brought forward an issue regarding a faculty member reporting an unsolicited SRIQ on their Moodle site. K. Kienapple responded that he removed the evaluation request when the error was brought to his attention noting that the removal does take some time to update on the system. He also mentioned that this error was a result of an unverified list; lists will be verified going forward. D. Piccitto expressed thanks to K. Kienapple for his candor.

L. MacCallum stated that compassion and grace must be extended to our students during this unprecedented time. Extensions and exceptions should be built into our courses and not provided to individual students piecemeal. Institutional provisions for support should be made available to all students during this incredibly stressful time.

J. Sutherland commented that the Students' Union often receives complaints and concerns from students, suggesting that it is sometimes daunting for students to approach professors regarding individual problems and concerns. She noted that the Students' Union plans to document and organize student concerns in a concrete way before bringing them to Senate.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

- 7.1.1. Revisions to Senate Award for Service in University Governance
On behalf of Senate Executive, E. Henderson referenced the proposed changes to the Senate Award for Service in University Governance. **MOVED** by E. Henderson, seconded by J. McMullin, that Senate approve the revisions to the Senate Award for Service in University Governance. CARRIED

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

- 7.2.1. Report on External Review of Modern Languages
J. McMullin presented the report on the External Review of Modern Languages. J. Roberts commented on the responses to the Modern Languages review, noting that the Dean and CAPP did not seem interested in a recommendation to start an Arabic course. He noted that at one time, languages were an essential component of a university degree (Latin, Greek, French, etc.), and we should try to continue that legacy by offering courses in contemporary languages.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Business and Tourism

7.3.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.1.1.1. Change to Management major and concentration requirements

Moved by A. Card, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the change to the Management major and concentration requirements. CARRIED

7.3.1.1.2. Change to Nonprofit Leadership program name and related descriptions: certificate, major, concentration and minor

Moved by A. Card, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the change to the Nonprofit Leadership program name and related descriptions: certificate, major, concentration and minor. 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 and Concentration

Moved by A. Card, seconded by J. McMullin, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Cultural Studies Major, Combined Major and Concentration. CARRIED

7.3.3. Psychology

7.3.3.1. Change to Existing Course

7.3.3.1.1. New course number for PSYC 2209: Research Methods in Psychology

Moved by A. Card, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the new course number for PSYC 2209: Research Methods in Psychology. CARRIED

7.3.3.2. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.3.2.1. Change in requirements for Bachelor of Arts—Psychology, Bachelor of Science—Psychology, Combined major, Bachelor of Arts (Honours)—Psychology and Bachelor of Science (Honours)—Psychology

Moved by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Bachelor of Arts—Psychology, Bachelor of Science—Psychology, Combined major, Bachelor of Arts (Honours)—Psychology and Bachelor of Science (Honours)—Psychology. CARRIED

7.3.4. Tourism and Hospitality Management

7.3.4.1. New Course Proposals

7.3.4.1.1. THMT 1201: Health and Safety Regulations in Tourism Management

Moved by A. Card, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the new course THMT 1201: Health and Safety Regulations in Tourism Management. CARRIED

- 7.3.4.1.2. THMT 2301: Tour Operations and Management
Moved by A. Card, seconded by E. Hicks, that Senate approve the new course THMT 2301: Tour Operations and Management. CARRIED
- 7.3.4.1.3. THMT 3402: Tourism Destination Marketing Management
Moved by A. Card, seconded by G. Durepos, that Senate approve the new course THMT 2402: Tourism Destination Marketing Management. CARRIED
- 7.3.4.2. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.4.2.1. Changes in requirements for Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality Management degree, diploma and certificate
Moved by A. Card, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the changes in requirements for the Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality Management degree, diploma and certificate. CARRIED
 - 7.3.4.2.2. Changes in requirements for Bachelor of Business Administration with a Concentration in Tourism and Hospitality Management
Moved by A. Card, seconded by E. Hicks, that Senate approve the changes in requirements for the Bachelor of Business Administration with a Concentration in Tourism and Hospitality Management. CARRIED
 - 7.3.4.2.3. Changes in requirements for Tourism and Hospitality Management minor for Students in Professional Degree programs
Moved by A. Card, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the changes in requirements for the Tourism and Hospitality Management minor for Students in Professional Degree programs. CARRIED with one abstention

7.3.5. Changes

The following changes were presented for information.

- 7.3.5.1. Applied Human Nutrition
 - 7.3.5.1.1. New description for NUTR 1106
 - 7.3.5.1.2. New description for NUTR 2211
 - 7.3.5.1.3. New prerequisites for NUTR 3313
 - 7.3.5.1.4. New prerequisites for NUTR 3315
 - 7.3.5.1.5. New prerequisites for NUTR 3407
- 7.3.5.2. Business and Tourism
 - 7.3.5.2.1. New course name and description for BUSI 2601
 - 7.3.5.2.2. New course name and description for BUSI 3602
 - 7.3.5.2.3. New course name and description for BUSI 3603
 - 7.3.5.2.4. New course name and description for BUSI 3604
- 7.3.5.3. Psychology
 - 7.3.5.3.1. New course number and description for PSYC 2209
 - 7.3.5.3.2. New prerequisites for PSYC 3311
 - 7.3.5.3.3. New prerequisites for PSYC 3312
 - 7.3.5.3.4. New prerequisites for PSYC 3330
 - 7.3.5.3.5. New prerequisites for PSYC 3360
 - 7.3.5.3.6. New prerequisites for PSYC 4402
 - 7.3.5.3.7. New prerequisites for PSYC 4403 and PSYC 4404
- 7.3.5.4. Tourism and Hospitality Management
 - 7.3.5.4.1. New course name and description and deletion of prerequisites for THMT 2205
 - 7.3.5.4.2. New prerequisites for THMT 2216
 - 7.3.5.4.3. New description for THMT 3305
 - 7.3.5.4.4. New prerequisites and description for THMT 3380
 - 7.3.5.4.5. New description for THMT 4411
 - 7.3.5.4.6. New prerequisites for THMT 4421
 - 7.3.5.4.7. New prerequisites for THMT 4440 and THMT 4442
 - 7.3.5.4.8. New prerequisites for THMT 4444

7.4. Nominations

7.4.1. Nomination to Senate Elected Committee

Moved by S. Perrott, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the nomination of Elsie Henderson to the Senate Executive Committee.
CARRIED

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Senate Executive	Dr. Elsie Henderson	January 1, 2021	June 30, 2023

7.4.2. Election of Senator to President’s EDIA Committee

S. Perrott outlined the nomination process to date for the Senate representative on the President’s EDIA Committee. Following three calls for further nominations from the floor, Dr. Germaine Chan was acclaimed to this position.

S. Perrott gave kudos to Senate Secretary, P. Crouse, for her tremendous support during his term as SNC chair. Many Senators echoed this sentiment.

8. Other Reports

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

D. Piccitto reported on the second Board of Governors meeting of the term. She noted the approval of the strategic plan and that the Joint Board Senate Liaison committee (JBSL) is again active with a goal to gain a better understanding of the university governance structure. A consultant will be hired to undertake a governance review which will be overseen by the JBSL. The Senate report has been moved to the regular BOG agenda to better connect the Board and Senate and will be given jointly by the Vice-President Academic and Provost and a faculty Senator who also serves on the Board.

D. Piccitto then spoke to collegial governance. She noted that her report to the Board of Governors contained faculty struggles and comments that faculty had brought forward over the fall semester. She stressed that the report did not attack any individual. It was brought to the Board as they make financial decisions which directly relate to resources and other things that affect teaching, research and student experiences. She noted that her written report was provided as per standard process and that she was to speak to this report near the end of the agenda as scheduled.

At the beginning of the meeting the Board Chair addressed the report and did not wish to remain neutral as in past practice. D. Piccitto noted that she did not have the chance to present or speak to the report at this time. Instead, the Board Chair dismissed the lived experience of faculty that was shared in

the report and noted that the focus should be on successes and positive things. This was followed by three senior administrator reports challenging the faculty report. D. Piccitto went on to say that it was evident that many Board members took the report personally and one commented that they were personally offended.

As FA President she felt she had to advocate for faculty and the ability to do their jobs well and in support of the student experience. The Board contends that she is mistaken with her role on the Board, that she is not at the table to advocate for any faculty or group.

In closing, D. Piccitto read the final paragraph of her introductory remarks to her report that she was finally able to convey when the corresponding agenda item came up. "It means a lot to faculty for the Board to understand what we are facing in these incredibly challenging times. I am so proud to work at Mount Saint Vincent University with the students, faculty, staff and administrators that we have. To critique what is happening now is to show my deep affection for, and dedication to, the institution and its people. To advocate on their behalf is to show that I believe that we can all collaborate, talk and listen, and debate, and then ask to make the improvements that are desperately needed. I don't want this year to be a blight on people's memories of this institution, a point of future resentment. I believe that we have time to turn things around. As a member on this Board, I want to help us uphold our fiduciary responsibility, the duty of trust that we hold at the Mount and for its people, and I want to work together to do just that." After these remarks, D. Piccitto said that she continued to face criticism for her report for representing faculty. Nevertheless, she will continue to uphold collegial governance despite her feeling silenced and censored.

A discussion of this item followed. Faculty Senators noted that criticism does not mean no appreciation for the hard work completed by the Administration and the Board. These items are presented for improvement and indicate that faculty are passionate about this institution. G. Durepos, who also attended the meeting, noted that she supported D. Piccitto's FA Report to the Board and was sorry that it was met with such a troublesome response. She along with many other Senators expressed serious concern, surprise and disappointment with the Board's reaction to the report. Others exclaimed that they were disturbed and labeled the Board's response as a form of bullyism and that an apology should be made to D. Piccitto and a letter of censure be issued to the Board.

It was also noted that there is a difference between Corporate and University Governance. G. Durepos asked which type of training would be provided at

tomorrow's Board retreat. J. McMullin and M. Bluehardt noted that the training (organized by the Board Chair) has been labeled as Board governance. G. Durepos then asked M. Bluehardt if she would have her support if she noted at the retreat that training was needed in University governance. M. Bluehardt and J. McMullin supported that question. M. Bluehardt noted that, along with Senate discussion, further conversation should be brought to the JBSL as well as at tomorrow's Board retreat. (D. Piccitto, N. Kayhani, G. Durepos, E. Hicks, G. Boulet, K. Ritchie, A. Thurlow, K. Allan, J. Sutherland, C. Slumkoski)

8.2. Students' Union

J. Sutherland reported on the outcome of the Students' Union general elections and reviewed filled and vacant positions. She also reported on upcoming training for Council and the Executive team; the posting of the SU General Manager position and the forming of the search committee for the hiring process; and the SU AGM which will be held during the week of January 18, 2021. She gave an explanation of the upcoming special by-election. She also mentioned that the Constitution and Policy Planning Committee will amend errors in the current by-laws. In closing, she reported on being awarded a \$4000 grant from Feed NS and how the funding was used to best serve the needs of MSVU students.

Congratulations were extended to J. Sutherland on her presidency by J. McMullin.

9. New Business

9.1. Enrollment Report

P. Barry Mercer gave the fall term enrollment update for 2020 based on the presentation document in the Senate package. A. Card noted the significant increase in graduate education numbers, noting that this was a result of increased class sizes from 20 to 23. He expressed appreciation to faculty for their support in this endeavour.

9.2. Option to Change Grade to Pass

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on mental health, J. McMullin asked for input from Senators regarding giving students the option to change their final passing grade to a pass.

Senators engaged in a discussion of this item. It was noted that although this was a feasible and fair option for last year's winter term, the same distress does not exist this semester, as students were prepared for all online classes. Senators were also cautioned that, in the context of renewable scholarships, the pass option will impact the forecasted attrition rate. Other Senators

commented that clarification of procedures will need to be provided if this option does come to fruition, as both faculty and students were confused by the process in the spring term. Concerns were raised regarding the perceived negative light this option might cast on online learning. Most Senators spoke in favour of this option. (J. McMullin, N. Kayhani, L. MacCallum, C. Schneider, C. Slumkoski, J. Sutherland, C. Dawson, P. Cantelo, D. Cox, A. Thurlow, K. Ritchie, A. Benzaquén)

During the above discussion, the following motion was made:

Moved by C. Schneider, seconded by D. Cox, that the meeting be extended by 30 minutes. CARRIED

Moved by J. McMullin, seconded by C. Schneider, that for fall 2020 and winter 2021 during the significant academic disruption of the COVID-19 Pandemic, undergraduate students be given the option to change their grades to a Pass, provided that they have achieved a grade of D or higher. CARRIED with 2 opposed /1 abstention

Moved by J. McMullin, seconded K. Allan, that for fall 2020 and winter 2021 during the significant academic disruption of the COVID-19 Pandemic, graduate students be given the option to change their grades to a Pass, provided that they have achieved a grade of B- or better. CARRIED with 2 opposed / 2 abstentions

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of the October 30 meeting
- Revisions to the Senate Award for Service in University Governance
- Several undergraduate curriculum changes
- That for fall 2020 and winter 2021 during the significant academic disruption of the COVID-19 Pandemic,
 - Undergraduate students be given the option to change their grades to a Pass, provided that they have achieved a grade of D or higher
 - Graduate students be given the option to change their grades to a Pass, provided that they have achieved a grade of B- or better

Senate elected:

- A faculty member to serve on Senate Executive
- Dr. Germaine Chan to serve as Senate's representative on the President's EDIA Committee

Senate received for information:

- A report on the external review of Modern Languages
- Several undergraduate curriculum changes
- The fall 2020 enrollment report

11. Adjournment

Moved by C. Schneider, seconded by C. Slumkoski, that Senate be adjourned at 5:16 p.m. CARRIED