



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

September 22, 2023
2 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: J. Dickinson (Chair), K. Blotnicky, S. Brigham, R. Bursey, C. Cameron, A. Card, P. Crouse, C. Dawson, M. Eskritt, L. Francis, T. Franz-Odendaal, J. Fraser Arsenaault, J. Gahagan, R. Gechtman, S. Goswami, M. J. Harkins, K. Jones, N. Kayhani, J. MacLeod, C. McLean, M. McGonnell, I. Nault, D. Rodrigues, C. Schneider, C. Slumkoski, G. Sneddon, L. Steele, A. Thurlow, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, R. Zuk

Regrets: G. Durepos, M. Gonick, S. Hale, S. MacMillan, J. R. Sylliboy

Observers: K. Gallant, J. Lamb, M. Motapanyane

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. New and returning Senators were welcomed and round-table introductions took place.

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

5.1 Safety Audit Report was added under Business Arising.

Moved by T. Franz-Odendaal, seconded by M. McGonnell, to approve the agenda as amended. CARRIED.

3. Conduct Statement

J. Dickinson read out the Senate Code of Conduct Statement. No questions or discussion arose.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. May 24, 2023

Moved by C. Schneider, seconded by S. Brigham, to approve the minutes of May 24, 2023, as presented. CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1. Safety Audit Report

R. Zuk noted that Senators were previously informed that the safety audit report would be made available to them to review, but that a Senator's request for information had been denied. I. Nault responded that the report summary will be shared.

6. Administration Updates

6.1. President

J. Dickinson welcomed L. Francis and I. Nault as the Vice President Academic and Provost and Vice President Administration, respectively.

J. Dickinson updated on the status of two staff searches: The Harassment and Discrimination Advisor search, which will be restarted due to a failed search, and the Indigenous Advisor search, which has one preferred candidate whose references are currently being processed.

She also spoke about three upcoming events: A conversation with Michelle Obama, for which the Mount has 300 tickets available to individuals who may not otherwise have been able to attend; the Mount 150th Gala on November 2 which is celebrating "challenging the status quo since 1873" with all proceeds going to the Access and Impact fund; as well as an upcoming Mount event celebrating the "Famous Five," to be attended by the Honourable Twila Grosse, proud Mount alumna.

6.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

L. Francis thanked the MSVU community for the warm welcome to campus and briefly shared her background with Senators. She shared a few administrative updates, including planning of the consultation process for the next academic plan, the timeline of new faculty hires, enrollment numbers and the Alexa McDonough Institute (AMI) receipt of strategic funding, some of which will be allocated to more hours for the Chair of AMI.

L. Francis spoke about the notable increase in gender-based violence across Canada and questioned how do we as university communities respond? She shared that, on the advice of the WOMS Department, a group of experts will be convened on this matter and will keep Senate updated but noted that one of the ways a mission-led institution such as the Mount needs to respond is to be loud about our stance.

6.3. Vice-President Administration

I. Nault introduced herself and briefly shared her background with Senators. She provided an update on the security audit report, sharing that they are looking at what can be implemented in the short term and medium term in order to produce a five-year plan. She also reiterated that the nine-page summary of the recommendations from the safety audit will be made available.

I. Nault reported that the 3rd floor Assisi accessible rooms are complete, with one currently being occupied and the other expected to be occupied in the winter. She shared that K. Peitzsche is serving as Acting Director of Human Resources while a search is being readied.

I. Nault also reported that Windows 10 is being replaced by Windows 11, that IT&S continues to train on Windows 11 in preparation for campus rollout and that adequate notice will be given to users.

7. Question Period

N. Kayhani spoke about upholding academic integrity in large classes during exams as our largest classrooms do not have adequate space to do so and then requested the use of the MPR for exams. L. Francis will follow up with the Registrar's Office.

C. Schneider sought clarification on an instructor's authority to ask students to mask in class and questioned why the air purifiers in classrooms were removed. J. Dickinson responded that instructors may ask students to wear masks in their class but noted that we do not have any way to enforce this. She also confirmed that more air purifiers have been ordered.

T. Franz-Odendaal questioned if there was an interim person in the Harassment and Discrimination Advisor role to which J. Dickinson confirmed that C. Small Legs-Nagge is back on contract in the interim.

T. Franz-Odendaal commented on policies not tied to the Collective Agreement and requested guidance on what faculty and staff should do if these policies are not being followed. J. Dickinson requested specific examples of such policies so that the concerns can be addressed.

A. Thurlow commented on the need for AMI to have solid support on a permanent basis. She referenced the strategic funding received for AMI, noting that such funding is project based, and asked what would happen after that period. L. Francis replied that during the two years of funding, one aspect of the position will be developing a more strategic vision, including the resources needed to ensure that the AMI thrives.

S. Brigham questioned what is being done to retain faculty and staff, noting the departure of the Nancy's Chair and the importance of recognizing the contributions that staff have

made to the institution. It was shared that the search for a new Nancy’s Chair is underway with the University also being committed to replacing cohort hires and implementing exit interviews for faculty. It was also recognized that some faculty and staff prefer a quiet exit, rather than a university-wide acknowledgment upon their departure. (S. Brigham, C. Dawson, J. Dickinson, L. Francis)

S. Brigham commented on the current Canada-India political tensions and queried potential impacts on enrollment. J. Dickinson acknowledged that the situation could be of concern to the Mount and that Universities Canada is working with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to mitigate potential impacts.

8. Committee Reports

8.1. Senate Executive

8.1.1. Report on Senate Self-Evaluation

C. Slumkoski presented the report on the Senate Self-Evaluation for information. He shared that we, as Senators, generally agree that we are doing a good job on Senate, noting that most of the responses are in the “agreement” side of the scale, with the main area of contention being the meeting times on Friday afternoons. He also shared that the response rate has trended downward over the past three years but that our opinion of the work that Senate does is improving.

8.1.2. Editorial change to SLC 2012-01

P. Crouse noted an editorial change to SLC 2012-01 for information.

8.2. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

8.2.1. Education

8.2.1.1. Changes to Existing Courses

8.2.1.1.1. GCRD 6301 – Foundations of Curriculum Studies I

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by S. Brigham, that Senate approve the new calendar description of GCRD 6301. CARRIED.

8.2.1.1.2. GCRD 6302 – Foundations of Curriculum Studies II

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by A. Card, that Senate approve the new calendar description of GCRD 6302. CARRIED.

8.2.1.1.3. GCRD 6314 – New Dimensions of Curriculum in Geography

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate approve the new calendar description of GCRD 6314. CARRIED.

8.2.1.1.4. GCRD 6315 – Critical Pedagogy I

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by M. J. Harkins, that Senate approve the new calendar description of GCRD 6315. CARRIED.

8.2.1.2. New Course Proposals

8.2.1.2.1. GCRD 6341 – Education as Meditative Enquiry

8.2.1.2.2. GCRD 6345/GFDD 6545 – Indigenous and Decolonizing Studies in Education

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by A. Card, that Senate approve the new courses GCRD 6341 and GCRD 6345/GFDD 6545. CARRIED.

8.2.1.3. Course Deletions

8.2.1.3.1. GCRD 6313 – Geography in Education

8.2.1.3.2. GCRD 6316 – Critical Pedagogy II

8.2.1.3.3. GCRD 6322 – Education & Development I

8.2.1.3.4. GCRD 6323 – Education & Development II

8.2.1.3.5. GCRD 6339/GEMS 6404 – Educational Perspectives on the Nature of Mathematics

8.2.1.3.6. GCRD 6382 – Bilingualism & Bilingual Education

8.2.1.3.7. GCRD 6383 – Current Issues in Bilingual Education

S. Trenholm presented the latter courses as an omnibus motion.

Moved by S. Trenholm, seconded by T. Franz-Odendaal, that Senate approve the deletion of GCRD 6313, GCRD 6316, GCRD 6322, GCRD 6323, GCRD 6339/GEMS 6404, GCRD 6382 and GCRD 6383. CARRIED.

R. Gechtman questioned which were being replaced and why the other courses were being deleted as the topics seemed substantial.

S. Trenholm identified the two courses that were replaced. M. McGonnell noted that the faculty who teach and are experts in curriculum studies thought heavily on the deletions and chose to implement them due to redundancies in course content and to focus on the expertise of current faculty.

8.3. Nominations

8.3.1. Nominations for Senate Committee Vacancies

Moved by J. Fraser Arsenault, seconded by M. McGonnell, that Senate elect the following faculty members to the indicated committees for the indicated terms. CARRIED.

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Writing Initiatives	Nicole Slipp	When elected	30 June 2026
Undergraduate Curriculum	Dr. Arthur McCalla	When elected	30 June 2026

8.4. Research and Publications

8.4.1. Revisions to Research Strategic Plan

J. Gahagan presented the revisions to the Research Strategic Plan for information, noting several minor revisions and updates. An incorrect name was noted and will be corrected.

8.4.2. Revisions to Standard Operating Procedures

J. Gahagan presented the revisions to Standard Operating Procedures for information, touching on the points below:

- 8.4.2.1. Scope of Committee
- 8.4.2.2. Faculty Eligibility
- 8.4.2.3. Funding Purpose and Envelopes
- 8.4.2.4. Budget Management
- 8.4.2.5. Adjudication Process Faculty

8.5. University Research Ethics Board

8.5.1. New or Revised Standard Operating Procedures, Guides & Templates

J. Gahagan presented the new or revised standard operating procedures, guides and templates for information.

- 8.5.1.1. Resumption of F2F Research – Current Status
- 8.5.1.2. Resumption of F2F Research
- 8.5.1.3. COVID 19 Information Letter
- 8.5.1.4. Documentation and Document Management
- 8.5.1.5. Suicidal Risk and Ideation
- 8.5.1.6. Demographic Questions in Research
- 8.5.1.7. Reference Documents
- 8.5.1.8. Researcher Procedures for F2F Research
- 8.5.1.9. REB Glossary of Terms

9. Other Reports

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

S. Brigham reported that Tyrone Cotie is the new chair of the Board and that the next Board meeting will take place on October 5.

9.2. Students’ Union

C. Cameron reported on several items on behalf of the Students’ Union, including orientation, preparations for the upcoming election which has 14+ candidates running and their planned data collection on under addressed areas for students.

S. Goswami reported on the success of both the graduate and undergraduate orientations, work on a student research symposium in collaboration with the

Research Office, and the opening of Captain Crow Café in early October with a new manager.

S. Brigham wondered if the SU Senators had any comments regarding the food bank usage or student housing concerns. C. Cameron responded that fewer donations are coming from Feed NS than ideal but that work is ongoing to strength our relationship with the Feed NS team. J. Dickinson added that food bank donations will be encouraged and accepted at Senate meetings going forward. C. Cameron also touched on the fact that the housing shortage is a very complex issue and that networks that are reputable are being sought. J. MacLeod queried if the vacancy rate in our residences has dropped since last year, to which J. Dickinson responded that we are 96% full in residence.

10. New Business

10.1. Annual Reports of Senate Committees

- 10.1.1. Academic Appeals
- 10.1.2. Academic Policy and Planning
- 10.1.3. Appointment, Promotion and Tenure or Permanence for Academic Administrators
- 10.1.4. Executive
- 10.1.5. Graduate Studies Scholarships, Assistantships and Awards
- 10.1.6. Graduate Studies Program and Policy
- 10.1.7. Information Technology and Services
- 10.1.8. Library and Archives
- 10.1.9. Nominations
- 10.1.10. Research and Publications
- 10.1.11. Student Experience
- 10.1.12. Student Judicial
- 10.1.13. Student Discipline Appeals
- 10.1.14. Teaching and Learning
- 10.1.15. Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships and Awards
- 10.1.16. Undergraduate Curriculum
- 10.1.17. University Research Ethics Board
- 10.1.18. Writing Initiatives

J. Dickinson made a call for questions or discussion on the annual reports.

R. Zuk questioned if consideration has been made on raising rates of pay for student work. S. Trenholm responded that the rates did go up from last year but that the overall allotment of funds needs to grow to see significant changes. L. Francis commented that one of her items to look at this term is how to grow that pot of funding.

S. Brigham asked if any scholarships went without receiving any applicants. S. Trenholm spoke in regard to Graduate Studies, sharing that a few scholarships had to undergo multiple competitions before getting any applicants despite increased and different ways of advertising the scholarships. Conversation ensued on whether criteria for scholarships that regularly go unrewarded could be broadened to increase the pool of eligible applicants. (J. Dickinson, K. Gallant, C. Schneider)

R. Burse sought clarification on the Mount's stance on plagiarism software, specifically Turnitin. Discussion ensued on the past reasonings that Senate did not support the use of Turnitin. (R. Zuk, K. Blotnicky, R. Gechtman, L. Francis)

10.2. Annual Report of Nancy's Chair Committee
No discussion or questions were raised.

10.3. Annual Report of Gail and Stephen Jarislowky Chair in Learning Disabilities
No discussion or questions were raised.

10.4. Annual Report AMI
No discussion or questions were raised.

11. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of May 24, 2023
- Several graduate curriculum changes
- Nominations for Senate committee vacancies

Senate received for information:

- Report on Senate Self-Evaluation 2023
- Report on editorial change to Policy SLC 2012-01
- Revisions to the Research Strategic Plan
- Revisions to SoPs of the CRP
- New and revised SoPs, guides and templates of the UREB
- Annual reports of Senate-related committees

12. Adjournment

Moved by C. Cameron, seconded by S. Brigham, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.