



Senate Meeting  
Rosaria Boardroom

Oct. 29, 2012  
7:30 p.m.

## MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), S. Badali, K. Blotnicky, S. Brigham, M. Chaffey, E. Church, A. Cole, P. Crouse, M. Das, R. Farmer, M. Forrest, J. Fraser-Arsenault, C. French, Z. Gallant, T. Harrison, J. Hollett, B. Jessop, N. Kayhani, S. Kerr, K. Kienapple, B. MacInnes, J. MacLeod, P. Mombourquette, L. Neilsen, D. Norris, K. Skinner, C. Slumkoski, B. Taylor, M. Timm, S. Walsh, P. Watts, M. Whalen, R. Zuk

Regrets: M.J. Harkins, I. Pottie, A. Zederayko

### 1. Approval of Agenda

**Moved** by K. Blotnicky, seconded by S. Brigham, to approve the agenda as presented.  
CARRIED

### 2. Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2012

**Moved** by R. Zuk, seconded by Z. Gallant, to approve the minutes of September 24, 2012 as amended. CARRIED

### 3. Business Arising from the Minutes

#### 3.1. Change to ByLaw 7 regarding Parliamentarian

**Moved** by M. Forrest, seconded R. Zuk, that Senate accept the Change to By-law 7 regarding Parliamentarian. CARRIED

#### 3.2. Change to Terms of Reference of the Academic Appeals Committee (Deferred)

This item has been deferred.

#### 3.3. Enrolment Report

J. Hollett presented the enrolment report which contained the following highlights:

- Undergraduate full-time student enrolment has increased by 1.1 %
- Full-time graduate student numbers have gone up by 5.2 %
- International student numbers have increased 16 % (for a total of 428 international students). For the first-time, we have students from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Romania, as well as from over 60 countries in total
- The number of students transferring to the Mount from other universities and from colleges increased by 16.1 %
- Part-time enrolment grew overall by 4.8 %.

Approximately 29% of students entering are coming from high school and there was no increase noted for mature age students. Declines in the Bachelor of Education program are part of a broader trend across the region. He also noted that residence numbers are very strong, with current residence occupancy close to 97 %.

P. Mombourquette questioned the low enrolment numbers for High School Students.

J. Hollett responded that the province's population is declining, with our primary feeder schools seeing a decline in the HRM area; moreover, the Mount is an institution that doesn't draw as heavily from outside the region.

E. Church cautioned that we should be careful only looking at one year, as last year's numbers may have been unusual.

R. Lumpkin noted that the high school numbers are currently where they were two years ago.

J. Hollett added that many factors are at work, and with a small sample, any single factor might have a disproportionate effect. For example, one really good career fair could explain last year's increase in high school numbers.

Z. Gallant asked a question regarding the retention numbers.

J. Hollett noted that we are seeing small but steady improvement in the retention rate. He noted that many students are 'swirling' (in and out of school) as they cope with commuting, and working part-time.

Senators engaged in a brief discussion of our retention numbers in comparison with those of other institutions, noting in particular the socioeconomic reasons why students are unable to commit to an uninterrupted program. It was also noted that although there is still room for improvement, in comparing the Mount with other institutions we should take account of factors such as the proximity of other institutions.

#### 4. President's Announcements

R. Lumpkin extended congratulations on a successful and moving Fall Convocation. She continued by giving a brief overview of both ceremonies.

R. Lumpkin then gave an update on provincial matters, reviewing the provincial government's announcement to cut funding for universities for 2013-14. In total, operating grants to universities will be cut by \$10 million, or 3% from last year. She then reviewed the letters of intent for the government's excellence and innovation fund, noting that the Mount had submitted six of the 35 letters of intent that were received from the ten institutions. She mentioned that our proposals were focused on workforce education, foreign credential upgrades, the development of a learning commons, as well as three proposals related to physical facilities (a proposed rental opportunity of 2 Melody Drive, a proposed energy savings enhancement project and a proposal to sell steam to Southwest properties once the Motherhouse property is developed). She also noted that we were part of an additional four joint proposals of shared services including enhanced credit transfer and the integration of summer schools within the Universities (to reduce duplication of offerings), a feasibility study of a shared repository of some Library monograph collections, shared purchasing, and shared IT services. She added that selected proposals are to be developed and submitted by the end of November. She ended her report by saying that there are other proposals that we may become part of such as shared international recruiting and collaborative adult education relating to the government's "jobs here" strategy.

In reply to a question from R. Farmer, R. Lumpkin noted that we should hear back before Christmas as funding is tied to this budget year (April 2013).

R. Zuk asked a question regarding zoning of the Melody Drive property.

B. Jessop noted that the ideal third party would in some way be connected to the University, and as we already have retail zoning on our property he didn't foresee a problem with the right tenants.

R. Lumpkin then went on to discuss the bilateral agreements between universities and government. A common template for a self-study has been distributed to all ten Universities, to be completed by the end of January 2013. This information will then be used to create an overview of the system and in turn individual bilateral agreements will be negotiated with each institution between April 2013 and March 2014.

K. Blotnicky noted that someone of a suspicious nature might find the template a means to provide information in advance of mergers.

R. Lumpkin and B. Jessop noted that they had expressed a similar concern to Deputy Minister of Labour and Advanced Education Sandra McKenzie. They reported that Minister McKenzie maintained that any merger would not be initiated by the government and urged the Mount to be frank about its strengths and needs.

## 5. Question Period

N. Kayhani asked about additional microphones for use during Senate meetings.

B. Jessop responded saying that an additional lapel microphone had been added for the Chair.

N. Kayhani noted the improvement but suggested that more microphones are needed.

N. Kayhani questioned the proper order of academic procession during convocation.

K. Kienapple responded noting that it was his understanding that faculty requested the order be changed so they could see the graduates enter. He went on to say that any concerns with this change can be brought to the Convocation Committee.

R. Lumpkin added that convocation ceremonies are unique to each institution, noting that she finds our convocation a good combination of warmth and decorum.

J. MacLeod agreed that the previous day's ceremonies were quite lovely but supported N. Kayhani's suggestion for restoring the old order of the procession.

## 6. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

### 6.1. Senate Executive

#### 6.1.1. Notice of Motion of change to Rules of Order 15.3

R. Lumpkin presented the notice of motion, change to Rules of Order 15.3.

#### 6.1.2. New Policy on the Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations

R. Lumpkin presented the new policy on the Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations.

**Moved** by M. Forrest, seconded by J. Hollett, that Senate approve the new policy on Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations. **CARRIED**

### 6.2. Academic Appeals

N. Kayhani gave a brief oral report from the Academic Appeals Committee.

Within her report she noted that two cases for academic appeal had been brought forward. Upon review and subsequent discussion it was determined by the committee that no hearing was required for either.

### 6.3. Academic Policy and Planning

#### 6.3.1. FSGN Proposals for combined majors

N. Kayhani noted a minor typographical error and suggested a friendly amendment.

##### 6.3.1.1. Combined major in Family Studies

**Moved** by E. Church, seconded by D. Norris, that Senate approve the combined major in Family Studies. CARRIED

In response to a request from S. Brigham, K. Kienapple clarified the meaning of the following: *overall GPA of 2.0 must be achieved in the best 6.0 units required for the major.*

S. Brigham asked a question regarding the co-curricular recognition program.

J. Hollett responded by saying the co-curricular record is a summary of the student's volunteer work which can be presented to prospective employers/co-op placement employers along with a resume. It documents students' activities beyond the classroom.

B. MacInnes noted that official documentation must be submitted for students to include volunteer activities on their co-curricular record.

6.3.1.2. Combined major in Gerontology

**Moved** by E. Church, seconded D. Norris, that Senate approve the combined major in Gerontology. CARRIED

6.3.2. Academic Calendar Dates 2013-2014 (for information)

E. Church brought forward for Senate's information the academic calendar dates for 2013-2014

6.3.3. CAPP Report on Literacy Education and Elementary and Middle School Education (for information)

E. Church brought forward for Senate's information the CAPP Report and recommendations from the external reviewers of the graduate program in Literacy Education and the graduate program in Elementary and Middle School Education.

R. Zuk noted that the reviewers made a suggestion regarding hiring new people the year that someone retires, but neither the Dean's report nor the CAPP report responded to that recommendation.

E. Church responded that the University has a process for hiring, and that the program had not commented on that recommendation.

R. Zuk asked for clarification on one of the points listed in the report: *Consider the use of targeted internal grants to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration.*

L. Neilsen responded by saying that it was an effort to increase the research culture in Education by encouraging people to work with other program areas in joint grant proposals.

6.4. Nominations

6.4.1. Slate of Nominations to Standing Committees of Senate

**Moved** by P. Crouse seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate elect the following faculty members to the respective committees for the indicated terms. CARRIED

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Term Begins</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Graduate Scholarships Assistantships and Awards	Dr. Donna Varga	When Elected	June 30, 2015
Nancy's Chair	Dr. Leslie Brown	January 1, 2013	June 30, 2015
Student Judicial Committee	Dr. Roni Gechtman	When Elected	June 30, 2015
Student Discipline Appeals	Prof. Christine Doe	When Elected	June 30, 2015

P. Crouse noted that the Senate Nominations Committee has issued two calls for nominations; she asked Senators to consider nominating themselves or a colleague to the Selection Committee for the Chair of Social Innovation and Community Engagement and/or

the URCLI. She also noted that the Senate Nominations Committee vacancy has been filled by Dr. Melissa Rossiter.

P. Watts questioned if someone on the writing initiatives committee had resigned.

P. Crouse noted that she had planned to follow up on the rumor she heard regarding the resignation.

#### 6.5. Research and Publications

##### 6.5.1. Release Time Awards Policy (for approval)

**Moved** by A. Cole, seconded by S. Brigham, that Senate approve the changes to the Release Time Awards Policy as submitted. CARRIED

K. Blotnick expressed concern for those faculty within smaller departments noting that they might be at a disadvantage.

B. Taylor responded that this has never been an issue, in that even for smaller departments allowances for coverage have always been made.

##### 6.5.2. Revisions to Procedures (for information)

A. Cole brought forward the following items for Senate's information.

6.5.2.1. Purpose and Envelopes of Funding

6.5.2.2. Budget Management

6.5.2.3. Adjudication Process (Faculty)

6.5.2.4. Funding Continuation

6.5.2.5. Residual Grants

6.5.2.6. Funding for Special Projects

#### 6.6. Teaching and Learning

P. Mombourquette reported that the teaching and learning plan should be presented to CAPP after the next meeting. He noted that the committee discussed the teaching awards, particularly how to encourage nominations and how to make faculty aware of the awards and the nomination process. He went on to say that a discussion was also held regarding faculty professional development.

#### 6.7. Writing Initiatives

P. Watts gave a brief report on the Writing Initiatives committee. She reported that work continues on the Celebrating Writing Week Conference to take place November 12-16<sup>th</sup>.

#### 6.8. University Research Ethics Board

##### 6.8.1. Changes to Standard Operating Procedures

6.8.1.1. Department Research Ethics Boards

6.8.1.2. Student Research Ethics Application Process

C. Slumkoski brought forward to Senate the items for information from UREB.

K. Blotnick expressed concern with items 1.5.2 and 1.5.3, noting that she sees the ethics review is distinct from the review of scholarly merit which should take place at another level, presumably that of the research supervisor. C. Slumkoski responded that as long as the scholarly merit of a project is attested to, the ethic application can proceed.

#### 7. Other Reports

##### 7.1. Board of Governors

R. Zuk gave a brief report on the Board of Governors meeting. She noted that the Chair of the Board of Governors outlined briefly the Board's procedure for deciding on administrative compensation. She also gave a brief update on the

Teaching and Learning Centre and noted the Board also engaged in a discussion of the Strategic Plan.

In reply to a question from M. Whalen, R. Lumpkin replied that the target for breaking ground on the new construction is still March 2013.

#### 7.2. Students' Union

Z. Gallant reported that the haunted house was a financial and entertainment success. He encouraged faculty and staff to participate with students in the upcoming Movember campaign. He touched on the "I'm feeling" campaign for Mental Health awareness and an anti-bullying event planned for next term. He mentioned that large format printing is now available through the Student Union. He also noted that the Executive is looking at a Transfer Student Representative for next year, as these students are not currently being represented. He gave a brief overview of the Students' Union town hall meeting and also mentioned that he had been in contact with Maritime busses who will take over from Acadia Lines on December 1, 2012. In this conversation he mentioned that he explored potential co-op positions for Business and Public Relation Students, and will follow up on this initiative.

#### 7.3. Strategic Planning

R. Lumpkin briefly reviewed the Strategic Plan 2013 draft document; she gave a brief background of the document's development and summarized the consultation process with various committees and the campus community. The document will be brought forward for Senate and Board approval, late this year or early 2013. She noted that the assignment of responsibility still needs work, and mentioned I. Blum's suggestion that Senate standing committees be assigned to the actions of the plan wherever there was a logical connection. She also mentioned that timelines also need to be identified. She commented that there was a robust discussion surrounding the past vision statement and the feeling that the statement was at odds with the Mount's "valiant humility."

R. Zuk noted that a board member had expressed a concern as to how to measure "the best."

Senators returned to the vision statement during the discussion that ensued, with M. Whalen and P. Mombourquette noting that the statement in Destination 2012 was something to aspire to, and R. Zuk and S. Drain that it was cringe-worthy. R. Lumpkin asked if the English department would like to take on the task of tweaking the statement. Before returning to the content, R. Lumpkin invited all Senators to bring forward a one-sentence vision statement that captures the heart and spirit of the Mount in fresh language.

R. Lumpkin noted more emphasis on research and internationalization in this plan.

J. MacLeod noted that he would like to see a more explicit recognition of multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary scholarly approaches. J. MacLeod added that he would like to see more emphasis on the Art Gallery.

R. Farmer noted that in addition to Senate Committees, University Committees, Faculty, Student and Wellness committees should be identified to broaden the responsibility areas – noting that they should be actively involved in the process as we move forward as well.

B. Taylor noted the goal regarding the Mount's commitment to the advancement of women, social responsibility and community outreach. He stated that, in addition to the recent initiatives such as the revitalization of the former Institute for the

Study of Women, long-established elements such as the Department of Women's Studies and Nancy's Chair should be mentioned in this section.

P. Crouse asked for an example of cross-departmental collaboration between academic departments and academic support units.

E. Church responded by saying that Distance Education and the Library would be example of academic support units.

B. MacInnes and J. Hollett also noted retention, career planning and academic advising could also be examples of academic support units.

Considerable discussion focused on the use of the term "racially visible," and the relevant section would be revisited.

R. Lumpkin reminded Senators of opportunities for further feedback at the town hall meetings on October 31 and through the virtual town hall at any time.

#### 8. New Business

There was no new business.

#### 9. Items for Communication

Business Approved:

- Changes to By-law 7
- New Policy on the Academic Implications of a Significant Disruption of Operations
- Election to committees (from Senate Nominations Committee)
- Approval of new combined major in Family Studies
- Approval of new combined major in Gerontology
- Approval of the changes to the Release Time Awards Policy.

Received for information:

- Academic calendar dates 2013-14
- UREB Changes to Standard Operating Procedures
- CAPP report on literacy received for information

#### 10. Adjournment

Moved by K. Blotnick, seconded by R. Zuk, that the meeting be adjourned.