

MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), S. Badali, J. Beaton, I. Blum, K. Blotnicky, S. Brigham, E. Church, A. Cole, J. Corcoran, P. Crouse, N. Deal, S. de Molitor, S. Drain, F.X. Eygun, J. Fraser-Arsenault, M. Forrest, Z. Gallant, M.J. Harkins, T. Harrison, J. Hollett, B. Jessop, N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, S. King, J. MacLeod, L. Mann, P. Mombourquette, I. Pottie, J. Sawler, B. Taylor, P. Watts, M. Whalen, R. Zuk

Regrets: M. Bowen, B. MacInnes, A. Solhi, S. Walsh

Opening Remarks from the Chair:

R. Lumpkin spoke of Mount President Emerita E. Margaret Fulton, her life, her contribution to the Mount and her recent passing.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by L. Mann, seconded by B. Jessop, to approve the agenda as amended. CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of November 25, 2013

Moved by P. Watts, seconded by J. Hollett, to approve the meeting minutes of November 25, 2013 as amended. CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1. Change of Senate meeting date and time

Moved by P. Mombourquette, seconded by N. Kayhani, that the Senate meeting time be changed to the fourth Friday of each month from September through April, and on the Friday immediately following the April meeting. CARRIED (24 in favour; 5 opposed; 2 abstentions)

4. President's Announcements

R. Lumpkin gave an update on current Government relations, noting that the first MOU full partnership meeting (all University Presidents and members of Government) had been held. Work on the funding formula, quality indicators, tuition formula, access and affordability continues. She reported that the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, Kelly Regan, announced that the province will increase grants to Universities by 1% in the upcoming fiscal year. Work on the new MOU will begin with hopes that it will be agreed upon by the end of this calendar year. She also mentioned that the Mount will have its next bilateral meeting with the Deputy Minister next week.

She then reported on the CFI grant and matching funds from NSRIT that were recently awarded to Assistant Professor, Mirwais Qaderi of the Biology Department. She also announced that Mount alumna Joanne McKee and her husband have made a \$50,000 gift to the Mount to set up an endowment fund to enhance the academic experience for Mount students, and had offered a further \$50,000 to match gifts from others.

5. Question Period

None

6. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

6.1. Senate Executive

6.1.1. Notice of Motion: Tributes Committee Amendment of By-Law 12.1.4

R. Lumpkin reviewed the notice of motion from the Senate Executive regarding an amendment of by-law 12.1.4.

6.2. Academic Appeals

N. Kayhani reported that the academic appeals committee met to review a case regarding a student who made application to have a grade changed from “F*” to “F” on the transcript. The committee reviewed the petition and upheld the appeal.

6.3. Academic Policy and Planning (for approval)

6.3.1. Undergraduate Language Requirement for the Bridging Program

Moved by E. Church, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate approve the change to the undergraduate admission requirement to the University Bridging Program from an IELTS score of 5.5 to an IELTS score of 6.0. CARRIED

6.3.2. Academic Plan

Moved by E. Church, seconded by B. Taylor, that Senate approve the Academic Plan. CARRIED (22 in favour; 3 opposed; 4 abstentions)

E. Church reviewed the updated Academic Plan, addressing two areas of concern that had been brought forward: the roll-out process and a concern that the document implied a move to strictly online education.

N. Kayhani noted that the document had many good proposals; however, she questioned the university’s commitment to support for teaching excellence. She noted the need for investment in the infrastructure in the existing classrooms.

E. Church responded that the plan for the new building includes funds to refurbish teaching space in Seton.

R. Lumpkin added that the strategic plan contains a fair number of commitments for academic support – reiterating that the overall budget for the new building does contain renovation plans for classroom space in Seton.

S. Brigham enquired about space for a Teaching and Learning Centre in the new building.

E. Church responded that the Teaching and Learning Centre as well as the coordinator position is currently being rethought. She added that there will be space set aside in the new building for the Teaching and Learning Centre.

In response to a question from J. Sawler, E. Church responded that there was no evidence available as to relationship between student success and distance learning.

J. Sawler noted that the enrolment in distance courses is expanding. He questioned whether there is an increased demand for distance offerings, or whether there are not enough campus sections being offered.

E. Church referred to the plan (page 4) noting the distance survey information.

P. Watts added that the majority of students who participate in annual surveys consistently report that they elect to take on-line course in order to balance their academic life with other life commitments. Other responses are also noted, such as geographical reasons.

J. Sawler commented that a shift of resources to distance needs to be an educated decision, he being concerned that the expansion of distance offerings might be at the cost

of on-campus offerings, or the danger of eroding the current strategic advantage of small class sizes and an intimate university setting for students.

P. Mombourquette observed that to him the plan did not indicate a preponderance of distance offerings, and that distance delivery is a way to offer university education to more students. Moreover, the value of small class sizes is preserved in distance offerings.

In response to a further comment from J. Sawler, B. Taylor noted that individual departments are the drivers for distance education.

K. Blotnick questioned, what are the deliverables? Will some resources be diminished? How will the resources be allocated?

E. Church responded that the potential of all programs would be reviewed, since students want the option of distance delivery. However, since not all programs are suitable for online teaching, further discussion and consultation will take place.

P. Watts noted that when she was appointed the distance department consisted of 16 to 17 employees, and now has 10 staff, whose use of technology has made the department more efficient. She noted that Distance Learning provides benefits for on-campus teaching, such as the learning management system (Web CT and now Moodle) which were introduced for distance classes and then made available for all courses.

R. Zuk noted that to date there has been no particular pressure coming from administration to increase distance offerings; however, she expressed concern that “re-allocation of resources and re-thinking how we offer some of our programs” (page7), might mean inappropriate restructuring or budgetary pressure to offer canned courses delivered by contract faculty.

E. Church noted that the re-allocation of resources goes on all the time at the University, to meet changing needs.

M. Whalen questioned whether there was a time-line for CAPP to develop a time-line for the plan, noting that a plan without a timeline is not a real plan.

E. Church said that the March 2014 Senate meeting was a realistic date for this step.

In response to J. Sawler’s question whether individual recommendations arising from the plan would still be subject to discussion and vote at Senate, E. Church responded, of course.

R. Lumpkin confirmed all significant items in the plan that involve developing academic programs, sustaining academic programs, or changing emphases would come forward to Senate for approval.

N. Kayhani noted that in the past CAPP referenced Senate’s endorsement of the academic plan when individual proposals were brought to Senate for approval.

B. Taylor noted that CAPP did make this argument, but it was not always successful.

M. Forrest expressed her concerns regarding the plan, noting that she sees it more as a recruitment than an academic plan. She noted that a vibrant full-time faculty complement is the most pressing need for excellence in education, and that she could not support the plan as presented.

P. Crouse also expressed concerns about people resources (full-time faculty as well as technological support).

E. Church responded that there is a commitment by the University is to find the resources to support the work outlined in the plan, both in terms of people and technology.

I. Pottie added that CAPP had had a thankless task in preparing this plan, and expressed his appreciation for the committee's work, noting in particular the open process and ample opportunity for contributions and feedback.

6.4. Graduate Studies Program and Policy (for approval)

6.4.1. GCRD Revision to admission requirements.

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by I. Blum, that Senate approve the revision to admission requirements for the graduate program in Curriculum Studies. CARRIED

P. Watts noted that the word cohort found in the proposed update should be plural.

K. Kienapple agreed.

6.5. Undergraduate Curriculum

6.5.1. Department of Child and Youth Study (for approval)

6.5.1.1. Change to existing program

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by K. Kienapple, that Senate approve the Child and Youth Study change to existing program. CARRIED

6.5.2. Department of History (for approval)

6.5.2.1. Addition of new courses

6.5.2.1.1. HIST 1131: World History: Early Civilizations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate approve the addition of new course: HIST 1131: World History: Early Civilizations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas (0.5 unit) CARRIED

6.5.2.1.2. HIST 1132: World History: Colonization and Commodities (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by S. Brigham, that Senate approve the addition of new course: HIST 1132: World History: Colonization and Commodities (0.5 unit). CARRIED

6.5.2.2. Course Deletion

6.5.2.2.1. HIST 1130: World History (1.0 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by B. Jessop, that Senate approve the deletion of HIST 1130: World History (1.0 unit). CARRIED

6.5.2.3. Addition of new courses

6.5.2.3.1. HIST 2208: From Optimism to Destruction: Europe 1890-1933 (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by E. Church, that Senate approve the addition of new course HIST 2208: From Optimism to Destruction: Europe 1890-1933 (0.5 unit). CARRIED

6.5.2.3.2. HIST 2209: Catastrophe and Rebirth: Europe 1933-1989 (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by S. Brigham, that Senate approve the addition of new course HIST 2209: Catastrophe and Rebirth: Europe 1933-1989. CARRIED

6.5.2.3.3. HIST 2210: North American Aboriginal History (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by M.J. Harkins, that Senate approved the addition of new course HIST 2210: North American Aboriginal History (0.5 unit). CARRIED

6.5.2.3.4. HIST 2225: Canadian Environmental History (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by J. Corcoran, that Senate approve the addition of new course HIST 2225: Canadian Environmental History (0.5 unit). CARRIED

6.5.2.4. History Major, Combined Major, Honours and Concentration, Changes in 1000 level requirements.

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by E. Church, that Senate approve the changes in 1000 level requirements for the History Major, Combined Major, Honours and Concentration. CARRIED

6.5.2.5. History Areas of Study, Changes to list of courses offered in the areas of European History, North American History, and World History

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate approve History Areas of Study, Changes to list of courses offered in the areas of European History, North American History, and World History. CARRIED

6.5.3. Department of History (for information)

S. Badali brought forward the item for information.

6.5.3.1. Change to existing course HIST 2205 Europe in the Twentieth Century

6.6. Nominations

6.6.1. Report of the faculty election to the Review Committee, Dean of Professional and Graduate Studies.

P. Crouse reported that M. J. Harkins and J. Turner were elected to the Review Committee for the Dean of Professional and Graduate Studies.

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

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Library	Dr. Nancy Chesworth	When Elected	June 30, 2016
Teaching and Learning	Dr. Tracy Moniz	When Elected	June 30, 2016

7. Other Reports

7.1. Board of Governors

L. Mann reported that the Board of Governors is scheduled to meet again in February. She also mentioned that the Black-tie Bingo fundraising event will be held on February 12th, 2014.

7.2. Students' Union

Z. Gallant gave an update on Students' Union business, current initiatives and new hires. He noted that work is currently on going with year books and the "Love is Love" campaign. He reported on the new charging station, updates to the Students' Union website and the success of 'Mr. Mount.' He also mentioned that the Students' Union AGM would take place shortly.

7.3 Mount 2017: Making a Difference

R. Lumpkin reported briefly on Mount 2017: Making a Difference. She mentioned two ongoing initiatives: follow up to the Women and Leadership Task Force report and the development of a statement outlining the Mount's major commitments to socially responsible action. She added that this statement will be approved by Senate and the Board of Governors, and thereafter, a plan of action enacting those commitments will be developed. She noted that a working group will soon be established and volunteers are certainly welcome.

8. New Business

8.1. Nominations for Honorary Degrees (**confidential business**)

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by B. Jessop, that the session be moved *in camera*.

The ballots were distributed.

Moved by J. Hollett, seconded by S. Brigham, to move out of confidential session.

Moved by M.J. Harkins, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that the session be moved in camera.

The approval of ten nominees was announced.

Moved by P. Watts, seconded by K. Blotnicky, to move out of confidential business.

9. Items for Communication

- Revision of by-laws 6.1, 11.2.4 ,11.3.1 and 15.1, changing Senate's meetings from the last Monday of the month at 7:30 pm to the fourth Friday of the month at 2:00 pm.
- Academic Plan
- Ten nominees for Honorary degrees forwarded by the Tributes Committee
- A change to the Undergraduate Language Requirement for the Bridging Program
- A revision to the admission requirements for the graduate program in Curriculum Studies
- The addition of Writing (WRIT) courses to the Arts/Science requirements in the BA in Child and Youth Study
- The deletion of two and the addition of six new courses in History, together with changes in 1000 level requirements and details of the Areas of Study
- The election of Dr. Nancy Chesworth to the Library Committee and Dr. Tracy Moniz to the Teaching and Learning Committee effective immediately.

10. Adjournment

Moved by S. Brigham, seconded by J. Hollett, that the meeting be adjourned.