

MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), M. Atwater, S. Badali, C. Blayney, I. Blum, M. Bowen, A. Brown, E. Church, A. Cole, S. Drain, M. Eskritt, F.X. Eygun, J. Fraser-Arsenault, R. Gechtman, R. Green, M.J. Harkins, J. Hollett, A. Humble, B. Jessop, K. Kienapple, S. King, B. MacInnes, J. MacLeod, L. Mann, J. Mills, I. Pottie, B. Taylor, M. Whalen, P. Whyte

Regrets: D. Bell, B. Burns, J. Corcoran, T. Harrison, P. Mombourquette, L. Steele, P. Watts

Guests: K. Gallant

R. Lumpkin welcomed new Senators Dr. Humble and Dr. Gechtman to their first meeting.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by E. Church, seconded by A. Brown, to approve the agenda as amended. CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of November 28, 2014

Moved by P. Whyte, seconded by M. Atwater, to approve the minutes of November 28, 2014 as amended. CARRIED

3. President's Announcements

R. Lumpkin invited all Senators to attend the Vinnie's Social at 4:30 PM directly after the Senate meeting. R. Lumpkin then commented on the recent dismissal of a part-time instructor. She discussed the current climate outside the university regarding respect in the work place and respect for women. She noted that a broad conversation regarding these issues with the entire campus community is being considered, noting that current practices and policies do exist for preventing assault and providing safety.

P. Whyte reported that the Students' Union has been communicating with the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs regarding hosting a talk at the Mount relating to rape culture / sexualized violence on campuses. He added that this might be a good starting point for this type of dialogue on the Mount campus.

R. Lumpkin responded that the approach taken, the thought given to it, and the language use are going to be very important. Though open to speak with the Students' Union regarding this initiative, she warned about taking media hype for truth, noting that research shows that students are safer on campus than amongst the general public.

R. Lumpkin then gave an update on current government relations. She noted that no additional feedback had been received regarding the University consultations that occurred in the fall. She briefly gave update on a meeting with Duff Montgomerie, Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour regarding priorities at the Mount and a meeting with Simon d'Entremont, Deputy Minister for the Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism regarding co-op, student career preparation, social policy and social enterprise. She ended by commenting on the recently released P-12 Education report. She noted that she had been asked to co-chair the working group looking at the recommendations regarding teacher education programs. She also noted that Dean of Education, Dr. Sal Badali, continues to monitor these discussions.

4. Question Period

No questions at this time.

5. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

5.1. Senate Executive

5.1.1. Posthumous degree

Moved by L. Mann, seconded by R. Green, that Senate confer a posthumous BA(CYS) degree on Lindsey Kathryn Cousineau. CARRIED

5.1.2. Notice of Motion: delegation of graduation list

R. Lumpkin introduced the notice of motion: Delegation of the Approval of the Graduation List

5.2. Academic Policy and Planning

5.2.1. First-Year Experience Committee (B. Taylor and J. Hollett)

B. Taylor and J. Hollett, as co-chairs of the First-Year Experience Committee, reported that the working group includes both faculty and staff. B. Taylor mentioned the committee's approach to the first-year experience issue has been chronological and from the student's point of view. He spoke to the various stages of this process beginning with that first encounter with the student, and including the importance of orientation, the first few weeks of study, bridging and skills courses. He noted that our structures assume a traditional fall-semester start date.

J. Hollett reported that only about one third (300) of entering students participated in the orientation program. Our diverse community, including international, aboriginal and mature students, may need particular attention such as bridging programs. An on-line orientation is currently being piloted. He also added that the current orientation event is geared towards campus community life, but there needs to be a greater academic component to this event.

B. Taylor mentioned the Open-campus and Explore the Mount events (organized by Recruitment) and the Early-advising and Registration event (organized by Advising) noting that these two groups are planning closer collaboration. He noted that there are differences between the faculties of Arts & Science and Professional Studies regarding first-year students. He noted several positive features of the Mount's supports – supplemental instruction, the Right Start program and our small class sizes – but added that more needs to be done especially for those who begin their program outside the fall term.

J. Hollett added that the possibility of a fall study break for students is currently being investigated.

5.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

5.3.1. Change to existing program: ENGL change in requirements for the concentration.

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by R. Green, that Senate approved the change to existing program: ENGL change in requirements for the concentration. CARRIED

5.3.2. Course Changes Political/Canadian Studies

5.3.2.1. Addition of New Courses

5.3.2.1.1. POLS 4006 Directed Study (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali seconded by J. MacLeod that Senate approve the addition of new courses POLS 4006 Directed Study (0.5 unit). CARRIED

5.3.2.1.2. POLS 4007/CANA 4007 Directed Study (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali seconded by J. MacLeod that Senate approve the addition of new courses POLS 4007/CANA 4007 Directed Study (0.5 unit). CARRIED

5.3.2.2. Deletion of Existing Courses

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by J. MacLeod, that Senate approve the deletion of all courses listed under 5.3.2.2.1 – 5.3.2.2.3. CARRIED

5.3.2.2.1. POLS 3315 Directed Study (0.5 unit)

5.3.2.2.2. POLS 3316 Directed Study (0.5 unit)

5.3.2.2.3. POLS 3317 Directed Study (1 unit)

5.3.3. Changes to existing courses (for information)

S. Badali brought all changes to existing courses listed under 5.3.3 for information

5.3.3.1. Department of Biology

5.3.3.1.1. BIOL 1114: New course name and description, removal of exclusion

5.3.3.1.2. BIOL 2203: New course name and description

5.3.3.2. Department of Business and Tourism

5.3.3.2.1. BUSI 2221, 2222 and 2230: New descriptions

5.3.3.2.2. BUSI 2231: New pre-requisites and new description

5.3.3.2.3. BUSI 3325 and 3326: New description

5.3.3.2.4. BUSI 4434: New pre-requisites and new description

5.4. Nominations

Moved by C. Blayney, seconded by M. Bowen, that Senate elect Dr. Sara King to the University Research Ethics Committee for the indicated term. CARRIED

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
University Research Ethics Board	Dr. Sara King	When Elected	30 June 2017

5.5. Research and Publications

A. Cole presented a draft of the Research Plan for Senate’s deliberation.

I. Pottie commented that the plan was interesting and open. He noted that out of the nine clusters listed, one seems to be very specific and while the other eight seem very broad ranging. He asked for the reasoning behind this.

A. Cole noted that identifying the clusters was very challenging. She noted the consultation process with faculty in their areas of research helped in the development of the clusters, which were meant to be inclusive.

M. Eskritt added that the committee wanted to be sure that researchers could see their work included in at least one of the clusters.

S. King asked if the plan was going to be sent out to faculty for further consultation and feedback.

A. Cole responded that this could be a possibility, adding that the once the plan receives approval action items will be identified – this could also be the next level of consultation.

R. Lumpkin asked if Senators wanted an opportunity for further consultation.

B. Taylor wondered if this item should be added to department agendas for consultation.

R. Green reiterated that this item should be discussed at the department level.
E. Church suggested that the Plan be circulated to departments for discussion.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Students' Union

P. Whyte reported on the recent Students' Union activities, including the transfer student orientation and welcome event in January; the recent extension of the Student Governance election timeline and the revised election process; he also noted the recent work surrounding the upcoming Day of Action on Feb. 4, 2015.

J. MacLeod applauded the Students' Union for the accountability and democracy of the new governance election process.

6.2. Mount 2017: Making a Difference

R. Lumpkin gave a brief report on the Mount 2017: Making a Difference. She noted that a full update on actions has been posted on the Town Hall site and will be posted to the Senate site prior to the February meeting. She gave highlights on those items completed and ongoing.

7. New Business

7.1. Motion regarding February 4th Day of Action

Moved by P. Whyte, seconded by R. Gechtman, that the Senate of MSVU grant academic amnesty for any student wishing to participate in the Day of Action, February 4th, 2015, between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm, provided that students identify themselves to their instructor, and make up for all missed work. CARRIED (2 abstentions)

I. Pottie asked why Wednesday was chosen, rather than Friday when there would be less impact on class time.

P. Whyte noted that both student support and media coverage tend to be better on a Wednesday.

J. MacLeod spoke in favor of the motion, and noted that members of the legislature are more likely to be in town on a Wednesday.

R. Gechtman added that students often have part-time employment obligations on Fridays.

Moved by R. Gechtman, seconded by L. Mann, that the Senate of Mount Saint Vincent University supports the goals of the Day of Action as promoted by the Students' Union, including the reduction of tuition fees, the converting of student loans to grants and an increase in university funding to the national average. CARRIED (14 in favour / 11 opposed / 2 abstentions)

In response to a question from C. Blayney, S. Drain noted that the first motion will be included in the items from Communication sent to faculty from the office of the VP Academic.

M. Whalen expressed concern that the motion addressed a difficult policy issue, deserving a level of discussion which requires some notice of the matter.

R. Lumpkin turned to the Senate Parliamentarian for guidance.

J. MacLeod confirmed that the motion can stand as it is in accordance with the by-laws.

R. Gechtman stated that to his mind, the motion was a statement of value rather than of policy, by supporting students in their struggle.

M. Whalen reiterated that endorsing the students' goals was a matter of policy, and that it could well be debated, for example, whether a blanket decrease in tuition was advisable.

L. Mann added that these goals are very much in line with the position of the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers, the Post-Secondary Education Coalition, Dalhousie's Faculty Association, NSGEU and CUPE.

J. MacLeod as Parliamentarian reminded Senators that they could make a motion to kill or delay the motion on the floor.

I. Pottie added his support to the concerns expressed by M. Whalen, adding the issue is not an academic but a financial one.

J. MacLeod, speaking as a Senator, argued that levels of funding would necessarily have an impact on academic matters, and that in agreeing to the first motion, Senate implicitly agreed with the goals of the event.

P. Whyte added tuition levels have serious academic implications for students, who must take on part-time employment as well full-time study loads, and for whom high tuition is a direct barrier to access.

M. Bowen stated that the first motion was in support of the students' efforts, rather than explicitly of their goals, and he agreed with the concerns brought forward by both M. Whalen and I. Pottie.

B. MacInnes also added her support to the position of M. Whalen.

The following amendment was suggested:

The Senate of Mount Saint Vincent University supports our students' efforts to achieve the goals of the Day of Action (February 4, 2015) promoted by the Students' Union, including the reduction of tuition fees, the conversion of student loans to grants and an increase in university funding to the national average.

R. Gechtman did not accept the amendment.

7.2. Nominations for Honorary Degrees **Confidential Business**

Moved by J. Hollett, seconded by M. Whalen, to move *in camera*. CARRIED

Moved by P. Whyte, seconded by R. Green, to move from *in camera*. CARRIED

Moved by B. Jessop, seconded by M.J. Harkins, to move *in camera*. CARRIED

The result of the vote by secret ballot was reported. Five nominations were reviewed and five were approved.

Moved by R. Green, seconded by F.X. Eygun, to move from *in camera*. CARRIED

8. Items for Communication

Senate approved the following:

- Minutes of November 28, 2014
- Awarding of a posthumous degree BA(CYS) to Lindsey Cousineau
- Program changes to the English Concentration
- The addition and deletion of courses in Political and Canadian Studies
- The election of Dr. Sara King to the UREB effective immediately
- A motion granting academic amnesty for any student wishing to participate in the Day of Action Feb. 4, 2015 between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm – provided that students identify themselves to their instructor, and make up all missed work.

- A motion supporting the goals of the Day of Action (February 4, 2015) promoted by the Students' Union, including the reduction of tuition fees, the conversion of student loans to grants, and an increase in university funding to the national average.
- Five nominations for honorary degrees

Senate received for information:

- A notice of motion regarding the delegation of the approval of the graduation list to Senate Executive
- Changes to existing courses in Biology and in Business and Tourism
- An oral report from the First-Year Experience committee
- A draft Research Plan

9. Adjournment

Moved by J. Hollett, seconded by M. Bowen, that the meeting be adjourned.