

## MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), M. Atwater, S. Badali, P. Barry, C. Blayney, K. Blotnicky, P. Cantelo, E. Church, P. Crouse, M. Eskritt, R. Farmer, M. Forrest, T. Harrison, N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, G. MacDonald, R. MacKay, S. MacMillan, D. Rodrigues, J. Sawler, L. Steele, B. Taylor, P. Watts

Regrets: J. Fraser-Arsenault, R. Gechtman, A. Grant, R. Green, M. J. Harkins, B. Jessop, A. MacGillivray, S. MacIntosh, J. Mills, R. Nearing, A. Pottie, J. Sharpe, M. Smallridge, M. Whalen

Guests: A. Tsirigotis, N. Jamieson

*The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. Senate members were advised that incoming president, Dr. M. Bluechardt, will attend the May Senate meeting.*

*Students (present and absent) were recognized for their contribution to Senate over the past year. Incoming student representative, N. Jamieson, was welcomed to the meeting.*

1. Indigenous Land Recognition  
R. Lumpkin provided an acknowledgement that the Mount is built on traditional Mi'kmaq territory and paid respect to the Indigenous peoples of the land on which Senate meets.
2. Approval of Agenda  
**Moved** by L. Steele, seconded by N. Kayhani, to approve the agenda as circulated.  
CARRIED
3. Approval of Minutes of March 31, 2017  
**Moved** by K. Blotnicky, seconded by E. Church, to approve the meeting minutes of March 31, 2017, as circulated. CARRIED
4. Business Arising from the Minutes  
There was no business arising from the minutes.
5. President's Announcements  
*(Several updates were provided throughout the meeting; these were moved to this section to allow continuity.)*

R. Lumpkin provided the background on the Joint Board Senate Liaison Committee (JBSL), originally struck to act as a communication vehicle between the two governing bodies. At its recent meeting, the JBSL Committee reviewed and discussed recommendations resulting from a recent review of Board practices. The committee discussed topics related to Board/Senate relationship including:

- having a Board member attend Senate meetings, on a pilot basis, as an observer
- reviewing current shared reporting between the two bodies to ensure effectiveness
- holding annual joint retreats to discuss strategic initiatives
- facilitating of joint Board/Senate strategic planning session(s) during the development of the next strategic plan; this will be further discussed with the incoming president

R. Lumpkin also spoke to her recent attendance at the Universities Canada's (UC) spring meeting where she attended a session on "difficult dialogues, safe space, free speech," dealing with controversial speakers and the balancing of free speech with legality and listeners' values, freedom of speech versus hate speech, etc. With many universities concerned about what the right thing to do is, UC has agreed to conduct research and provide a checklist and pointers to good practices to help guide universities when in these particular situations.

She updated senators on a UC session where K. Duncan, Minister of Science, was urged to move forward on the recommendations from the Naylor report to review and revise the structure of granting councils and to restore and enhance funding to granting agencies. Minister Duncan, reminded of the need for continued and strengthened funding for the humanities and social sciences, noted that she is supportive of funding across all disciplines within universities.

R. Lumpkin noted that Minister Duncan has also been quoted in the media recently on her disappointment with the lack of gender balance among nominations for the Canadian Research Chairs and Canada Excellence Research Chairs and her aim to possibly put hard targets in place if universities don't do better in the areas of equity in the funding of research chairs.

Finally, she outlined a UC session on copyright practices; documents received at the session have been forwarded to the University Librarian.

## 6. Question Period

K. Blotnick raised a question about recent media that reported that students within the Mount's Masters of School Psychology program would be conducting report writing or testing over the summer to assist the Province. She asked for clarification on what these graduate students would be expected to do and how they would be supervised.

E. Church and S. Badali reminded senators of the impact of "work to rule" on the ability of second-year students to access and complete the 500 hours of practica required to become registered psychologists within the Province. The opportunity provided by the Province will enable second-year students to be supervised while completing their

hours over the summer; this will not involve additional responsibilities or duties for these students. Supervisors are being hired, and a project leader to identify the assessments will be in place on Monday.

The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) School Board has approved arrangements, outside of this announcement, to allow first-year students to complete their hours under normal supervision and within schools in the HRM.

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

### 7.1. Senate Executive

#### 7.1.1. Senate Policy on the Academic Implications of a Labour Dispute

The background was provided on the motion to change the name of the policy to clarify its application to business units other than the Faculty Association (FA); this motion was tabled to allow the FA the opportunity to review the policy for further implications. The circumstances surrounding the development of the policy and current practices at other universities were noted. The FA has reviewed the policy and is recommending that the motion to rename the policy be withdrawn and that the policy itself be rescinded; Senate Executive concurs.

**Moved** by M. Forrest, seconded by M. Eskritt, that the tabled motion to rename the *Senate Policy on the Academic Implications of a Labour Dispute* be withdrawn. CARRIED

**Moved** by R. Farmer, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that the *Senate Policy on the Academic Implications of a Labour Dispute* be rescinded. CARRIED

### 7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

#### 7.2.1. First-Year Course Update

E. Church provided background on the development of the Senate-approved, mandatory course for first-year students, funded through monies received from the Windsor Foundation and offered on a pilot basis. She outlined the membership of the First-Year Committee and the focus of the project. She shared suggestions from Department Chairs including linking specific modules to exercises within courses and issuing a certificate upon completion of each of the seven modules. A handbook outlining module content and exercises is being developed for all faculty. With the goal of having students take and complete the course early in the academic year, senators were asked to consider how this might happen.

Guest presenter, A. Tsirigotis, Adaptive Learning Curriculum Coordinator, was introduced; he guided senators through one of the online modules of the adaptive learning model and demonstrated how the program provides students with questions and feedback, recommended readings and a study plan to follow before attempting questions again. The program

updates students on their ongoing progress and offers unlimited retesting within the module.

On the administrative side, the program provides the ability to view student reports and can identify areas of difficulty. As well, the program can generate reports on usage and provide data that could lead to a better understanding of student motivation such as why students might (or might not) be motivated to achieve a better mark.

M. Atwater noted that some students are hesitant about admitting that they don't know the answer to a question and asked whether the program tells students that it is okay to answer that they don't know. While it is not a current option within the software, it was noted that this information can be provided to students.

In response to a question raised by J. Sawler, the modules were identified as follows: Introduction to the Course, Roles and Responsibilities (of the student), Resources and Orientation (of the University), Study Skills, Reading, Research, and Writing. An overview was provided on the development of the content within the modules.

Questions arose and clarification was provided on the pass/fail grading, location of academic offenses/plagiarism content, restricted access to personal information, informed consent, and the introduction of the program to students and faculty at early advising.

M. Eskritt questioned when the program would be available to students and what faculty might need to know to help students start the modules. P. Barry noted that while the program is launching a bit later than it will in future years, it is hoped that several modules will be available in August with the remaining available in September. It will be promoted via a mailout to parents in June and through social media in August. Communication with both students and faculty will continue; a demo will be provided to faculty in September.

B. Taylor shared his thoughts on the original demonstration by the supplier and his anticipated gap between the demo and the actual product. He noted that through the work of A. Tsirigotis and E. Johnston, Learning Strategist, in the development of the current course, the program is actually superior to what was originally demoed and exceeds the expectations of both the University and the software supplier.

Additional questions and concerns from senators generated discussion on the content and expectations of the writing module, content and resources obtained for modules, the importance of ensuring that students who need the course the most take it and ideally complete it

before the end of the fall term, and the value of the course to international and first-generation students.

Suggestions included ensuring students understand that the course would give them valuable and essential skills that they would be able to use throughout their education at and beyond the Mount, inclusion of information on research and academic integrity and the student's role in academic integrity, the use of program testers and mentors, Students' Union assistance in encouraging participation, completion incentives, and accessibility through linking (and reminders) within course Moodle sites.

An electronic resource handbook is planned for student use in subsequent years.

### 7.3. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

#### 7.3.1. Educational Psychology

##### 7.3.1.1. New Calendar Descriptions

7.3.1.1.1. GEPY 6601 – Statistics

7.3.1.1.2. GEPY 6602 – Theories of Learning: Contemporary Perspectives

7.3.1.1.3. GEPY 6603 – Curriculum and Program Evaluation

7.3.1.1.4. GEPY 6607 – Practicum in Evaluation

**Moved** by K. Kienapple, seconded by M. Forrest, that Senate approve the new Calendar descriptions for GEPY 6601, 6602, 6603, and 6607.

CARRIED

### 7.4. Undergraduate Curriculum

#### 7.4.1. Business and Tourism

##### 7.4.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.4.1.1.1. BTHM Practica Hours and Transfer Credit

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate approve the changes in requirements for the practica hours and transfer credit proposed by the Department of Business and Tourism. CARRIED.

#### 7.4.2. Economics

##### 7.4.2.1. Deletion of Course

7.4.2.1.1. ECON 4498

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by N. Kayhani, that Senate approve the deletion of ECON 4498 as proposed by the Department of Economics.

CARRIED

7.4.3. Mathematics and Computer Science

7.4.3.1. New Course Proposal

7.4.3.1.1. MATH 2283 – Introduction to Nonparametric Statistics

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the new course MATH 2283 as proposed by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. CARRIED

7.4.3.2. Deletion of Course

7.4.3.2.1. MATH 1130 – Application of Matrices

J. Sawler questioned whether matrices algebra was still being covered in other mathematics courses.

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by B. Taylor, that Senate approve the deletion of MATH 1130 as proposed by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. CARRIED

7.4.3.3. Changes to Existing Program

7.4.3.3.1. BA Mathematics, New Statistics Stream

7.4.3.3.2. BSc Mathematics, New Statistics Stream

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the changes to BA Mathematics and BSc Mathematics to introduce a New Statistics Stream as proposed by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. CARRIED

7.4.3.3.3. Honours Degree in Mathematics, New Statistics Stream

7.4.3.3.4. BA (Honours) Mathematics, New Statistics Stream

7.4.3.3.5. BSc (Honours) Mathematics, New Statistics Stream

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the changes to the Honours Degree in Mathematics, the BA (Honours) Mathematics and the BSc (Honours) Mathematics to introduce a New Statistics Stream as proposed by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. CARRIED

7.4.4. Political/Canadian Studies

7.4.4.1. New Course Proposal

7.4.4.1.1. CANA 4401/POLS 4401

Not seeing rationale offered within the proposal, C. Blayney questioned whether consideration would have been given to the possibility of offering this

course, currently a seminar course, via Distance in the future.

A brief discussion was held on the process; R. Lumpkin suggested that the committee consider follow-up with the proposer if rationale requested on the form is not submitted. P. Watts agreed that a rationale should be provided and added that, to her knowledge, there are currently no Canadian Studies courses offered via distance or online; she suggested that this is a bigger issue that should be addressed at some time in the future.

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by M. Atwater, that Senate approve the new course proposal for CANA 4401/POLS 4401. CARRIED

7.4.4.2. Deletion of Courses

7.4.4.2.1. CANA 4000 – Seminar on Canada

7.4.4.2.2. POLS 4405 – Seminar on Canadian Politics

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by B. Taylor, that Senate approve the deletion of CANA 4000 and POLS 4405. CARRIED

7.4.4.3. Changes to Existing Program

7.4.4.3.1. Program requirement change to Canadian Studies Major, Combined Major and Concentration

7.4.4.3.2. Update to Canadian Emphasis Courses List

7.4.4.3.3. Program requirement change to Political Studies Combined Major

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by P. Barry, that Senate approve the program requirement change to the Canadian Studies Major, the Combined Major and Concentration, the update to the Canadian Emphasis Course List, and the program requirement change to the Political Studies Combined Major proposed by the Department of Political and Canadian Studies. CARRIED

7.4.4.3.4. Program Requirement change to Political Studies Major

**Moved** by S. Badali, seconded by C. Blayney, that Senate approve the program requirement change to the Political Studies Major proposed by the Department of Political and Canadian Studies. CARRIED

7.4.5. Appointment, Promotion and Tenure or Permanence for Academic Administrators

7.4.5.1. Nominations for Professor Emeritus Status

N. Jamieson, guest, was excused from the meeting while Senate conducted confidential business; she returned to the meeting following the announcement of the results.

**Moved** by M. Atwater, seconded by K. Blotnick, to move into confidential business. CARRIED

**Moved** by P. Cantelo, seconded by N. Kayhani, to move out of confidential business. CARRIED

The meeting moved out of confidential business while the scrutineers collected and tallied the ballots; while out of confidential business, the Board of Governors, Students' Union, and Mount 2017 reports were received.

**Moved** by K. Blotnick, seconded by C. Blayney, to move into confidential business. CARRIED

**Moved** by L. Steele, seconded by J. Sawler, to move out of confidential business. CARRIED

Both nominations received were recommended for the status of Professor Emeritus.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Board of Governors

R. Farmer provided highlights on the outcomes of the April 19 Board of Governors' meeting including approval of the 2017-18 budget, announcement of the Spring 2017 Convocation Honorary Degree Recipients, reports from the Joint Senate-Board, Human Resources and Governance, and Nominating Committees. As well, constituency reports were received from faculty, students and alumnae.

8.2. Students' Union

On behalf of R. Nearing, M. Atwater spoke to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Students' Union and the University and recognized its value in making a significant contribution to continual student engagement and input through formalizing many of the informal practices used by both parties over the years. She noted that it builds upon the groundwork established through the transparent, communicative, and respectful and mutually beneficial relationship between the Students' Union and the University.

Other updates were provided on the presence of Mount students at Province House for the release of the Provincial budget, preparations underway for



activities to be held during early advising, and the completion of transition training for incoming members of the Students' Union.

Finally, she expressed appreciation to Senate and to Senior Administration on behalf of team members and student representatives for the support to, and advocacy for, the students. She wished senators well and hoped that their paths cross in the future.

### 8.3. Mount 2017: Making a Difference

R. Lumpkin highlighted items within the President's report to the Board, organized under the goals and strategies of the Strategic Plan.

## 9. New Business

### 9.1. Nominations for Honorary Degrees

N. Jamieson, guest, was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

Ballots were distributed and senators were reminded of the confidential nomination and approval process and the timeframe in which approved Honorary Degree Candidates remain eligible to receive the degree.

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Barry, to move into confidential business.

CARRIED

**Moved** by E. Church, seconded by P. Cantelo, to move out of confidential business. CARRIED

All five nominees for Honorary Doctorates were approved.

## 10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of the March 31, 2017, meeting
- The awarding of the status of Professor Emeritus on Dr. Allan Neilsen and Dr. Lorri Neilsen
- Five nominations for honorary degrees
- The rescinding of the Senate Policy on the Academic Implications of a Labour Dispute
- Graduate Educational Psychology curriculum changes
- Several undergraduate curriculum changes

Senate received for information:

- First-Year Course Update

## 11. Adjournment

**Moved** by C. Blayney, seconded by L. Steele, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.