

## MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), K. Blotnick, D. Bourne-Tyson, B. Blenkarn, S. Brigham, E. Church, A. Cole, S. Drain, R. Farmer, C. French, J. Hollett, B. Jessop, K. Kienapple, B. MacInnes, J. MacLeod, G. McGovern, D. McKenna, P. Mombourquette, B. Morse, S. Perrott, R. Richards, J. Sawler, C. Schneider, S. Seager, J. Sharpe, L. Steele, B. Taylor, A. Thurlow, S. Walsh, P. Watts, M. Whalen, R. Zuk

Regrets: T. Larkin, L. Neilsen, D. Norris, I. Pottie

Guests: M. Eskritt, K. Gallant

### 1. Approval of Agenda

**Moved** by S. Brigham, seconded by L. Steele to approve the agenda as circulated. CARRIED

### 2. Approval of Minutes of October 3, 2011

**Moved** by E. Church, seconded by J. MacLeod to approve the minutes of October 3, 2011 as amended. CARRIED

### 3. Business Arising from the Minutes

#### 3.1. Task Force for Revision of the Student Judicial Code and Handbook (J. Hollett)

J. Hollett noted that there were no updates to report at this time.

#### 3.2. Report on enrolments from Associate Vice President, Student Experience (J. Hollett)

J. Hollett delivered an Enrolment Overview as of October 1, 2011. Highlights were as follows:

- Full-time undergraduate enrolment increased by 2.3% over last year at this time (NS + 2.6%) Current number of students: 3857
- Full-time Graduate enrolment increased by 9% (NS + 1.9%)
- Overall, the Mount's fulltime enrolments increased by 2.6% (NS + 2.6%)
- Part-time undergraduate enrolments decreased by 3.1 % (NS - 4.2 %.)
- Part-time graduate enrolments decreased by 4.5 % (NS - 4.0%)
- Total P/T enrolments decreased by 3.9 % (NS - 4.1% )
- Visa student enrolments increased by 22.2% (NS +18%)
- Fulltime new from high school increased 11.9% (NS + 4.2%)
- Transfer students decreased by 14.1% (NS - 5.4%.)
- Undergraduate enrolments have increased by 6.3% (156 students) over the last 3 years with a 6.6% increase in the number of undergraduate units taken.
- Graduate enrolments decreased by 17.2% (199 students) over the last three years; M.Eds decreased by 25.7% (269 students).
- BEd. enrolments decreased over the last 3 years by 18% (61 students).
- In 2007, 21.1% of our undergraduate students were male. In 2011, 27% are male. Nationally, 42% of undergraduates are male.
- Over the last 3 years, International Students increased by 34% (139 students).

C. Schneider posed a question regarding retention; she wondered if there were more data regarding the reasons why students did not stay at the Mount?

J. Hollett responded that no data exist yet; however, the Registrar's Office is working on an exit survey.

C. Schneider also wondered what positive implications in enrolment (if any) might be expected in light of the shipbuilding contract recently awarded to the Halifax Shipyards.

J. Sawler responded that in the short term no significant changes would be felt, but in the long term there might be an effect on the provincial budget, more than on enrolment data.

C. Schneider wondered what effect this re-shifting to manufacturing jobs would have on enrolment.

J. Hollett referred to the slide on the part-time phenomenon, and speculated that the lack of funding may be the reason why there has been such a drop in part-time students. Historically these students would study part-time and work part-time; however, with the decrease in part-time positions, he speculates that these students have moved to full-time status.

P. Mombourquette felt that the report lacked bench marks to evaluate our goals; he wondered what we were actually trying to accomplish.

J. Hollett responded that the budget was set at a 1% increase, adding that to date this target has not been met although winter enrolment is coming up. He also noted that over the longer term the Mount does not have goals regarding the size and mix of the institution we wish to be, and this is something that is being discussed at the senior management level. He went on to mention that an enrolment management plan is being considered for development later this year.

P. Mombourquette noted that it is hard to evaluate accomplishments without setting goals. He went on to say that he would have liked to have seen a slide stating the goal for the year, the achievement to date, and, if there is a problem, how to address it.

J. Hollett responded that the university is still in the process of making up enrolments that were lost 3-4 years ago and doing so without compromising admission standards. He noted that part of the challenge is the need, as an institution, to determine what the future looks like for the Mount.

P. Mombourquette also wondered if there is a drop in qualified applications for the B.Ed program; he noted that students are still migrating to Maine to pursue their Bachelor of Education. He wondered if these potential students think the standards are so high that they are not applying.

J. Sharpe noted that our applications are down, but that the Maine programs are down as well. He noted also that information sessions are being increased.

S. Seager wondered if students currently being admitted are closer to the lower admission standard.

B. MacInnes responded by saying that the current average of an entering student is 80-83%, noting that the lowest standard is 70%.

R. Zuk noted that funding for students is limited and many are working twenty or more hours per week while enrolled in their program. She wondered if an investigation has been done on the effect of economic circumstances on retention.

J. Hollett noted that he would look into this matter further.

B. MacInnes noted that often an economic downturn results in increased enrollment; she went on to say that perhaps the ship-building contract might result in an increase in out-of-province families moving to the area, some of which may include potential students.

J. Sawler cautioned that, while the contract may ease some economic pressure, he felt large changes would not be felt at our University.

J. Hollett commented that the province should not become too distracted by the contract; he added that the province still needs to move into a more service-based, knowledge-based economy.

S. Brigham asked if data existed regarding African Nova Scotians and First-Nations student enrollment.

R. Lumpkin noted, and B. MacInnes confirmed, that students can volunteer this information, but it cannot be required.

J. Hollett provided data from Statistics Canada saying that since 1980 Aboriginal Canadians make up 2% of university enrolments nationally.

C. Schneider questioned whether affirmative action students were being tracked.

B. MacInnes responded no.

J. MacLeod asked if we had any comparison with other institutions on retention data.

J. Hollett noted a comparison with Commonwealth countries, our 46% to their 48% retention at the undergraduate level. He went on to say that what he found most troubling was the attrition rate (80%) of mature students.

R. Lumpkin suggested that J. Hollett take a look at the Ontario common university dataset as she felt their numbers were considerably higher than those reported for the Mount.

M. Whalen confirmed this and noted that this type of dataset is also being tracked in Atlantic Canada.

S. Perrott commented that twenty-one years ago the Mount student population included a large cohort of 40-60 year old women pursuing post-secondary education for the first time. He noted that a comparable group no longer exists. He added that merely pursuing bodies was not the answer, but also noted that the funding formula is enrolment driven.

P. Mombourquette asked if any research has been done into attrition factors.

B. MacInnes reported that they are currently working on an exit survey.

J. Hollett also noted retention strategies could be put in place such as early identification of students at risk.

S. Seager noted that in some cases students' leaving is not always a bad thing. Often young students leave to pursue academic interests in other disciplines at other institutions. To hold them back would be against their best interest.

D. McKenna pointed out that it is very difficult to get student loan funding, and speculated that this difficulty would affect retention.

C. Schneider mentioned that she is currently working closely with the first-year B.Ed program students; she noted their concern as they often hear job prospects are grim. Perhaps it would be helpful to track the number of Mount graduates currently employed in education-related jobs.

R. Lumpkin noted that Senators could forward additional comments or ideas on the topic of enrolment to the Secretary of Senate or to J. Hollett.

### 3.3. Motion to amend By-law 14.13

**Moved** B. Blenkarn, seconded by M. Whalen that Senate adopt the proposed amendment to By-law 14.13, as amended. CARRIED

K. Blotnick proposed an amendment clarifying the number of faculty members on the committee; the amendment was accepted as friendly.

### 3.4. Motion to amend Senate By-law 1.1.

**Moved** by P. Mombourquette, seconded by R. Zuk that Senate amend By-law 1.1. DEFEATED (11 in favor, 15 opposed, 3 abstentions: S. Seager / D. McKenna / B. Morse)

P. Mombourquette noted that the creation of an ex-officio position for the president of the Faculty Association is important to the Faculty Association executive and members. He noted that in recent years Senate has accommodated requests to add administration seats, and that faculty and administration have a good relationship within Senate. He noted that the Mount Senate is not large in comparison with other universities, such as Acadia and Dalhousie. He further noted that the Association president would add value and insight to Senate discussion, and that an ex-officio seat would eliminate the need to nominate the incumbent for election to Senate each year.

B. Taylor noted that a survey of several institutions in our area revealed none with an ex-officio seat for a union president. He went on to say that he felt Senate was a deliberative academic body, and not another forum in which the association and the administration play out their relationship. He also noted that the charter of the University requires that the majority of Senators be faculty members elected by faculty.

S. Walsh asked Senators to consider the fact that the Faculty Association president would bring a distinct viewpoint to academic issues and academic decision making, in particular a national understanding of academic freedom and integrity.

B. Blenkarn disputed the statement in the supporting material that draws a parallel between the proposed seat and that of the Students' Union president: he argued that the Students' Union president is not an ex-officio member, but is appointed to the Senate by the Students' Union.

P. Mombourquette commented that several administrative seats have been created recently at the request of the Administration. He noted that these seats have value and that Senate evolves over

time to best represent the inner workings of the University. He reiterated that the culture of this institution is one in which members are engaged, they communicate, they allow voices to be heard, and they accommodate other parties.

S. Perrott raised the question of the extent to which faculty members are elected to represent a constituency or whether they are elected to speak to university issues as they see best.

R. Farmer commented that University Senates vary considerably in composition across the region and across Canada. Many, including UNB and Mount Allison, have Faculty Association or Council representatives. Others do not grant full membership to positions, such as the VP Admin and the Registrar, which have ex-officio status at the Mount. He reiterated the point that electing the president of the Faculty Association to Senate, as has frequently happened, is an awkward process, especially when the president's term is one year and a Senator's is three.

B. Taylor noted that some seats, such as that of the Vice President Administration, are specified in the University charter.

S. Seager voiced some concern regarding the extent to which Senators prepare for meetings and enter into discussion with open minds. She reported that in her experience, Administration members consistently vote as a collective. Since one-third attending the present meeting are administrators, the outcome of the vote on the present occasion is already determined regardless of the discussion.

R. Zuk agreed with the points made by S. Seager and reiterated a point made by P.

Mombourquette stating that the Faculty Association president is well apprised of what is going on in the rest of the province, as well the country and can speak to issues such as academic freedom and integrity from a faculty perspective.

J. MacLeod spoke in favour of the motion saying it really just formalizes an existing practice and would relieve stress on the nominating process

B. Jessop commented that the intention is not to be adversarial; however, he noted that he did not see the need for an ex-officio seat for the president of the Faculty Association.

M. Whalen commented that perhaps it is time to review what would be the best composition of Senate going forward. He also added that Senate meetings are generally open. According to the by-laws any member of the University community can attend and may be recognized to speak; if there is a need for particular expertise it can be supplied in this way.

Discussion ensued as to the extent to which the charter defines the composition of Senate. R.

Lumpkin pointed out that the charter specifies that "the size and membership shall be as determined by the by-laws of the Senate," subject to the provision that "the majority of the member of the Senate shall be comprised of members of the faculty elected by the faculty," and the explicit provision of seats for particular administrative positions. She noted that opening the charter would be unwise. <http://www.msvu.ca/site/media/msvu/Mount%20Charter.pdf>

E. Church noted that she supports the practice of having the faculty elect the Association president to Senate, because an ex-officio position would change how faculty are represented on Senate.

Discussion ensued as to the by-laws governing the student representation on Senate; the student Senators intend to bring forward revisions to the by-laws.

L. Steele commented that although he considered the issue to be a matter of housekeeping, neither outcome would damage the balance of Senate.

J. Hollett commented that creating an ex-officio position might put the Faculty Association president in a conflict of interest.

J. Sharpe noted that the Students' Union and the Faculty Association are not comparable in that the latter is constituted according to the Labour Relations Board.

S. Perrott noted that Senators should not be representing constituencies of administration and faculty at the expense of common cause.

#### 4. President's Announcements

R. Lumpkin urged Senators and others to put forward nominations for honorary degrees; the deadline is November 1, 2011. She noted that the honorees for the Fall Convocations would be Sheila Fraser and Mary Walsh.

R. Lumpkin addressed concerns of the Mount's visibility and reported that to date she and the Board Chair had met with fifteen MLAs from the current NDP government as well as the Liberal

caucus, including Premier Dexter and Minister Moore. She added that she had an opportunity for informal conversation with Finance Minister Steele who indicated that he knows the Mount very well. She also noted that the MOU negotiations continue in camera with nothing further to report. S. Drain enquired about the date of the state of the province address.

R. Lumpkin responded that this has been scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> and the Mount has tickets to attend.

R. Lumpkin acknowledged Donna Bourne-Tyson's last Senate meeting, thanking her for her contributions and noting that she will be missed. This statement was followed by a round of applause.

## 5. Question Period

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

### 6.1. Academic Policy and Planning

#### 6.1.1. Memorandum of Understanding, Canadian University of Dubai (for approval)

**Moved** E. Church, seconded by P. Mombourquette that Senate approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Mount Saint Vincent University and the Canadian University of Dubai. CARRIED.

R. Zuk (referring to both 6.1.1 and 6.1.2) raised a general question concerning the role of academic freedom, integrity, and intellectual property at these institutions, given that we have student and faculty exchanges. Is there academic freedom in Dubai and in Kenya for members of the Mount?

E. Church responded that visiting faculty members would be governed by the rules of Mount Saint Vincent University. She noted that she was not able to speak to the rules of academic freedom at the other two institutions.

P. Mombourquette responded that he had been reassured by conversations with the president of the Canadian University of Dubai.

#### 6.1.2. Memorandum of Understanding, Kenyatta University (for approval)

**Moved** by E. Church, seconded by D. McKenna that Senate approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Mount Saint Vincent University and Kenyatta University. CARRIED  
E. Church expressed to the committee that a member of the Faculty of Education had been to Kenyatta University on a research project and felt confident that it would be a good partner.

#### 6.1.3. Report and Recommendations from the B.Ed. Curriculum Review Committee (for information)

E. Church brought forward the Report and Recommendations from the B.Ed. Curriculum Review Committee.

J. Sharpe spoke briefly to the report and its recommendations noting in particular item 7 on moving the program toward a Pass/Fail model of assessment.

### 6.2. Graduate Studies Program and Policy (for approval)

#### 6.2.1. New course: GFSG 6614: Family Violence Across the Life Course (.5 unit)

**Moved** by K. Kienapple, seconded by S. Walsh that Senate approve the addition of GFSG 6614 as amended. CARRIED

S. Seager pointed out that a conjunction was missing from the calendar description.

An amendment to add the conjunction 'and' to the calendar description of GFSG 6614 to read "sibling, parent *and* adolescent violence" was accepted as friendly.

### 6.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

#### 6.3.1. Communication Studies (for approval)

- 6.3.1.1. New course: PBRL 3020, Strategic Writing for the PR Practitioner (.5 unit)

**Moved** by J. Sharpe, seconded by A. Thurlow that Senate approve the addition of PBRL 3020. CARRIED

R. Farmer asked if motions 6.3.1.1. and 6.3.1.2. were linked.

J. Sharpe responded yes.

- 6.3.1.2. Bachelor of Public Relations, changes to existing program

**Moved** by J. Sharpe, seconded by S. Perrott that Senate approve the proposed changes to the existing program, as amended. CARRIED

J. Sharpe spoke to the motion and noted that UCC had a full discussion of the implications of this major change: it was felt that the change would allow for more student choice. He noted that the departments affected had been consulted.

R. Farmer also noted that this change would allow a student in the PR Program to also do a Professional Studies minor.

S. Seager wondered if “0.5 unit of ENGL at the 1000 level” should read “0.5 unit of ENGL at the 1000 level or above”. This change was accepted as a friendly amendment.

- 6.3.2. Family Studies and Gerontology (for approval)

**Moved** by J. Sharpe seconded by K. Kienapple that Senate accept the below noted deletions. CARRIED

- 6.3.2.1. Deleted course: FSGN 3306, Retirement Processes and Programs (.5 unit)  
6.3.2.2. Deleted course: FSGN 3322, Environment and Facility Planning (.5 unit)  
6.3.2.3. Deleted course: FSGN 3340, Aging and Lifelong Disabilities (.5 unit)  
6.3.2.4. Deleted course: FSGN 4447, Case Management with the Elderly (.5 unit)  
6.3.2.5. Deleted course: FSGN 4400, Honours Thesis (1 unit)

- 6.3.3. Mathematics and Computer Science (for approval)

- 6.3.3.1. New Course: MATH 2277, Topics in Mathematics (.5 unit) —

**Moved** by J. Sharpe, seconded by S. Seager that Senate approve the addition of MATH 2277. CARRIED

R. Blenkarn noted that the calendar description seems a little vague.

J. Sharpe responded that UCC did have a discussion on this, noting they felt this description was more open to individuals who are not math majors.

R. Blenkarn questioned whether the topics would be chosen by the students or the professors.

J. Sharpe noted that this would be selected jointly.

S. Seager commented that this course arose from student requests.

B. Taylor explained the advantages of a selected topics course.

- 6.4. Nominations

- 6.4.1. Corrections to slate presented October 3, 2011

**Moved** by D. McKenna, seconded by M. Whalen that Senate approve the date corrections in the slate of nominations approved at Senate October 3, 2011. CARRIED

- 6.5. Teaching and Learning

S. Seager noted that the Teaching and Learning Committee has asked the Nomination Committee to fill a vacancy in its faculty membership. The draft Teaching and Learning Plan has been received and will be reviewed at the next meeting. She also noted that the AAU Teaching Showcase conference will take place on October 29, 2011; the organizers are very pleased to have over 100 paid registrations to date.

- 6.6. Writing Initiatives

P. Watts reminded those present that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Celebration of Writing at the Mount will take place November 14-18, 2011 on campus. She noted that there will be three different contests for students with prizes to encourage student involvement. P. Watts went on to say that many of the activities in this year's program are new this year, and she hopes that students, faculty and other members of the community will take part.

## 7. Other Reports

### 7.1. Board of Governors

C. Schneider reported that the Board of Governors retreat had taken place. She noted that there were many interesting topics including several students who shared how they experienced their study time at the Mount. There was some discussion on strategic planning; she thanked B. Jessop for his interesting and informative financial presentation.

S. Brigham asked if the Board had been able to increase its diversity.

R. Lumpkin mentioned that the Board Nominating committee is still looking to fill two vacancies. She noted that this is an on-going process but the Board is canvassing the community for membership from visible minorities and the Aboriginal community.

### 7.2. Students' Union

D. McKenna noted that the Students' Union town hall meeting would take place on Oct. 27, 2011 at 4:30 PM in Vinnie's Pub. He reported the success of the society information/orientation session and the mental health awareness campaign. He encouraged Senators to visit the mountstudents.ca website for more information. Current and coming events included activities for Mi'kmaq History month, the annual Haunted House, International Student Education week (November 14-18, 2011), an event for graduating students, and residence activities in the Mount Cup challenge.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. Fall 2010 Graduation List (**Confidential Business**)

**Moved** by S. Perrott, seconded by J. Hollett to move *in camera*. CARRIED

Senate approved the following degrees, diplomas, and certificates as follows:

#### **Faculty of Arts and Science**

Certificate of Proficiency in French

B. Taylor/B. Jessop

Degree of Bachelor of Arts

B. Taylor/P. Mombourquette

Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Advanced Major)

B. Taylor/B. Blenkarn

Degree of Bachelor of Science

B. Taylor/D. McKenna

#### **Faculty of Education**

Degree of Bachelor of Education

J. Sharpe/C. Schneider

Degree of Bachelor of Education in Association with St. Joseph's Teachers College

J. Sharpe/C. Schneider

Degree of Master of Arts in Education

J. Sharpe/S. Brigham

Degree of Master of Arts in School Psychology

J. Sharpe/B. Blenkarn

Degree of Master of Education

J. Sharpe/R. Richards

Degree of Master of Education in Curriculum Studies: Teaching English as a Second Language in Association with Saint Mary's University

J. Sharpe/S. Walsh

#### **Faculty of Professional Studies**

Certificate in Accounting

K. Kienapple/K. Blotnicky

Certificate in Business Administration

K. Kienapple/P. Mombourquette

Certificate in Information Technology

K. Kienapple/R. Farmer

Certificate in Marketing

K. Kienapple/M. Whalen

Diploma in Business Administration

K. Kienapple/A. Thurlow

Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management

K. Kienapple/K. Blotnicky

Degree of Bachelor of Applied Arts (Family

Studies and gerontology)

K. Kienapple/A. Thurlow

Degree of Bachelor of Applied Arts (Information Technology) Co-operative Education Route	K. Kienapple/R. Farmer
Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Child and Youth Study)	K. Kienapple/C. French
Degree of Bachelor of Arts (child and Youth Study) Honours	K. Kienapple/C. French
Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration	K. Kienapple/B. Jessop
Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours)	K. Kienapple/K. Blotnicky
Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration in Association with Bermuda College	K. Kienapple/P. Watts
Degree of Bachelor of Public Relations	K. Kienapple/A. Thurlow
Degree of Bachelor of Public Relations (Co-operative Education Route)	K. Kienapple/D. McKenna
Degree of Bachelor of Science Applied Human Nutrition	K. Kienapple/A. Thurlow
Degree of Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality management	K. Kienapple/K. Blotnicky
Degree of Master of Applied Human Nutrition	K. Kienapple/P. Mombourquette
Degree of Master of Arts in Child and Youth Study	K. Kienapple/C. French
Degree of Master of Arts in Communication Studies	K. Kienapple/A. Thurlow
Degree of Master of Arts in Family Studies And Gerontology	K. Kienapple/B. Jessop
Degree of Master of Public Relations	K. Kienapple/B. Blenkarn
Degree of Master of Science Applied Human Nutrition	K. Kienapple/J. Hollett

**Moved** by K. Kienapple, seconded by B. Taylor that Senate permit the Registrar to add an individual's name if the requirements are completed prior to the Convocation ceremony and, further, to adjust any student's distinction status if so warranted. CARRIED

**Moved** by J. MacLeod, seconded by K. Kienapple to move from *in camera*. CARRIED

#### 9. Items for Communication

Minutes of October 3, 2011; Amendment to By-law 14.13 (UREB); Memoranda of Understanding with the Canadian University of Dubai and with Kenyatta University; Curriculum changes in Family Studies and Gerontology (graduate and undergraduate levels), Public Relations (undergraduate), and Mathematics. BEd. Report and Recommendations received for information. Approval of the Graduation List for Fall Convocations.

#### 10. Adjournment

**Moved** by S. Perrott; seconded by J. MacLeod. 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Schnare