

MINUTES

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

Regrets: M. Atwater, M. Bowen, A. Brown, M.J. Harkins, P. Mombourquette

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by L. Mann, to approve the agenda as amended. CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2015

Moved by L. Steele, seconded by M. Whalen, to approve the meeting minutes of February 27, 2015 as amended. CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1. Research Plan (for approval)—*page 7*

A. Cole presented the revised Research Plan.

Moved by A. Cole (on behalf of the Committee on Research and Publications), seconded by L. Mann, that the Mount's Research Plan, Making a Difference through Research, be approved as submitted. CARRIED (21 in favour/ 6 against / 1 abstained)

R. Green expressed thanks to A. Cole and the Committee on Research and Publications for incorporating many of the comments from the last Senate meeting and from the consultation with departments and chairs into the revised document. She then suggested a friendly amendment to add a sixth item "Creativity, Ideologies and Cultures" under the heading "Areas Targeted for Enhancement".

A. Cole responded with the committee's rationale why this item was not targeted for enhancement. It was noted that this item does appear in the document, in part under the "Areas of Emphasis," and again in the "Areas of Strength." She added that the items included under the "Areas Targeted for Enhancement" are all connected to our Research Chairs and their areas of interdisciplinary work. As this is the case, she would not be able to accept this as a friendly amendment, but would have to take back to the committee for approval.

S. Drain enquired whether in fact the plan does set any new directions, as it seems only to reinforce those areas already strongly supported.

A. Cole clarified that these are significant areas of research at the Mount, and it makes sense to further build on these strengths going forward for the next while. There is always room for the plan to change and evolve.

L. Mann asked whether "support" meant financial support, and what might be the implications to researchers who work in the areas of "Creativity, Ideologies and Cultures."

A. Cole responded that financial support is not the only kind of support, and that there may be some advantage to being in a targeted area, if, for instance, the institution has to make

difficult financial decisions about funding research. However, the current commitment is to support all areas of research on campus.

S. Badali noted that he did not see the merit in targeting “Creativity, Ideologies and Cultures” as it is embedded in other areas of the plan.

Senators J. MacLeod and R. Gechtman spoke in favour of the suggested amendment.

I. Pottie argued that the amendment would require a delay in approving a Research Plan and that the lack of an up-to-date Research Plan was detrimental when faculty were applying for grants; he urged Senators to approve the plan as brought forward.

T. Harrison suggested minor amendments to the wording of the document.

A. Cole accepted these amendments.

Moved by R. Green, seconded by R. Gechtman, that Creativity, Ideologies and Cultures be added as the sixth item listed under the heading of Areas Targeted for Enhancement in the 2015-2017 Research Plan. DEFEATED (11 in favour, 15 opposed)

3.2. Motion to change the date of the May meeting of Senate

Moved by R. Lumpkin (on behalf of Senate Executive), seconded by E. Church, that Senate approve the proposed by-law changes to change the date of the May meeting of Senate.

CARRIED

Moved by E. Church, seconded by I. Pottie, that the above change be implemented in 2015.

CARRIED

3.3. Proposed changes to By-Law 12: Voting Procedures for Honorands (for approval)

Moved by R. Lumpkin (on behalf of Senate Executive), seconded by B. Burns, that Senate approve changes to by-laws 12.1.1, 12.1.3, 12.1.5, 12.2.4, and 12.3.2. CARRIED

3.4. Proposed change to UREB Terms of Reference (for approval)

Deferred to April

4. President’s Announcements

R. Lumpkin reported that the Safe and Respectful campus session was held earlier in the week with over 50 campus community members in attendance. She noted that it was a very productive and positive discussion. She then reported on Labour and Advanced Education Minister Kelly Regan sharing the results of the university consultations before an audience of university presidents, faculty, staff and students at the Mount on Tuesday of this week.

Minister Regan reported that funding universities is a problem and the province is faced with financial dilemmas. Universities will now need to be more financially accountable and the government under proposed legislation will have the right to withhold funding.

P. Whyte expressed his concerns regarding the consultation process and assumptions that had been made regarding the role of universities. Consolidation is a real fear for students. He mentioned with approval the support for students with permanent disabilities, but noted that students with other barriers to education seemed to be forgotten.

L. Mann expressed that she too found the consultations very structured, noting that careful review of the document is needed.

R. Lumpkin reported on the development of a partnership with the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (with support from the Harrison McCain Foundation) of a bridging program to be based at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre.

E. Church provided further details regarding the Building Partnerships for Aboriginal Engagement in Post-Secondary Education project.

P. Whyte asked whether there were similarities to the current International Students Bridging Program.

E. Church responded there will be some similarities, but that the project will be tailored to this community and their unique needs.

R. Lumpkin mentioned that three years ago fewer than 30 students self-identified as aboriginal students on admission forms; this number is now over 130 students and the university is hopeful for continued growth.

5. Question Period

R. Gechtman spoke to an open letter last week from the presidents (of the University itself, of the Faculty Association, and of the Students' Union) of Cape Breton University asking that the federal government and provinces to develop a strategy to eliminate tuition fees for post-secondary education.

R. Lumpkin (referring to CONSUP) noted that it was her understanding that no other University presidents are in favour of the strategy presented by Dr. David Wheeler, President of CBU. She briefly shared her opinion on this complex subject adding that although this item might make for a good colloquium it was not appropriate for Senate debate at this time.

6. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

6.1. Senate Executive

6.1.1. Nomination for the Senate Award for Service in University Governance
(Confidential Business)

Moved by B. Burns, seconded by R. Green, to move *in camera*. CARRIED

Moved by B. Jessop, seconded by R. Gechtman, to move from *in camera*. CARRIED

Moved by B. Jessop, seconded by I. Pottie, to move *in camera*. CARRIED

The positive result of the vote by secret ballot was reported.

Moved by J. Hollett, seconded by E. Church, to move from *in camera*. CARRIED

6.2. Academic Policy and Planning

6.2.1. External Review of University Library (for information)

E. Church brought forward the University Library External Review for information; she noted that it was a very positive review of the Library.

T. Harrison added the review was a useful and positive experience. She thanked all those who provided support and feedback through the process. She noted that many recommendations are currently being worked on.

6.3. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

6.3.1. New Course Proposal: GFSG 6680 Seminar in Family Studies and Gerontology
(.5 unit)

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by I. Blum, that Senate approve the New Course Proposal: GFSG 6680 Seminar in Family Studies and Gerontology. CARRIED

6.4. Nominations

6.4.1. Proposed member for Senate Library Committee

Moved by C. Blayney, seconded by P. Whyte that Senate elect the following faculty member to the Senate Library Committee. CARRIED

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Senate Library Committee	Dr. Gabrielle Durepos	When Elected	30 June 2017

7. Other Reports

7.1. Board of Governors

No report.

7.2. Students' Union

P. Whyte reported on the recent Student Union elections noting the following outcomes: President: Justin Corcoran; VP Communications: Laura Amsom; VP Student Life: Haley Myatt; VP Advocacy: Jon Grant; Board of Governors Rep: Juliana Ali; Science Student Rep: Carla Timm; Professional Studies Student Rep: Mallory O'Neil; International Student Rep: Aris Hernandez; Residence Student Rep: Cassey Deveau; Off-Campus Student Rep: Brandon Giodani. He noted that 7 SRC positions still remain vacant, and will be decided upon during the Fall by-elections. He then reported on the recent Canadian Federation of Students Consent Culture Forum held in Ottawa, the Feminist Collective Panel Series and the upcoming SRC wellness centre initiative fee levy.

R. Lumpkin commended P. Whyte on his energy and leadership in his role of Students' Union President over the past year.

7.3. Mount 2017: Making a Difference

R. Lumpkin noted that the president's February report to the Board of Governors has been posted to the SharePoint site. She highlighted some of the initiatives that were mentioned in the document.

8. Items for Communication

Senate approved the following:

- Minutes of February 27, 2015
- A University Research Plan
- Changes to the By-Laws
 - to change the date of the May meeting of Senate and
 - to amend the Voting Procedures for Honorands
- A new graduate course GFSG 6680 Seminar in Family Studies and Gerontology
- The election of Dr. Gabrielle Durepos to the Senate Library Committee effective immediately
- The nomination of Dr. Deborah Norris as the 2015 recipient of the Senate Award for Service in University Governance

Senate received for information

- CAPP's Report on the External Review of the University Library

9. Adjournment

Moved by B. Burns, seconded, by B. Jessop, that the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED**