

MINUTES

Present: M. Bluechardt (Chair), P. Barry Mercer, A. Card, R. Charlton, E. Church, P. Cormier-MacBurnie, P. Crouse, T. Findlay, D. Fisher, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, S. King, S. MacIntosh, J. MacLeod, C. Matta, M. Mitchell, S. Orlov, S. Perrott, D. Plumb, K. Ritchie, S. Seager, D. Séguin, J. Sharpe, D. Shiner, C. Slumkoski, J. Wallace, D. Whalen

Guests: A. Shema, K. Thompson, A. Thurlow

Regrets: P. Cantelo, R. Farmer, G. MacDonald, B. Taylor, R. Zuk

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. and observers A. Shema, K. Thompson, and A. Thurlow were acknowledged and welcomed. As well, Senators whose terms are ending were recognized for their service to Senate: R. Charlton, M. Mitchell, S. MacIntosh, and J. Wallace.

1. Indigenous Land Recognition

M. Bluechardt provided an acknowledgement that the Mount is built on traditional unceded Mi'kmaq territory and paid respect to the Indigenous peoples of the land on which Senate meets.

2. Approval of Agenda

"Student Loan Forgiveness" was added to the agenda under Business Arising.

Moved by S. Orlov, seconded by P. Barry Mercer, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes of March 29, 2019

Moved by P. Cormier-MacBurnie, seconded by E. Church, to approve the meeting minutes of March 29, 2019, as circulated. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Student Loan Forgiveness

D. Whalen provided follow-up information on the item raised at the last meeting regarding funding within the recent Provincial Budget that will provide some relief to the Provincial portion of student loans for Nova Scotia students. She advised that the program will apply to five years of a student's student loan, that the amount for a four-year loan would be approximately \$27K forgiven debt, and that the Federal portion of student debt is not eligible for debt forgiveness under the program. This

information is being shared with the appropriate departments to ensure that students are notified about changes to the program.

Brief discussions were held on which students are eligible under the program (Nova Scotia students graduating after August 1) and whether some students graduating in May might want to defer graduation to the fall to meet the criteria for eligibility. It is hoped that the program will inspire those who are working multiple jobs to consider taking out a student loan. (D. Whalen, P. Barry Mercer, C. Slumkoski)

5. President's Announcements

Senators were encouraged to attend Spring Convocation and were advised of the President Emerita status being conferred on Dr. Lumpkin and the status of Professor Emeritus on Drs. L. Brown and M. MacMillan. She noted that the Spring Convocation would be the last for Drs. E. Church and B. Taylor.

She spoke to the disappointment of the proposed 1% increase in Provincial grants for Nova Scotia universities and activities (letter writing and meetings) undertaken internally and externally, individually and collaboratively, to express this disappointment to members of the Provincial government. Presidents of Nova Scotia universities have taken a stance of not signing a MOU that provides a 1% increase per year for five years as it is not sustainable.

She provided updates on both the Vice-President Academic and Provost and the Vice-President Administration searches. As well, the hiring of Caryn Small Legs-Nagge as the Harassment and Discrimination Advisor was announced.

She spoke to discussion held and feedback received from various areas of campus on current search processes in place for senior administrators and plans to develop an up-to-date process that will govern these searches. Work on this initiative will begin in the fall.

E. Church provided a brief update on the search for the Dean of Arts and Science.

6. Question Period

A question arose on how the guidelines on posters are formulated and how faculty are consulted. An updated policy, in the works when the Interim Vice-President Administration was hired, will be reviewed and discussed with the President of the Faculty Association before the next FA Executive Committee meeting. (T. Findlay, D. Whalen)

A question was raised and a discussion held on the approval of the University's budgets and the projected monetary impact of the 3% tuition increase on students and possible impact on enrollment, contingencies in place to assist students financially, the Mount's ranking as being one of the most affordable universities in Nova Scotia, a projection of a 1% increase in enrollment over the next year, the impact of faculty raises, and a need to

do more by lobbying the Government. (J. MacLeod, D. Whalen, P. Barry Mercer, C. Slumkoski, S. Seager)

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Academic Policy and Planning

7.1.1. Freedom of Expression Statement

E. Church provided an overview of the background on the document's development, consultation undertaken, and feedback received; this, the third draft, is being presented to Senate for approval.

S. Seager raised a concern about what she perceived as a conflict surrounding non-violent protests that still prevent an event or speech from happening. A discussion was held on previous wording removed based on feedback on that draft, the implication of the current wording that a nonviolent protester would not have the right to shut down a speech or event, how a nonviolent action may be harassment and be addressed through legal avenues, actions that may be nonviolent and illegal (i.e. removal of posters), the difference in the right to free speech of internal speakers versus external speakers, and the responsibility for enforcement (Security department or codes of conduct, for example). It was noted that the Statement will need to be in place in order to test the process. (S. Seager, E. Church, K. Ritchie, C. Matta)

Moved by E. Church, seconded by D. Plumb, that Senate approve the Freedom of Expression statement. CARRIED with one opposed and two abstentions

The Committee and all those who provided direction and feedback were thanked. The Statement will be added to the Mount's website with references to resources.

7.1.2. Policy and Procedures for External Reviews of Academic Programs

E. Church outlined revisions made to the policy to bring it in line with MPHEC guidelines that came into effect after the policy was last approved.

A brief discussion was held on the review timeline related to the submission of names of external and internal nominees for the review committee; currently, the timeline indicates that this is to happen six months prior to the site visit. A suggestion by B. Taylor that it may need to be longer than six months will be monitored and possibly revisited.

Questions and discussion on the policy also included:

- Clarification from the Senate Bylaws on the role of the Vice-President Academic and Provost in chairing CAPP
- Insertion of the word “of,” Appendix D, Section III, Admission and Enrollments, so the first bullet now reads “the number *of* honours,”
- Clarification on MPHEC guidelines that stipulate that one of the external reviewers be from outside of Nova Scotia

The following motion was made:

Moved by E. Church, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the revised Policy and Procedures for External Reviews of Academic Programs, effective immediately. (*Note: A friendly amendment was made to this motion following the discussion below.*)

The removal of two bullets (Teaching section, p. 44) was questioned and a discussion held on the possibility of being innovative while having interesting pedagogical approaches that aren’t in the context of online learning, why experiential learning and online learning have specific bullets but other innovations are not specifically mentioned, why wording surrounding methods of assessing and evaluating are being removed, and whether a broader set of examples could be included to assist and guide external reviewers.

With several members of CAPP in attendance, it was agreed that the policy be amended to add the two bullets back into the document and that the examples “team learning” and “flipped classes” be added. This was proposed, and accepted, as a friendly amendment.

A request to have the changes reported back to the Senate Secretary was considered and briefly discussed. Clarification on the process used to confirm that the changes are undertaken, parliamentary procedure, and the use of friendly amendments were considered. The motion was amended to include adding back in the two bullets.

(K. Ritchie, E. Church, D. Plumb, S. Seager, D. Fisher, J. MacLeod, T. Findlay, P. Crouse, T. Harriott)

Moved by E. Church, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the revised Policy and Procedures for External Reviews of Academic Programs, with the two bullets added back that were removed, effective immediately. CARRIED

7.1.3. Report on External Review of Applied Human Nutrition
E. Church provided the report for information; there were no questions or comments raised.

7.1.4. External Review Schedule
E. Church provided the report for information; there were no questions or comments raised.

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning and Graduate Studies Program and Policy

7.2.1. Revised Master of Public Relations

7.2.1.1. Proposal for Revised Master of Public Relations (E. Church)

7.2.1.2. New Course Proposals Included in Revised Program (K. Kienapple)

7.2.1.2.1. GPRL 6301: Ethical Decision Making

7.2.1.2.2. GPRL 6302: Strategic Management

7.2.1.2.3. GPRL 6303: Digital Media Communication
Management

7.2.1.2.4. GPRL 6304: Strategic Public Relations

7.2.1.2.5. GPRL 6305: Financial Management for PR Managers

7.2.1.2.6. GPRL 6306: Integrated Marketing Communications

7.2.1.2.7. GPRL 6307: Crisis Communication

7.2.1.2.8. GPRL 6308: Organizational Behaviour for Public
Relations Managers

E. Church reminded Senators of the recent changes made to the policy on the Development of New and Modified Academic Programs that stipulated that proposed courses come to Senate for consideration at the same time as the program proposal. As agreed at Senate Executive, the proposals today will be presented to Senate jointly by CAPP and GSPP. Questions will be fielded separately on the program proposal and then on the proposed courses.

A question was raised on whether current faculty still meet the requirements of the 2018 program proposal; confirmation was provided that the faculty involved in the proposal remain at the Mount. (D. Shiner, A. Thurlow)

K. Kienapple outlined the process used by GSPP and CAPP to view the program and course proposals.

A question arose on whether the program requires courses in public policy or economics. A discussion was held on the importance of public policy courses in a Master of Communications program, separate programs (BA Communication Studies and MA Communication Studies) that do include public policy courses, the ability of students to take economics or public policy courses as electives as part of the revised MPR program, the relationship between public policy and public relations, and the importance of students who complete an MPR and then work for Government to have had courses in public policy.

(N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, A. Thurlow, J. MacLeod, T. Findlay)

Moved by E. Church, seconded by K. Kienapple, that Senate approve the revised Master of Public Relations and related new course proposals. CARRIED with one abstention.

7.3. Graduate Studies Program and Policy (K. Kienapple)

7.3.1. Calendar Entry re Non-Degree Students

A recommendation that the phrase “*receive the credential*” be changed to “*receive its credential.*” It was agreed that this change be undertaken.

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the amendment to the graduate calendar entry for non-degree students.

7.4. Undergraduate Curriculum (B. Taylor)

7.4.1. Applied Human Nutrition

7.4.1.1. New Course Proposal

7.4.1.1.1. NUTR 4500: Food and Nutrition Practicum

Minor edits to both Applied Human Nutrition proposals, proposed by S. Seager with the Dean of Arts & Science in a meeting before Senate, were noted. For NUTR 4500, the first comma in the course description should be removed.

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the new course NUTR 4500: Food and Nutrition Practicum.

7.4.1.2. Addition of Program

7.4.1.2.1. BScAHN Nutrition or Dietetics with Food and Nutrition Practicum

Minor edits to the Calendar description were noted:

- Changing “described below” to “as described below” (first sentence under “Programs”)
- Changing “accept little or no financial compensation” to “receive little or no financial compensation” (last sentence of paragraph beginning with “Students wishing to obtain”)
- Removing the word “obtain” (second square bullet)
- Changing “adhere” to “adherence” (third square bullet)

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by R. Charlton, that Senate approve the addition of the BScAHN Nutrition or Dietetics with Food and Nutrition Practicum.

CARRIED

7.4.2. Biology

7.4.2.1. New Course Proposal

7.4.2.1.1. BIOL 4400: Field Biology

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the new course proposal BIOL 4400: Field Biology. CARRIED

7.4.3. Changes

7.4.3.1. Biology

7.4.3.1.1. New prerequisite for BIOL 3309: Physiology of Plants

7.4.3.1.2. New prerequisite for BIOL 3310: Physiology of Animals

K. Kienapple provided changes for information; there were no questions or comments raised.

7.5. Appointment, Promotion and Tenure or Permanence for Academic Administrators (E. Church)

7.5.1. Policy and Procedures for Emeritus Status

E. Church presented the revision to the policy for granting of Emeritus status and highlighted the reasons for the changes, the survey conducted of practices at other Canadian universities, and the process for seeking feedback from Departments on campus.

Discussions were held on the removal of the confidentiality criteria, how to mitigate the risk of overlooking a worthy candidate in a small department where a nomination may be based more on popularity than merit, who can nominate and who can be nominated, a suggestion that the Faculty Association be added as a possible nominator, the increased level of inclusiveness, openness and transparency in the policy for the Professors/ Librarian Emeritus/Emerita, and the role of CAPTPAA in the decision process. (N. Kayhani, E. Church, C. Matta, K. Ritchie, C. Slumkoski, J. Sharpe)

With three members of CAPTPAA present, it was agreed that the motion be voted on and that the policy be revisited in future.

T. Harrison asked that the language within the policy be more consistent to include librarians where only professors are mentioned; it was proposed and agreed that this be accepted as a friendly amendment.

Moved by E. Church, seconded by C. Slumkoski, that Senate approve the revised Policy and Procedures for Emeritus Status, effective immediately. CARRIED with one opposed and one abstention

7.6. Information Technology and Services

S. Orlov provided a report on behalf of SCOITS that outlined outcomes from the Committee's recent meeting including commendation to IT&S for their efforts to improve the level and performance of Wi-Fi campus wide and a discussion of academic offenses and violations of the computer usage policy. To raise the level of awareness of the content of the Computer Usage Agreement and that sharing login credentials is a violation of the criminal code of Canada, SCOITS recommends that CAPP consider the inclusion of a statement on course syllabi.

A question arose and clarification was provided about increasing one's storage space on the University "N:" drive by contacting the IT&S Help Desk to request additional space. The value in deleting files no longer required in order to make more room was noted. (N. Kayhani, S. Orlov, S. Seager)

8. Other Reports

8.1. Board of Governors

On behalf of T. Yue, the President provided an overview of Board outcomes from the Board meeting held last evening. Highlights included a tour to the Auditorium to view accessibility related renovations; a presentation by J. Keefe on the NS Centre on Aging; the Board Chair's Report; the approval of the 2019-2020 Operating and Capital budgets through the Finance Committee; the appointment of new Board members through the

Nominating Committee; constituency reports tabled by the alumnae, students and faculty; and discussions and updates within Confidential Business.

8.2. Students' Union

Interim Students' Union President, R. Charlton, and M. Mitchell shared responsibility for the Students' Union report briefly introducing the incoming Students' Union President, A. Shema, before highlighting the success of the March 29 Student Awards Night, a grad pub event, an exam de-stress event, and a last class bash event. They spoke to Feed NS deliveries that will continue through the summer, boxes that were provided to students in residence, a Student Advocacy Survey (results to be released next week), students currently participating on search committees, an initiative to revise the SU Health Care plan, and the training/transition of the new Students' Union Executive.

In conclusion, they spoke to the impact of the 3% tuition increase on students, positive changes to the distance fee, discussions taking place on the Co-Op fees, unpaid practicums and internships, and the Loan Forgiveness Program (which they believe does not bridge the gap). The students are hopeful of strong partnerships with the University in advocating for a higher level of funding.

9. New Business

D. Whalen provided an update on a concern raised at the last meeting about the heat in Seton during the summer months. Fabrication and installation of screens on the east and west sides of Seton will take place over the coming summer with the remaining to be installed on the north side during summer 2020. The south side currently has screens. Facilities Management will fabricate and install the screens, therefore substantially decreasing the cost.

While appreciation for this action was expressed, further concern was raised about whether other cooling plans are being considered as the unique infrastructure within Seton situates some offices over the boiler room. An energy engineer, currently shared between Saint Mary's and the Mount, will be asked to review this. (J. MacLeod, K. Ritchie)

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of the March 29, 2019, meeting
- The Freedom of Expression statement
- Revisions to the Policy and Procedures for External Reviews of Academic Programs
- Revised Master of Public Relations including several new GPRL courses
- Graduate Calendar entry regarding non-degree students
- Undergraduate curriculum changes in AHN and Biology
- The Policy and Procedures for Emeritus Status

Senate received for information:

- Report on External Review of Applied Human Nutrition
- External review schedule
- Undergraduate curriculum changes in Biology
- SCOITS report

Senate acknowledged the service of student Senators whose terms are ending.

11. Adjournment

Moved by J. MacLeod, seconded by M. Mitchell, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.