

## MINUTES

Present: M. Bluechardt (Chair), A. Benzaquén, K. Blotnicky, P. Cantelo, E. Church, P. Crouse, J. Fraser-Arsenault, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, N. Jamieson, K. Kienapple, P. Lovelace, J. MacLeod, M. MacMillan, M. McGonnell, S. Orlov, J. Sawler, C. Schneider, J. Sharpe, D. Shiner, B. Taylor

Regrets: P. Barry Mercer, P. Cormier-MacBurnie, A. Cuming, R. Farmer, T. Findlay, H. Hafez, M. J. Harkins, B. Jessop, G. MacDonald, S. MacIntosh, S. MacMillan, L. Marshall, C. Matta, D. Plumb, S. Seager, R. Zuk

Guest: M. Mitchell

*The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. Observers in attendance were asked to self-identify for the record; M. Mitchell, incoming Vice-President Student Advocacy, was identified as an observer.*

### 1. Indigenous Land Recognition

M. Bluechardt 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

A typo was identified and will be corrected to change "Freedom of Expressions" to "Freedom of Expression."

**Moved** by S. Orlov, seconded by K. Blotnicky, to approve the agenda as amended.  
CARRIED

### 3. Approval of Minutes of March 23, 2018

**Moved** by E. Church, seconded by J. Sharpe, to approve the meeting minutes of March 23, 2018, as circulated. CARRIED

### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

#### 4.1. Report from CAPP Subcommittee on Academic Appeals

P. Cantelo provided background on the 2015/16 review undertaken by the Academic Appeals Committee to examine its policies and practices and the subsequent summary developed by graduate student, A. Downey, highlighting both positive aspects and opportunities for improvement.

He noted that in the spring of 2017, CAPP struck a subcommittee to review the policies and practices relating to academic appeals and to address additional

concerns that had arisen. He reviewed the subcommittee membership and outlined four key factors/actions the subcommittee identified to pursue:

- The development of an academic integrity foundation, including an academic integrity policy to help ensure students understand the definition and concept of academic integrity.
- An educational component to increase all students' understanding of what constitutes academic misconduct (including plagiarism) at the earliest possible juncture in their time at the Mount.
- Clear alignment of all processes associated with academic appeals with the rules of natural justice.
- Clearly communicated processes.

It is expected that several subcommittee meetings over the summer will address work required on each of these key areas.

C. Schneider questioned the rate of overrepresentation of students with disabilities, international students, marginalized students, or students from minorities involved in academic appeals hearings and the possibility of an implicit bias. P. Cantelo confirmed an overrepresentation of these demographics and advised that subcommittee members have agreed that education is an important component of addressing this overrepresentation. The idea of inherent bias will be brought back to the subcommittee for discussion.

J. Sawler noted that more than 50% of courses in many programs are being taught by part-time faculty; this must be considered in the educational component. P. Cantelo agreed that it would be important to find the right vehicle to communicate expectations.

## **5. President's Announcements**

M. Bluehardt spoke to yesterday's electrical outage experienced in parts of campus, the use of an emergency protocol to manage the situation, the impact on campus constituents, and the work undertaken by IT&S to minimize the impact of the outage on computers. The work of all involved in the successful management of the incident was recognized. IT&S is working to assess damage; Senators were encouraged to contact the IT&S Help Desk and Facilities Management if they experience problems with computers or equipment.

She encouraged Senators to identify and nominate potential Honorary Doctorate candidates at any time and thanked the Chairs of Arts and Science programs for the opportunity to meet and engage with them.

She then updated Senators on a letter sent to the Premier, following the announcement of a \$120M investment in the Internet, to query how the Mount might extend/further enhance distance learning and access to education. As well she spoke to (and E. Church expanded upon) funding (\$133K) received from the Department of Labour and Advanced Education for a pilot to support enhancing the relationship with

the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre. She advised Senators of a new innovation table—"Social Equity Working Committee"—that she is co-chairing with Rev. Neil Bennett, AST, and its fit with the Mount; Senators were encouraged to engage with and participate on working groups that may be struck for various projects.

She congratulated all those who received an academic award at the recent celebration, thanked E. Church and her office for organizing the event, and commended faculty members for their commitment and passion in recognizing their students at the event. She also recognized J. Lumsden and her team for another successful Athletics and Recreation fundraising event and the Tourism Education Alliance of the Maritimes (TEAM) on its success hosting the recent dinner and fundraising event.

She concluded by encouraging Senators to attend the upcoming spring Convocation events (May 17 and 18).

## **6. Question Period**

M. MacMillan questioned when the set of significant academic dates for the next academic year would be available on the Mount's website. A brief discussion was held and clarification provided that, as of last week, the academic dates presented to Senate March 2017 are available on the Mount's website in the Event Calendar. It was further noted that finding those dates was difficult. P. Cantelo agreed to make available the dates beyond August 2018 for which the Registrar's Office is responsible. (P. Cantelo, A. Benzaquén)

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

### **7.1. Senate Executive**

#### **7.1.1. Robert's Rules of Order Regarding Conduct (for information)**

K. Blotnick provided an outline of research she conducted in response to a question at Senate Executive on how to address Senator misconduct inside and outside Senate meetings. This research included a scan conducted by the Secretary of Senate of practices at other institutions.

She drew Senators' attention to the memo dated April 18, 2018, summarizing her research of Robert's Rules on discipline in both scenarios and provided examples of each. She spoke to the different processes that could be used to address misconduct and how they would be handled. As well, she pointed out that policies, employment contracts, and collective agreements were in place and would supersede Robert's Rules.

She reiterated the difference in process for addressing incidents inside and outside a meeting, the votes required for expelling a Senator from a meeting versus removing a Senator from Senate, and the preference for resolving differences informally rather than conducting a formal investigation and trial.

J. MacLeod questioned situations where, in addition to the Chair, the assembly itself could discipline or censure a member for conduct. A brief discussion was held on situations where a Senator can make a motion that another Senator is out of order, the ability of Senators to bring incidents of misconduct to the attention of the Senate Chair to be referenced formally or informally at the next meeting, and practices related to codes of conduct at other institutions. While there is the procedure for a formal process within Robert's Rules, it does favour the use of an informal process. (K. Blotnicky)

## 7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

### 7.2.1. External Review Schedule

The External Review Schedule was provided for information; there were no questions.

### 7.2.2. Freedom of Expression

E. Church advised Senators of a subcommittee of CAPP struck to address the issue of freedom of expression (freedom of speech) that was raised at a recent Senate meeting. She outlined the committee membership and its consultation with Senate and the Human Resources & Governance Committee of the Board on a proposed process for feedback from diverse perspectives across campus. A draft Statement of Freedom of Expression will be considered by campus constituents; the final document would be approved by Senate and endorsed by the Board. It is anticipated that this exercise will increase the awareness of what freedom of expression and free debate are and how the debate can be conducted in a respectful manner.

P. Lovelace expressed her appreciation to the University for taking this action and providing the opportunity for students to participate in the debate and have their voices heard.

## 7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

### 7.3.1. Applied Human Nutrition

#### 7.3.1.1. New Course Proposals

##### 7.3.1.1.1. NUTR 2326 – Global Nutrition

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by J. Fraser-Arsenault, that Senate approve NUTR 2326 – Global Nutrition, outlined on pages 23-36, with the rationale on pages 25-26. CARRIED

7.3.1.1.2. NUTR 4326 – Food, Health and Social Policy

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by J. Fraser-Arsenault, that Senate approve NUTR 4326 – Food, Health and Social Policy, outlined on pages 37-47, with the rationale on pages 39-41. CARRIED

7.3.1.1.3. NUTR 4650 – Special Topics

7.3.1.1.4. NUTR 4651 – Special Topics

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by J. Fraser-Arsenault, that Senate approve the addition of NUTR 4650 and NUTR 4651 – Special Topics, on pages 48-55, with the rationales on pages 49 and 53. CARRIED

7.3.2. Chemistry/Physics

7.3.2.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.2.1.1. Correction to Chemistry Major Calendar Description

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by T. Harriott, that Senate approve the correction to the Chemistry Major Calendar description, outlined on pages 59-62, with the rationale on pages 60-61. CARRIED

7.3.3. Child and Youth Study

7.3.3.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.3.1.1. CHYS 3323 – Supporting Childhood Wellbeing

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the new course proposal for CHYS 3323 – Supporting Childhood Wellbeing, outlined on pages 63-72, with the rationale on pages 65-66. CARRIED

7.3.4. English

7.3.4.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.4.1.1. ENGL/WRIT 3377 – Old English: Translation Theory & Practice

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Lovelace, that Senate approve ENGL/WRIT cross-listed course 3377 – Old English: Translation Theory and Practice, outlined on pages 73-84, with the rationale on pages 76-77. CARRIED

7.3.4.1.2. ENGL 3378 – Old English: *Beowulf*, Then and Now

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Lovelace, that Senate approve ENGL 3378 – Old English: *Beowulf*, Then and Now, outlined on pages 85-92, with the rationale on pages 86-87. CARRIED

7.3.5. Political/Canadian Studies

7.3.5.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.5.1.1. Addition to Major, Combined Major and Concentration

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by N. Jamieson, that Senate approve the recommended addition to the Political/Canadian Studies Major, Combined Major and Concentration outlined on pages 93-98, with rationale on page 97. CARRIED

7.3.6. Changes to Existing Courses

7.3.6.1. Applied Human Nutrition

7.3.6.1.1. New Prerequisites for NUTR 3315, NUTR 4406, and NUTR 4490/4491

7.3.6.1.2. New Prerequisites and Description for NUTR 3326 – Ecological Perspectives of Food

7.3.6.2. Psychology

7.3.6.2.1. Change to Prerequisites for PSYC 1120, PSYC 2205, PSYC 2206, PSYC 2208, PSYC 2209, PSYC 2213, PSYC 2214, PSYC 2215, PSYC 2216, PSYC 2217/BIOL 2217, PSYC 2220/FSGN 2220, PSYC 2221, PSYC 2250/BIOL 2250, PSYC 2255, PSYC 2260/BIOL 2260, PSYC 2265, PSYC 2267, PSYC 3302, PSYC 3307, PSYC 3317, PSYC 3360

7.3.7. Revisions to UCC Guidelines for New Course Offerings

Changes to existing Applied Human Nutrition and Psychology courses and UCC guidelines were provided to Senate members for information purposes. There were no questions.

**8. Other Reports**

8.1. Board of Governors

On behalf of R. Farmer, M. Bluehardt provided an update (prepared by A. Thurlow) on outcomes from the April Board meeting, including educational presentations from P. Gouthro on Literary Fiction and Education and E. Church on the results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), an update on the Centre of Applied Research in Human Health, an update from the President on current initiatives, and a presentation of the budget for the upcoming year that

included a 3% tuition increase. The budget was passed following a discussion on the implications of increased tuition for students, access to education, student well-being, and challenges in the current budget environment.

## 8.2. Students' Union

N. Jamieson spoke of the impact of tuition and a low minimum wage on the increasing level of food insecurity among students and advised Senators of the dramatically increased use of the Student Wellness Pantry since the beginning of the year. In the coming year, student Senators will bring a box to each Senate meeting; Senators are encouraged to donate to the initiative by providing needed items in the box and to encourage other meetings on campus to do the same.

J. Sawler questioned whether cash donations would be preferred; given the relationship with Feed Nova Scotia, he wondered if they might achieve some economies of scale in purchasing that would provide a more efficient use of donated money. N. Jamieson responded that donations of either money or products are appreciated. A list of items urgently needed will be sent to the Secretary of Senate for circulation prior to a Senate meeting

In response to a suggestion from J. MacLeod for an update, N. Jamieson spoke to the recent Women in Politics conference event and outlined efforts of both students and Voice Nova Scotia that led to its overall success. She noted that the conference was attended by faculty, students, student activists, and members of all levels of the government.

P. Lovelace provided highlights from the National Graduate Students Conference she recently attended where issues, challenges and opportunities related to graduate student enrolment were discussed. She spoke to the challenges faced by graduate students and to the benefits that having a graduate student union would bring. She also raised the idea of health benefits for graduate students and discussed how the opportunity would be of benefit to this group.

She concluded by recognizing Students' Union volunteers for their work on the successful Women in Politics event. She provided an overview of feedback received from government officials who attended or participated in the event.

## 9. New Business

### 9.1. Nominations for Honorary Degrees – **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by K. Kienapple, to move in camera. CARRIED

Moved by E. Church, seconded by P. Lovelace, to move from in camera. CARRIED

The in camera session was used to consider dossiers of Honorary Degree nominations and to vote (by secret ballot) on the nominees; both nominations reviewed were approved. Senators were reminded that the names of the nominees and the outcome of the voting process are confidential.

## 10. Items for Communication

M. Bluehardt thanked Student Senators whose terms are completing: A. Cuming, Students' Union President; P. Lovelace, Graduate Student Representative; H. Hafez, Education Representative; S. MacIntosh, Professional Students Representative, and L. Marshall, Arts Representative. Incoming Students' Union President, N. Jamieson was thanked for her contribution to Senate during her term as VP Advocacy; she, and incoming VP Advocacy, M. Mitchell will return to Senate in May in their new roles.

Senate approved

- Minutes of the March 23, 2018, meeting
- Numerous undergraduate curriculum changes
- Two nominations for honorary degrees

Senate received for information

- An update from the CAPP subcommittee on academic appeals
- A report from Senate Executive regarding Robert's Rules of Order on conduct
- External Review Schedule for academic and academic support programs
- Several undergraduate curriculum changes

## 11. Adjournment

**Moved** by J. Sawler, seconded by J. MacLeod, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.