

MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), M. Atwater, S. Badali, P. Barry, C. Blayney, K. Blotnick, P. Cantelo, E. Church, P. Crouse, M. Eskritt, R. Farmer, M. Forrest, J. Fraser-Arsenault, R. Gechtman, A. Grant, R. Green, M. J. Harkins, T. Harrison, B. Jessop, N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, G. MacDonald, A. MacGillivray, S. MacIntosh, R. MacKay, S. MacMillan, J. Mills, R. Nearing, A. Pottie, K. Ritchie, D. Rodrigues, J. Sawler, L. Steele, B. Taylor, P. Watts, M. Whalen

Regrets: M. Smallridge

Guest: A. Yue

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. and new Senators R. MacKay and S. MacMillan were welcomed. Senators were encouraged to join the Chinese New Year celebrations in Vinnie's Pub following the meeting.

1. Approval of Agenda

Appointment, Promotion and Tenure or Permanence for Academic Administrators will be considered as the first committee report, Item 6.1; all other items will be renumbered accordingly.

Moved by B. Jessop, seconded by R. Nearing, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of November 25, 2016

The following corrections were proposed:

- The words "seconded by" were added to the motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting so that it correctly differentiates between the mover and seconder. (p. 1)
- "multi-access courses" was changed to "distance courses" (p. 5, para. 5)
- "confidential format" was changed to "closed format" (p. 9, para. 4)
- The words "and link to" were added to Bullet 3 on p. 11 so that it now reads "...faculty should search for *and link to* the resource"

Moved by E. Church, seconded by K. Blotnick, to approve the meeting minutes of November 25, 2016, as amended. CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. President's Announcements

R. Lumpkin spoke of, and encouraged senators to attend, the meeting with President Designate, Dr. Bluehardt, during her January 31 visit to campus. As well, she drew special attention to the impact and success of the "Walking with our Sisters" exhibit and "Gender Based Violence Prevention" conference and spoke of the visit from Scott Brison, MP, to tour the McCain Centre and meet with faculty who will be housed in the new research facility at #2 Melody Drive.

Faculty, staff and students were thanked for their work on the events noted above; G. MacDonald acknowledged Nancy's Chair, C. Martin, for the exceptional role she played in the preparation for, and assistance with, the "Walking with our Sisters" exhibit and the Gender Based Violence Prevention conference.

5. Question Period

K. Blotnicky expressed concern about recently having the location of two of her classes changed without notification; in one instance, rescheduling of the class was necessary. P. Cantelo explained a recent change to the process that, moving forward, will ensure that both the faculty member and dean are notified of room assignment changes.

6. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

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

6.1.1. Nominations for Professor Emeritus Status (CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS)

Moved by B. Jessop, seconded by M. Atwater, to move *in camera*. CARRIED
Moved by P. Watts, seconded by R. Green, to move from *in camera*.
CARRIED

Both candidates considered were approved for Professor Emeritus status.

6.2. Senate Executive

6.2.1. Change to Senate Rules of Order (for approval)

R. Lumpkin provided the background on the proposed change to the Senate Rules of Order that would allow an acknowledgement, before each Senate meeting, that the meeting is being held on traditional Mi'kmaq territory. She called for the following motion:

Moved by R. Farmer, seconded by A. Grant, that Senate approve the addition of a new Item 1 – Land Recognition, to the Rules of Order 15.3.1, to be effective at the next Senate meeting.

M. Whalen questioned the brevity of the proposed change. To allow for possible changes to language, R. Lumpkin cautioned against including the

specific wording in the By-laws. E. Church spoke to the wording used at Convocation and how it has changed several times in the past several years. A. Grant thanked Senate members for considering the proposed change; R. Lumpkin acknowledged A. Grant for her initiation of the change.

Approving the motion “in principle” was suggested, and senators proposed and discussed various additions and revision options. Inserting the word “Indigenous” to the motion was proposed and accepted as a friendly amendment. The motion was amended to:

Moved by R. Farmer, seconded by A. Grant, that Senate approve the addition of a new Item 1 – Indigenous Land Recognition, to the Rules of Order 15.3.1, to be effective at the next Senate meeting. CARRIED

R. Lumpkin noted that the Board of Governors will also be asked, through the Board Executive Committee, to begin Board meetings with the Indigenous Land Recognition statement.

6.3. Academic Policy and Planning

6.3.1. Progress Report on Implementation of Academic Plan (for information)

E. Church directed senators to the progress report; there were no questions.

6.3.2. Suspension to Admissions to BSc (Science Communication) (for approval)

E. Church outlined the policy and process in suspending a program and Senate’s role in that process.

Brief discussions were held on the recommendation and process to “un-suspend” a program within the two-year deadline, courses offered under this program and their impact on other programs, the possibility of finding ways to make the program work in two years, and the Mount’s responsibility to ensure that a BSc (Science Communication) program responds to societal needs.

T. Yue advised that the societal need for the program is clear, but the implementation, at this time, is not successful. He noted that the Department is committed to the notion of Science Communication and is currently looking at possibilities to make the program more sustainable for the Mount and the Department and more effective for students.

E. Church outlined discussions held at CAPP on the program and the value of suspending it to allow the Department to consider different options.

K. Kienapple informed senators of the various stakeholder groups that would be involved in re-conceptualizing the program.

Moved by E. Church, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the suspension of admissions, for a two-year period, to the BSc (Science Communication) program. Carried with two abstentions

6.3.3. Report on Recommendation 5 of Academic Plan (for information and discussion) – S. Badali

S. Badali provided the background on the “Summary Report from CAPP’s Subcommittee on Experiential Learning (Undergraduate) at the Mount, outlined the committee structure and composition, and explained the process used to develop the report. He spoke to the mandate of the committee to identify experiential learning opportunities, come up with definitions where appropriate, provide recommendations for expanding experiential learning where appropriate, and provide recommendations on how the Mount can showcase its strengths in experiential learning.

He guided senators through the report by identifying the various forms of experiential learning with examples and outlining campus-wide applied learning opportunities and ways to showcase the success and accomplishments of the Mount. He noted that the Province of N.S. has made its commitment clear in endorsing experiential learning. He briefly discussed the recommendations and opportunities for growth and expressed appreciation for departments, department chairs, and individuals who contributed to the report.

He noted that the campus-wide inventory of existing applied learning opportunities confirms that all programs do provide opportunities for students to take part in experiential learning if they desire. There currently is no singular place that Mount students can access and become aware of all of the experiential learning opportunities available to them; however, the Mount has hired an experiential learning program coordinator who will be responsible for identifying, cultivating and coordinating experiential learning opportunities.

Finally, he advised that whatever happens going forward, it is important to pay attention to resources and internal funding and the capacity to deliver on what we promise. The floor was opened to questions/discussion.

G. MacDonald noted that the report was thin in the area of research and spoke to an initiative by the Research Office on a research internship that will support experiential learning, for which they are anticipating funding in the near future. She discussed the difference between a research internship

and a research assistantship and outlined the efforts to ensure that experiential learned skills can be translated to a resume whether or not the student continues on in academia.

Suggestions from senators included changing “experiential learning” to “experiential education”; adding a range in length for Education practicums to allow for flexibility in community-based practicums; and providing one website that lists experiential learning opportunities and program contacts (e.g. faculty or coordinators) for outside organizations to easily find.

P. Barry spoke of an online “hub” for students that is in the process of being created and that the suggestion of the website would be a good fit.

S. Badali thanked senators for their feedback. An outline of ‘next steps’ was provided. S. Badali was thanked for his presentation.

6.4. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

6.4.1. Course Change in Communication Studies (for information)

6.4.1.1 New Course Name for GPRL 6201

K. Kienapple outlined the proposed change to GPRL 6201. There were no questions or comments.

6.5. Undergraduate Curriculum

6.5.1. Business and Tourism

6.5.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

6.5.1.1.1. BBA – Accounting Major requirements

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by A. MacGillivray, that Senate approve the changes to the requirements for the BBA – Accounting Major. CARRIED

6.5.1.1.2. BBA – Accounting Concentration requirements

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by A. MacGillivray, that Senate approve the changes to the requirements for the BBA – Accounting Concentration. CARRIED

6.5.1.1.3. BBA – Accounting Minor requirements

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by A. MacGillivray, that Senate approve the changes to the requirements for the BBA – Accounting Minor. CARRIED

6.5.1.1.4. BTHM – Certificate, Diploma & Degree programs, listing Tourism electives

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by C. Blayney, that Senate approve the Calendar change to list Tourism electives for the BTHM – Certificate, Diploma and Degree programs. CARRIED

6.5.2. Cultural Studies

6.5.2.1. Changes to Existing Program

6.5.2.1.1. CULS Major requirements

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by B. Taylor, that Senate approve the changes to the requirements for the CULS Major. CARRIED

6.5.2.1.2. CULS Combined Major requirements

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by C. Blayney, that Senate approve the changes to the requirements for the CULS Combined Major. CARRIED

6.5.2.1.3. CULS Concentration requirements

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by R. Green, that Senate approve the changes to the requirements for the CULS Concentration. CARRIED

6.5.2.1.4. CULS Minor requirements

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by R. Green, that Senate approve the changes to the requirements for the CULS Minor. CARRIED

6.5.3. Deletion of Courses Not Offered in the Last 10 Years or More: CMPS 2261, EDUC 5403, EDUC 5446, FREN 3372, HIST 3306, NUTR 4445, PBRL 4103, PHIL 3352, PHYS 2240, POLS 2207, POLS 3325, RELS 2204, UNIV 1101

M. Forrest questioned the rationale behind deleting feminist and/or gender based courses and whether others would be offered to replace them. R. Gechtman responded that the one-unit HIST course to be deleted is available as two half-unit courses.

Brief discussions were held on how students studying in Women Studies programs are fulfilling their course requirements and the process used by the UCC (and the Departments' role) in identifying and recommending for deletion courses not offered in the last 10 years or more.

M. Forrest questioned the deletion of the philosophy course; B. Taylor responded that there are no full-time faculty to teach the course.

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by M. Whalen, that Senate approve the deletion of courses not offered in the last 10 years or more: CMPS 2261, EDUC 5403, EDUC 5446, FREN 3372, HIST 3306, NUTR 4445, PBRL 4103, PHIL 3352, PHYS 2240, POLS 2207, POLS 3325, RELS 2204, UNIV 1101. CARRIED

6.6. Information Technology and Services—*J. Mills*

J. Mills provided an update from SCOITS, including items that arose at the last Senate meeting:

- Use of SharePoint with Office 365. Office 365 does support SharePoint 2010; IT&S is working to understand the requirements for the next version of SharePoint before it is rolled out in the 365 environment. Once this is accomplished, IT&S will make the higher version available to faculty and work with individuals to help them move to the new version.
- OneDrive data stored in Canada or U.S. For most Office 365 applications, the data is stored in Canada; however, some apps store data in the U.S. IT&S is developing a grid that will flag applications that store data in the U.S. Once completed, this grid will be posted on the IT&S website. Senators were encouraged to check with IT&S when deciding which applications to use.
- Access to files stored in OneDrive in the event of a strike. Access to OneDrive through an MSVU e-mail address could be denied in the event of a strike. To guarantee access to all files stored in OneDrive, faculty are encouraged to access it through a non-Mount e-mail address.
- Moodle. There has been a huge improvement in Moodle this semester, resulting in very few problems in course enrollment.

Clarification was provided that the Office 365 service includes the ability to install Office on up to five personal devices.

6.7. Nominations—*C. Blayney*

6.7.1. Vacancies on Senate-Elected Committees

Moved by C. Blayney, seconded by A. MacGillivray, that Senate elect the following faculty members to the respective committees for the indicated terms. CARRIED

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee	Dr. Alla Kushnyrik	27 Jan 2017	30 Jun 2019
Research & Publications Committee	Dr. Ned Kelleher	27 Jan 2017	30 Jun 2019

6.7.2. Election of Faculty Senator to Dean of Education Review Committee

C. Blayney updated senators on the move from a search committee to a review committee for the Dean of Education that resulted in two vacancies on the review committee. One nomination has been received for the senator vacancy.

R. Lumpkin made three calls for further nominations; none were received. Prof. J. Mills, was declared, by acclamation, the Senate representative on the Dean of Education Review Committee.

7. Other Reports

7.1. Students' Union

R. Nearing provided highlights from Students' Union on the upcoming general elections; MSVUSU Annual General Meeting; hiring of the new Pride Centre Coordinator; a tutor and note taker database service available through the Students' Union; the NSTU Work to Rule impact on practicum placements; a flag initiative to help make international students feel welcome; the attendance at the upcoming Converge 2017 conference in Ottawa; outreach events held during exams; the winter carnival and Chinese New Year celebrations. Appreciation was expressed for the donations made to the Students' Union Wellness Pantry.

M. Whalen asked if a policy exists regarding students' campaigning in class;

R. Nearing advised that campaigning in class is not permitted.

7.2. Mount 2017: Making a Difference

R. Lumpkin spoke to the work completed through the actions of the strategic plan; the final assessment is in the process of being completed. She noted work was undertaken over the past four years to develop and evolve focus on Aboriginal/Indigenous students' education and connections with their community. The external and internal Aboriginal Advisory committees have met and started building a picture of future plans; additional details will be provided at the next Senate meeting.

8. New Business

8.1. Enrollment Update and Student Retention (P. Barry)

P. Barry reported on items raised at a fall Senate meeting including an interest expressed by J. Sawler on the difference in demographic decline in the HRM region versus the rest of the province. P. Barry noted that, in the past 10 years, the Halifax Regional School Board reports 8% decline while the Province is reporting a 17% decline; the Mount draws 48% of its undergrad students from the HRM.

In response to K. Ritchie's interest in seeing numbers over a longer trending period, P. Barry used the Mount's and the Atlantic Association of Universities (AAU) enrollment data to compare trends (full-time/part-time, undergraduate and graduate, and winter) over the past 15 years. Overall the Mount's enrollment has remained relatively stable; a decrease in enrollment since 2012 was largely due to a decline in graduate students. For the winter term, enrollment is down 1.5% in student count and over 4% in unit count.

Brief discussions were held on how international students and Dal's merger with the NS Agricultural College impact Dal's enrollment numbers; the decline in graduate students; and other institutions' post-graduate certificate programs. She advised

that P. Cantelo will be consulting with the registrars at other universities to confirm that all institutions are reporting using the same parameters.

Retention numbers for Fall 2016 students (by academic level, admit status, and degree) were reviewed and discussed. Factors which may affect retention were noted: students who take a break after high school, mature students' tendencies, students who take classes at the Mount without intending to complete a degree here, and the perceived value of a degree based on the institution they are attending.

P. Barry then reviewed the Mount's low ranking in Maclean's report of the retention of full-time, first-year students enrolled in the fall of 2014. Her belief is that the Mount must focus more intentionally on retention.

J. Sawler cautioned about making judgements based on a limited amount of data as the numbers could be, among other things, a reflection on the type of students the Mount could be attracting through its positive social justice slant. P. Barry agreed and advised that the Mount is in the process of recreating an exit survey to have better data. She asked that faculty encourage their students to participate in the National Survey on Student Experience (NSSE) as it will also provide valuable data on our student population.

A question was raised and clarification provided on work being done by the Enrollment Management Steering Team (through the Retention Committee). The Retention Committee is working on retention and academic advising initiatives as per the recommendations that resulted from an external review completed by the Academica Group.

P. Barry spoke to several initiatives, including a First-Year Course, designed to help support student success. A. Grant suggested that students in their third and/or fourth year could assist students (within the same program) in their first or second year. P. Barry advised that one component of the First-Year Course (Windsor Project) is an online peer mentorship and noted that there is a high correlation between peer mentoring and student success. P. Barry will follow up with A. Grant with regard to recruitment of students to act as peer mentors.

P. Barry asked senators for feedback to bring back to the Retention Committee on identifying next phases. She outlined the current status of initiatives.

Brief discussions were held on the number of students who leave the Mount after their first year, students who transfer in from other institutions, the top three reasons that students leave the Mount (to attend another institution, work responsibilities and financial difficulty), the institutions students leave the Mount to

attend, the importance of the role of faculty members in identifying students who are struggling, and the role that the bursary program played in addressing the need of students facing financial difficulties.

P. Barry was thanked for her presentation.

J. Mills raised a concern about not receiving feedback when she refers a student to the “Right Start” program. Better communication between the program and the faculty members who refer the students would better enable faculty follow-up with students. B. Taylor will bring this concern back to the academic advisors.

9. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of November 25, 2016, meeting
- The awarding of the status of Professor Emeritus on Dr. Anthony Davis and Dr. Susan Drain
- Suspension of admissions to BSc (Science Communication)
- A change to the Senate Rules of Order (Senate agenda)
- Undergraduate curriculum changes

Senate elected:

- Two faculty members for Senate Standing Committee vacancies
- Jean Mills, faculty senator to Dean of Education Review Committee

Senate received for information:

- CAPP’s report on the Implementation of the Academic Plan
- CAPP’s report on Recommendation 5 of the Academic Plan (Experiential Learning)
- Graduate curriculum change in Communication Studies
- SCOITS report
- Enrollment & retention report

10. Adjournment

Moved by M. J. Harkins, seconded by R. Green, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.