

MINUTES

Present: M. Bluehardt (Chair), P. Barry Mercer, P. Cantelo, A. Card, E. Church, P. Cormier-MacBurnie, P. Crouse, R. Farmer, T. Findlay, D. Fisher, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, B. Jessop, K. Kienapple, S. King, S. MacIntosh, J. MacLeod, M. Mitchell, S. Orlov, S. Perrott, D. Plumb, K. Ritchie, S. Seager, D. Séguin, J. Sharpe, D. Shiner, B. Taylor, R. Zuk

Regrets: N. Jamieson, N. Kayhani, C. Matta, G. MacDonald, C. Slumkoski, J. Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. Observers A. McCalla, J. Metsala, and T. Yue, were acknowledged; later in the meeting, observer W. Brewer was acknowledged. S. King and C. Slumkoski (returning members) were identified as new Senators, and S. King was welcomed.

1. Indigenous Land Recognition

M. Bluehardt 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

Moved by S. Orlov, seconded by D. Fisher, to approve the agenda as circulated. CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes of November 23, 2018

A question was raised regarding the target number of students that Recruitment hopes to achieve over the next year or two to replace Saudi students. A brief discussion was held; the tape will be reviewed for clarification.

Moved by P. Barry Mercer, seconded by P. Cantelo, to approve the meeting minutes of November 23, 2018, as circulated. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Follow-Up Questions re November Enrollment Report

Senators were directed to the AAU Enrollment Report recirculated, as per the request at the last Senate meeting. No questions were raised.

4.2. Early Career Research Award

D. Fisher outlined changes made to the award to reflect discussions at the last Senate meeting, including committee members' recusing themselves from the nomination process (rather than stepping down from the committee) and assigning the larger weight to research conducted at the Mount, when considering research contributions.

Moved by D. Fisher, seconded by E. Church, that Senate approve the Early Career Research Award, to be effective once approved by Senate, and further that the Call for Nominations of the first award be announced in February 2019 to permit the first award to be awarded at Spring Convocation 2019. CARRIED

5. President's Announcements

The President welcomed Senators back after the holiday season and acknowledged the work of the Mount's negotiating teams in reaching a settlement with members of the Faculty Association; the Board has since ratified the collective agreement.

She spoke to the impending departure from the Mount of B. Jessop, Vice-President Administration, and thanked him on behalf of Senate for his contributions to the Mount and to Senate.

She provided an update on the various Administrative searches currently underway, encouraged Senators to participate in the survey currently being circulated by the search consultant, expressed gratitude to P. Barry Mercer and those who helped facilitate a "World Café" to explore students' experiences, and thanked those who attended the 2nd Annual Winter Feast.

She provided highlights of her recent trip to Ottawa where she was involved in a National Summit on physical activity and sport that focused on the importance and value of physical activity as 'medicine' in the healing and prevention of illness (including mental illness) in Indigenous communities.

She concluded by speaking to concerns that have been raised around travelling or teaching within China. She called on P. Barry Mercer who spoke of efforts undertaken to ensure safe travel within China. The situation is being monitored, and discussion is ongoing with faculty to determine their comfort level travelling in China.

6. Question Period

A question was raised on student representation on the Search Committee for the Vice-President Administration; this committee is not yet populated but will include a student representative. (M. Mitchell, M. Bluehardt)

Concerns raised at the last Faculty Association meeting related to the Sexual Assault Policy were shared, and a question was raised about the opportunity within the process to address the concerns and possibly revise the policy.

Brief discussions were held on:

- How reporting of sexual assault relates to adherence to the Faculty Collective Agreement
- The approval timeline for the Policy

- The definition of a “complainant” as a survivor of sexual assault and its inability to encompass a person who has made a malicious complaint and those falsely accused
- A suggestion to revise the language to encompass those who make a malicious complaint and those falsely accused
- The support of survivors and the assumption of truth
- The opportunity that due process provides for weeding out false accusations

Prior to the Sexual Assault Policy Committee meeting next week, P. Barry Mercer will meet with J. MacLeod to address faculty concerns.

(T. Findlay, P. Barry Mercer, S. Seager, J. MacLeod)

A question was raised regarding Research Nova Scotia’s mandate and its implication on faculty research. M. Bluehardt will meet with K. Ritchie regarding the topic.

A concern was raised about the inaccuracy of computer clocks versus the wall clocks within the classrooms in Seton; it was requested that the clocks be synchronized.

(D. Shiner, M. Bluehardt)

The timing of the student engagement activity on January 16th was questioned and discussed. It was noted that the timing of the event was deliberately scheduled to coincide with lunch time and that additional opportunities for students to provide feedback in the future are planned. (S. MacIntosh, P. Barry Mercer, M. Bluehardt)

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Change to Bylaw 12.1.1 (Notice of Motion)

T. Harriott provided Senators with notice of a motion to approve a change to Senate Bylaw 12.1.1 that will come to Senate’s next meeting for discussion and approval. The suggested changes would mean that future nominations of Honorary Degree Candidates would no longer have the nominator’s name redacted before being reviewed by the Tributes Committee and Senate.

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

7.2.1. Rescinding Policies: Alternate Admissions, Authorized External Credit, Challenge for Credit and Prior Learning Assessment

Moved by E. Church, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate rescind the policies on Alternate Admissions, Authorized External Credit, Challenge for Credit, and Prior Learning Assessment, effective immediately. CARRIED

7.2.2. Academic Calendar Dates 2019-2020

Academic Calendar dates for the 2019-2020 academic year, prepared by the Registrar’s Office in accordance with the Senate-approved guidelines for

setting Calendar dates, and reviewed and approved by CAPP, were presented for information. Questions were raised and brief discussions held on:

- Academic calendar dates (including Reading Week) that now correspond (for the next five years) with other universities in the city
- The timing of Reading Week in conjunction with exam scheduling
- The number of days allotted to exams in April versus December despite the same number of courses and students. The impact on students was stressed and a suggestion made to review policies associated with the issue.
- The principle passed by Senate that governs the amount of time required following the end of a term and the end of exams was noted; E. Church will bring the principle to CAPP for review.
(E. Church, R. Farmer, P. Cantelo, S. Seager)

7.2.3. Report on External Review of Family Studies and Gerontology

E. Church directed Senators to the report, provided for information. A question was raised regarding wording within the report; it was noted that the statement made within the report was the result of a misunderstanding on the part of the reviewers and has since been clarified.

7.2.4. Freedom of Expression Statement

E. Church provided background information on the Draft Freedom of Expression Statement and the research undertaken internally and externally on the piece. She outlined the process to date and next steps by the Committee including a review of feedback received, revision of the Statement, recirculation to the Campus community, review and approval by Senate and endorsement by the Board of Governors. She noted that in addition to the statement, the Committee is interested in encouraging discussion on how to support and help freedom of expression flourish on Campus.

Senators were invited to provide input; questions and comments were raised about the following:

- The lack of Faculty Association representation on the Committee.
- Concerns of power imbalances that can accompany an exchange of free speech.
- The necessity of resources being available to assist marginalized groups in responding to problematic speech.
- The history of free speech and its original purpose of giving power to marginalized voices.
- The role of, and need for, free speech and freedom of expression within universities.

- The possible impact of freedom of expression activities on the university as a community that is a place of education, employment, and residence.
- The meaning of “not impede the day-to-day activities of the campus” and who is responsible for ascertaining whether or not this is occurring.
- The need to ensure that all—not just the louder—voices are heard.
- The opinion that the current document appropriately strikes a balance that recognizes the historic and continuing disadvantage of certain marginalized groups and the importance of free expression.
(R. Zuk, T. Findlay, S. Perrott, T. Yue, J. MacLeod, E. Church)

Senators were thanked for their feedback. A comprehensive outline of the extensive feedback and variety of viewpoints received from Senators will be provided to the ad hoc Freedom of Expression Committee for consideration at its meeting next week.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Cultural Studies

7.3.1.1. New Course Proposals

7.3.1.1.1. CULS 2203—History of Rock and Roll

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by K. Ritchie, that Senate approve the new course CULS 2203 – History of Rock and Roll. CARRIED

7.3.1.1.2. CULS 3306—Rap, Resistance and Religion

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the new course CULS 3306 Rap, Resistance, and Religion. CARRIED

7.3.1.2. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.1.2.1. Changes in Requirements for Major, Combined Major, Concentration and Minor

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve changes to the requirements for the Cultural Studies Major, Combined Major, Concentration and Minor. CARRIED

7.3.2. English

7.3.2.1. New Course Proposals (*for approval*)

7.3.2.1.1. ENGL 2207—Queer Literature and Culture

A concern was raised and a brief discussion held on recruiting new students versus current students into

another program and/or concentration. (R. Zuk, S. Seager, T. Harriott, B. Taylor)

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the new course ENGL 2207—Queer Literature and Culture. CARRIED

7.3.2.1.2. ENGL/WRIT 3221—Creative Nonfiction Writing

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the new course ENGL/WRIT 3221—Creative Nonfiction Writing. CARRIED

7.3.3. Biology

7.3.3.1. Changes to Existing Program (*for approval*)

7.3.3.1.1. Revised Introductory Material for Calendar Entry

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the revised introductory Calendar entry for Biology. CARRIED

7.3.3.1.2. Changes to Admissions Requirements for Honours Degree

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the changes to Admissions Requirements for the Biology Honours Degree. CARRIED

7.3.4. Business and Tourism

7.3.4.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.4.1.1. THMT 4407—Destination Planning and Development

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the new course THMT 4407—Destination Planning and Development. CARRIED

7.3.4.2. Course Deletions

7.3.4.2.1. THMT 4405—Destination Planning

7.3.4.2.2. THMT 4406—Destination Development

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by E. Henderson that Senate approve the deletion of THMT 4405—Destination Planning and THMT 4406—Destination Development. CARRIED

- 7.3.4.3. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.4.3.1. Changes to List of Electives, Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Cormier-MacBurnie, that Senate approve the changes to the list of electives for the Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management.

- 7.3.5. Mathematics and Computer Science
 - 7.3.5.1. New Course Proposal
 - 7.3.5.1.1. MATH 0017—Statistics Preparation

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by T. Harriott, that Senate approve the new course MATH 0017—Statistics Preparation. CARRIED

- 7.3.6. Psychology
 - 7.3.6.1. New Course Proposal
 - 7.3.6.1.1. PSYC 4417—Developmental Neuroscience

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the new course PSYC 4417—Developmental Neuroscience. CARRIED
 - 7.3.6.1.2. PSYC 4432—Advanced Seminar in Biological Psychology

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by D. Séguin, that Senate approve the new course PSYC 4432—Advanced Seminar in Biological Psychology. CARRIED
 - 7.3.6.2. Course Deletion
 - 7.3.6.2.1. PSYC 4430—Current Issues in Psychology

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate approve the deletion of PSYC 4430—Current Issues in Psychology. CARRIED
 - 7.3.6.3. Changes to Existing Program
 - 7.3.6.3.1. Addition of New Courses PSYC 4417 & PSYC 4432 to Bachelor of Arts - Psychology, Bachelor of Science - Psychology, Combined Major, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - Psychology and Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Psychology

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by D. Séguin, that Senate approve the addition of new courses PSYC 4417 & PSYC 4432 to Bachelor of Arts - Psychology, Bachelor

of Science - Psychology, Combined Major, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - Psychology and Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Psychology. CARRIED

7.3.6.3.2. Addition of Interdisciplinary Minor in Neuroscience to Selection of Science Minors

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the new Interdisciplinary Minor in Neuroscience to the selection of Science Minors. CARRIED

7.3.7. Changes *(for information)*

7.3.7.1. Biology & Psychology

7.3.7.1.1. New Course Name, Prerequisites and Description for BIOL/PSYC 2260

Changes related to a new course name, prerequisites and description for BIOL/PSYC 2260 were submitted for information.

7.3.7.2. Business and Tourism

7.3.7.2.1. New Prerequisites and Description for BUSI 2231

Changes related to new prerequisites and description for BUSI 2231 were submitted for information.

7.4. Information Technology and Services

S. Orlov provided a brief update on the committee’s recent meeting. Appreciation was expressed for the significant improvement in wireless connections and the smooth installation of new images in computer labs in the fall.

7.5. Nominations

7.5.1. Nominations for Senate-Elected Committees

Moved by S. Perrott, seconded by D. Fisher, that Senate accept the nominations from the Senate Nominations Committee outlined to fill vacancies on Senate committees. CARRIED

Committee	Name	Term Begins	Term Ends
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee	Dr. Valda Leighteizer	Upon election	June 30, 2021
Senate Library Committee	Dr. Tianyuan Yu	Upon election	June 30, 2021

7.5.2. Election of Senator for Strategic Plan Working Group

S. Perrott provided an update on faculty elections to date and encouraged faculty members to participate in the election process. He spoke to the striking of the Strategic Plan Working Group and provided an update on nominations received to date for the three Faculties (one from each). As well, he noted that the nomination process to elect a faculty Senator to the Strategic Plan Working Group was completed without a nomination received for the position. He then made his first call for nominations from the floor.

D. Fisher nominated D. Shiner; D. Shiner stated his willingness to accept the nomination.

Two additional calls for nominations from the floor were undertaken; no further nominations were received. D. Shiner was acclaimed and elected to the committee as Senate's representative.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Board of Governors

R. Farmer provided an overview of Board meeting outcomes including a presentation on the AAU enrollment statistics, an annual report from the Pension Governance Board, an update from the President on her Government relation initiatives, the final report on the Centre for Applied Research in Human Health, and reports received from Board constituencies.

8.2. Students' Union

M. Mitchell advised Senators of the resignations of N. Jamieson as President of the Students' Union and a recently elected Education representative. An election will be undertaken within a month for an interim President; the 2019-2020 general elections are slated for the near future.

She provided an update on recent Students' Union initiatives and outlined a number of recent and upcoming events. She highlighted an Alexa McDonough Institute event and encouraged Senators who wished to contribute to the funding for the event to contact her directly. She noted efforts to increase the number of deliveries from Feed Nova Scotia (currently once every two weeks) and advised that the recent delivery to the Wellness Pantry was depleted within hours. Proceeds from a yard sale scheduled for January 31 will be donated to the Wellness Pantry.

She highlighted student participation in the Canadian Federation of Nova Scotia Students AGM, participation in gathering feedback on the Freedom of Expression Statement, and an upcoming meeting with Senior Administrators.

9. New Business

9.1. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Moved by B. Jessop, seconded by J. MacLeod, to move *in camera*. CARRIED

Moved by D. Fisher, seconded by P. Cantelo, to move from *in camera*. CARRIED

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of the November 23, 2018, meeting
- The Early Career Research Award
- Rescindment of policies: Alternate Admissions, Authorized External Credit, Challenge for Credit and Prior Learning Assessment
- Numerous undergraduate curriculum changes

Senate elected:

- Faculty members to fill vacancies on Senate-elected committees
- Dr. Don Shiner to serve as Senate's representative on the Strategic Plan Working Group

Senate received for information and discussion:

- The draft Freedom of Expression Statement

Senate received for information:

- Notice of Motion re changes to Bylaw 12.1.1
- Academic Calendar dates for 2019-2020
- Report on external review of Family Studies and Gerontology
- Undergraduate curriculum changes in Biology, Psychology and Business & Tourism

11. Adjournment

Moved by S. Orlov, seconded by P. Barry Mercer, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.