

MINUTES

Present: M. Bluechardt (Chair), P. Barry Mercer, A. Benzaquén, P. Cantelo, E. Church, P. Cormier-MacBurnie, P. Crouse, A. Cuming, R. Farmer, T. Findlay, J. Fraser-Arsenault, H. Hafez, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, N. Jamieson, B. Jessop, K. Kienapple, P. Lovelace, G. MacDonald, J. MacLeod, M. MacMillan, S. MacMillan, L. Marshall, M. McGonnell, J. Sawler, C. Schneider, S. Seager, J. Sharpe, D. Shiner, B. Taylor, R. Zuk

Guests: G. Batten, K. Gallant

Regrets: K. Blotnicky, M. J. Harkins, S. MacIntosh, C. Matta, S. Orlov, D. Plumb

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m; new senators C. Schneider (faculty member), P. Lovelace, H. Hafez, and L. Marshall (student representatives) were welcomed to their first meeting. Appreciation was expressed to M. MacMillan who, in K. Blotnicky's absence, will act as parliamentarian for the meeting.

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**

Moved by G. MacDonald, seconded by R. Zuk, to approve the agenda as circulated.
CARRIED

3. **Approval of Minutes of November 24, 2017**

Moved by T. Harrison, seconded by D. Shiner, to approve the meeting minutes of November 24, 2017, as circulated. CARRIED with one abstention

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

4.1. Revisions to Senate Bylaws 10.2.1 and 14.1

R. Zuk outlined revisions to Senate Bylaws 10.2.1 and 14.1 to address the change in job title of the Vice-President Academic and Provost.

C. Schneider questioned the justification and approval process for the title change; an explanation was provided.

Moved by R. Zuk, seconded by P. Barry Mercer, that Senate approve the changes to Senate Bylaws 10.2.1 and 14.1 to reflect the change in title from Vice-President (Academic) to Vice-President Academic and Provost, effective immediately. CARRIED with two abstentions

4.2. Revisions to Terms of Reference, Bylaw 14.8

G. MacDonald outlined proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Committee on Research and Publications.

A discussion ensued with a number of senators requesting clarification and commenting on the change in membership to eight members, what constitutes a quorum, various ways the membership section of the Terms of Reference could be interpreted, whether the librarian position is (or should be) elected or ex-officio, and the various expertise needs of the committee. A friendly amendment was made and agreed upon that “at least” be added to the language referring to the one professional librarian. (R. Farmer, S. Seager, T. Harrison, P. Crouse, C. Schneider, R. Zuk, P. Cantelo)

Moved by G. MacDonald, seconded by E. Church, that Senate approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Research and Publications, to be effective once approved by Senate. CARRIED

5. President’s Announcements

M. Bluehardt expressed her sincere appreciation to senators for their notes and well-wishes during the recuperation period following her surgery in December.

She spoke to the Chamber of Commerce Awards event that she attended in the new Halifax Conference Centre, encouraged senators to attend the Mount’s (and Nova Scotia’s) first mid-winter feast on February 1, invited senators to join her at the second town hall meeting, and spoke to her ongoing initiative to meet with all Department Chairs and learn about their programs. She encouraged senators to contact her office about events that they wish her or another member of senior administration to attend.

S. Seager noted that the town hall is once again scheduled in a timeslot that makes it impossible for her to attend; she stressed the importance of ensuring that the sessions are scheduled in different teaching timeslots that would allow more faculty to attend.

6. Question Period

N. Jamieson raised a concern, on behalf of students, about speaker Lindsay Shepherd, controversial free speech advocate, who was invited to Campus to participate in a Q&A session. N. Jamieson questioned the lack of advertising and notice given to students prior to the speaker’s invitation to Campus and why there were no resources in place to support students during the event.

A brief discussion followed. S. Seager, who attended the event, defended Lindsay Shepherd’s appearance on Campus and stressed that at no time did Ms. Shepherd propagate hate or indicate any sort of prejudice. To support the students, P. Barry Mercer also attended the event and followed up with students afterwards.

Other comments referenced the treatment of Ms. Shepherd while she was at the Mount, the need for inclusiveness and encouragement of different views on both sides

of issues within a safe environment, whether Senate has or should have a role in approving controversial speakers/events, who decides what is contentious, and what is and is not free speech. (S. Seager, N. Jamieson, P. Barry Mercer, E. Church)

T. Findlay suggested that this experience be used as a learning opportunity for planning future events and that procedures may need to be in place when controversial speakers are on campus. P. Barry Mercer concurred and indicated that, with more notice, more could be done.

M. Bluechardt thanked senators for their input and acknowledged the need for further conversations as a Campus, and with Senate's involvement, on how the Mount can successfully manage these types of events in the future.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Guests at Senate

M. Bluechardt provided background on the request received by Public Affairs from the *Halifax Examiner's* Office for permission to attend Senate meetings and to post Senate meeting dates/locations on their website.

She spoke of Senate Executive's review of the Senate Bylaws (6.3) surrounding open meetings and directed senators to the bylaws, projected at the meeting. She outlined research conducted by the Secretary of Senate on practices used at 20 other Canadian universities in managing open meetings, including number, seating and identification of guests, inability to use audio/visual equipment or take photos, and non-speaking rights of off-campus guests. She then asked for feedback from Senators on the request received.

A discussion ensued where senators expressed their personal views and varied levels of comfort in having off-campus guests present at Senate meetings. P. Cantelo noted that while he would be very supportive of other ways of being open and transparent, the work Senate conducts is critical to the academic administration of the University. He stressed concern about the impact having media present might have on the ability of senators to participate in discussions in the manner in which they need. Other feedback included a belief that it is better to have media in the room than to interview afterward and that such a practice supports the idea of transparency, the possibility of being misquoted or being taken out of context, the ability/inability to control whether or not media record or take photos once in the room, the view that the Bylaws currently restrict who can attend meetings, the preference to keep the Bylaws as is, the posting of meeting dates and minutes on the Mount's website, and the need for policy and parameters and a cautious approach. (C. Schneider, S. Seager, R. Farmer, J. MacLeod, M. MacMillan, A. Benzaquén, A. Cuming)

The President thanked senators for their feedback which will be considered by Senate Executive.

7.2. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.2.1. English

7.2.1.1. New Course Proposals

7.2.1.1.1. ENGL/WRIT/PHIL 2225 – Tricksters, Liars, and Sophists: the History of Rhetoric
Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the new course proposal ENGL/WRIT/PHIL 2225 – Tricksters, Liars and Sophists: The History of Rhetoric as presented. CARRIED

7.2.1.1.2. ENGL/WRIT 2223 – History of Writing, Reading, and the Book
Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by R. Zuk, that Senate approve the new course proposal ENGL/WRIT 2223 – History of Writing, Reading, and the Book as presented. CARRIED

7.2.2. Mathematics and Computer Science

7.2.2.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.2.1.1. Changes in Requirements of Minor in Mathematics
Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by T. Harriott, that Senate approve the changes in requirements of the Minor in Mathematics. CARRIED

7.2.3. Psychology

7.2.3.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.2.3.1.1. Removal of Psychology Core Program

7.2.3.1.2. Changes in Requirements of Bachelor of Arts - Psychology

7.2.3.1.3. Changes in Requirements of Bachelor of Science – Psychology

7.2.3.1.4. Changes in Requirements of Combined Major

7.2.3.1.5. Changes in Requirements of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – Psychology

7.2.3.1.6. Changes in Requirements of Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Psychology

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the removal of the Psychology Core Program, and the changes in requirements of Bachelor of Arts - Psychology, Bachelor of Science – Psychology, Combined Major, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – Psychology, and Bachelor of Science

(Honours) – Psychology as proposed by the Department of Psychology. CARRIED

7.2.4. Women’s Studies, Political/Canadian Studies & Philosophy

7.2.4.1. New Course Proposal

7.2.4.1.1. PHIL 3400/POLS 3400/WOMS 3400: Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by N. Jamieson, that Senate approve the addition of the new course PHIL 3400/POLS 3400/WOMS 3400: Sex Work and Sex Trafficking as proposed by the Departments of Women Studies, Political/Canadian Studies & Philosophy. CARRIED with one abstention

7.3. Nominations

7.3.1. Nomination for Senate-Elected Committee

C. Schneider referred to the nomination received from the Senate Nominations Committee.

Committee	Name	Term Begins	Term Ends
Research and Publications	Dr. Krista Ritchie	Upon election	June 30, 2020

Moved by C. Schneider, seconded by G. MacDonald, that Senate elect K. Ritchie to the Committee on Research and Publications. CARRIED

7.4. Research and Publications

7.4.1. Faculty Release Time Awards Policy

G. MacDonald brought forward the policy for approval and the following motion was made:

Moved by G. MacDonald, seconded by P. Barry Mercer, that Senate approve the changes to the Faculty Release Time Awards Policy as proposed by the Committee on Research and Publications and that the proposed changes be effective immediately. (*Voting on this motion was not completed.*)

A discussion was held in which senators voiced concerns, comments and questions about changes to the policy including questioning the meaning of the statement that faculty release awards may not be used to offset university administrative requirements for faculty; restricting eligibility to principal investigators when it can be that the younger, less experienced, co-applicant is taking on the bulk of the research/work on the grant proposal; penalizing faculty members for taking on Department Chair responsibilities by disqualifying them for the time release awards; and the need for awarding the time release awards to be more flexible and based

on the merit of the application rather than other factors. (R. Farmer, T. Findlay, A. Benzaquén, B. Taylor, S. Seager, J. Sawler)

G. MacDonald explained that, in part, the policy was revisited due to the large number of applications applied for from TriCouncil and other agencies (26 applications in 9 months); the intent was to modify the criteria to narrow the field of potential applicants. With 10 course releases, and co-applicants not considered university-specific (co-applicant on a Mount research grant could be from another university), granting an internal award on a grant that is not considered the property of the Mount could be a liability. For this reason, the principal investigator role is emphasized. She does, however, encourage the submission of applications and co-applications which often present research opportunities for junior scholars.

As well, she spoke of the increase in internal grant applications at most other universities that has led to decreasing the award amounts, the impact of the change in government on funding of research, the change in the number and types of competitions being offered by the Tri-Council, and expenditures currently covered under the research time stipends. External grant revenue leads to an accumulation under the Research Support Fund that assists all faculty and funds workshops and research staff positions. Further, residuals from Tri-Council grants increase internal grant monies.

Following discussions and consultation with M. MacMillan, meeting parliamentarian, the following motion was made:

Moved by A. Benzaquén, seconded by J. MacLeod, that the policy be taken back to the committee for further consideration. CARRIED

8. Other Reports

8.1. Students' Union

Students' Union President, A. Cuming, reported on student initiatives including a fee levied on Education students, new University poster rules that disproportionately impact students with regard to posting space, food insecurity impact on student academics and a plan to help students throughout their university experience, the need to address the disparity between student run food services and contract food services, and a partnership on some women's right to vote. He finished by expressing students' disappointment in not having received advance notice to plan and properly inform the student body about the event which controversial speaker Lindsay Shepherd attended on Campus.

9. New Business

No new business was raised.

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of the November 24, 2017, meeting
- Revisions to Senate Bylaw 10.2.1 and the Terms of Reference of Senate Executive and the Committee on Research and Publications
- Undergraduate curriculum changes

Senate elected

- A faculty member to serve on the Committee on Research and Publications

11. Adjournment

Moved by P. Barry Mercer, seconded by J. MacLeod, that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.