

MINUTES

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

Regrets: M. Atwater, A. Grant, M. J. Harkins, N. Kayhani, S. MacIntosh, R. MacKay, A. Pottie, J. Sawler, M. Smallridge

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m.; later in the meeting, new senator, J. Sharpe, was welcomed.

1. Indigenous Land Recognition
R. Lumpkin 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 K. Blotnicky, seconded by R. Nearing, to approve the agenda as circulated. CARRIED
3. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2017
Moved by E. Church, seconded by B. Jessop, to approve the meeting minutes of March 3, 2017, as circulated. CARRIED
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 4.1. Academic Appeals Committee: Change to Terms of Reference
A notice of motion for a revision to the terms of reference for the Academic Appeals Committee was received from N. Kayhani at the last Senate meeting.

Moved by E. Church, seconded by P. Cantelo that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Academic Appeals Committee, effective immediately. CARRIED
 - 4.2. Consequences of Late Payment of Tuition Fees
R. Lumpkin asked that, given the lengthy discussion at the last meeting, today's discussion follow Robert's Rules of Order that stipulate each person may speak to

the motion only twice and that precedence be given to senators speaking to the motion for the first time.

The motion with proposed changes (outlined in the memo within the meeting materials and made in consultation with R. Gechtman, the originator of the motion) was displayed. E. Church, on behalf of Senate Executive, proposed that the displayed changes be accepted as a friendly amendment; R. Gechtman agreed.

As originator, R. Gechtman was invited to speak to the motion; he declined stating there had been adequate discussion at the last meeting.

B. Jessop clarified that, though their tuition fees are in arrears, students are not denied access to the University network when they are waiting for a student loan, have made a payment and/or established a payment plan, have contacted Financial Services and provided a reasonable explanation, and/or if there are notes on their file regarding accommodation needs. As well, students are provided an electronic payment option where they can send a screen shot of their payment to Financial Services and their student account will be credited, though payment may not have yet been received.

He spoke to the six notices sent to students over a six-week period with scaled urgency based on the tuition payment date. Students are reminded of payment deadlines and urged to contact Financial Services to establish a payment plan/schedule or determine whether they can receive a student bursary or loan.

He advised that bus passes are not withheld from students until they are in a "late payment situation." As well, he provided clarification on the number of students whose access had been removed in the fall. Of the 61 originally identified, 20 students had paid their deposit fee but changed their minds about attending and were not at the Mount. Of the remaining 41 students, 36% were reinstated within one week, 68% within two weeks and 80% within three weeks. A survey of practices at other universities revealed that over 50% of universities do remove technology access; however, unlike the Mount, some also deregister students.

He outlined communication initiatives suggested at the last Senate meeting including adding a piece to the Students' Union handbook to encourage students to work with Financial Services on a payment plan, working with deans and chairs to notify faculty with regard to payment/access deadlines, building a financial aspect into orientation activities, and preparing three online modules on financial literacy.

R. Nearing acknowledged that there are plenty of processes in place to help ensure students are accessing the resources; he questioned whether the motion was an effective way to address the withdrawal of technology access. He

suggested that students need to accept the responsibility for advance planning on how they will finance their education. He suggested that faculty, administration and students have the joint responsibility of making sure students are accessing available resources and all should work together.

R. Gechtman highlighted the concern within his motion on the use of methods that hinder the academic performance of students.

Comments/discussions from senators included the question on whether the new suggestions should be implemented and monitored over the upcoming year before bringing the issue to the Board and whether removing access to the Mount's network is equitable given that those in classes where technology is required are unfairly disadvantaged when compared to students in traditional classes.

R. Green noted that the policies in place are intended to be supportive; she suggested a friendly amendment ("punitive policies" be changed to "current policies") to the motion; R. Gechtman accepted the friendly amendment.

M. Forrest suggested including information within the mandatory first-year online orientation course on financial resources and support available. E. Church said that the committee would consider this.

The following motion was put to vote:

Moved by R. Gechtman, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that in light of the cases of students in financial distress who are unable to pay their tuition on time and are further penalized by being cut off from services, which adversely affects their academic performance, the Senate of Mount Saint Vincent University recommends that the Board of Governors review current policies. We recommend putting in place a system to help students before they are in financial trouble and ask that polices that hinder their ability to succeed in their studies (such as cutting their access to Moodle and the university network) be reviewed. DEFEATED (9 in favor/15 opposed)

Senators were thanked for their productive debate; R. Lumpkin acknowledged the positive strategies and suggestions that resulted from the discussions.

R. Gechtman was thanked for bringing the issue forward.

5. President's Announcements

R. Lumpkin provided an update on a quarterly Partnership meeting (university presidents, deputy ministers, and staff from the Department of Labour and Advanced Education) where a report was received on the work of the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee. She reminded senators that, as part of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Province, universities will need to establish sexual assault policies and prevention of sexual assault strategies and a province-wide

committee will be set up to look at sexual violence prevention. The Report from the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee reported on its focus on prevention including bystander training, a proposal within the recommendations of the committee that a code of conduct be developed for campuses, and anti-oppression training. She outlined the membership of the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee and noted that the proposal will be taken to ANSUT and CUPE for discussion.

She also updated senators on the proposal at the provincial level to combine Nova Scotia Health and Research Foundation (NSHRF), Nova Scotia Research Infrastructure Trust (NSRIT), and Offshore Energy Research Association (OERA) to one entity called Research Nova Scotia, likely a Crown Corporation, that will manage both the matching funds for Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grants and new funds brought forward from the province to support research. It is envisioned that categories eligible for funding under NS Research will include research related to social innovation; news on this initiative is expected in the new budget.

She advised that efforts to reestablish NSRIT/CFI matching of funds were successful; all approved CFI projects will be matched for this year. As well, she noted that the final \$100K of the Innovation Fund has been awarded, one-half to a study and stay program with EduNova, and the other half to two projects in Technology Enabled Learning to support collaborative course development and research.

Finally, she spoke to the possibility of a provincial election, outlined possible party platforms and encouraged senators to advocate for adequate support for education. G. MacDonald thanked R. Lumpkin for her role in working to secure funding, and in particular, research funding for the Mount.

6. Question Period

There were no questions or comments.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Nomination for Senate Award for Service in University Governance

Moved by P. Watts, seconded by B. Taylor, to move *in camera*. CARRIED

Moved by G. MacDonald, seconded by R. Green, to move from *in camera*. CARRIED

While ballots were being collected and tallied, regular agenda items were considered.

Moved by K. Blotnicky, seconded by B. Jessop, to move *in camera*. CARRIED

The positive result of the vote by secret ballot was reported.

Moved by B. Jessop, seconded by K. Blotnicky, to move from *in camera*.
CARRIED

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

7.2.1. External Review Schedule (for information)

E. Church directed senators to the schedule of external reviews; there were no questions or comments.

7.2.2. Fall Reading Week

An oral report on feedback solicited from students, academic departments and Student Experience was provided. Although some concerns were raised by students about the amount of work facing students between the time they return from the break and when exams begin, overall, feedback was positive and the general consensus was that the practice of a fall break should continue. It was suggested that the week be renamed “study week” from “reading week” to ensure students understand the intended purpose of the break.

Scheduling the study break earlier in the term and suggesting faculty review their timeline for assignments were briefly discussed.

7.3. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

7.3.1. Change in Women and Gender Studies Application Deadline

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by M. Forrest, that Senate approve the change in the application deadline to Women and Gender Studies.
CARRIED

7.3.2. Change to Admission Requirements for Graduate Studies in Applied Human Nutrition

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by J. Fraser-Arsenault, that Senate approve the change to admission requirements for the Graduate Studies programs in Applied Human Nutrition. CARRIED

7.3.3. Calendar Entry Revision for Senate Medals of Distinction

K. Kienapple outlined the proposed Calendar revision for Senate Medals of Distinction to include PhD students. There were no questions or comments.

7.4. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.4.1. Business and Tourism

7.4.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.4.1.1.1. Program requirements for Minor in Strategic Human Resource Management

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate approve the changes to the program requirements to the Minor in Strategic Human

Resource Management as proposed by the Department of Business and Tourism. CARRIED

7.4.1.1.2. Calendar description for BBA

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by M. Whalen, that Senate approve the calendar description change for BBA proposed by the Department of Business and Tourism. CARRIED

7.4.2. Child and Youth Study

7.4.2.1. Calendar Change to practicum description

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by E. Church, that Senate approve the calendar change for the practicum description proposed by the Department of Child and Youth Study. CARRIED

7.4.3. Course Changes

7.4.3.1. Business and Tourism

7.4.3.1.1. Deletion of prerequisites for BUSI 2012

7.4.3.1.2. New prerequisites for BUSI 4434

7.4.3.2. Political/Canadian Studies

7.4.3.2.1. Change to course name, prerequisites and description: POLS 3306/BUSI 3306

S. Badali presented for information course changes for the courses listed above; there were no questions or comments.

7.5. Information Technology and Services

On behalf of SCOITS, J. Mills reported on a new and secure wireless system being rolled out to the campus community. Through Eduroam, this system will provide faculty, staff and students internet access while at other universities. Problems experienced using the system should be reported to IT&S.

Other updates included an increase in phishing attempts that has necessitated the development of a cyber-security awareness course for the University community that will be rolled out in the near future, the establishment of an ad hoc committee to investigate the feasibility of creating a makerspace on campus (to make 3D printers available for users), notice that there would be no major changes to labs over the coming year, and a request that submissions for software requirements be submitted early.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Students' Union

R. Nearing reported on four areas of operations including:

- Governance: Approval of Students' Union 2017-2018 budget, a renewed constitution, an envisioning session to project the upcoming year, and transitioning plans for incoming Executive Committee members.

- Advocacy: Work undertaken with Administration to ensure student voices are heard in the development of the University budget (including a town hall session and question period, a presentation, and consistent communication between the SU Executive team highlighting areas of concern).
- Services: Students' Union staff positions update.
- Student Life: Update on resolved concerns brought forward about Halifax Pride, celebration of R. Lumpkin in her Opening Farewell, and the A. Garnet Brown Students' Awards night where over 50 members of the Mount community were recognized for contributions towards student life,

R. Lumpkin congratulated R. Nearing for having been awarded the Patricia Butler Prize and P. Watts for having received the Women's Recognition Award. P. Watts expressed her gratitude at having received the award.

8.2. Mount 2017: Making a Difference

R. Lumpkin spoke to work underway to wrap up the current strategic plan including identifying gaps to be brought to the attention of the incoming president. This will provide a good opportunity for the incoming president to begin the process of developing a new strategic plan; senators were encouraged to be engaged in the strategic planning process.

9. New Business

G. MacDonald announced the repurposing of a fund that will fund up to six student research internships over the summer; senators were asked to encourage promising candidates to apply. G. MacDonald was thanked for her work on the initiative.

R. Lumpkin reminded senators of the event scheduled for next week to thank current Nancy's Chair, C. Martin, for her service; all were encouraged to attend the event.

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of the March 3, 2017, meeting
- A change to the Terms of Reference for the Academic Appeals Committee
- The nomination of Dr. Michelle Eskritt as the 2017 recipient of the Senate Award for Service in University Governance
- Graduate and undergraduate curriculum changes

Senate received for information:

- External Review schedule
- Graduate and undergraduate curriculum changes
- SCOITS report

11. Adjournment

Moved by B. Taylor, seconded by R. Green, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.