

MINUTES

Present: M. Bluechardt (Chair), P. Barry Mercer, A. Benzaquén, K. Blotnicky, K. Brooking, P. Cantelo, E. Church, P. Cormier-MacBurnie, P. Crouse, A. Cuming, T. Findlay, M. Forrest, J. Fraser-Arsenault, M. J. Harkins, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, N. Jamieson, B. Jessop, K. Kienapple, G. MacDonald, S. MacIntosh, J. MacLeod, M. MacMillan, S. MacMillan, M. McGonnell, S. Orlov, D. Plumb, J. Sawler, S. Seager, J. Sharpe, D. Shiner, B. Taylor, R. Zuk

Regrets: C. Broughton, R. Farmer, C. Matta

Guests: R. Bérard, K. Gallant, T. MacAdam, K. Steele

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m., and D. Plumb was welcomed to his first Senate meeting. The President expressed appreciation for the work of Senator M. Forrest, whose term on Senate was ending.

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
“Nomination for Senate-Elected Committee” was added to the agenda as item 7.6.2.

Moved by R. Zuk, seconded by S. Orlov, to approve the agenda as amended. CARRIED
3. Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2017
Moved by K. Blotnicky, seconded by P. Barry Mercer, to approve the meeting minutes of October 27, 2017, as amended. CARRIED with one abstention
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 4.1. Revisions to Terms of Reference, SE, Senate Bylaw 14.9
Proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Student Experience Committee (SE), outlined in the memo dated October 5, 2017, were summarized.

Moved by P. Barry Mercer, seconded by T. Harrison, that Senate approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Student Experience Committee (SE), Senate Bylaw 14.9, effective immediately. CARRIED with two abstentions

5. President's Announcements

M. Bluehardt advised Senators about a recent "walk about campus" that resulted in safety recommendations related to improving lighting and clearing bushes along Seton Road. Appreciation was expressed to B. MacNeil, Facilities Management; A. Cuming, Students' Union; and P. Barry Mercer, Vice-President, Student Experience (and their respective teams) for their participation and input in the initiative.

Other updates were provided on outcomes of the recent town hall meeting and a recent meeting of the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee including a planned campus-wide dialogue on this important issue. A second town hall is scheduled for February 2018; Senators were invited to send topic suggestions to Public Affairs. Clarification on how town hall dates are set and communicated was provided.

Senators were encouraged to attend upcoming holiday events and reminded about their invitation to the Board/Senate reception in the Art Gallery on December 1.

Finally, the President announced that, to date, the University has reached 65% of its Metro United Way target. Senators were thanked for their generosity.

6. Question Period

R. Zuk questioned whether the fall reading week has resulted in a compressed exam schedule and raised concern about how it might affect students with childcare, who work part time and/or who use a transit system at night. A discussion was held that also included concern for the impact on third- and fourth-year students who may have a number of intense exams on the same day. Given that faculty do not have access to the exam schedule until late in the semester, faculty departments, as a whole, may not be able to review the exam schedule collectively, making it difficult to ensure that conflicts are avoided and that students are not taxed with intense exams within a compressed time period. It was also suggested that the scheduling of take home exams be reviewed. (S. Seager, N. Jamieson)

P. Cantelo advised that, with the exception of the addition of the fall reading week, the practice of scheduling exams, driven by CAPP guidelines, is unchanged from past years. He outlined challenges associated with scheduling exams within an eight-day period; using the class schedule as a template for exams does not work—evenings and weekends are required in order to ensure all exams are scheduled. As Registrar, he is open to having a dialogue with the VP Academic and Provost and the Deans regarding the matter and suggested a discussion be held at CAPP. He welcomes student-focused suggestions that do not offer unfair advantage to any particular department. He noted that the process for take home exams is currently being reviewed to ensure consistency.

T. Findlay raised a concern about a form (signed by both student and parent) that allows the University to grant parent(s) access to student information; she questioned what the process would be to allow faculty input to revisions to the document. Later, R. Zuk suggested that the form be removed from use.

P. Cantelo outlined the use of the Student Information Release Form by students to grant third parties access to student information of an enrolment or financial nature. He believes that the form does require review, and he speculated on the process of consultation. He is open to suggestions on how to receive feedback from faculty on revisions to the form.

N. Jamieson questioned the communication surrounding student invitations to town hall meetings; it was clarified that the sessions are generally for faculty and staff. While an invitation is not generally extended to the full student body, Students' Union Council/Executive is invited. An apology was offered to the Students' Union Council/Executive on the tardiness of the invitation to the most recent town hall meeting.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Revisions to Senate Bylaws 10.2.1 and 14.1 (Notice of Motion)

K. Blotnicky notified Senators of a motion that will come forward to the next Senate meeting to approve revisions to Senate Bylaws 10.2.1 and 14.1 to reflect the change in title of *Vice-President (Academic)* to *Vice-President Academic and Provost* as outlined in the memo dated November 17, 2017.

M. Bluehardt provided background on title change and advised that there are no changes to the role and responsibilities of the position.

7.1.2. Amendment to Senate Rules of Order 15.4

K. Blotnicky highlighted the proposed changes to the Senate Rules of Order outlined in the memo dated November 17, 2017, that would see a change in the title of *Vice-President Academic* to *Vice-President Academic and Provost* to reflect current practice at other Canadian universities.

Questions arose, and clarification was provided on the number of instances it was necessary for someone other than the President to chair Senate and whether the title change of the Vice-President Academic and Provost is worded correctly.

Moved by K. Blotnicky, *seconded* by D. Shiner, that Senate approve the amendment to the Rules of Order 15.4, effective immediately. Carried with one abstention

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

7.2.1. Report on External Review of English (for information)

E. Church brought forward the report on the external review of the English Department, for information. There were no questions.

- 7.2.2. Report on External Review of DLCE (for information)
E. Church brought forward the report on the external review of DLCE, for information; there were no questions.

7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

7.3.1. Cultural Studies

7.3.1.1. New Course Proposal

- 7.3.1.1.1. CULS 2205—Art in Halifax Now
- 7.3.1.1.2. CULS 2207—Drama in Cultural Context

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by A. Benzaquén, that Senate approve the new course proposals for CULS 2205—Art in Halifax Now and CULS 2207—Drama in Cultural Context, as circulated. CARRIED

S. Seager noted that the descriptions of the two courses are extremely different from the courses proposed for deletion and questioned why there was an exclusion. A. Benzaquén clarified that the actual courses had changed; however, until now, the course descriptions were not changed.

7.3.1.2. Deletion of Courses

- 7.3.1.2.1. CULS 1105—Art in Halifax Now
- 7.3.1.2.2. CULS 2206—Drama

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by N. Jamieson, that Senate approve the deletion of courses CULS 1105—Art in Halifax Now and CULS 2206—Drama. CARRIED

7.3.1.3. Changes to Existing Program

- 7.3.1.3.1. Program requirements changes to Cultural Studies Major, Combined Major, Concentration and Minor

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by K. Blotnick, that Senate approve the changes to the calendar entries for the Cultural Studies Major, Combined Major, Concentration and Minor, as circulated. CARRIED with one abstention

7.3.2. Psychology

7.3.2.1. Articulation Agreement with NSCC

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the 2+2 Articulation Agreement between NSCC Social Services Diploma Program and MSVU Psychology Program, as circulated. CARRIED with one abstention

7.3.3. Sociology/Anthropology

7.3.3.1. Deletion of Course

7.3.3.1.1. SOAN 3573—Men and Masculinities

S. Seager questioned whether the course was moving from one department to another. K. Kienapple explained that Sociology/Anthropology is being removed from the cross listing (with WOMS) as the course will no longer be offered through SOAN; responsibility for the course will now be with Women's Studies.

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by A. Benzaquén, that Senate approve the deletion of course SOAN 3573—Men and Masculinities. Carried with one abstention

7.3.3.2. Articulation Agreement with NSCC

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the 2+2 Articulation Agreement between NSCC Social Services Diploma Program and MSVU Sociology/Anthropology Program, as circulated. CARRIED with one abstention

7.3.4. Courses Changes

7.3.4.1. Women's Studies/Sociology/Anthropology

7.3.4.1.1. Removal of cross-listing of SOAN 3573/WOMS 3573

7.3.4.2. Psychology

7.3.4.2.1. New course name and description for PSYC 2214

7.3.4.2.2. New prerequisites for PSYC 3370

K. Kienapple brought forward the above items for information. A question arose, and clarification was provided on the technicalities and process involved in deleting and removing cross-listing courses.

7.4. Information Technology and Services

S. Orlov provided an oral report from the Committee on Information Technology and Services that included concerns about wireless connectivity in certain areas of campus, the need for improved communication to encourage WiFi users to report problems to the IT&S Help Desk, computer security training material that will be available to the Mount community once the testing phase is complete, the Makerspace initiative that is seeking committee members, the current review of IT&S policies, and the recognized success of the secured wireless system on campus.

A. Cuming questioned the process used to relay technology-related updates back to students. S. Orlov suggested that he and A. Cuming meet following the Senate meeting to further discuss the issue; S. Orlov will bring the concern to the next SCOITS meeting.

7.5. Library

T. Harrison directed Senators to the Senate Library Committee Report and, prompted by a question raised by M. Forrest, provided a brief update on the Library inventory report that was submitted to the Board's Campus Planning Committee.

T. Findlay questioned access to e-books through inter-library loan. T. Harrison explained that though inter-library access to e-Books is not available due to terms of licenses and copyright restrictions, faculty can request a chapter of the book (or whatever copyright law permits) and that the Mount does provide access to e-books owned by the Mount. Faculty members are also encouraged to access e-books at other universities by visiting their campuses.

7.6. Nominations

7.6.1. Election of Faculty Representative to Dean of Education Search Committee

P. Crouse outlined a memo received on November 23 from the Chair of the Nominations Committee and updated Senators on the process used to date in the call for nominations. She explained that the process has not yet yielded nominations and that the Chair of Senate will call for nominations from the floor; should multiple nominations be received, a vote by ballot will be undertaken. The Chair of the Nominations Committee was present to answer questions that might arise.

A question arose, and clarification was provided on the role of the Chair of Senate and the process for the calling for nominations from the floor.

M. Bluehardt called for nominations from the floor three consecutive times. J. Sharpe self-nominated; no other nominations were received, and J. Sharpe was elected by acclamation as the Senate representative to the Dean of Education Search Committee.

7.6.2. Nomination for Senate-Elected Committee

P. Crouse advised of a vacancy on CRP and highlighted the memo circulated at the meeting nominating Dr. S. Findlay for the position.

| Committee | Name | Term Begins | Term Ends |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Research and Publications | Dr. Sandi Findlay | Upon election | June 30, 2020 |

Moved by K. Blotnick, seconded by G. MacDonald, that Senate approve the appointment of S. Findlay to the Committee on Research and Publications as a Professional Studies representative. CARRIED with one abstention

7.7. Research and Publications

7.7.1. Revisions to Terms of Reference, Bylaw 14.8

G. MacDonald notified Senators of a motion that will come forward to the next Senate meeting to approve revisions to Senate Bylaw 14.8 as outlined in the memo dated November 1, 2017.

7.8. Teaching and Learning

D. Plumb gave a brief presentation on the background and shifting role/mandate in the transition from “Distance Learning” to “Online Learning”. He outlined work undertaken to address the rapid development of digital technologies over the past five years and the shift in the number of on-campus students taking distance courses.

He outlined and briefly discussed the four related and interconnected functions of the Teaching and Learning Centre including supporting faculty teaching development; providing and supporting the Mount Online Learning platform; supporting the planning and development of online activities/resources, courses, and programs; and participating broadly in the envisioning, planning, and development of teaching and learning at our University. As well, he outlined the activities related to the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) and Online Learning (OL) and invited Senators to get involved with teaching and learning events, to visit the Centre’s website, and to contact the Teaching and Learning Centre for support, general online learning inquiries, and faculty development information.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Board of Governors

On behalf of faculty Board members, M. Bluehardt presented a brief update on the Board meeting outcomes including a presentation by Patrick Small Legs-Nagge on his role and work he has been involved in since his arrival in September, an enrolment update by P. Barry Mercer, and an update on the development of the Research Centre at #2 Melody Drive.

8.2. Students’ Union

A. Cuming provided an update on Students’ Union activities including creating exam kits to help support students during exams, working to ensure accommodation policies do not affect students’ academics; looking at Truth and Reconciliation Committee calls to action; and considering outcomes from the Canadian Federation of Students Conference on how better to lobby the government and administration on tuition fee increases.

9. New Business

9.1. Enrollment Report

P. Barry Mercer, Associate Vice-President, Student Experience, outlined the presentation plan and provided a brief update on fall (and full year) comparisons with 2016. Enrolment is currently about 1% away from budget projections; however, January enrolment is anticipated to be fairly strong.

Senators were then directed to the AAU Enrolment Snapshot at October 1st that provides the opportunity to compare the Mount's enrolment with its sister institutions.

Trends over the past five years were reviewed and discussed, including full/part-time (graduate and undergraduate) enrolment, number of students coming directly from high school, transfer students (full/part time) and full-time visa students. Efforts to reduce the University's reliance on NS students were highlighted.

A five-year comparison of international student enrolment (2012-2017) was outlined and discussed. Sources of international students (2011 and 2016) were compared, and the increased level of diversity in countries students are recruited from was highlighted. The impact of the embargo on students from Saudi Arabia and changes to the Saudi scholarship program were noted. As well, the increase in the number of self-identified Aboriginal students and students of African descent was briefly discussed. J. Sawler questioned the reporting and comparison dates on charts and suggested 10-year comparison data be used.

K. Gallant, Associate Vice-President, Communications, Marketing and Recruitment, expanded on the Mount's efforts to decrease the Mount's reliance on NS students and provided an update on increases in applications (domestic and international). She highlighted challenges of specific countries with regard to student visas, and she recognized the efforts of the Registrar's Office in guiding students through the application process. Outreach activities related to domestic student recruitment were outlined and explained; regional recruiters' responsibilities were highlighted.

K. Steele, Manager, Student Recruitment, outlined international student recruitment initiatives underway in China and Southeast Asia. He updated Senators on new/developing markets in Southeast Asia, Africa and India. As well, he outlined efforts to strengthen the Mount's relationship with Bermuda, Bahamas, United States, and Latin America.

On-campus recruitment initiatives undertaken to draw and support prospective students were outlined, and faculty were thanked for their part in the success of the recent Open Campus Day. He finished by speaking to upcoming events including a grade 10 and 11 open house to be held in 2018 and a "how to" university website that is in the works.

10. Items for Communication

Before outlining the items for communication, P. Crouse advised Senators of a call for nominations to fill a vacancy on the Senate Nominations Committee and of the distribution of ballots for the election of a faculty member on the Search Committee for the Dean of Education.

Senate approved:

- Minutes of the October 27, 2017, meeting
- Revisions to the Terms of Reference for Student Experience
- Amendment to the Senate Rules of Order 15.4
- Undergraduate curriculum changes in CULS and SOAN
- Two articulation agreements:
 - Between MSVU's Psychology and NSCC's Social Services Diploma programs
 - Between MSVU's Sociology/Anthropology and NSCC's Social Services Diploma programs

Senate elected:

- J. Sharpe as the Senate representative on the Dean of Education Search Committee
- A faculty member to serve on the Committee on Research and Publications

Senate received for information:

- CAPP's report on two external reviews: English and DLCE
- Undergraduate curriculum changes in Women's Studies/Sociology/Anthropology and Psychology
- Notice of Motion re changes to Senate Bylaw 10.2.1 and the Terms of Reference of Senate Executive and the Committee on Research and Publications
- Committee reports from SCOITS, SCOTL and SLC
- Enrollment report

Senate thanked M. Forrest for her service on Senate.

11. Adjournment

Moved by B. Jessop, seconded by A. Benzaquén, that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.