

## MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), M. Atwater, 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, A. Humble, B. Jessop, N. Kayhani, K. Kienapple, G. MacDonald, A. MacGillivray, R. Nearing, A. Pottie, K. Ritchie, D. Rodrigues, J. Sawler, M. Smallridge, L. Steele, B. Taylor, P. Watts, M. Whalen

Regrets: S. Badali, S. MacIntosh, J. Mills, I. Pottie

Guests: M. Bessey, S. Brigham, K. Gallant, K. Musgrave, R. Walkden, P. Whyte, P. Williams

1. Approval of Agenda  
"Student Day of Action" was added to the agenda.

As well, it was agreed that Agenda item 8.1 Nominations for Honorary Degrees be considered following Agenda item 5. Question Period.

**Moved** by R. Nearing, seconded by R. Farmer, to approve the agenda as presented.  
CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of September 30, 2016  
**Moved** by K. Kienapple, seconded by P. Barry, to approve the meeting minutes of September 30, 2016, as circulated. CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 3.1. SCOITS Revised Annual Report (for Information)  
R. Lumpkin outlined the slight revisions to the SCOITS Annual Report; there were no questions.

4. President's Announcements

### Parking on Campus

In follow-up to the question regarding adequate parking on campus raised at the last Senate meeting, B. Jessop reported on the ratio of parking permit sales to the availability of parking spots. Currently parking permit sales is 122% of parking spots (22% more permits sold than actual parking spots); this was compared with previous years and it was noted that the ratio is in line with, or less than, that of the previous four years.

Efforts to monitor parking (based on available parking at the Steam Plant), ticketing activities (University and Halifax Police), the impact of the new McCain Centre, and the higher concentration of parking on campus on specific days were briefly discussed.

J. Fraser-Arsenault raised a question on how often the reserved parking spaces are reevaluated. B. Jessop responded that reserved parking spots are reviewed annually and reduced by one or two each year on a turnover basis. He briefly discussed the research that considered a comparison of the cost of parking permits on university campuses, pricing based on location on campus, the use of student bus passes, and the role of supply and demand.

R. Farmer questioned the breakdown on permits purchased by faculty, staff and students; B. Jessop does have the breakdown and will make it available to R. Farmer.

#### Smoking in non-designated areas

B. Jessop updated Senators on the increase in security patrols of the areas affected and at times when there is a higher number of complaints; feedback has been positive on the efforts and results. He encouraged Senators to contact him directly and personally at any time regarding these types of issues.

#### General

Congratulations were extended to M. J. Harkins, K. Ritchie, K. Musgrave, K. Cantello, and C. Schneider and all who worked to ensure the success of the President's Lecture event on Universal Design for Learning; the event drew a capacity crowd.

R. Lumpkin updated Senators on meetings held in Ottawa with the Minister of the Status of Women, the Chair of the Women's Caucus, and the Leader of the Opposition. All three meetings, held with Universities Canada staff, emphasized Universities Canada's focus on increasing opportunities for women in leadership roles in Canadian universities. She outlined the stagnation and current imbalance of gender equality in these roles and the task force's mandate to discern what needs to be done to increase the number of opportunities.

R. Lumpkin's recent attendance at Universities Canada's annual fall meeting included visits from the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology and the Minister of Science who spoke on current initiatives around innovation and science, a training session on the part that unconscious bias plays on hiring, and changes that Universities Canada is making to bylaws criteria and membership criteria to ensure that there is no discrimination against faculty, staff or students on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Finally, R. Lumpkin, updated Senators on the Provincial Government's plan to move to accredit the five BEd programs in the province; programs must correspond with the new

teaching standards put forward by the province which will be expected to be put into place by September 2018.

5. Question Period

M. Forrest requested an update on the investigation of tighter security for the inventory of the Mount's library. R. Lumpkin advised that, as per discussions at the September Senate meeting, reports will be provided to Senate when there are developments to consider.

*(The meeting now moved to Agenda item "8.1 Nominations for Honorary Degrees")*

6. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

6.1. Senate Executive

6.1.1 Announcement of Senate Master Graduation List Approval

R. Lumpkin announced that at the October Senate Executive Committee meeting, 433 students were approved for graduation with 35 students on the enabling list. She outlined recent changes in which Senate designated the approval of the list to Senate Executive.

6.2. Academic Appeals

N. Kayhani advised that the committee has not met since September as there were no appeal cases during this time. She asked that the names of student representatives on the committee be forwarded to her; two regular representatives and two alternate representatives are required.

She questioned the status of a report that the Academic Appeals Committee sent to CAPP two years ago with recommendations to clarify the policies and procedures in the University Calendar.

E. Church advised that, in the past year, the Academic Appeals Committee reviewed the procedures. The topic was discussed at CAPP, and it is expected that recommendations will be coming to CAPP from Academic Appeals.

6.3. Nominations

6.3.1 Election of Faculty Senator to Dean of Education Search Committee

C. Blayney outlined the two Calls for Nominations that were undertaken and noted that two nominations were received after the deadline.

**Moved** by C. Blayney, seconded by A. MacGillivray, that Senate accept the post deadline nominations and consider them for this meeting. CARRIED

Names M. Forrest and D. Rodrigues were put forward as nominations for the Senator Representative on the Search Committee for the Dean of Education.

R. Lumpkin made three (3) calls for further nominations; none were received. Voting was conducted via secret ballot. Once the ballots were tallied, D. Rodrigues was announced as the successful nominee; she will represent Senate on the Committee.

6.3.2 Senate-Elected Committee Vacancies

**Moved** by C. Blayney, seconded by M. Forrest, that on behalf of the Senate Nominations Committee the Senate elect the following faculty members to the designated Senate-Elected committees. CARRIED

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Graduate Scholarships, Admissions, and Awards	Dr. Ron MacKay	Upon election	30 June 2019
Graduate Scholarships, Admissions, and Awards	Prof. Christine McLean	Upon election	30 June 2019
Research & Publications	Ms. Lindsey MacCallum	Upon election	30 June 2019
Information Tech. & Services	Ms. Denyse Rodrigues	Upon election	30 June 2019

7. Other Reports

7.1. Students' Union

R. Nearing provided an overview of Student Union initiatives including Student Council elections and orientation, new positions including a Pride Centre Coordinator for the new service (Pride Centre) and five new equity positions, a recent partnership with the Canadian Federation of Students and local municipal government to increase youth voter turnout in the recent municipal elections, and the mature student representative who will be leading the MSVU SU's presence at the Canadian Federations of Students National Day of Action. He advised that while feedback on the fall reading week has been positive, the Students' Union will be reviewing the timing of programs (stress releasing programming) to ensure that program delivery is in line with the new fall schedule.

He further informed senators of the Students' Union's partnerships with Career Services on an "It All Adds Up" campaign, and with Counselling Services and Peer Support workers on the annual "I'm Feeling" campaign. He gave an overview of recent government relations initiatives including participation at the second

Student Government Roundtable this academic year and referenced future meetings planned with local government officials.

Senators were invited and encouraged to partake in a “spooktacular evening” at the Students’ Union’s annual “Haunted House”; proceeds will be donated to Shelter Nova Scotia. Student Life Representative, H. Myatt, was recognized for her outstanding work on the activity.

Finally, R. Nearing updated Senate members on his and H. Myatt’s participation in the “Game Changer Awards” by Halifax Partnership where they learned of the work external businesses are doing to hire co-op and other experiential learners and to retain recent graduates in the province. Senators and members of the Mount community who make it a priority to connect students with those opportunities were thanked.

R. Lumpkin thanked R. Nearing for his report.

## 7.2. Mount 2017: Making a Difference

### 7.2.1. Social Responsibility Statement

R. Lumpkin provided a brief background on the Strategic Plan action item to develop a social responsibility statement for the Mount that articulates the University’s commitment to activity in the realm of social responsibility. Current Social Responsibility Working Group members, G. MacDonald, P. Williams, S. Brigham, K. Musgrave, R. Walkden, M. Bessey, E. Murray, I. Redgate, and P. Whyte were recognized and past committee members highlighted. She outlined the process in which the statement will be reviewed and discussed by both Senate and the Board of Governors.

P. White was introduced; he led the Senate members through the process of the development of the Asset Map of Social Responsibility including an outline of consultations held with stakeholders and the graphic harvest initiative where questions were posed and feedback sought from the campus community. Feedback harvested was ultimately used in the drafting of the Social Responsibility Statement. He spoke of the assumptions and themes involved in the planning of the map, the various layers of the Map and the accessibility features associated with the Asset Map including its search ability, text-based features, and narrated video, providing an overview and demo on the use of the tool.

Following P. Whyte’s presentation, the proposed Social Responsibility Statement was presented for review and discussion.

R. Farmer raised a question and a discussion was held on the wording “different ways of knowing”; various ways of “knowing” mentioned included an indigenous way of knowing, interactive way of knowing, and the use of the senses as a way of knowing.

K. Ritchie suggested revising the sentence referred to by R. Farmer by making a third sentence that states that we “*respect different ways of knowing, including but not limited to,*” and then providing samples of the different ways of knowing.

Senators were thanked for their feedback; the Social Responsibility Working Group will review the statement and feedback. It will return to Senate for approval at the next meeting and will be reviewed and approved by the Board.

R. Lumpkin thanked P. Whyte and the Social Responsibility Working Group for their work; in turn, P. Williams thanked R. Lumpkin for her leadership on the project. The Social Responsibility Working Committee members excused themselves from the meeting.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. Nominations for Honorary Degrees CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

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

The *in camera* session was used to consider dossiers of Honorary Degree nominations and to vote (by secret ballot) on the nominees.

**Moved** by E. Church, seconded by R. Green to move *in camera*. CARRIED  
**Moved** by K. Blotnicky, seconded by N. Kayhani, to move from *in camera*. CARRIED

The *in camera* session was used to report on the results of the secret ballot; all eight nominations reviewed were approved. Senators were reminded that the names of the nominees and the outcome of the voting process are confidential.

### 8.2. Enrollment Report

P. Barry provided an overview of the enrollment numbers provided to the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) at October 1; enrollment numbers will increase when the full-year numbers are added in. Trends in fall undergraduate and graduate enrollment were considered, noting overall enrollments are down 2.3%.

Five-year trends in both Undergraduate (including BEd programs) and Graduate (full and part time) enrollment were reviewed and discussed; while there was no

significant change over the five years in undergraduate enrollment, the impact of possible changes in what the Department of Education and Advanced Labour will count as “professional development” for teachers does impact Graduate program enrollment.

Senators reviewed the academic level and registration of Mount students 2010/11 to 2015/16, total of international students (2007-2015), permanent residence of Mount students 2010/11 versus 2015/16, self-identified Aboriginal students and students from African descent.

Total full-time/part-time undergraduates, full-time visa students, and full-time first-year undergraduates were compared in relation to other specific universities and by year. As well, enrollment by undergraduate program for 2010 versus 2015 was reviewed.

Questions were raised and clarification provided on the number of transfer students between the Mount and other institutions and reasons they transfer, how institutions report (and interpret) enrollment, international student enrollment and the impact of the Saudi embargo on enrollment, the possible impact of Dalhousie’s merger with the NS Agricultural College, and recruitment and scholarship efforts.

K. Ritchie suggested seeing enrollment trends on a longer timeline, possibly 15-20 years. G. MacDonald questioned whether more qualitative data would help explain the shifts. P. Barry agreed to look at this.

P. Barry outlined a recent enrollment process review conducted by Academica Group meant to help stabilize enrollments, gain market share and improve retention. The process included an environmental scan and meetings on campus and resulted in 40 recommendations.

The challenges facing the Mount with regard to retaining the University’s share of a shrinking market were noted. Focus areas recommended by the Academica Group to help maintain enrollment and improve retention included improving data to support enrollment planning, improving structure and processes, re-asserting ourselves as the regional leader in online learning, developing a transfer student strategy, increasing the number of international students, and strengthening student retention.

Brief discussions were held on the consultation process surrounding the building of an enrollment projection model, the benefit of considering both rural and HRM trends when making projections on future enrollments, the development of an operations committee, the increase in online learners and ways to increase online learning opportunities, the strengthening of orientation and academic advising, a

deeper analysis of transfer students, consideration of other countries in which the Mount is recruiting, and the tracking of international students versus landed immigrants.

P. Barry acknowledged there is work to be done with regard to retention, and for a future Senate meeting, she will provide an in-depth analysis on retention.

G. MacDonald questioned how the 5% drop in the retention of first-year students compares with other universities. P. Barry will bring back a full analysis on this.

P. Barry was thanked for her presentation.

### 8.3 Student Day of Action

R. Nearing offered sincere apologies for the late request for the addition of the agenda item. He spoke of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Day of Action, organized by the Canadian Federation of Students, scheduled for Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. At that time, students are encouraged to take to the streets to raise attention to issues that affect them and to highlight the desire for accessible education.

He noted that for the 1<sup>st</sup> National Day of Action (February 2015), Senate granted academic amnesty to students wishing to participate. He asked that a similar request be granted to those who wish to participate in this year's event.

R. Farmer advised that a notice to faculty members from the Faculty Association raised a concern for midterms and other academic activities scheduled for that day. A brief discussion was held on the timeline for the setting of the date for the Day of Action and the possibility of avoiding scheduling future demonstration events on Wednesdays. R. Gechtman suggested it is unfair to ask students to schedule demonstrations at "convenient" times; R. Green encouraged Senators to see the "big picture".

**Moved** by R. Nearing, seconded by L. Steele, that the Senate of Mount Saint Vincent University, grant amnesty for any student wishing to participate in the National Day of Action taking place on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., provided that students identify themselves to their instructors and make up for all missing work. CARRIED (with 3 abstentions)

R. Gechtman then outlined a second motion similar to one made at the Senate meeting in February 2015 that gave support to the Day of Action:

"That the Senate of Mount Saint Vincent University support the goals of the Day of Action as promoted by the Students' Union and the Canadian Federation of



Students, including the demands for universal access to education, education justice and free public education for the public good.”

K. Ritchie asked for clarification on the context of the motion and whether it is a statement of support for the Day of Action or for free education globally.

R. Gechtman responded that the statement is one of support for the goals of the Day of Action, goals worth pursuing.

A. Grant reiterated that the statement is to support of the Student Day of Action and any further action taken with the Canadian Federation of Students in the future. Until the goal of free accessible education for all is achieved, the Students' Union is asking that the Senate support them in this event.

M. Forrest questioned how one of our key values (accessibility) can be interpreted to exclude the ideal of complete access to education which can only happen when it is free.

E. Church, in follow-up to K. Ritchie's comment, noted that though she supports the students in their Day of Action, the issue here is much larger and complex and needs further discussion at Senate before she could feel comfortable with the motion.

M. Forrest suggested a friendly amendment to the motion which was accepted by the "Mover" so that the motion now read:

**Moved** by R. Gechtman, seconded by M. Forrest, that the Senate of Mount Saint Vincent University support the goals of the Day of Action as promoted by the Students' Union and the Canadian Federation of Students, including the demand for universal access to education. CARRIED (2 opposed; 4 abstentions)

## 9. Items for Communication

### Senate approved

- Minutes of September 30, 2016
- Eight nominations for honorary degrees
- Support for academic amnesty for students participating in the CFS Day of Action November 2, 2016

### Senate elected

- Four faculty members for Senate Standing Committee vacancies
- Denyse Rodrigues, faculty senator to Dean of Education Search Committee

Senate received for information

- Revised annual report of SCOITS
- Report on the Senate Master Graduation List for Fall 2016
- Academic Appeals Committee report
- Enrollment report

Senate received for information a presentation on social responsibility at the Mount as well as discussed the draft Social Responsibility Statement.

G. MacDonald invited all Senators to attend the Research Office's Annual Research Remix event on November 15, 2016 (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) in the Multi-Purpose Room.

#### 10. Adjournment

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