MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), S. Badali, P. Barry, C. Blayney, K. Blotnicky, M. Bowen, E. Church, J. Corcoran, P. Crouse, M. Eskritt, M. Forrest, J. Fraser-Arsenault, R. Farmer, R. Gechtman, J. Grant, R. Green, M. J. Harkins, T. Harrison, B. Jessop, K. Kienapple, S. King, G. MacDonald, A. MacGillivary, B. MacInnes, J. Mills, P. Mombourquette, E. Murray, M. O'Neill, I. Pottie, L. Steele, B. Taylor, M. Whalen

Regrets: A. Humble, J. Sawler, N. Selim, P. Watts

Guests: D. Plumb

1. Approval of Agenda
    Moved by M. Whalen, seconded by R. Green, to approve the agenda as amended. CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2016
    Moved by G. MacDonald, seconded by K. Blotnicky, to approve the meeting minutes of January 29, 2016 as presented. CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes
    None.

4. President's Announcements
    R. Lumpkin encouraged Senators to think about nominations for honorary doctorate degrees. She then gave an update on recent government relations. She mentioned a consultation of the provincial finance committee with students that was recently held at the Mount regarding the upcoming provincial budget. She also mentioned an upcoming announcement regarding a new provincial summer student jobs program noting that this announcement will be held at the Mount next Friday.   She mentioned an upcoming meeting with Faculty member J. Metsala and Minister Karen Casey regarding Literacy and Learning disabilities in March and that she recently attended the national showcase on Research Excellence and Innovation that featured Mount Faculty member J. Keefe. She reported that the new MOU is currently being finalized and the Innovation Team with its five working committees (Entrepreneurship, Research and Innovation, Experiential Learning, Recruitment and Retention, and Technology Enabled Learning) all brought proposals to the Innovation table. She added that $1.489 million was awarded to collaborative projects under this initiative. She also noted that P. Watts was very much a leader in the technology-enabled learning initiative. One initiative coming from this particular committee is the feasibility of a collaborative e-campus for online courses. She went on to report that the bi-lateral agreement term has ended and University reports on accomplishments are to be submitted. Outcome agreements are currently being worked on, and the Mount is scheduled to meet with the government next week regarding these new agreements.

5. Question Period
M. Forrest noted that it has come to her attention that there is no representation from the Faculty of Arts and Science or Education on the Presidential Search Committee. She wondered if this could be brought forward for consideration at an upcoming meeting or would Senators be willing to entertain another nomination from the floor.
R. Lumpkin responded noting that she had contacted the Faculty Association and asked if the Executive would be willing to reconsider their two appointments in order to provide greater diversity. She noted that the Executive had tried to provide this diversity but were unable to do so.
M. Forrest responded that faculty were not made aware of this lack of diversity until after the vote had passed at Senate.
R. Gechtman wondered why a general call for nominations did not happen – as this is normal practice for other types of nominations.
R. Lumpkin reported on the previous practice (the Faculty Association appoints and Senate elects). She did note that perhaps a change to protocol could be initiated prior to the next presidential search committee. As there is no immediate time crunch, she encouraged faculty to return to the Faculty Association Executive to ask them to reconsider their previous appointments in order to achieve representation from across all faculties.

6. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)
   6.1.   Senate Executive
        6.1.1. Nomination for Senate Award for Service in University Governance
                (Confidential Business)
                Moved by K. Blotnicky, seconded by M. J. Harkins, to move *in camera*.
                CARRIED
                The positive result of the vote by secret ballot was reported.
                Moved by R. Green, seconded by T. Harrison, to move from *in camera*.
                CARRIED

   6.2.   Academic Policy and Planning
        6.2.1. Fall Reading Week
                Moved by E. Church, seconded by J. Corcoran, that Senate approve instituting a fall reading week beginning fall semester 2016. CARRIED
                E. Church noted that the break will be held each year in November during the week in which the Remembrance Day Holiday is observed.
                R. Green expressed concerns regarding the timing of the break (a bit late in the term).
                E. Church responded, noting that this particular time was chosen due to heavy workload and to be in alignment with other universities.
                R. Farmer noted that, if the last Wednesday is designated as a Monday, better communication is needed for both faculty and Students.
                C. Blayney expressed concern about THMT courses which are offered in a condensed schedule.
                M. Forrest expressed concern for EDUC practicum students.
                E. Church responded that this feedback was not communicated to CAPP.
                S. Badali responded to these concerns.

R. Gechtman expressed that he felt the fall break was a good idea but wondered if this would add to exam stress (students needing to write exams closer together).
B. MacInnes responded that exams are normally written over 8-10 days; now they will be written over 9 days.
J. Corcoran added that the students polled were notified of these issues. The majority of the students were in favor of the fall break.
R. Green asked if this would result in an increase of out-of-sequence exams.
B. MacInnes responded that there were no concerns raised (to her knowledge).

6.2.2. First-Year Course
Moved by E. Church, seconded by P. Mombourquette, that Senate approve a four-year pilot project for a mandatory first-year online academic success course. CARRIED
P. Barry and B. Taylor presented a report on student need for a first-year academic success course. They noted that the course will be offered online and will use adaptive learning technology, noting that this type of learning technology adapts to the varying backgrounds and experiences of students. Once approved the course will follow the proposed time line: Phase 1 (2016-17) Development; Phase 2 Pilot program (2017-20); and Phase 3 Evaluation (2020).
M. Forrest questioned the phrase "adaptive learning technology."
B. Taylor responded that this is not our label.
R. Green added that most faculty use, and have always used, adaptive learning in the classroom.
M. J. Harkins offered her congratulations; she promoted an upcoming lecture series featuring the founder of this type of learning (flexible learning). She also offered consideration for hiring a Universal Design for Learning specialist.
R. Gechtman asked what the modules might contain and if there is a group working on contents and preparation.
E. Church responded that the first year is really about building the course: how an academic calendar works and how to register for courses. It may contain an online writing assessment tool. Perhaps an advisory committee will be created – she added that there will be a lot of consultation.
P. Barry added that this online course will allow students to begin their path at the Mount; their connection to the campus will begin early. Then it will move towards academics.
I. Pottie noted that this is an interesting idea – have you thought about the entire process – do we have support staff to handle this process?
P. Barry responded that they have envisioned a learning strategist and project mentor as well as senior student mentors.
G. MacDonald also offered her support of this initiative; she also underscored the value and importance of peer mentorship.
J. Grant asked what happens if the funding is not secured.
E. Church responded that there is a backup plan in place.
R. Green asked if this will take money from another program.
E. Church responded that we will not be relying on money from current expenses.

6.3. Graduate Studies Program and Policy
    6.3.1. Course Changes in Curriculum Studies (For information)
        K. Kienapple brought forward the following items for information.
        6.3.1.1. New Course Numbers for GCRD 6336/GEMS 6401, GCRD 6337/GEMS 6402, GCRD 6338/GEMS 6403 and GCRD 6339/GEMS 6404
6.4. Library
    6.4.1. Committee Update
        T. Harrison brought forward the Library committee update. She reported that the Senate Library Committee had met four times during this academic term – most recently on February 2nd. She noted that at a previous meeting of Senate, the issue of Security in the Library was raised in connection with the opening of the McCain Centre and the lack of corridor security gates. She noted that a document regarding the history of the security in EMF since 1989 was developed. She also reported that two types of security systems were investigated, and a partial inventory was organized. She then discussed various recommendations made by the Senate Library Committee regarding this issue. It was noted that due to the complexity of this issue the item is still in progress. She then spoke to the Food for Fines Campaign; the upcoming Library – Chairs/Coordinators/and all Faculty meeting; and the 2016 Library awards.

        R. Gechtman asked if a conclusion has been drawn regarding the security system. T. Harrison responded that we would need to secure funding to move forward with one of the alarm systems.

        M. Forrest added that an alarm would be better than nothing.

        T. Harrison reiterated that this issue is still being looked at. There are cameras in place at both of the exits. T. Harrison added that most people think security is already there. However, if the gates go off, how long will it take for people to realize that no one is coming? She added that Tillman stole all his books while we had functioning security gates – and he stole a lot of them.

        M. J. Harkins added that the cost to replace stolen books is less than the cost for the security system. Unreplaceable books are currently housed under security and are not part of the regular circulation.

        B. Jessop reviewed the math and reiterated that it is more cost effective to replace stolen books rather than to purchase a new security system. He added that based on the analysis of the partial inventory we really don't have a theft problem.

        T. Harrison responded that the Library would like to do an entire inventory.
    6.4.2. Strategic Plan (for information)
        T. Harrison presented the Library strategic plan for information.
6.5. Research and Publications
    6.5.1. Revised Documents and Forms (For information)
        G. MacDonald presented the revised research and publication documents and forms for information.
6.6. Teaching and Learning
    6.6.1. Teaching Awards (For approval)
        E. Church introduced the upcoming motion that Senate approve the deletion of the Alumnae Association Award for Teaching, the Educational Leadership Award and the Teaching Innovation Award. WITHDRAWN

E. Church introduced the upcoming motion, that Senate approve the establishment of The President and Vice-Presidents' Advanced Career Teaching Award, The Alumnae Early Career Teaching Award, and The Alumnae Part-Time Faculty Teaching Award. WITHDRAWN

D. Plumb spoke to the awards giving a brief report on the current awards, the history of nominations and the overall process.

M. Forrest asked if this item was brought forward to Senators earlier.

E. Church responded that it was not.

Senators brought forward various concerns: this now seemed to be a more complicated process for students; awards should be recognized during convocation; faculty may not be considered for AAU awards under the proposed awards; three awards have lesser value than one all-encompassing award.

E. Church commented that in light of today's discussion, she was prepared to take this item back to SCOTL for further review.

6.7. University Research Ethics Board

    6.7.1. Proposed Change to Terms of Reference (Notice of Motion)
G. MacDonald presented a notice of motion for the proposed change to the terms of reference.

    6.7.2. Request to Change Research Study Personnel (For information)
G. MacDonald presented the request to Change Research Study Personnel for information.

7. Other Reports

    7.1. Board of Governors
R. Lumpkin reported that the Board was invited to tour the new International Student Centre; Dr. I. Pottie gave a presentation on his research on Enzyme Markers for Alzheimer's disease; the faculty representatives have suggested that Board Members be invited to make a request to attend classes in areas of their own interest.

    7.2. Students' Union
J. Corcoran reported that the student rep position on the Undergraduate Admissions and Scholarships Committee will be added once approved at Senate. He also reported on upcoming Student elections.

J. Grant reported on the Mac & Cheese talk with students on student debt. He noted that the Canadian Federation of Students had been denied meetings with the finance minister, finance committee as well as the Liberal caucus. He added that the CFS will be meeting with the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, Kelly Regan, on Tuesday in Antigonish.

    7.3. Mount 2017: Making a Difference
R. Lumpkin reported on the goals of the Strategic plan (available to Senators on SharePoint).

8. New Business
None

9. Items for Communication
   Senate approved the following:
   - Minutes of January 29, 2016
   - The nomination of Dr. Susan Drain as the 2016 recipient of the Senate Award for Service in University Governance
   - Institution of a fall reading week
   - Pilot project for a mandatory first-year online academic success course
   Senate received for information:
   - Course changes in Curriculum Studies
   - Library Committee update, including Strategic Plan
   - Revised documents and forms from Research & Publications
   - Notice of Motion re change to the Terms of Reference for the UREB
   - New UREB form for research study personnel changes

10. Adjournment
    Moved by M. Bowen, seconded by R. Green, that the meeting be adjourned.