

MINUTES

Present: R. Lumpkin (Chair), S. Badali, C. Blayney, P. Barry, K. Blotnicky, M. Bowen, E. Church, J. Corcoran, S. Drain, F.X. Eygun, J. Fraser-Arsenault, R. Farmer, J. Grant, R. Green, M.J. Harkins, T. Harrison, A. Humble, B. Jessop, K. Kienapple, S. King, B. MacInnes, J. MacLeod, J. Mills, P. Mombourquette, E. Murray, M. O'Neill, I. Pottie, J. Sawler, N. Selim, L. Steele, B. Taylor, P. Watts, M. Whalen

Regrets: M. Eskritt, R. Gechtman, G. MacDonald

Guests: P. Crouse, K. Gallant

R. Lumpkin thanked outgoing Senators J. MacLeod, and F. X. Eygun for their service to Senate and she gave special thanks to S. Drain for her service as Secretary of Senate for the past four and a half years.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by R. Farmer, seconded by K. Blotnicky, to approve the agenda as amended. CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2015

Moved by L. Steele, seconded by K. Blotnicky, to approve the meeting minutes of October 23, 2015 as presented. CARRIED

3. President's Announcements

R. Lumpkin spoke to the proposed tuition market adjustment. She reviewed the process of input and dissemination of information regarding the tuition adjustment issue. She noted the reduction in government grant funding, and the changing proportion of government grant and tuition in the University's income. She reviewed current expenditures and current tuition in relation to provincial norms and those at other institutions. She spoke to a change in demographics and its possible impact on future enrolment, and to the changing internal context, with, for example, increasing demand for services such as accessibility and counselling. She reviewed revenue projections in different enrolment scenarios with a proposed tuition increase of \$21 per half unit, and noted that the deadline for the tuition decision is December 18, 2015. She emphasized that the issue was one of planning for a sustainable future, and summarized the process, including consultations with faculty, students and staff, leading up to the Board's meeting on December 15, 2015.

M. Whalen noted that the Minister has commented that there will be winners and losers in the overall funding formula, and enquired where the Mount might find itself.

R. Lumpkin responded, there are winners and losers in any formulation. One proposal that could help would be an allocation of a portion of funding based on fixed costs – lessening the impact of enrolment fluctuations. Another possibility is tying some funding to outcomes as measured by graduation and job placement rates. She noted that changes will require time to enact.

P. Mombourquette questioned what the impact might be of the proposed increase.

R. Lumpkin responded that the Board was trying to balance the needs of the University and the needs of students, as well as being fair to current and future students.

In response to a question from P. Mombourquette, E. Church responded that there were no firm predictions about future enrolment. Demographic shifts are beginning to have the same impact in NS as in other Maritime provinces; international student enrolment has been a benefit, but changes are anticipated, for example, in Saudi enrolments.

P. Mombourquette wondered if a decision to maintain current tuition rates would encourage students to choose the Mount over other institutions.

R. Lumpkin responded that the price variable would be too small to make a significant difference.

J. Grant commented that the Board of Governors has always been able to balance the University budget, and enquired why the situation was more dire than usual. He wondered whether the Board has exhausted all possibilities to increase enrollment. He drew attention to the cost deterrent for out-of-province students and wondered about the strategy for recruiting First Nations students. He also wondered what would happen if the tuition increase were not enough to cover increased student services.

R. Lumpkin responded that we have always been fiscally responsible and have presented a very lean budget. The Board's view is that cutting expenditures would not achieve significant savings without reducing the current complement of faculty and staff and the level of services, actions which it is unwilling to take. Enrolment and recruitment efforts have been intensified over the past few years, resulting in more students from Ontario and nearly a fourfold increase in the number of self-identified Aboriginal students over the past few years, a pattern in line with our mission. However, gaps in enrolment remain, and investments in services, such as the Aboriginal Centre and the part-time Aboriginal counselor, have increased. The situation is dire because it is cumulative. Given the government funding level and the projected demographics, a one-time tuition increase has to be considered seriously.

J. Sawler commented that he was pleased to see an expansion in the bursary program and hoped that it would be extensive, to meet the needs of students adversely affected by a tuition increase. He added that he would have liked a more detailed response to P. Mombourquette's question regarding not raising tuition, as he thought it was possible that leaving tuition at a lower rate, while our competitors increase tuition, might draw students. He hoped that the appropriate statistical methods for incorporating all the variables into the analysis had been diligently employed. Finally, he asked whether the projected increase in expenses was reasonable, given retirements.

B. Jessop responded that the review had been extensive and thorough, including retirement projects, and noted that progress through the ranks was a factor in salary expenses.

R. Lumpkin responded that trying to entice students by not increasing tuition would be a gamble; only two universities, Dalhousie and Acadia, have grown their enrolments recently, and both have the highest tuitions rates.

M. Whalen asked whether the revenue projections assumed a fixed percent of international and domestic students over time.

B. Jessop responded that this had been taken into consideration.

4. Question Period

Question:

K. Blotnicky spoke of a student that was locked out (frozen) from all systems (email/Moodle) during the term. She assumed this action was in response to financial issues

and expressed concern that the situation was very awkward for faculty, especially given a lack of information. She asked for guidance in approaching these situations. Several Senators also expressed concern about this issue.

B. Jessop responded that considerable efforts are made to communicate with a student before such an action is taken. Students are encouraged to contact Financial Services and to avail themselves of options such as a payment schedule. He undertook to outline the process for the deans who could then communicate it to department chairs and faculty. J. Grant confirmed that e-mails are sent to students prior to suspension of technology accounts.

P. Mombourquette asked if there was any opportunity for the Mount to sponsor 5-10 refugees with free tuition for one year.

R. Lumpkin noted that admission flexibility amongst many post-secondary institutions is already being addressed. She noted that sponsorship is being looked at in other communities and that P. Barry is currently in contact with ISANS to determine immediate need. She also noted that the WUSC sponsorship would be doubled from one to two students in the coming year. She encouraged anyone interested to take the lead on this initiative and offered her full support.

P. Barry volunteered to take the lead on this initiative.

5. Business arising
None

6. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

6.1. Senate Executive

6.1.1. Parliamentarian beginning January 2016

Moved by E. Church, seconded by P. Mombourquette, that Senate ratify Dr. Karen Blotnicky as Parliamentarian for the term January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. CARRIED

6.1.2. Revision to the Policy on Policies

Moved by E. Church, seconded by M. Bowen, that Senate approve the minor revisions to the procedures section of the Policy on Policies. CARRIED

6.2. Academic Policy and Planning (for information)

6.2.1. Report on the External Review of Mathematics

6.2.2. Report on the External Review of Public Policy Studies

6.2.3. Academic Calendar Dates 2016-2017

E. Church presented items 6.2.1 – 6.2.3 for information.

I. Pottie questioned why the summer semester dates have not been included in the 2016-17 revised academic calendar dates.

B. MacInnes noted that summer dates are normally not included, as in the past there was no formalized time table in summer; however, the matter is under review as a result of increased summer session enrolments.

L. Steele enquired about the impact of a possible fall study break.

E. Church responded that this item is currently under review; any recommendation will come to Senate from CAPP.

6.3. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

6.3.1. GCRD 6349/GEMS 6430: Numeracy in the Curriculum I

- 6.3.2. GCRD 6350/GEMS 6431: Numeracy in the Curriculum II
- 6.3.3. GCRD 6351/GEMS 6432: Problem Solving and Problem Posing in School Mathematics
- 6.3.4. GCRD 6352/GEMS 6433: Educational Perspectives on the Nature of Mathematics

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by B. MacInnes, that Senate approve items 6.3.1-6.3.4 - new course proposals. CARRIED

- P. Watts asked for a friendly amendment regarding a missing email attachment.
- K. Kienapple accepted the amendment.

6.4. Undergraduate Curriculum

6.4.1. Changes for approval

- 6.4.1.1. Biology: Changes to program requirements for Major, Combined Major, Honours Degree

Moved S. Badali, seconded by K. Blotnicky that Senate approve Biology: Changes to program requirements for Major, Combined Major, Honours Degree. CARRIED

- 6.4.1.2. Business and Tourism: Deletion of THMT 3321 Facility Management (.5 unit)

Moved S. Badali, seconded by C. Blayney that Senate approve Business and Tourism: Deletion of THMT 3321 Facility. CARRIED

- 6.4.1.3. Economics (for Public Policy Studies): Addition of ECON 3308 as requirement for specialization in Canadian Public Policy and in Global Issues

Moved S. Badali, seconded by J. MacLeod, that Senate approve Economics (for Public Policy Studies): Addition of ECON 3308 as requirement for specialization in Canadian Public Policy and in Global Issues CARRIED

- 6.4.1.4. English: Change to statement on Prerequisites for University Study of English.

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by R. Green, that Senate approve English: Change to statement on Prerequisites for University Study of English. CARRIED

- 6.4.1.5. Family Studies and Gerontology: Changes to existing programs.

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by A. Humble, that Senate approve items 6.4.1.5.1 – 6.4.1.5.3. CARRIED

- 6.4.1.5.1. Combined Major in Family Studies: removal of SOAN 2221 and addition of SOAN 2520 to list of electives

- 6.4.1.5.2. Combined Major in Gerontology: removal of FSGN/SOAN 2208 and 2219 and addition of FSGN/SOAN 3551 and NUTR 3330 to list of electives

- 6.4.1.5.3. Concentration and Minor in Gerontology: removal of FSGN/SOAN 2219 and addition of FSGN/SOAN 3551 to list of electives

6.4.1.6. History

- 6.4.1.6.1. New Course Proposal HIST 2220 Reason and Light: The Enlightenment in Europe (0.5 unit)

- 6.4.1.6.2. Deletion of HIST 2204 Europe in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries (1 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by R. Green, that Senate approve items 6.4.1.6.1 and 6.4.1.6.2. CARRIED

6.4.1.7. International Education Centre

6.4.1.7.1. Memorandum of Understanding with Universidad Femenina del Sagrado Corazón (Peru)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by P. Barry, that Senate approve the memorandum of understanding with Universidad Femenina del Sagrado Corazón (Peru) CARRIED

6.4.1.8. Mathematics and Computer Science

6.4.1.8.1. New Course Proposal: MATH3500/PHYS 3500 Topics in Mathematics and Physics (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by B. Jessop, that Senate approve the New Course Proposal: MATH3500/PHYS3500 Topics in Mathematics and Physics (0.5 unit). CARRIED

6.4.1.8.2. Deletion of courses:

6.4.1.8.2.1. CMPS 2265 Assembly Language Programming (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by L. Steele, that Senate approve the deletion of CMPS 2265 Assembly Language Programming. CARRIED

6.4.1.8.2.2. CMPS 2284 Survey Design (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by I. Pottie, that Senate approve the deletion of CMPS 2284 Assembly Language Programming. CARRIED

6.4.1.8.3. Deletion of Computer Science Minor

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by B. MacInnes, that Senate approve the deletion of the Computer Science Minor. CARRIED

6.4.1.9. Women's Studies and Political Studies

6.4.1.9.1. New Course Proposal: WOMS 3322/POLS 3322 Politics and Sex (0.5 unit)

Moved by S. Badali, seconded by L. Steele, that Senate approve the new course proposal: WOMS 3322/POLS 3322 Politics and Sex. CARRIED

6.4.2. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Changes (for information)

S. Badali presented the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee changes for information.

6.4.2.1. Biology

5.4.2.1.1. New pre-requisites and revised descriptions: BIOL 4453/4454 Directed Studies

5.4.2.1.2. New pre-requisites: BIOL 4460/4461 Directed Research

6.4.2.2. English

5.4.2.2.1. New pre-requisites: ENGL/WRIT 2221 and ENGL 3308

6.4.2.3. Mathematics and Computer Science

5.4.2.3.1. Delete crosslisting, new pre-requisites and new description: MATH 2284

5.4.2.3.2. New course name and new description: MATH 3303

5.4.2.3.3. New course name, new pre-requisites, and new description: MATH 3304

6.4.2.4. Modern Languages

5.4.2.4.1. New exclusion: CHIN 1101 and SPAN 1101

5.4.2.4.2. Delete pre-requisites and add new exclusion: FREN 1101, FREN 1102, FREN 2201, FREN 2205, FREN 2214, FREN 2253.

5.4.2.4.3. New pre-requisites: FREN 3317, FREN 3319, FREN 3371, FREN 3372, FREN 3384, FREN 3397

6.4.2.5. Psychology

5.4.2.5.1. New course name, new pre-requisites, and new description:
PSYC 3317

6.5. Nominations

6.5.1. Nominations to Academic Appeals and Student Experience Committees

Moved by C. Blayne, seconded by K. Blotnicky, that Senate elect the following faculty members to the respective committees for the indicated terms. **CARRIED**

Committee	Nominee	Term Begins	Term Ends
Academic Appeals Committee	Dr. Jane Baskwill	1 January 2016	30 June 2018
Student Experience Committee	Dr. Scott MacMillan	When elected	30 June 2018

7. Other Reports

7.1. Board of Governors

R. Lumpkin presented the Board of Governors report from C. Schneider:

The following items were noted: an update on enrolment numbers for this Fall of 2015 prepared by P. Barry and K. Gallant; a presentation on the University Advancement Plan by Sharon Avery (chair for the Committee on Advancement and External Relations); discussion of the tuition market adjustment; the ratification of the new collective agreement between the Board and the MSVU Faculty Association.

7.2. Students' Union

J. Corcoran reported on the student de-stress activities and exam kits and 12 days of exam giveaways. He also gave an SRC representation update. J. Grant reported on initial conversations with students regarding fall reading week, noting that students were generally very supportive of the idea.

7.3. Mount 2017: Making a Difference

R. Lumpkin noted that the Mount 2017: Making a Difference quarterly update is available on SharePoint. Research activities / faculty and student activities and recruitment efforts have been included.

8. New Business

8.1. Enrolment Report (P. Barry and K. Gallant)

P. Barry reported on Fall semester enrolment.

In response to a question from J. Sawler, P. Barry responded, Dalhousie has lowered its entry requirements.

K. Blotnicky questioned if the drop in Arts and Science enrolment was correlated with the decrease in the Education degree.

P. Barry responded in the affirmative, noting that many students used to take their first degree at the Mount in hope that it would give them better access to the Education program.

B. Taylor confirmed this fact and noted that program changes such as the change from a 15 unit to a 20 unit degree may have affected enrollment in the arts as well.

In response to a question from J. Grant, P. Barry reported that 287 Saudi students are currently enrolled. This is a population of students that has been with us for 10 years.

J. MacLeod asked which programs would be affected when Saudi enrolments ceased.

P. Barry replied the BBA program and Masters of Applied Human Nutrition program.

9. Items for Communication

Senate approved the following:

- Minutes of October 23, 2015
- Appointment of Dr. Karen Blotnicky as Senate Parliamentarian, effective January 1, 2016
- Slight change to the Policy on Policies
- Four new courses in Graduate Education (Please consult the November agenda for details)
- Many course changes in undergraduate courses and programs (Please consult the November agenda for details.)
- A new memorandum of agreement with the Universidad Femenina del Sagrado Corazon, Peru

Senate elected

- Dr. Jane Baskwill to the Academic Appeals Committee, and
- Dr. Scott MacMillan to the Student Experience Committee.

Senate received for information

- a report from the President on the Tuition Adjustment discussions
- CAPP's Report on the External Review of Mathematics
- CAPP's Report on the External Review of Public Policy Studies
- Academic Calendar Dates for 2016-2017
- A variety of undergraduate curriculum changes (Please consult the November agenda for details.)
- An enrolment report from Paula Barry and Kelly Gallant.

Senate thanked the following individuals for their service at the end of their terms:

- Dr. Francois Xavier Eygun
- Dr. Jeff MacLeod, outgoing Parliamentarian
- Dr. Susan Drain, outgoing Secretary of Senate

Please note that effective January 1, 2016, Professor Paula Crouse will be Secretary of Senate.

9. Adjournment

Moved by M. Bowen, seconded by M. Whalen, that Senate be adjourned.