



Senate Meeting  
MPR/MS Teams

April 1, 2022  
2 p.m.

## MINUTES

**Present:** R. Lumpkin (Chair), A. Benzaquén, S. Brigham, N. Buchanan, A. Card, P. Crouse, C. Dawson, G. Durepos, T. Findlay, T. Franz-Odendaal, J. Fraser Arsenault, G. Fraser, M. Gillis, S. Hale, C. Hardy, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, J. Lumsden, L. MacCallum, J. MacLeod, S. MacMillan, M. Nadeem, D. Piccitto, M. Ralston, J. Roberts, C. Schneider, B. Taylor, A. Thurlow, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, R. Zuk

**Regrets:** K. Allan, G. Boulet, G. Chan, J. Gahagan, M. Shortt Robertson

**Observers:** E. Church, K. Gallant, J. Graham-Migel, J. Lamb, P. Small Legs-Nagge, J. Sharpe

*The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed.*

*Procedures to be used during the meeting and while voting on motions were outlined.*

### 1. Indigenous Land Recognition

R. Lumpkin provided an acknowledgement that the Mount is built on traditional, unceded Mi'kmaq territory and paid respect to the Indigenous peoples of the land on which Senate meets.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**Moved** by S Brigham, seconded by S. Trenholm, to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED

### 3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. March 4, 2022

**Moved** by R. Zuk, seconded by S. Hale, to approve the minutes of March 4, 2022, as presented. CARRIED

### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Funding for early childcare education

S. Trenholm referred to a question posed by C. Hardy concerning funding for Early Childhood Education (ECE) students and the follow-up undertaken to obtain further information. She reported that the Department of ECE is in the

process of establishing advisory panels and will be inviting students to be involved and that the recent bursaries awarded to ECE students were a result of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement. She referenced two tuition-reduction programs, both appearing to be undersubscribed, available to Afro-Canadian students and part-time students working in the ECE sector and noted that funding may be forthcoming for full-time students.

## **5. Administration Updates**

### **5.1. President**

R. Lumpkin provided a high-level overview of implementation of the strategic plan and confirmed a more detailed update will be provided in the fall. She informed Senate that Management Forum members have identified 12 areas of focus within the themes of the strategic plan, each having a 3-year action plan:

- Academic Planning
- EDIA
- Accessibility
- Campus Master Plan
- Research
- Strategic Enrollment Management
- Faculty and Staff Recruitment and Retention
- Digital Transformation
- Campus Wellness
- Truth and Reconciliation
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Communications

She referenced work underway on many of the initiatives: the Flexible Work Arrangement program, a new Research Plan, a draft document regarding applying an equity lens to policy reviews, the update given at the March 4 Senate meeting regarding progress in Truth and Reconciliation and progress on Digital Transformation, to which M. Nadeem will speak.

She concluded by indicating that during the summer and early fall, the Executive Leadership team will prepare an overall update on plan implementation which will be presented to Senate and the Board in the fall and annually going forward.

### **5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost**

B. Taylor stated that a \$60,000 fund was established to honour the commitment of Indigenizing course content in all departments across campus. He noted that Departments and faculty members may apply for

funding through their Dean and that applications will be reviewed by the Provost, Deans, and the Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs.

B. Taylor confirmed that the Dimensions Committee, chaired by Senator T. Franz-Odendaal, met earlier in the day and summarized its progress on the three pillars of the Dimensions pilot program: research community, an administration that supports the research community and activity, and research excellence. He announced that it is anticipated that within a few weeks a Dimensions consultant will be appointed to assist with this committee and that a town hall will be scheduled to provide information on the Committee's work. He stated that the Research Office is also mapping the relationship of the Dimensions Initiative with the Scarborough Charter and the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) to determine any overlap in the three pillars.

B. Taylor confirmed that the Accessibility Advisory Committee met earlier in the day and is establishing eight different working groups who will address areas of concern with the objective of producing a working document of action items in May.

### 5.3. Vice-President Administration

M. Nadeem indicated that progress is underway regarding the Digital Transformation initiative which is supported by a working group including representatives from the Library, IT&S, Advancement and Financial Services. He announced that a survey will be circulated soon to request feedback on the digital strategy framework including asking for people's experience with current processes with the aim of improving effectiveness.

He referred to the recent budget town hall and feedback received from faculty and staff. He acknowledged the need for more engagement on the budget process and will provide a report to the community once the budget is approved which will include the details regarding consultation and due diligence involved in determining the budget. He indicated that next year a draft budget will be made available for campus members to review and provide feedback.

## 6. Question Period

R. Lumpkin reminded Senators that the question period does not only apply to the topics covered in administration updates.

C. Schneider referred to a question she posed during the March Senate meeting relating to the new digital admissions system for the BEd program. She reiterated the importance of obtaining a new system as the current paper-based system results in human error and negative feedback from internal and external users has been

received. M. Nadeem confirmed that, although he has not engaged with Management Forum to determine the priority of digitization projects, admissions workflow is one of the more urgent needs to be addressed and can be investigated while the overall framework is being established.

C. Schneider referred to the financial stresses on students and asked if there are plans to increase the number of in-course merit scholarships or bursaries to help alleviate financial strain. K. Gallant confirmed that several donation agreements are in progress and she will update Senate at the April 29 meeting. R. Lumpkin indicated that a newly established fund to support Indigenous students will be announced soon.

J. Roberts asked about the recent NS government funding announcement of \$105 million for four rural universities, specifically what criteria was used to award the funding and if there is an in-kind promise for additional funding for the other institutions across the province. R. Lumpkin indicated that CONSUP was alerted that this funding announcement was coming and Presidents were told that civil service staff had passed along several requests for special funding for universities, including the Mount. She confirmed that the Premier and cabinet members made the funding decision and no reason was provided. She noted that CONSUP made the diplomatic decision to continue to work behind the scenes to advocate for funding for those universities not included in the funding announcement. A discussion ensued surrounding the effectiveness of faculty, staff and students making an appeal to the provincial government to highlight our need for infrastructure funding and emphasize our unique institution. Suggestions on how best to proceed were noted, including (lightheartedly) the possibility of making a ruckus. (D. Piccitto, R. Lumpkin, J. MacLeod)

T. Findlay referred to a question that was asked at the budget town hall regarding adding a part-time faculty member to the Budget Committee. M. Nadeem confirmed that a part-time faculty member would not be added at this time.

L. MacCallum referred to the recent Black Scholar cluster hire and asked if a cluster hire for another equity deserving group would be possible in 2023. B. Taylor responded that, since we are hiring 16 new faculty members in 2022, it is unlikely a cluster hire will be possible next year. He referenced a discussion at Joint Committee regarding adopting the process that was used in the cluster hire whereby qualified candidates are invited to apply and not necessarily be associated with a specific department. In response to a question by R. Zuk, B. Taylor confirmed that many of the hires will be direct replacements of retired faculty and that 5 will fill newly established positions.

S. Brigham referred to the Mount's commitment to obtain the Age-Friendly University designation from the Universal Global Network and inquired about the

status of the working group that was established in 2020 to work towards this goal. She also asked if there was tuition reduction available for senior students. S. Trenholm stated that she is aware of discussions related to this topic occurring in a department under her purview and would provide more information to Senate. It was confirmed that tuition reduction for senior undergraduate and graduate students was offered in the past but has been discontinued (S. Hale and A. Benzaquén). A. Card indicated that tuition reduction for senior graduate students was recently discussed with Sharon Davis. R. Lumpkin confirmed that an update will be brought to the April 29 Senate meeting.

## 7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

### 7.1. Senate Executive

#### 7.1.1. Ratification of Senate Executive Motion re Supplemental Interview Committee

**Moved** by E. Henderson, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate ratify Senate Executive's decision to approve the Senate Nominations Committee's proposal that only faculty Senators with voting status be eligible to vote in the election of faculty Senators to the current Presidential Search Faculty Supplemental Interview Committee being formed March 2022. CARRIED

#### 7.1.2. Revision to Bylaw 1.1

R. Lumpkin brought forward a notice of motion that will be presented to Senate for approval at the April 29, 2022, Senate meeting. She confirmed that the L'nu Advisory Circle members would like to see as a Senator a Mi'kmaq member who is part of and selected by the Advisory Circle. The Special Advisor to the President on Indigenous Affairs would serve as a resource, meeting with the representative prior to Senate meetings to ensure the representative has an opportunity to seek any clarification needed. She stated that the elected Faculty membership will need to be increased to ensure there is a faculty majority on Senate, as per the Charter.

#### 7.1.3. Examinations in Summer School

B. Taylor referred to the documentation provided in the package and stated that although Public Health has declared an end to the health care emergency, the academic implications of the pandemic continue. Therefore, he recommends that the Significant Disruption of Operations should continue for the Summer Sessions as we are unable to secure proctors for students who reside over 100 km from campus.

J. Roberts asked about the anticipated process for the Fall term as he has concerns regarding how online assessments can continue without

proctoring. B. Taylor confirmed that no decision has been made for the Fall term as it is unknown what the situation will be at that time although discussion at CAPP regarding this issue is ongoing. He stated that the former Registrar researched various proctoring software programs but identified concerns regarding privacy and equipment needs. He referred to workshops being delivered by TLC on alternate assessment and evaluation strategies.

G. Durepos asked if any discussions had been held about expanding what sites could be used for proctoring. S. Hale stated that proctors are vetted and that alternatives have been used outside of post-secondary institutions, for example, libraries. B. Taylor stated that CAPP can investigate this suggestion.

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate endorse the following procedures for examinations scheduled for Summer Session I and II 2022:

- Courses with only on-campus sections have proctored examinations on campus.
- Courses with only online sections have online examinations.
- In the interest of fairness and consistency in assessing all students, Departments with courses that have both online and on-campus sections consider offering an online examination for all sections. CARRIED

7.2. Academic Policy and Planning

7.2.1. Continued Suspension of Admissions to BSc (Science Communication)

B. Taylor referred to the explanation of the motion in the package and indicated that S. Trenholm or A. Thurlow would answer specific questions. No discussion was held.

**Moved** by B. Taylor, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the suspension of admissions for an additional two-year period to the BSc (Science Communication) program. CARRIED

7.3. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

7.3.1. Child and Youth Study

7.3.1.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.1.1.1. GCYS 6017: Indigenous Perspectives in Child and Youth Study

**Moved** by S. Trenholm, seconded by C. Hardy, that Senate approve the addition of the new course Indigenous Perspectives in Child and

Youth Study to the master's degree in Child and Youth Study. CARRIED

7.4. Undergraduate Curriculum (A. Card)

7.4.1. Canadian Studies

7.4.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.4.1.1.1. Addition to Canadian Emphasis Courses List  
**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the addition of the newly established course CANA 2301/CULS 2301 to the Canadian Emphasis Courses List for Canadian Studies. CARRIED

7.4.2. Cultural Studies

7.4.2.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.4.2.1.1. Change in requirements for Major, Combined Major, Concentration, and Minor  
**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the addition of CANA 2301/CULS 2301 to the Major, Combined Major, Concentration, and Minor for Cultural Studies. CARRIED

7.4.3. Education

7.4.3.1. New Course Proposal

7.4.3.1.1. EDUC 5581: French Words: Description and Pedagogy  
A. Card confirmed that this course is an elective within the BEd program that will be taught in French and will be cross-listed with French 3381.

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Hale, that Senate approve the new course EDUC 5581: French Words: Description and Pedagogy. CARRIED

7.4.3.2. Deletion of Courses

- 7.4.3.2.1. EDUC 5328: Social and Cultural Contexts of Schooling II
- 7.4.3.2.2. EDUC 5329: Advanced Studies in Philosophy of Education
- 7.4.3.2.3. EDUC 5332: Foundations in Second Language Education
- 7.4.3.2.4. EDUC 5334: Advanced Studies in the Sociology and Anthropology of Education
- 7.4.3.2.5. EDUC 5352: Evaluating Learner Progress

- 7.4.3.2.6. EDUC 5354: Inclusive Classrooms for Learners with Exceptionalities in the Secondary School
- 7.4.3.2.7. EDUC 5355: Educational Perspectives and Development: Implications for the Teaching/Learning Process
- 7.4.3.2.8. EDUC 5425: School and Society
- 7.4.3.2.9. EDUC 5426: The School as a Social System
- 7.4.3.2.10. EDUC 5427: Curriculum and Instruction in Religious Education
- 7.4.3.2.11. EDUC 5442: Teaching ESL in the Elementary School
- 7.4.3.2.12. EDUC 5443: Curriculum and Instruction in Elementary School Reading and Language Arts
- 7.4.3.2.13. EDUC 5451: Introduction to Educational Measurement and Evaluation
- 7.4.3.2.14. EDUC 5452: Introduction to Learners with Exceptionalities
- 7.4.3.2.15. EDUC 5453: Education of Learners with Exceptionalities in the Inclusive Classroom
- 7.4.3.2.16. EDUC 5454: Inclusive Education
- 7.4.3.2.17. EDUC 5472: Curriculum and Instruction in Elementary Science Part II  
A. Card reminded Senators that a new program was approved for the BEd and that this motion will remove old courses.

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Trenholm, that Senate approve the deletion of the courses as outlined in 7.4.3.2.1 - 7.4.3.2.17. CARRIED

7.4.3.3. Changes to Existing Program

- 7.4.3.3.1. Changes in admissions and program requirements for Elementary program  
**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Schneider, that Senate approve the changes in admissions and program requirements for the Elementary program for Education. CARRIED
- 7.4.3.3.2. Changes in admissions and program requirements for Secondary program  
**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by S. Brigham, that Senate approve the changes in admissions and program requirements for the Secondary program for Education. CARRIED



7.4.4. Women's Studies

7.4.4.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.4.4.1.1. Change in Calendar description for Minor in Women's Studies

7.4.4.1.2. Addition of interdisciplinary Minor in Queer Studies

7.4.4.1.3. Addition of Queer Studies to list of minors, Programs at a Glance

A. Card stated that this is the addition of a minor in Queer Studies which has seven courses in the Calendar, one that is being developed and one that was approved at Senate in March.

D. Piccitto thanked the Department of Women's Studies for housing this new minor and extended thanks to Dr. Brenda Hattie who spearheaded this program while a part-time faculty member. D. Piccitto expressed the importance of recognizing efforts by contingent faculty whose work is integral to the Mount achieving its academic mission and of striving to remedy the precarity that contingent faculty continue to experience with their employment at the Mount. G. Fraser echoed D. Piccitto's statements, recognizing the added value part-time faculty bring to the Mount.

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by D. Piccitto, that Senate approve items outlined in 7.4.4.1.1 – 7.4.4.1.3 for Women's Studies. CARRIED

7.4.5. Changes

A. Card referred to the following changes, which were presented for information.

7.4.5.1. Modern Languages

7.4.5.1.1. New cross-listing and description for FREN 3381/EDUC 5581

7.4.5.2. Psychology

7.4.5.2.1. New prerequisites for PSYC 3312

7.4.5.2.2. New prerequisites for PSYC 4499

## 7.5. Nominations

### 7.5.1. Revision to Bylaw 10.4.1

J. Fraser Arsenault brought forward a notice of motion that will be presented to Senate for approval at the April 29, 2022, Senate meeting. She confirmed that Faculty elections conducted using electronic ballots have worked well and removing the timeline associated with the current bylaw will match the reality that elections are conducted as the need arises.

## 8. Other Reports

### 8.1. FA President's Report on Board of Governors' Meeting

D. Piccitto reported that the last Board meeting, held on March 10 in a hybrid session, included a summary of SCOTL's work and a presentation by Dean Card on the programs, enrollments and trends in the Faculty of Education. She noted that various policies were reviewed, several new Board members were appointed, the appointments for the new AVP of Student Experience and Dr. Sheila Brown as the incoming Interim President were approved. R. Lumpkin confirmed that the Board is actively seeking to diversify its membership. D. Piccitto concluded by noting that a discussion was held on the ethics of MSVU's investing strategies and that an investment manager regularly reports on this item.

### 8.2. Students' Union

N. Buchanan provided the report on behalf of K. Allan. He reported that the Play Centre is open for extended hours for graduate students and has seen an increase in children registered. He highlighted the following items: Vincent's Pub open with a new menu, a concert on April 9 in the McCain parking lot featuring local bands, the AGM held on March 30 where several motions were passed including the renovation of the Crow's Nest study space and removal of the GPA requirement for SU positions, and a new opportunity which will allow students to care for the campus grounds. He announced that the Pride Centre has hired a support person for the Centre Coordinator and reminded Senators of the Queer Prom that will be held on April 16. He concluded by describing a strategic planning session that was held and which included an interactive workshop, discussions about the SU mission and vision and recommendations that may lead to a vote.

C. Hardy stated that the Captain Crow's Café will be closed over the summer and that an end-of-semester event will be planned. She reported that the Manager of the food bank is temporarily on leave and that it is being co-managed in her absence. She reminded Senators that the food bank is open over the summer for any students who need its services.

J. MacLeod stated that he had an opportunity to visit the newly opened campus pub and commended the SU on their improvements to the space and menu. He confirmed that the pub will be open following the Senate meeting and suggested that it would be a good opportunity for Senators to support the establishment.

## **9. New Business**

### **9.1. Environmental Policy**

T. Harriott referred to the information contained in the supporting materials and the MSVU environmental policy statement, part of which indicates that the “University will broaden its commitment to environmental education by introducing, where practical, relevant environmental content to curriculum material.” She articulated EX’s decision to bring this topic to Senate to discuss ways to educate our students on the global environmental crisis, beginning with awareness about our immediate environment. She then welcomed Dr. Elizabeth Church, Faculty of Education, and Dr. Jim Sharpe, retiree from the Faculty of Education, who shared about the work they have been doing to support the grounds and their plans for future work.

Dr. Church spoke about their initiatives to support and preserve the campus grounds now and into the future by reviewing historic documentation which will become available in the University archives. A brief video was shown where Carol Goodwin, the original grounds keeper from the 1970s, gave a tour of the grounds and described the arboretum and other plant species on campus.

Dr. Sharpe spoke about recent initiatives on campus including the establishment of the community garden, Indigenous garden, and butterfly garden.

A newly established project will see Anita Jackson, a landscape designer and gardening historian, being hired to document the campus. M. Nadeem confirmed that a seasonal staff member will assist with the project, which will tie into preparation for the 150-year anniversary celebration next year.

R. Lumpkin indicated that K. Allan was excited about the prospect of co-curricular opportunities for students who can volunteer to assist with the grounds and the possibility of this work becoming part of credit course work.

In response to a question from S. Brigham, it was confirmed that the video will be shared more widely once the location shots are added.

C. Schneider referred to the idea of establishing an accessible adventure playground that would fit into the natural environment for the campus

community and the public to enjoy. Dr. Sharpe mentioned that the Hemlock Ravine would be a potential area that could be developed into a natural playground and a fitness trail could be incorporated as well.

T. Franz-Odendaal noted that many courses in Biology give students the opportunity to experience the grounds by learning about the plants and ecology. She stated that two ecologists and two plant biologists are in the Department and could be used as a resource to document the campus. On behalf of the Biology Department, she expressed concern with the clear cutting that occurred which will cause runoff due to the construction that is being erected on the campus.

Dr. Church and Dr. Sharpe offered to come back to Senate to discuss their initiatives and potential student, faculty, and staff involvement. D. Piccitto supported the idea of having a variety of small presentations at Senate to discuss topics such as environmental issues, EDIA, and Dimensions to tie into the implementation of the strategic plan. R. Lumpkin indicated that EX would take that proposal under consideration.

R. Lumpkin thanked T. Harriott for bringing this topic to Senate for discussion.

9.2. Honorary Doctorate Nominations (**CONFIDENTIAL**)

**Moved** by N. Buchanan, seconded by S. Brigham, that Senate move in-camera to review the nominations for Honorary Degrees. CARRIED

**Moved** by S. Brigham, seconded by D. Piccitto, that Senate move out of the in-camera session. CARRIED

During the in-camera session, seven nominees for Honorary Degrees were approved.

## 10. Items for Communication

### Senate approved

- Minutes of March 4, 2022
- Ratification of Senate Executive motion re Supplemental Interview Committee
- Motion regarding examinations in Summer School 2022
- Continued suspension of Admissions to BSc (Science Communication)
- Several graduate and undergraduate curriculum changes
- Seven nominations for an honorary degree

### Senate received for information:

- Notice of motion re Bylaw changes for 1.1 and 10.4.1
- Undergraduate curriculum changes

## **11. Adjournment**

**Moved** by J. MacLeod, seconded by N. Buchanan, that the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.