



Senate Meeting
MCC 105/106; MS Teams

April 29, 2022
2 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Regrets: G. Durepos, C. Hardy, M. Nadeem, B. Taylor, M. Shortt Robertson

Observers: W. Brewer, C. Cameron, K. Gallant, G. Johnston, P. Small Legs-Nagge

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m. Observers were identified and welcomed. R. Lumpkin thanked the current student representatives for their involvement on Senate as well as J. Lumsden for serving as the Interim Associate Vice-President Student Experience. C. Dawson extended her thanks to J. Lumsden on behalf of the Interim Vice-President Academic and Provost.

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

R. Lumpkin proposed the following amendments to the agenda:
Address item 7.2 before item 7.1, to align proposed motions
Address item 7.3 after item 9, as it is confidential business and guests will be asked to leave

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by S. Trenholm, to approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. April 1, 2022

Moved by N. Buchanan, seconded by S. Brigham, to approve the minutes of April 1, 2022, as amended. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1. Revision to Bylaw 1.1

Regarding the new proposed ex officio position, D. Piccitto asked for clarification regarding the length of term, the possibility of a faculty member being considered, and who would make the selection. R. Lumpkin clarified that, in the interest of decolonizing our practices, the L'nu Advisory Circle will determine the length of term, the member will be appointed by the L'nu Advisory Circle and a Mi'kmaq faculty member of the L'nu Advisory Circle could be considered.

G. Boulet asked if there will be any recognition for this position as sitting on Senate is a lot of work. R. Lumpkin has indicated that in the past the L'nu members have been reluctant to accept compensation, but their travel expenses are reimbursed.

R. Lumpkin will contact the L'nu Advisory Circle on behalf of Senate and will offer support with the appointment process. The Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs will be available to facilitate this process with the hope that a decision can be made this summer so the member can join the Senate Orientation in September.

Moved by K. Allan, seconded by R. Zuk, that a Mi'kmaq member of the MSVU L'nu Advisory Circle be added to the ex officio complement of Senate and, to accord with the Charter, the number of at-large members in the Faculty Complement be increased from eight to nine, effective July 1, 2022. CARRIED

4.2. Revision to Bylaw 10.4.1

Moved by J. Fraser Arsenault, seconded by G. Boulet, that Senate approve that Faculty elections continue to be conducted by electronic ballot and that Senate Bylaw 10.4.1 (Voting Procedures) be amended as indicated, effectively immediately. CARRIED

4.3. New Scholarships/Bursaries

K. Gallant referred to the recent budget announcement outlining the funding commitment to increase student financial aid and confirmed that the Mount has increased financial aid by 26% since 2019. She indicated that donors are informed of student needs and that a significant amount of money has been raised for scholarships, bursaries, and awards in recent years. C. Schneider asked if the value of funding has increased or if the actual number of

scholarships and bursaries increased. R. Lumpkin spoke about the endowed scholarships and how the return on the investment can be used to increase the value of named scholarships with all other gain being rolled into the general scholarship fund which could be used to establish more scholarships or awards.

4.4. Age-Friendly University Status

S. Trenholm indicated that her predecessor supported a request in 2019 from the NS Centre on Aging that the Mount seek to obtain the Age-Friendly University status. Although work was delayed by the pandemic, she noted that progress was made where the Mount was mapped against the 10 guiding principles of the Age-Friendly University status, an environmental scan was done across other institutions, and a working group was established. She indicated that this year would mark the 30th anniversary for the Centre, which is committing to reinvigorating the work to obtain the status. She also indicated that colleagues at the Centre would like to have the term 'senior' replaced with 'older adult' in all Mount communication and minutes.

T. Findlay asked if this Age-Friendly designation would include age across the spectrum to create a child-friendly university as well. S. Trenholm was unaware if this would be something that includes all aspects of age as it is a pre-existing initiative.

4.5. Tuition Reduction for Seniors (M. Nadeem)

R. Lumpkin provided an update in M. Nadeem's absence and confirmed the Mount currently has a 50% tuition waiver for undergraduate students who are 65 years or older and no waiver exists for graduate students.

She provided the following comparators which showed several institutions offering tuition reduction for undergraduate students (NSCAD, CBU, Kings and Dal), several institutions offering no tuition reduction (NBCC, Memorial, UNB) and only one institution offering tuition reduction for undergraduate and graduate programs (St. Thomas).

Considering the Mount's commitment to obtain the Age-Friendly University status, S. Brigham stated that we should be seeking to increase accessibility, remove barriers and increase EDIA for all our programs. She suggested a staggered tuition reduction based on age and financial need for the graduate programs. G. Boulet spoke about a program at her former institution which was created for older adults to pursue degrees, and T. Franz-Odendaal referred to popular adult education programs in South Africa that saw faculty compensated through tuition collected.

R. Lumpkin addressed some potential reasons for not offering a reduction for graduate programs including compensation for thesis supervision and the displacement of a paying regular student due to small classes. She thanked Senators for their suggestions and indicated that M. Nadeem will investigate during the next budget cycle the impacts of offering a tuition reduction for graduate programs.

5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

R. Lumpkin spoke about the governance review that the provincial government's Department of Advanced Education is launching which will be a full review of all university acts and charters. She noted that, while the scope of work includes determining whether oversight is required and comparing acts across universities in NS and other jurisdictions, Presidents have been seeking more information about what this review will entail and its purpose; however, CONSUP was assured that this was not an attempt to amalgamate universities. R. Lumpkin informed Senators that recently all NS universities were asked to provide a substantial amount of information including Board and Senate composition, structure, bylaws, policies, and committees as well as policies governing research.

D. Piccitto presented concerns regarding the statement about increasing oversight and asked if there is anything we can do in the interim to protect our institution from government interference. R. Lumpkin spoke about how the incoming President has been briefed and will keep on top of this going forward.

R. Lumpkin spoke about Senate being a place to discuss any topic, whether it presides over the final decision, and she would like to see members of Senate working together as a group and to avoid an adversarial mentality. She reiterated that, out of courtesy and respect for other Senators, anyone bringing a matter of importance to Senate should provide proper notice and sufficient background documentation so that a constructive conversation can occur.

R. Lumpkin extended thanks to the Senate Secretary, Senate Recording Secretary and Senate Parliamentarian for their efforts in making Senate run smoothly.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost

No update was provided in the absence of B. Taylor.

5.3. Vice-President Administration

No update was provided in the absence of M. Nadeem.

6. Question Period

C. Schneider ask about the status of the digitization project, specifically related to the admissions process for the BEd program. R. Lumpkin confirmed that a digital strategy has been created, a senior member of IT&S will be appointed as project manager for this initiative and the technology aspect of the application process is a top priority.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the possibility of an Indigenous cluster hire next year. Senators spoke about the evidence that cluster hires increase retention rates and believe that an Indigenous cluster would align with our strategic plan and commitments made to this community. Several Senators expressed concerns that the plan to designate only one Indigenous hire per recruitment process seems like a step backward, given the success and recognition the Mount received with its Black Scholar cluster hire. Although there was agreement that faculty members can actively recruit Indigenous candidates, many expressed the view that commitment above the department level is critical to demonstrate publicly the Mount's commitment to the Indigenous community. It was suggested that a less-defined advertisement for a faculty position results in more diverse applications and that restricted calls for applications could see promising candidates choosing not to apply (T. Franz-Odendaal, R. Zuk, D. Piccitto, G. Fraser, L. MacCallum, S. Brigham, C. Schneider, T. Findlay). R. Lumpkin confirmed that no plans are in place for an Indigenous cluster hire and that going forward one hire will be reserved for a designated hire. She encouraged faculty members to use their approved positions to actively recruit Indigenous candidates. She stated that a cluster hire is a budgetary issue and that this round of hiring included a designated Indigenous hire for Education. R. Lumpkin concluded that perhaps more consideration regarding designated hires can be made during the next recruiting cycle.

D. Piccitto would like Senate to consider designating a space on the agenda for the discussion of advancing women's issues, social justice, and EDIA. R. Lumpkin stated that Senate EX has discussed the idea of recurring presentations at Senate on issues of academic importance, like the recent environmental presentation.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

Committee reports were given in the order identified under Approval of Agenda.

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Graduation List Procedures

P. Crouse referred to a document in the supporting materials that outlined the updates in the Graduation List Procedures which were approved by EX and brought to Senate for information.

- 7.1.2. Rules of Order Revisions: 15.3.8 & 15.5.4
Moved by R. Zuk, seconded by E. Henderson, that Senate approve the proposed revisions to Rules of Order 15.3.8 and 15.3.4, effective immediately. CARRIED
- 7.1.3. Revision to Bylaw 12.2.4 and Rule 15.5.4
E. Henderson brought forward a notice of motion that will be presented to Senate for approval at the May 25, 2022, Senate meeting concerning revisions to Bylaw 12.2.4 and additional revisions to Rule 15.5.4.
- 7.2. Academic Policy and Planning
 - 7.2.1. DEF Calendar Entry Revisions
Moved by S. Hale, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the revisions to 2.2.20 Undergraduate Level Grading Scheme (Undergraduate Calendar) and 2.2.13 Graduate Level Grading Scheme (Graduate Calendar), effective immediately. CARRIED
 - 7.2.2. External Review Schedule
C. Dawson, on behalf of CAPP, presented for information the External Review Schedule for academic and academic support units through 2025-2026.
 - 7.2.3. Guidelines for Setting Academic Calendar Dates
Moved by S. Hale, seconded by N. Buchanan, that Senate approve the revised Guidelines for Setting Academic Calendar Dates, effective immediately. CARRIED
- 7.3. Appointment, Promotion and Tenure or Permanence for Academic Administrators
 - 7.3.1. Professor Emeritus Nomination **CONFIDENTIAL**
Moved by S. Brigham, seconded by C. Schneider, that Senate move in-camera to review the nomination for Professor Emeritus. CARRIED

Moved by C. Dawson, seconded by N. Buchanan, that Senate move out of the in-camera session. CARRIED

During the in-camera session, the one nominee for Professor Emeritus was approved.

7.4. Nominations

7.4.1. Election of Senator to Selection Committee for Director of Teaching and Learning

J. Fraser Arsenault confirmed that no nominations were received during the call for the Selection Committee – Director of Teaching and Learning. She indicated that, since then, J. Roberts has agreed to stand for election for this position, and following three calls for nominations from the floor, she declared him elected.

7.5. Research and Publications

7.5.1. Revisions to Policy on Responsible Conduct of Research

D. Piccitto asked if the update to the Responsible Conduct of Research definition is verbatim from the Tri-Agency Framework or if it was an interpretation from CRP. J. Gahagan stated that the language may not be verbatim but did align with the Tri-Agency Framework. D. Piccitto and J. Gahagan both agreed on the importance of adhering to federally mandated policies and acknowledged the role Senate currently plays in the oversight of such policy updates.

Moved by J. Gahagan, seconded by A. Card, that Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on Responsible Conduct of Research, to be effective once approved by Senate. CARRIED

8. Other Reports

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

D. Piccitto reported that the last Board meeting, held on April 21 in a hybrid session, included a site visit of the Child Study Centre which will be moved and renovated to increase capacity, two engaging presentations by A. Card and Christine McLean, and a Senate highlight regarding the membership of Senate. She added that the budget was presented, discussed, and approved and that K. Gallant presented on the plans for the Mount's 150th anniversary event. D. Piccitto noted that the Board revised the ToR for the JBSLC to change its mandate to being more action oriented. She spoke of a discussion surrounding the recent government funding provided to rural universities as well as the governance review that R. Lumpkin spoke of earlier. She stated that Board members shared concerns regarding these two issues and members in a position to work with government officials will work to highlight the value of the Mount. D. Piccitto ended her report by extending thanks to R. Lumpkin for serving as Interim President during such a challenging time.

J. MacLeod thanked D. Piccitto for her work reporting to Senate on matters that occur at the Board meetings.

8.2. Students' Union

K. Allan highlighted several recent events that went well including a Mount music festival in the McCain parking lot, the Queer Prom, a STI testing event, and a STEM bingo event. She noted that this will mark the first summer in which services will be offered including the Hub, Play Center, Pride Centre, Food Bank and Captain Crow's Café. She referenced recent updates to HR processes, job postings for the fall term, and cleaning underway at the SU in preparation for upcoming updates to the Crow's Nest, Hub Lounge, Pride Centre and a soon-to-be-established Wellness Centre which will be available for breastfeeding, bottle feeding, pumping and decompression. K. Allan extended thanks to R. Lumpkin for her support and leadership during the last year. R. Lumpkin extended thanks to K. Allan for her work as the SU President and congratulated her on her reelection.

9. New Business

9.1. On behalf of the Deans, C. Dawson thanked R. Lumpkin for her service as Interim President.

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of April 1, 2022
- Revisions to Bylaw 1.1
- Revisions to Bylaw 10.4.1
- DEF Calendar entry revisions
- Guidelines for setting Academic Calendar dates
- Revisions to Rules of Order 15.3.8 & 15.5.4
- Revisions to Policy on Responsible Conduct of Research
- Awarding of Professor Emeritus status on Dr. Mallika Das

Senate elected:

- Dr. Jonathan Roberts to serve as Senate's representative on the Selection Committee for the Director of Teaching and Learning

Senate received for information:

- Graduation list procedures
- Notice of motion for revisions to Bylaw 12.2.4 & Rule 15.5.4
- External review schedule

Senate acknowledged service of J. Lumsden, Interim Associate VP Student Experience, Student Senators whose terms were ending—K. Allan, N. Buchanan, M. Gillis, C. Hardy, M. Shortt Robertson—and R. Lumpkin, Interim President.

11. Adjournment

Moved by G. Boulet, seconded by J. MacLeod, that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.