

Senate Minutes

October 18, 2024
CE339

The Chair, F. Odartey-Wellington, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair began with the acknowledgement that Cape Breton University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Present:

Catherine Arseneau, Tammy Bernasky, Matthias Bierenstiel, Geoff Carre, Linda Cavanaugh, Martin Chandler, Paula Condon, Ayse Ersoy, Virginia Gunn, Michael Henick, Ali Heydari, Chad Hillier, Carrie Karsgaard, Kanchan Kumari, Kimberley Lamarche, Tracy Lillington, Doug Lionais, Ellyn Lyle, Terry MacDonald, Gordon MacInnis, Sophia Mordi, John Nadeau, Kathleen Nash, Rod Nicholls, Felix Odartey-Wellington, Olabode Peters Olaniran, Marcia Ostashewski, Joe Parish, Andy Parnaby, Michelle Prendergast, Karen Rowe, Nancy Samson, Rebecca Seymore, Ann Sylliboy, Laurianne Sylvester, Éric Thériault, Bilynda Whiting

Regrets:

Sahand Ashtab, Melissa Bishop, Tanya Brann-Barrett, Karen Butterworth, Sean Campbell, Pooja Chahal, David Dingwall, Kylie Ewing, Abiola Emmanuel Ilori, Harkanwal Kaur, Janet Kuhnke Stephanie MacQuarrie, John Mayich, Bishakha Mazumdar, Nancy Spina, Jamie Tunnicliff

2. Orientation for New and Returning Members of Senate

Dr. Tom Urbaniak, CBU Parliamentarian, provided an orientation for new and returning Senators.

Dr. Urbaniak conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the Senators for their thoughtfulness during the passing of his parents and wife, as well as for their generous donation to the Reverend Allison Memorial Fund in honor of his late wife.

3. Items to be considered in closed session:

It was moved by L. Sylvester, seconded by J. Nadeau, to move into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting confidential business.

Motion Carried. 1 abstention

Following a closed session, **it was moved** by M. Bierenstiel, seconded by M. Chandler, to move to Open Session.

Motion Carried.

4. Reports and Items for Information

4.1 President

No Report

4.2 Vice President Academic and Provost

R. Nicholls reported on the following:

a) VPA Response to Diploma in Educational Technology Quality Assurance Review

- The VPA response to the Diploma in Educational Technology Quality Assurance Review was included in the Meeting Package and Senators were provided an opportunity to ask questions.
- An update was provided on the recent changes from IRCC regulations since the September Senate meeting. These changes include adjustments to federal study permit targets, which now impose caps affecting all universities in Nova Scotia, including CBU. The regulations require that at least 12% of the study permit allocations go to Master's or Ph.D. students. Additionally, spousal work permits are now restricted to 16-month master's programs only. There are concerns regarding Canada's post-secondary brand in attracting international students, with anticipated shifts in demand: interest in post-baccalaureate programs may decline while demand for master's programs is expected to rise. Extensive planning and review efforts are underway for CBU's SEM targets and program development looking toward 2027. Several CBU staff participated in a day long workshop on the A.I. enabled educator hosted by Simon Fraser University.
- CTL will be hosting a 2-part collaborative discussion potential of A.I. in the classroom October 24th and November 5th.
- In anticipation of the Dalhousie CBU Medical program next September, there is lots of actively of staffing for that as well as the overall CBU Med Campus initiative.
- Construction of the CDI building has started.
- CBU hosted the Chris Hadfield event.

- The School of Nursing is actively working on departmental restructuring within the school, with updated bylaws and department establishment currently awaiting approval from President Dingwall.

In response to a question about whether the PAL allocation would be adjusted now that 12% of study permit allocations are designated for Master's or Ph.D. students, it was explained that the Province has not yet received its 2025 allotment from the Federal Government. As a result, no reallocation has occurred. Although CBU received four times as many PALs as any other university, there is no expectation that this change will negatively impact CBU's allocation.

4.3 Unama'ki College

L. Sylvester reported on the following:

- An orientation was held for the BSc Pathway (In-community cohort) Indigenous Students on October 5.
- The second Cohort for BSc Pathway will begin with a Biology Course, a refresh in Math and Chemistry courses before they begin the BSc courses in January. They have 17 students registered.
- UC and Center for Sound Communities/faculty hosted many activities and will host many more in honor of Mi'kmaw History Month. Activities include cultural, educational, and overall awareness of Indigenous topics.
- 30-day check-in was well attended and supported by UC staff and CBU services (academic, mental health, and UC Kisiku, Shirley Christmas).
- Due to the low numbers and conflicts with other events, the Indigenous Alumni Gala-the celebrations will take place in the new year but will still be acknowledged as a 50-year celebration event.
- Unama'ki College visited all provinces of Mi'kma'ki as part of the recruitment plan to attract more Indigenous students.
- An Elders' Gathering did not take place however they are planning to gather Elder's to approve the Elder's Protocol handbook.
- Mi'kmaw Beading Exhibit is on display at the CBU Gallery until February 2025, featuring Mi'kmaw beaders/artisans!
- In-Community programs - Eskasoni (2), Millbrook, Listuguj. Sipeknekatik will begin in January 2025 and Wagmatcook is scheduled to begin in September 2025.

4.4 Students' Union

O. Olaniran presented the Students' Union Report which was included in the Senate Meeting Package. He highlighted the following:

- Week of Welcome events were successful with various events like Movie Night at Cineplex, Games Day and the Orange out party.
- O. Olaniran was invited to speak at the international student orientation where he had the opportunity to give advice to the new students and encourage them to participate in both CBU and Students' Union events.

- There was a question-and-answer session on GuardMe. Donalda Johnston, and John Mayich, the Director of Student Affairs were there to address the issues and give more insight to the students. The Students' Union plan to have more informative sessions like this in the coming year.
- Career Readiness Series workshops take place on various Mondays in the Dingwall Boardroom. Each workshop covers a different topic under the career readiness umbrella, for example, "Perfect your Resume & Cover Letter", "Job Hunt 101" and "Ace the Interview". There are still spots open for registration.
- He was invited to the USport National Championship Ring Ceremony where they celebrated CBU athletes for their fantastic work last season,
- A volunteer fair was held at Cineplex with the aim of reaching students who take classes there, promoting their centers and the opportunity to be involved in any events or activities organized during the year.
- The Women's Centre and Multi-Cultural Hub organized a Teej event which is a celebration of womanhood, devotion, and commitment to women empowerment and cultural awareness.
- The Students' Union Foodbank has seen an increase in usage as students return to school. More work with the foodbank coordinator will be done to develop more initiatives to help students facing food insecurity.
- They have been doing bi-weekly grocery runs since the start of the semester with the drive-home program it has been going great. They have serviced 150 students with just the grocery run and we expect more students to use this service.
- Concerns have been received from students about transportation to campus being difficult as the buses were always at full capacity. After some conversations with Alex MacNeil, their General Manager, a meeting was scheduled with Norm Hubbert and Kent MacIntyre from the university who agreed with the proposal for the use of Student Union vans to transport students to and from Cineplex.
- He attended the bi-weekly Students' Nova Scotia board meeting with Rebecca where they shared what is happening at CBU with their counterparts from other universities.
- They have new equipment in the Games room and aim to have more engaging events in the Games room going forward.

In response to a question, O. Olaniran discussed the timeframe for the Students' Union election and explained that the unofficial results posted now but there is a 2 days window to make an appeal today is the last day.

The Chair recognized him and his team for the great job creating a conducive environment and for their overall commitment.

4.5 Board of Governors

No Report

4.6 Executive Committee

Éric Thériault reported that the Executive Committee met on October 4 to set the agenda for today's meeting. During the meeting, Senate committees were reminded to review their Terms of Reference and suggest any necessary changes, with an initial report expected at the next Executive meeting. Additionally, committees were reminded to prepare their mandate letters.

The Committee also discussed the potential transition to using MS Teams for data management, including meeting packages, for Senate and its committees. Further updates will follow on this initiative.

There was also a discussion on implementing co-chairs within Senate committees and on determining which body is responsible for revising the grade appeals policy.

The next Senate Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for November 1, and any questions for the upcoming Question Period should be submitted by then.

Following the report, it was recommended by the Registrar that another conferral date be put on the agenda for Senate.

5. Approval of the Minutes

➤ Senate – September 13, 2024

It was moved by J. Parish, seconded by K. Rowe, that Senate approve the minutes from the September 13th Senate meeting.

Motion Carried. (5 abstentions)

6. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

7. Report from Senate Committees:

7.1 Planning and Review

No Report

7.2 Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

On behalf of the Chair, T. Lillington reported that the Committee met on October 3rd and are working with IT support to produce a new report on the state of classroom technology, and they will continue to work on the policy on student employment related to class activities. Their next meeting will be held on November 7.

7.3 Academic

J. Parish reported on the following:

The Academic Committee has met twice since the last meeting of Senate in September and continue to work on policy revisions through *ad hoc* committee work. They have also considered the recommendations that arose out of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Class Attendance and related issues and are preparing responses to those recommendations and will bring them forward for inclusion to Senate at the December meeting.

He provided the following items for information that have been also outlined in the Report included in the Senate Meeting Material:

- Changes to the Nursing Progression Regulations were received by Academic Committee in September. These changes reflect province-wide discussions among all nursing programmes with regard to alignment of standards and regulations. The document outlining these changes has been forwarded to Senate in the interest of transparency and record. Any questions regarding these changes can be directed to Dean Kimberly Lamarche.
- Block articulation agreements between various diplomas at NSCC and the BACS programme at CBU were received by Academic Committee and are presented to Senate for information purposes only. All eight of these agreements have arisen to provide detail to the transfer of credits to students for various courses from NSCC to CBU equivalents while receiving advanced standing in the BACS programme of up to a maximum of 50% totalling no more than 45 credits in all cases. Any questions regarding these agreements can be directed to Dean Andy Parnaby.

Following the report, Senators discussed the following:

- Nursing changes and the decision matrix
- Nursing regulations and what type of mechanisms are available
- Multiple bodies making decisions and the question regarding what scope does CBU have.
- Policy Gap and the lack of a policy matrix
- Impact on Nursing Students with the changes in grade percentage requirements
- Pre-approved transfer credits related to the articulation agreements with NSCC
- Consultations and reviews of pre-approved transfer credits within the articulation agreements with CBU and the NSCC

7.4 By-Laws and Procedures

On behalf of the Chair, Éric Thériault reported that the Bylaws Committee held a meeting in September to organize its work and is actively updating the 16 school and department bylaws for the 2024-25 academic year.

7.5 Quality Assurance

No report.

7.6 Research

M. Ostashewski reported the following:

- The roles of Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and co-chairs were reviewed, confirming she will serve as Chair of the Research Committee, with Matthias as Vice-Chair.
- The Committee has submitted its mandate letters to the Senate Executive.
- Meetings were held on October 4th and 18th, with the next scheduled for November 8th.
- Significant progress has been made on mandate letters, which focus on policy reviews and updates aligned with the Research Committee's Terms of Reference.
- The team is working on Rise Grants, Research Awards, and initiatives related to Research, Institutes, and Centres.
- A Strategic Research Plan is currently under development.
- The committee is adjudicating the President's Research Awards and SSHRC Impact Awards.
- They are overseeing the standing sub-committees, including the Research Assistant Committee, Animal Care Committee, and Research Ethics Board.
- The Research Assistance Committee (RAC) now has Michelle Jetha as Chair and is fully staffed.
- Discussions have taken place regarding the Rise Policy and potential increases to funding limits.
- She reminded everyone that the nomination deadline for the President's Research Awards is November 1 and encouraged Senators to motivate faculty members to apply or nominate others. Additionally, the call for SSHRC Impact Award nominations will be issued soon, with a deadline set for January.

Following the report, Senators discussed the amount of funding available for Rise and SSHRC Grants, it was noted that the Planning and Review Committee are considering an increase in the pre-budget recommendations. It was also noted that policies need to be updated, and criteria defined,

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

É. Thériault
Secretary to Senate