



## Minutes

A meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee to consider the inclusion of the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial’s convocation ceremonies was held on **Monday April 15, 2024 at 10:00 am via Teams**

**Committee members:**

Arif Abu (Internationalization Office); Edwin Bezzina (senator); Mackenzie Broders (student); Kelly Butler (Indigenous Affairs); Cyr Couturier (senator); Delores Mullings (Vice-Provost EDI-AR); Craig Purchase (senator); Lisa Russell (lead, convocation); Adaeze Stella Charles (student); Kati Szego (senator); Valeri Pilgrim (Indigenous Student Resource Centre); Michael Woods (senator); Shayam Yadav (student).

**Convener:** Lee Ann McKivior [non-voting]

**Recording secretary:** Brian Hammond [non-voting]

Present: Arif Abu, Mackenzie Broders, Kelly Butler, Cyr Couturier, Brian Hammond, Craig Purchase, Lee Ann McKivior, Valeri Pilgrim, Lisa Russell, Michael Woods

1.0		<p><b><u>Land Acknowledgement</u></b></p> <p>We acknowledge that the lands on which Memorial University’s campuses are situated are in the traditional territories of diverse Indigenous groups, and we acknowledge with respect the diverse histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi’kmaq, Innu and Inuit of this province.</p>	
2.0		<p><b><u>Approval of Agenda</u></b></p> <p>Move to adopt the agenda as presented, with addition of a question about minutes which will be asked prior to discussion of the report.</p> <p>Move: Ed Bezzina; Second: Mackenzie Broders No objections or abstentions; motion approved.</p>	Approved
3.0		<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b></p>	
	3.1	<p>Minutes from March 27, 2024</p> <p>Move to adopt the minutes as presented.</p> <p>Move: Kelly Butler; Second: Valeri Pilgrim No objections or abstention; motion approved.</p>	Approved
4.0		<p><b><u>Preliminary Report to Senate</u></b></p>	
	4.1	<p>Update from meeting of Senate, April 9, 2024:</p>	

		<p>It was noted that, overall, there was good discussion at Senate. It was clear at the meeting of Senate that there are distinctly divergent opinions surrounding the issue of continuation of the singing of the Ode to Newfoundland at the University's convocation.</p> <p>Members were updated about the motion of Dr. C. Purchase that went in tandem to Senate with the <i>ad hoc</i> committee's recommendation. Following the Senate vote to adopt the preliminary report and accept the <i>ad hoc</i> committee's recommendation to continue the pause on singing the Ode to Newfoundland at the University's Convocation, Dr. Purchase withdrew his motion to reinstate the singing of the Ode until such a time as the <i>ad hoc</i> Committee finalizes its work.</p>	For Discussion
5.0		<b><u>Consultation</u></b>	
	5.1	<p>Update from regarding development of form/survey:</p> <p>The Institutional Survey Oversight Committee has responsibility for the Institutional Surveys Policy, which ensures a coordinated and consistent approach to requesting information from groups within the institution.</p> <p>It was noted that the <i>ad hoc</i> committee needs to decide upon the questions they wish to include in an online survey/consultation, and only after that can a form be developed, most likely through a platform like Qualtrics.</p> <p>In addition, submissions that are anything other than text-based (e.g. video or audio submissions) will require extra IT support and security. ITS will need to know what we want, so they can tell us what we will need to support that.</p> <p>It was also noted that the group needs to consider how the submitted information will be used. This will become an exercise in qualitative research analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member pointed out that the <i>ad hoc</i> committee's membership includes qualitative researchers who would be one option to analyze the data once it is obtained.</li> </ul> <p>Committee members established that information should be gathered in two separate fashions: 1. Through an online, open-ended, survey, and 2. Through consultation interviews with a variety of stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that surveys often attract only those respondents who have significant stake in the matter being discussed. Interviews/consultation with a more varied group will likely provide more useful and unbiased information.</li> </ul> <p>It is apparent that no matter whether the Ode is included or</p>	For Discussion

	<p>excluded from convocation ceremonies, some groups of people will not be satisfied with the choice.</p> <p>Survey questions should not focus solely on whether an individual wants the Ode played at convocation or not. People could be asked, for example, how much they know about the Ode to Newfoundland.</p> <p><i>Action:</i> Members will consider and submit options for questions to be placed on survey form.</p>	
6.0	<p><b><u>Other Business</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that several members of this <i>ad hoc</i> committee will be leaving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members shared that there is a general hesitation to participate on the committee. Students in particular are potentially going to be difficult to replace.</li> </ul> <p>Committee members also agreed to hold a working meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, wherein they will further consider the types of questions to present in a survey to the public.</p> <p><b>Meeting adjourned 10:56</b></p>	