

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND  
SENATE

The regular meeting of Senate was held on October 8, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lecture Theatre in the Physical Education Building, Room 2001.

12. PRESENT

The President, Dr. R. Marceau, Mr. G. Blackwood, Dr. M. Bluehardt, Dr. A. Foster (for Dr. M. Abrahams), Dr. K. Anderson, Ms. L. Busby, Dr. H. Carnahan, Ms. S. Cleyle, Mr. B. Gardiner, Dr. A. Gaudine, Dr. G. Naterer, Dr. L. Phillips, Dr. S. Peters (for Dr. J. Rourke), Ms. S. Singleton, Dr. S. Abhyankar, Dr. F. Basset, Dr. S. Carr, Dr. C. Couturier, Dr. J. Doré, Dr. I. Emke, Dr. A. Fiech, Dr. D. Foster, Dr. G. George, Dr. S. Kocabiyik, Dr. J. Lokash, Dr. D. McKay, Dr. W. Okshevsky, Mr. B. Riggs, Professor G. Riser, Mr. P. Ryan, Dr. C. Sharpe, Dr. K. Simonsen, Dr. D. Tulett, Professor D. Walsh, Dr. P. Wang, Dr. M. Wernerheim, Dr. P. Wilson, Mr. J. Donnelly, Mr. A. Woolridge, Ms. R. Anderson (for Mr. W. Brownlee), Mr. S. Kennedy (for Ms. K. Carroll), Ms. J. Dawe, Ms. A. Holloway, Ms. K. Drisdelle (for Ms. B. Peddle), Ms. C. Simms, Mr. J. Van Wijk, Ms. A. Wilson.

**Attending by Invitation**

Ms. Shelly Kawaja, Administrative Director, First Year Success Program  
Dr. Valerie Burton, Academic Director, First Year Success Program  
Ms. Sharon Pippy, Manager, Institutional Analysis and Planning

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr. S. Knight, Dr. N. Golfman, Dr. C. Reynolds, Dr. J. Connor, Dr. A. Fisher, Dr. D. Gustafson, Dr. D. Kelly, Dr. S. LeFort, Dr. S. Mulay, Dr. A. Rose.

14. MINUTES

It was moved by Dr. Okshevsky, seconded by Dr. George, and carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held on September 10, 2013 be taken as read and confirmed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

At the request of Dr. McKay and with agreement from Senate, consent agenda item 2.A. was moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda.

At the request of Dr. Tulett and with agreement from Senate, consent agenda item 3.A. was moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda.

It was moved by Mr. Riggs, seconded by Dr. Carr, and carried that the consent agenda, comprising the items listed in 15 to 18 below, be approved as follows:

15. REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

15.1 Department of Biology

Page 479, 2013-2014 Calendar, under the heading 9.2 Biology, insert a new course to read as follows:

**“4607 Models in Biology** is a study of the design and analysis of statistical and mathematical models for exploring the biology of cells, genes, species, populations, communities and ecosystems. Qualitative, quantitative and graphical techniques are used to analyze models and to compare theoretical predictions with empirical data. Classic models of systems biology, population growth, species competition, predator-prey interactions, ecosystem nutrient cycling, immunology, evolutionary invasion analysis, and species distribution will be covered.

LH: 3

PR: BIOL 2060, 2600 and 2900; Statistics 2550 or equivalent. It is recommended that students complete BIOL 3295.”

Page 453, 2013-2014 Calendar, under the headings 8.2.3.2 Major in Biology (Cell and Molecular) add “Biology 4607” to the list of recommended Biology courses, and add “Biology 4607” to clause 4 under the heading 8.2.6.1 Cell and Molecular Biology Course Requirements

Page 453, 2013-2014 Calendar, under the heading 8.2.3.3 Major in Biology (Ecology and Conservation) add “Biology 4607” to the list of recommended Biology courses, and add “Biology 4607” to clause 4 under the heading 8.2.7.1 Ecology and Conservation Biology Course Requirements.

Page 453, 2013-2014 Calendar, under the heading 8.2.3.4 Major in Biology (Marine) add “Biology 4607” to the list of recommended Biology courses, and add “Biology 4607” to clause 4 under the heading 8.2.8.1 Marine Biology Course Requirements.

16. REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

16.1 Faculty of Education

Page 639, 2013-2014 Calendar, under the heading 30.9.3 Program of Study, amend clause “a” to read as follows:

- “a. Students are required to successfully complete two courses on the doctoral program.  
Education 701A/B - Doctoral Seminar in Education: Area of Specialization  
Education 702A/B - Advanced Educational Research

Faculty of Education (cont'd)

Note: Students will normally register for the 'A' portion of the above-noted courses in the relevant Fall Semester of their program of study and the corresponding 'B' portion of the course in the following Winter Semester. A grade of NC (No Grade Expected) will be assigned to the 'A' portion of each of these courses."

Page 640, 2013-2014 Calendar, under the heading 30.9.4 Courses, amend to read as follows:

- “• 701A/B Doctoral Seminar in Education: Area of Specialization
- 702A/B Advanced Educational Research
- 7003-30 Special Topics

Note: credit may not be obtained for both 701A/B and the former 7001; and 702A/B and the former 7002”

17. Report of the Senate Committee on Elections and Committees

17.1 MUNSU Representation on Senate Committees

It was agreed to approve the following nominations from the Committee on Elections and Committees:

**Executive Committee of Senate**

Ashley Wilson

**Advisory Committee on the Bookstore**

Alyssa Feener

**Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies**

Devin Grant

Ashley Wilson

**Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial**

Candace Simms

**Advisory Committee on the Library**

Christopher Earle

**Advisory Committee on the University Timetable**

Sean Kennedy

**Committee on Research**

Christopher Earle

**Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships, Bursaries, and Awards**

Ashley Holloway

MUNSU Representation on Senate Committees (cont'd)

**Committee on the University Calendar**

Ashley Holloway

**Senate Committee on Academic Appeals**

Ashley Holloway

Travis Perry

Dan Campbell

**Committee on Course Evaluations**

Sean Kennedy

**Committee on Elections and Committees**

Ryan Murphy

**University Committee on Admissions**

Jordan Chafe

**University Planning and Budget Committee**

Travis Perry

17.2 Faculty Representation on Senate Committee

A memorandum dated September 25, 2013, was received from the Committee on Elections and Committees advising that the following nomination is being recommended for Senate approval. It was agreed that the following nomination be approved:

<b>Senate Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards</b>	<b>Member until September</b>
Alisa Craig (Sociology)	2016

18. REPORTS OF SENATE COMMITTEES

Written reports were received for the information of Senators from the following Senate Committees:

- Senate Committee on Copyright
- Senate Advisory Committee on the Library
- Senate Committee on Elections and Committees
- Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
- Senate Advisory Committee on the Bookstore
- Senate Committee on Course Evaluation
- University Committee on Admissions
- Senate Committee on Academic Appeals
- Executive Committee of Senate
- Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial
- Senate Committee on Research

**REGULAR AGENDA**

19. **REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

19.1 **Election of Chair for 2013-2014 Academic Year**

In accordance with the **HANDBOOK OF SENATE BY-LAWS AND PROCEDURES, SECTION VI. SENATE COMMITTEES – SELECTION AND PROCEDURES**, A. Senate Committee Procedures, Clause 7, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies advised that at a meeting held on 12 September 2013, Mr. Bert Riggs was re-elected as Chair for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Dr. McKay asked Senate to join him and thank Mr. Riggs for outstanding job in guiding us through the work of Senate. Senate gave Mr. Riggs a round of applause.

20. **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

20.1 **Department of Folklore**

Dr. Tulett questioned the change to the calendar language around the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examinations. Students write their exams at home on their computer. Although the Calendar indicates that these are “closed book” exams, it is current practice to treat them as “open book” exams. Dr. Tulett questioned whether the questions are appropriate. There is no invigilation of exams. How does the Department check for academic misconduct for these take home exams?

It was agreed to park these calendar changes and seek clarification from the School of Graduate Studies about the program.

21. **First Year Success Interim Report**

The President invited Dr. Lynne Phillips to present the First Year Success Interim Report noting that Ms. Kawaja, Dr. Burton, and Ms. Pippy were also in attendance and available to respond to any questions.

Dr. Phillips noted that Senate approved the implementation of the Pilot Project in February 2012. It is now into the second year of the pilot and the report is a status update for Senate. The Pilot was developed for first year students with a 70-74.9 % admission average. Some of the positive outcomes of the program to date are: students’ grades were higher, students were more likely to complete their courses, and there were fewer withdrawals for those students going into their second year.

First Year Success Interim Report (cont'd)

Those delivering the project have learned a lot. It blends together academic, administrative and support features. There were some challenges to the program in the first year such as identifying target group. This year there are double the number of students in the target group. So far there have not been any drops.

Dr. Phillips thanked everyone involved as well as David Philpott and Susan Cleyle for their participation and their passion for the program.

The President noted that this report is for the information of Senate; there will be a second report to Senate next year.

Dr. Sharpe expressed his concern about comparison groups. We can't know how participating students did better as we don't know what courses each group completed. To say grades are higher is not necessarily true.

Ms. Pippy advised that it was extremely difficult to define the comparison group because only program students completed University 1010 and 2020, and Arts 1500. They could not get a perfect match but did the best with what they could find.

Dr. Tulett noted that years ago, anyone with a 70% average had no problem with university. Is there a problem with the admission criteria? Ms. Kawaja said it is too early to have an answer as we only have one year's data to look at. We need more time.

The President asked whether we have data for 20 years ago?

Dr. Wilson also shared Dr. Sharpe's concerns. He was very concerned that 40% of students are not in the target group. We must look at targeted groups only. It is difficult to draw conclusions as groups become smaller.

Dr. Okshevsky asked when recommendations need to be made. Dr. Phillips noted that they are asking for a third year extension. It is hard to find students who fit the target group. There are some students with a B grade not in the target group who feel they need support.

Ms. Kawaja noted that final grades from high schools are not released until the middle of July and registration for this program is the middle of July. They have to rely on advisors to find students who best fit or on students feeling they need the support.

Dr. Anderson noted that a lot of things have been learned by the pilot and that there have been some learning bumps which is a good sign. He complimented them on their work on the project.

22. Proposed Changes to the Faculty of Medicine ByLaws and Constitution of Faculty Council

A memorandum dated September 23, 2013 was received from Dr. James Rourke, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, proposing revisions to the Faculty of Medicine ByLaws and Constitution of Faculty Council which was approved by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine on February 19, 2013. Mr. G. Quigley of the University's General Counsel Office reviewed the documents and suggested some minor technical changes. These suggestions/changes were brought forward to Faculty Council for information, review and discussion on September 17, 2013, prior to being submitted to Senate.

It was moved by Dr. Peters, seconded by Dr. Doré, and carried that the proposed revisions to the Faculty of Medicine ByLaws and Constitution of Faculty Council be approved for submission to the Board of Regents.

23. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR - QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM SENATORS

Dr. Kachanoski reported on his activities since the last meeting of Senate. He spent three days at Grenfell Campus for Convocation. The first graduate degree at Grenfell Campus for the Master of Arts (Environmental Policy) was awarded. He attended the naming of the residences at Grenfell Campus and community events.

He attended the Toronto Affinity Event which is an annual fundraising event.

Dr. Kachanoski noted that there have had extensive consultations with government on the efficiency review. He expects an announcement to be made next week, and feels very encouraged.

He noted that the Law Task Force has had public meetings on and off campus and the report is expected soon.

He also noted that the work of the Task Force on Competitive Athletics is proceeding and a report is expected soon.

Dr. Kachanoski attended the Association of Atlantic Canada Universities and will sit on a panel in December discussing university autonomy and accountability.

The question of where does Memorial stand in Canada with regards to budget was asked. The President noted that Memorial is probably the only university in Canada with a budget increase. From a budget perspective, we are in a very good spot.

He noted that there is a committee looking at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WW1 and how we want to mark it.

24. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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SECRETARY