

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

SENATE

The regular meeting of Senate was held on November 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. NDT via Webex.

134. PRESENT

Dr. N. Bose – Chair	Mr. N Gillingham	Dr. D. Peters
Dr. J. Lokash – Deputy Chair	Dr. S. Giwa	Ms. H. Pretty
Mr. E. Ludlow – Chancellor	Dr. M. Haghiri	Dr. J. Pridham
Dr. T. Allen	Dr. D. Hancock	Dr. C. Purchase
Dr. J. Anderson	Mr. J. Harris	Dr. P. Ride
Dr. K. Anderson	Dr. E. Haven	Dr. S. Rowe
Dr. F. Bambico	Dr. K. Hodgkinson	Mr. S. Sayeedi
Ms. H. Bello	Dr. N. Hurley	Mr. S. Shah
Dr. E. Bezzina	Dr. P. Issahaku	Dr. K. Shannahan
Dr. A. Bittner	Dr. K. Jacobsen	Dr. S. Shetranjiwalla
Dr. P. Brett	Dr. R. Joy	Ms. B. Simmons
Ms. M. Broders	Dr. D. Keeping	Dr. K. Simonsen
Dr. T. Brown	Dr. D. Kelly	Dr. J. Sinclair
Dr. S. Bugden	Dr. E. Kendall	Dr. M. Stordy
Dr. K. Bulmer	Dr. C. Kozak	Dr. AM. Sullivan
Dr. T. Chapman	Dr. A. Loucks-Atkinson	Mr. P. Sullivan
Mr. J. Chowdhury	Dr. M. Marshall	Dr. I. Sutherland
Mr. C. Couturier	Dr. D. McKeen	Dr. K. Szego
Dr. D. Hardy-Cox	Dr. L.A. McKivor	Dr. L. Twells
Dr. A. Cunsolo	Dr. L. Moores	Ms. C. Walsh
Dr. P. Dold	Dr. S. Moore	Dr. A. Warren
Dr. E. Durnford	Dr. D. Mullings	Mr. R. Waye
Dr. E. Fraser	Dr. K. Myrick	Dr. J. Westcott
Dr. T. Fridgen	Dr. S. Neilsen	Dr. M. Woods
Dr. G. George	Ms. T. Noseworthy	Mr. S. Yadav

PRESENT BY INVITATION

Dr. S. Sullivan, Chair, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. S. Abyaz	Dr. R. Haynes	Dr. L. Moore
Dr. R. Burry	Dr. T. Hennessey	Dr. P. Morrill
Dr. P. Button	Dr. K. Laing	Dr. A. Pike
Dr. O. Dobre	Mr. N. Keough	Ms. B. Smith
	Dr. S. MacDonald	

135. MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

It was moved by Dr. G. George and seconded by Dr. I Sutherland, and carried to adopt the agenda as presented, with no oppositions and no abstentions.

136. MINUTES

It was moved by Dr. M. Haghiri and seconded by Dr. G. George and carried that the minutes from October 10, 2023, be taken and read as confirmed with some minor amendments, with no oppositions and no abstentions.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Dr. G. George seconded by Dr. P. Brett and carried that the consent agenda be approved as presented. One member abstained, no members opposed.

137. **Report of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies:**

3a. Proposed Calendar Changes – School of Maritime Studies (Marine Institute)

The School proposed changes to the program description of the Bachelor of Maritime Studies Safety Management Minor to clarify/emphasize the maritime focus of the program.

b. Proposed Calendar Changes – School of Arts and Social Sciences (Grenfell Campus)

The School proposed the addition of two new courses to the Calendar:
ENGL 3182: Documentary Film
ENGL 4249: Media, Energy and Society

c. Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Science

The Department of Mathematics proposed updates to the course MATH 2000: Calculus III

4. **Senate Committee on Academic Appeals**

a. Annual Report.

5. **Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial**

- b. Annual Report.
- 6. Senate **Executive Committee**
 - a. Annual Report.
- 7. Senate Committee on **Elections, Committees and Bylaws**
 - a. Annual Report.
- 8. Senate Committee on **Academic Unit Planning**
 - a. Annual Report.
 - b. Annual Plan.
- 9. Senate Committee on **Admissions**
 - a. Annual Report.
 - b. Work Plan.
- 10. Senate Committee on **Course Evaluation** – (for information)
Materials will be forwarded for the December 12, 2023, Senate meeting.
- 11. Senate Committee on **Research** – (for information)
Materials will be forwarded for the December 12, 2023, Senate meeting.
- 12. Senate Committee on **Teaching and Learning** – (for information)
Materials will be forwarded for the December 12, 2023, Senate meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

138. **Report of The Academic Council, School of Graduate Studies**

13 A. Engineering – Calendar Revisions to section 8.1 and two new courses.

Academic Council recommends approval of the proposed changes to Engineering section 8.1 of the calendar which replaces the “Industrial Internship Option” with the “Graduate Internship Route” and two new graduate courses.

The Chair invited Dr. A. Warren, Interim Associate Vice-President (Academic), Dean Graduate Studies, to present this item.

Dr. Warren requested Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Regents the calendar amendments to the School of Graduate Studies, regulations governing the Degree of Master of Applied Science, Industrial Internship Option, section 8.1 which replaces the “Industrial Internship Option” with the “graduate Internship Route”, and the approval of two graduate level courses, ENGI 901W – Graduate Internship 1 and ENGI 902W - Graduate Internship 2.

The motion was moved by Dr. P. Brett, and seconded by Mr. P. Sullivan. The motion was carried. No members opposed or abstained.

139. 14. **Senate Committee on Elections, Committees and Bylaws**
- a. Ex-Officio Membership.
 - b. Speaking Privileges Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUgS).
 - c. Ad-hoc Committee – Ode to Newfoundland, Terms of Reference, Selection Criteria
 - d. Senate – Ex-Officio & Constituency Vacancies – for information.
 - e. Standing Senate Committee Vacancies/Memberships – for information.

The Chair invited Dr. L.A. McKivior, University Registrar and Interim Secretary of Senate to present this item.

Dr. McKivior requested Senate approve the ex-officio membership on Senate of the individuals outlined in item 14a of the Senate agenda package for the September 2023 – August 2024 timeframe in accordance with Section 55 of *The Memorial University Act*.

The motion was moved by Dr. N. Hurley, and seconded by Dr. G. George. The motion was carried. No members opposed or abstained.

Dr. McKivior requested Senate approve and recommend to Senate that Dr. S. Sullivan be granted speaking and presenting privileges at Senate on behalf of Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUgS) for the September 2023 – August 2024 timeframe as included in the Senate agenda package as item 14b.

The motion was moved by Dr. E. Kendall, and seconded by Dr. M. Haghiri. The motion was carried. No members opposed or abstained.

Dr. McKivior requested Senate approve the Terms of Reference and Selection Criteria included in the Senate agenda package as item 14c for the ad hoc committee forming to investigate and recommend to Senate the inclusion of the Provincial anthem “Ode” in the University’s convocation ceremonies.

The motion was moved by Dr. K. Anderson, and seconded by Dr. D. McKeen. The motion was carried. No members opposed or abstained.

140. 15. **Senate Committee on University Planning and Budgeting**

- a. Annual Report.
- b. Revised Terms of Reference
- c. Annual Plan.

The Chair invited Dr. J. Lokash, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), *pro tempore* to present this item.

Dr. Lokash requested Senate to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on University Planning and Budgeting as included in item 15b of the Senate agenda package.

The motion was moved by Dr. E. Kendall, and seconded by Dr. E. Bezzina. The motion was carried. No members opposed and two members abstained.

141. 16. **Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies**

- a. Annual Report.
- b. Revised Terms of Reference.
- c. Annual Plan.

The Chair invited Dr. S. Sullivan, Chair, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, to present this item.

Dr. S. Sullivan advised that item 16a in the Senate agenda package – Annual Report was for Senate’s information. He discussed briefly the changes to SCUgS Terms of Reference. Dr. Sullivan then asked Senate to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies as included in item 16b of the Senate agenda package.

The motion was moved by Dr. P. Dold, and seconded by Dr. I. Sutherland. The motion was carried. No members opposed or abstained.

142. 17. **Remarks from the Chair of Senate – Question/Comments from Senators.**

Dr. N. Bose, Chair of Senate and President and Vice-Chancellor, *pro tempore* provided the following updates:

- The acknowledgement of Remembrance Day - Memorial University’s official flags were displayed at half-mast on all campuses from sunrise on Tuesday, November 7, until sunset on Saturday, November 11. This period included the ceremony of remembrance on the St. John’s campus held on November 7; recognition of Indigenous Veterans Day held on November 8; the Marine

- Institute and Grenfell Campus held their ceremonies on November 10; and the ceremony at the National War Memorial in St. John's held on November 11.
- Reminded Senators of Memorial's sixth annual Research Week celebrations would be taking place between November 20 to November 24; celebrating innovators, artists, critical thinkers and all those who support Memorial's leading-edge research activities.
 - Welcomed the new interim Executive Director of the University Governance Secretariat – Ms. V. Collins.
 - The Auditor General's (AG) report has been received and Memorial has accepted all of the recommendations and will work through those recommendations. The Chair informed Senators that he has had meetings with the Minister of Education, and that the Board of Regents has formed an ad hoc committee which will meet bi-weekly (over the winter period) to discuss addressing AG issues. The ad hoc committee has already had their first meeting and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, November 16. A document containing additional context on the auditor general's findings is available through www.mun.ca/president/auditor-general/
 - Whale of a Day was held on October 28 – it was Memorial's second annual and voting for a name for the blue whale is on-going.

Questions from the Floor

Mr. C. Couturier inquired about an update on the search for the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Marine Institute). The Chair advised that the Search Committee for the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) has been formed and the Search Committee for the Vice-President (Marine Institute) is still being composed.

Dr. P. Dold inquired whether the findings about the ongoing work of the Board of Regents ad hoc committee concerning the AG Report would be reported back to Senate. The Chair confirmed that it was his plan to give updates in his report to Senate monthly meetings. Also, Dr. Dold advised that she was not aware that Memorial had a University Governance Secretariat and asked for more information about where the position sits in governance and how it connects to Senate and the Board of Regents.

The Chair explained that approximately 18 months ago the Board of Regents approved the establishment of a University Governance Secretariat, with an Executive Director, whose duties would include both the Senate Secretary role and the Board of Regents Secretary role. The plans regarding proceeding with these two roles will be determined over the next few months.

Senator M. Broders advised that MUNSU had forwarded a letter to the President, Vice-Presidents and other senior administrators concerning the support plans to

support Palestinian students. The MUNSU office has had students advise that they have been cut off from money transfers and therefore do not have access to money; these students know they will not be able to pay for their rent; and, students know they will not be able to continue to afford food. Senator Broders expressed that these students have so much uncertainty about what is going to happen in the winter semester. Payment plans for outstanding tuition are possible however, a student cannot register for the winter semester until the debt is paid off or until the student has proof that it can be paid off (yet students cannot access banking information from their families and they can therefore not provide that proof). The MUNSU executive is very concerned (especially since there was no response until after inquiring about the response). Senator Broders noted it was not sufficient to direct students to Memorial's Student Support Office; they do not have the resources to give these students the support that they need. Is there anything further coming from the administration? Sending these students to the Student Support Office at this time is not enough, these students are scared and they need some further support from University. Again, are there conversations happening about that?

The Chair confirmed conversations have occurred and the response relayed to MUNSU was students were to inquire with the Student Support Office whereby a triage system would be in place. The University and the Student Support Office has increased resources and supports for students in these categories over the last six months, and Memorial continues to look at ways in which we can improve these supports. The University, like MUNSU, are very concerned about the situations that many of our students are finding themselves in through no fault of their own and this is a very important issue.

Dr. M. Woods asked the Chair if any other part of the University, the administration, or Senate are putting together an ad hoc committee concerning the AG report or if Senate will be involved with the ad hoc committee with the Board of Regents.

The Chair advised that the Board of Regents specifically put in place an ad hoc committee. He confirmed that the President's Office is working through the President's Executive Council, the senior leadership council, etc. raising issues to address each item under the AG report. He noted that the on-going work is still in the early stages and there are many recommendations in the AG report. It is the Chair's intention to report updates to Senate monthly meetings. Some of the items that needed to be addressed will actually have to come either through Senate standing committees or through discussions in Academic Councils and so on.

Senator Broders reiterated MUNSU concerns that unless something has changed in the Student Support Office within the last week, the office was not in a position to fully support the students impacted by the Israel/Palestinian war. Senator Broders added that the work being provided by the student support office is good – there still needs to be more supports in place. A big concern now is that there is so much uncertainty for the winter semester, Senator Broders added that the MUNSU Executive wrote the President and senior leadership team on November 2, 2023.

The Chair confirmed that these concerns have been taken seriously and the University has already been working with appropriate offices to increase the supports that are available through a triage system within the student support office. The Chair He would discuss the concerns further with the Provost Office and the President's Executive Council to ensure there are enough supports available to these students.

143. 18. **Remarks from the Deputy Chair of Senate – Question/Comments from Senators**

The Chair invited Dr. J. Lokash, Deputy Chair of Senate to provide remarks.

The Deputy Chair of Senate provided an update on a number of items from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) portfolio, including:

- Fall convocation events held on October 19 with three convocation sessions - where 969 students graduated. We had two new degrees awarded this session with 5 students graduated with a Master of Data Science and 2 students graduated with a Master of Applied Literary Arts (Grenfell Campus) and 7 students graduated with the Master of Education with a new major in Reading, Development Instruction.
- Academic Amnesty Day of Action was held on November 8 and well supported by students and colleagues.
- The Office of Indigenous Affairs (OIA) held a virtual Forum on Indigenization and Reconciliation during November 9 to November 10. It was the first gathering of this kind since the creation of the Strategic Framework for Indigenization and acts a precursor to a larger forum planned for 2024.
- Academic Leadership search updates: Senators were encouraged to refer to the Provost website for current updates.

144. **Questions from the Floor**

The Chair thanked Dr. Lokash, and invited Dr. M. Woods to speak.

Dr. M. Woods questioned the materials in this Senate meeting package. He noted that there was a number of annual reports/plans for Senate standing committees

there were referenced on the consent agenda and a few on the regular agenda. He noted that the reports come in different formats; some providing a lot of information and some providing almost no information. He wondered if there was anything that can be done about this; maybe creating some kind of system where each plan/report are similar in terms of how they are set up and what information are provided?

The Chair thanked Dr. Woods and invited Dr. L.A. McKivior, Interim Secretary of Senate to comment further.

Dr. McKivior advised that Senate Executive felt that adding the standing committee reports/plans to the consent agenda would be best due to the time already set aside for the special Senate meeting prior to the regular Senate meeting. She agreed that in the coming months improvements and standardization of the Senate agenda as well as the various standing committees meeting materials and reports would be forthcoming. Dr. McKivior invited any of the Senators to reach out separately concerning any ideas on how to improve the Senate package as we move forward.

The Chair welcomed the Chancellor to speak. Whereby the Chancellor provided an update regarding recent events he had attended in his role as Chancellor:

- Attended the two official openings of the Grand Falls-Windsor and Gander Faculty of Nursing Learning Sites & 2023 Crest Ceremonies on October 25 and 26 2023;
- Attended the Student Volunteer Bureau's 40th Anniversary celebrations on November 2, 2023 (Minister Paul Pike also joined the event as well);
- Attended the President's Golden Celebration on October 15, 2023.

The Chair thanked the Chancellor and welcomed Senator Broders to speak.

Senator Broders advised Senators of many of the supports MUNSU provides to students. Student Senator Broders encouraged Senators to share the MUNSU supports and their contact information.

The Chair thanked M. Broders and welcomed Dr. P. Brett to speak.

Dr. P. Brett, Vice-President (Marine Institute), *pro tempore*, advised that the Marine Institute was hosting the Atlantic Canada's first ever Seafood Industry Innovation Summit taking place from November 14 to 17, 2023, along with the Marine Institute's Centre for Aquaculture and Seafood Development and the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation (CCFI) to promote the development of a sustainable, modern and globally competitive fish and seafood industry in Atlantic Canada.

The Chair thanked Dr. Brett and welcomed Mr. J. Harris to speak.

Student Senator J. Harris, thanked all those who participated or assisted in any way supporting the Academic Amnesty – Provincial Day of Action for Accessible Education on November 8, 2023. He also reminded Senators of the Transgender Day of Remembrance being observed on Monday, November 20, 2023, to honour the lives of two-spirit, trans and gender-diverse people killed around the world due to anti-transgender violence.

Dr. I Sutherland also noted that Grenfell Campus would be hosting a virtual observance for Transgender Day of Remembrance.

145. **Adjournment:**

It was moved by Dr. I. Sutherland seconded by Dr. P. Brett and carried that the meeting of Senate be adjourned at 4:45 pm.

CHAIR

SECRETARY