

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

SENATE

The regular meeting of Senate was held on February 13, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. NDT via Webex.

173. PRESENT

Dr. N. Bose – Chair	Dr. S. Giwa	Dr. P. Osmond-Johnson
Dr. J. Lokash – Deputy Chair	Dr. M. Haghiri	Dr. D. Peters
Mr. E. Ludlow – Chancellor	Mr. J. Harris	Dr. A. Pike
Dr. T. Allen	Dr. E. Haven	Ms. H. Pretty
Dr. J. Anderson	Dr. J. Hawboldt	Dr. C. Purchase
Dr. K. Anderson	Dr. R. Haynes	Dr. P. Ride
Dr. F. Bambico	Dr. N. Hurley	Dr. S. Shetranjiwalla
Dr. E. Bezzina	Dr. P. Issahaku	Dr. K. Simonsen
Dr. A. Bittner	Dr. K. Jacobsen	Dr. J. Sinclair
Dr. P. Brett	Dr. D. Keeping	Ms. B. Smith
Dr. T. Brown	Dr. E. Kendall	Dr. M. Stordy
Dr. S. Bugden	Mr. N. Keough	Dr. A.M. Sullivan
Dr. K. Bulmer	Ms. C. Korchoski	Mr. P. Sullivan
Dr. R. Burry	Dr. C. Kozak	Dr. I. Sutherland
Dr. T. Chapman	Dr. D. McKeen	Dr. K. Szego
Mr. J. Chowdhury	Dr. L.A. McKivor	Dr. L. Twells
Mr. C. Couturier	Dr. L. Moore	Ms. C. Walsh
Dr. A. Cunsolo	Dr. S. Moore	Dr. A. Warren
Dr. J. Gerald Curtis	Dr. L. Moores	Mr. R. Waye
Dr. P. Dold	Dr. D. Mullings	Dr. J. Westcott
Dr. T. Fridgen	Dr. K. Myrick	Dr. B. White
Dr. G. George	Dr. S. Neilsen	Dr. M. Woods
Mr. N. Gillingham	Ms. T. Noseworthy	

PRESENT BY INVITATION

Dr. S. Sullivan, Chair, SCUgS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. S. Abyaz	Dr. D. Hancock	Dr. P. Morrill
Mr. M. Alam	Dr. D. Hardy-Cox	Dr. J. Pridham
Ms. H. Bello	Dr. T. Hennessey	Dr. S. Rowe
Ms. M. Broders	Dr. K. Hodgkinson	Mr. S. Sayeedi
Dr. P. Button	Dr. D. Kelly	Mr. S. Shah
Dr. O. Dobre	Dr. K. Laing	Dr. K. Shannahan
Dr. E. Durnford	Dr. A. Loucks-Atkinson	Ms. B. Simmons
Dr. E. Fraser	Dr. M. Marshall	Mr. S. Yadav

WELCOME:

The Chair welcomed all Senators to the meeting and read the land acknowledgement statement.

174. MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the Agenda for the Regular Senate Meeting of February 13, 2024 meeting of Senate to be adopted as presented.

The motion was moved by Mr. C. Couturier and seconded by Dr. G. George, and carried to adopt the agenda as presented, with no oppositions and no abstentions.

175. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the regular Senate meeting held on January 9, 2024, be approved as circulated.

The motion was moved by Dr. I. Sutherland and seconded by Dr. M. Haghiri and carried that the minutes from the regular Senate meeting on January 9, 2024, be taken and read as confirmed with some minor amendments, with two members abstained and no members opposed.

The Chair invited Dr. McKivior to provide a brief overview of the Consent Agenda.

Dr. McKivior advised that there had been a request to provide a brief introduction of Memorial's Senate Consent Agenda. She explained that during the regular meeting of Senate held on October 14, 2003, an ad hoc Committee on Senate Reform presented an interim report to Senate.

The role of this ad hoc Committee on Senate Reform was to facilitate and expedite Senate business to ensure that Senate, as the University's highest decision body in academic matters, should direct its attention towards strategic rather than operational matters. Then having reviewed the flow of business to Senate from faculty/school committees and academic councils through the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUGS) and the Academic Council of Graduate Studies, the ad hoc committee concluded that streamlining and changing the way business is presented would significantly improve efficiency without altering the approval process.

Dr. McKivior noted that the Consent Agenda was adopted as a method of managing routine items such as changes in course descriptions or titles and other minor changes. More substantive matters – proposals for new programs, any changes to the University's General Academic Regulations (Undergraduate) and any substantive changes to the faculty/school regulations – would be included on the regular agenda. She advised that at a Senate meeting, before the unanimous consent motion is presented for approval, the Chair of Senate (1) will advise the Senate of items that are to be removed from the list based on prior requests from Senate members; and (2) will ask if there are any other items that should be removed from the list. The remaining items are then unanimously approved without discussion. Those matters that have been struck from the consent agenda will be handled in the usual way. The minutes of the Senate meeting will report matters approved as part of the consent agenda as "carried by unanimous consent". Information items received as part of the consent agenda would be reported as received.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the consent agenda as circulated.

The motion was moved by Dr. G. George seconded by Dr. S. Bugden and carried that the consent agenda be approved as presented. The motion carried with three members abstained and no members opposed.

CONSENT AGENDA

176. 4.0 **Report of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies:**

4.1 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Business Administration

The Faculty proposed: The Faculty proposed:

- Amendments FBA section 3.2 Academic and Professional Ethics
- Amendments to BUSI 2111
- Changes to the prerequisite structure of BUSI 5002
- Amendments to BUSI 4545

4.2 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

The Faculty proposed:

- Regularization of ENGI 8103 (to become ENGI 8153 Engineering in Medicine)
- Regularization of ENGI 8108 (to become ENGI 8158 Human Factors and System Safety)

4.3 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

By Department, the Faculty proposed:

Archaeology:

- ARCH 2481, Title Change

English:

- CMST Amending-Deleting Courses
- CMST 3050; Storytelling for Interactive Media, New Course
- CMST 4050; Critical & Experimental Media Design, New Course
- ENGL 1090; Course Description Change
- ENGL 4212; Shakespeare, Authorship, and Adaptation, New Course

Gender Studies:

- GNDR 3023; Feminism and Film, New Course

Geography:

- GEOG 4261; PR & Description Update

History:

- HIST 1110; Events that Changed the World 1: An Introduction to Medieval History, New Course
- HIST 1111; Course Update (Title/Description Change)

- HIST 1112; Events that Changed the World 3: An Introduction to Late Modern History, New Course
- HIST 4999, Title/Description Changes

Linguistics:

- LING 2820; Language Across the Lifespan, New Course

Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (MLLC)

- MLLC, French UG Prog Housekeeping
- MLLC, Spanish UG Prog Housekeeping

Philosophy:

- PHIL 2150; AI Ethics, New Course

Political Science:

- POSC UG Prog Prerequisite Update
- POSC-LWPP; Prog Prerequisite Update
- POSC Public Policy Certificate Sunset Clause

Religious Studies:

- RELS 4001-4002; Adding Prerequisites

Sociology:

- SOCI/CRIM 2208; Adding Prerequisites

4.4 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Nursing

The Faculty proposed:

- Amendments to NURS 2002 Care of the Childbearing Family: Theory
- Amendments to NURS 2502 Care of the Childbearing Family: Practice
- Alignment of the wording about pre-clinical requirements within sections 4.2 and 5.1

4.5 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Science

By Department, the Faculty proposed:

Computer Science:

- Eligibility wording change and honours project change, Co-operative Internship in Computer Science (CICS)
- Amend courses, COMP 2001, 2002, 2003
- New course proposal, Computer Science 3019
- New course proposal, Computer Science 3730
- New course proposal, Computer Science 3766
- New course proposal, Computer Science 4019
- Amend course, COMP 4304

Mathematics and Statistics:

- Amend course, MATH 1051
- Amend courses, MATH 3161 and 4160
- Amend Course, MATH 4162

Psychology:

- Amend PSYC 3830 course title
- Amend Admission to Major Program
- Amend Admission to Honours Programs
- Amend Requirements for a Major in Psychology
- Amend Requirements for Honours in Psychology
- Amend Requirements for a Major in Behavioural Neuroscience (B.Sc. Only)
- Amend Requirements for Honours in Behavioural Neuroscience (B.Sc. Only)
- New Course Proposals: PSYC 4052, PSYC 4053, PSYC 4054, PSYC 4152, PSYC 4153, PSYC 4154, PSYC 4452, PSYC 4453, PSYC 4454, PSYC 4652, PSYC 4653, PSYC 4654, PSYC 4752, PSYC 4753

4.6 Proposed Calendar Changes – School of Arts and Social Sciences

The School proposed:

- Changes to regulation 7.1.2 Literacy Requirements, such that HSS CRW courses may be used to fulfill the Designated Writing requirements
- Amendments to FOLK 2100

4.7 Proposed Calendar Changes – School of Human Kinetics and Recreation

The School proposed:

- Housekeeping changes to update text, adjust regulations, and adjust pre and co-requisites, as well as fix a number of errors and inconsistencies within the School's Calendar section
- New course: HKR 1125 Therapeutic Recreation Professional Development Seminar Series

4.8 Proposed Calendar Changes – School of Pharmacy

The School proposed:

- Changes to Promotion Regulations for the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Full Time Program
- Removal of PHYS 1020 or 1050, and PHYS 1021 or 1051 from the admission prerequisite requirements for the Full Time, Entry-To-Practice Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program, to be replaced with 6 elective credit hours
- Removal of PHAR 403W and PHAR 500X
- Adjustments to admission requirements that address Indigenous identity
- Removal of PHAR 508P and amendments to PHAR 608P
- Changes to the registration date for Pharmacy students with the Newfoundland and Labrador licensing body

- Minor changes to admission regulations (regulations 5.2) for the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) for Working Professionals

177. **5.0 Report of The Academic Council, School of Graduate Studies**

5.1 The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – Calendar revisions Program housekeeping, one new course HIST 6055 and to regularize a special topics course FREN 6156 to new course number FREN 6821 with a credit restriction of FREN 6156.

5.2 The Faculty of Science – Department of Biochemistry, potential outcome for MSc oral defense calendar revisions.

5.3 Scientific Computing -- Academic Council recommends approval of revisions to section 32.20 governing the M.Sc. in Scientific Computing program, which includes cleaning up calendar language and adding new co-op language; changing the existing “course and project” based M.Sc. route to a course only M.Sc., with an existing team-taught project course, CMSC 6920, which is now a required course for students choosing this option.

The Chair invited Dr. S. Sullivan, Chair of the SCUgS to introduce the Regular Agenda items.

REGULAR AGENDA

178. **6.0 Report of The Committee on Undergraduate Studies**

6.1 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Business Administration

The Faculty proposed:

- Changes to the admission, readmission, continuance/promotion and graduation regulations of the BComm programs.

Discussion/Questions: None.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding the Faculty of Business Administration concerning changes to the admission, readmission, continuance/promotion and graduation regulations of the BComm programs as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. T. Brown, and seconded by Dr. P. Brett; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

6.2 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

The Faculty proposed:

- Changes to the Technical Electives in the Mechanical Engineering program

Discussion/Questions: None.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science concerning changes to the Technical electives in the Mechanical Engineering program as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. T. Fridgen, and seconded by Dr. J. Anderson; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

6.3 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)

By Department, the Faculty proposed:

English:

- CMST Program Changes & Hons Prog Proposal

Religious Studies:

- RELS UG Regulation Changes

Faculty of HSS Dean's Office:

- iBA Requirements, Regulations Update

Discussion/Questions:

- A Senator inquired whether there were any impact on students enrolled in the current iBA program and if these student would need to complete the 6 credit hours.
- Dr. Sullivan advised that general academic regulations state that current students can avail of any version of the calendar regulations from when a student started Memorial. The program regulations take effect when a student takes a 2000 level course in their subject of major therefore current iBA students would be able to change over to this new version should they so desire.
- A Senator asked how it is determined that there is adequate consultation.
- Dr. Sullivan advised that consultation is done University-wide and there is a four week standard timeframe. He noted that SCUgS would flag if there had not been given enough time. He confirmed that everything that is submitted in this package meets their the consultation requirements. He noted that these items it would not be on the Senate agenda if it had not come through SCUgS (undergraduate studies matters) and graduate matters thru graduate studies academic council.
- A Senator was concerned about the volume of materials for review and reading.
- It was noted that there is a page in each package of material that is titled "Senate Summary Page for Programs" which is a brief summary of the submitted materials which should be read. The other pages are additional information.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences within the Department of English, Department of Religious Studies, and the HSS Dean's office as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. N. Hurley, and seconded by Dr. P. Dold; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

6.4 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Nursing

The Faculty proposed:

- Changes to the course sequencing of the Bachelor of Nursing (Collaborative) Program Accelerated Option.
- Addition of section to note Dean's List criteria.
- Removal of the personal statement and request for references from the application process for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Collaborative) program; change name of Biochemistry 1430 to Human Biosciences 1430; correction of the date to submit documents for admission to the LPN Bridging option.

Discussion/Questions: None.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding the Faculty of Nursing as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. A. Pike, and seconded by Dr. S. Bugden; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

6.5 Proposed Calendar Changes – Faculty of Science

By Department, the Faculty proposed:

Computer Science:

- Minor in Computer Science

Mathematics and Statistics:

- Mathematics Major/Honors – MATH 2030/3030/409A/B
- New Program, Data Science

Discussion/Questions:

- A Senator inquired how the teaching units would get distributed with the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics – does it become an overload on them to work on this or will new faculty be hired and what are the overlaps of the graduate program. Will current faculty be taking on more workload?
- It was noted that for the undergraduate program there was a limited number of new courses being offered and there is a teaching term being hired to help support this program. The program is being supported by the departments.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding the Faculty of Science within the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. T. Fridgen, and seconded by Dr. R. Haynes; carried with one member abstained and no members opposed.

6.6 Proposed Calendar Changes – Office of the Registrar, Admissions Unit

The Office proposed:

- Modification to section 4.2 English Language Proficiency Requirements

Discussion/Questions:

- A Senator inquired whether there is a process in determining what would the accepted tests and accepted levels and that this is not changing as a result of this modification.
- Dr. Sullivan advised that in the past typically the admissions office has done an assessment and then brought that to the University Committee on Admissions for guidance for agreement or disagreement.
- It was noted that under the changes to 4.2.4 there is a vision to change some of the minimal standards to come into line with the new federal government regulations - Senate does not need to approve every time a minimum standard is adjusted.
- Effectively Senate would be delegating that authority to the Registrar's Office in consultation with the University's Committee on Admissions and the English as a second language.
- It was also noted that the University Committee on Admissions Annual Report to Senate would have details regarding English proficiency tests – the Duolingo English Test, which has been extended a couple of times.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding Section 4.2 English Language Proficiency Requirements for undergraduate admission of the Academic Calendar as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. L.A. McKivor, and seconded by Dr. P. Dold; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

6.7 Proposed Calendar Changes – School of Arts and Social Sciences

The School proposed changes to the Grenfell Business Program:

- New Course Proposals: BUSN 2021, 2022, 2065, 2105, 2251, 2620, 4600
- Amendments, deletions, and regularization (Special Topics) of many BUSN courses
- Changes to the Bachelor of Business Administration Program, the Grenfell Campus Business minor program, and changes to Grenfell Campus articulation agreements
- New certificate program: Certificate in Entrepreneurship

Discussion/Questions: None.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding the School of Arts and Social Sciences – Grenfell Business Program and recommend to the Board of

Regents the New certificate program: Certificate in Entrepreneurship as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. K. Jacobsen, and seconded by Dr. M. Haghiri; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

6.8 Proposed Calendar Changes – School of Music

The School proposed:

- Corrections to regulations pertaining to the awarding of transfer credit for Applied Study courses
- Amendments to approximately 1/3 of Music courses
- New course: MUS 3519 Rhythm and Groove
- Amendments to
 - Admission regulations – Bachelor of Music and Minor programs
 - Bachelor of Music Degree regulations, Core program and Majors
 - Joint Degrees of Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Commerce regulations
 - Minor Program regulations.

Discussion/Questions: None.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding the School of Music as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. K. Bulmer, and seconded by Dr. I. Sutherland; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

6.9 Proposed Calendar Changes – School of Social Work

The School proposed:

- Changes to section 4.5 Complimentary Studies
- Amendments to or deletions of courses in section 11
- Addition of readmission clauses in sections 5, 6, and 7

Discussion/Questions:

- A Senator asked to change spelling “Complimentary” to “Complementary”.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding the School of Social Work as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. S. Giwa, and seconded by Dr. P. Brett; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

The Chair invited Dr. McKivor to introduce and present item #7.0.

179. **7.0 Recommendations of the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees and By-Laws (SCECB)**

7.1 Speaker of Senate.

Dr. McKivior advised that the recent Senate Governance Review Report provided a recommendation under item 1.4 Create the role of Speaker, to ensure the decorum and procedural order of Senate. The Senate Committee on Elections, Committees, and By-Laws, in accordance with the Governance Report has been working to propose updates to the Senate By-Laws to facilitate this recommendation. In addition to the role of Speaker, SCECB is recommending a Deputy Speaker position be introduced to ensure a Speaker is always available for Senate meetings and to encourage succession planning. Finally, SCECB recognizes that the role of Speaker will play an important role during Senate meetings and is therefore recommending that the position be included within the membership for the Executive Committee of Senate.

Following the explanation, Dr. McKivior noted the follow motions were sequential in nature. SCECB is requesting approval from Senate concerning “Speaker of Senate” as follows and sequentially:

- Amendments to the Senate By-Laws to include Speaker of Senate.
- Amendments to the Senate By-Laws to include Deputy Speaker of Senate
- Change to the Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee of Senate to include Speaker of Senate.

Discussion/Questions:

- If a sitting Senator is elected as Speaker of Senate – what will happen to their Senate seat – would there be concerns about reduction in representation?
- Dr. McKivior noted that the individual would become non-voting – and the Deputy Speaking would only be non-voting when asked to be Speaker.
- SCECB had taken into consideration how the “Senate Speaker” position would work within the *Act* and agreed that the position could also be for a previous senator.
- A Senator noted that once an individual is elected to Senate regardless of your academic unit affiliation – voting during Senate has not extended to an individual’s academic unit affiliation or at least not in the last decade.
- A Senator noted concern about constitutes and representation – suggested that Senate consider paying a registered parliamentarian to serve in this Senator Speaker role – because sometimes an individual does not vote in party lines. For example, when things have been contentious and having somebody who really does not have a side or a stake in the conversation could be a reasonable a solution. This should not be extraordinarily expensive to have somebody hired into that position and people are trained for this – it would be their job to know the rules – their job to manage very very complex orders of voting etcetera – something to consider.
- Dr. McKivior noted that the SCECB did have this discussion relating to the responsibilities of the role of Senate Speaker was how that role will be developed – the role is to be a neutral position to help guide Senate – there would be an opportunity to review how the Senate Speaker position worked at Memorial – we

looked at other institutions that have a speaker position in place – there were 3 other Universities and none of those Senate Speaker positions had a paid stipend associated with it – we worked within the materials we had available in making the attached recommendation item #7.1.

- A Senator inquired if consideration was given if the Senate Speaker is non-voting and it came down to a place where they really needed to – like there was a tie – in a body like Senate it almost never happens but that means technically they are not disenfranchised – was such a model considered at committee?
- Dr. McKivior noted that the SCECB looked to the Chair, the President still having the vote – but did not discuss that aspect in great detail.
- Having a Senate Speaker – has this changed the job description of the Chair and how would this impact the Chair?
- Dr. McKivior advised that the way that the SCECB envisaged the role in the first instance was to act as a moderator to Senate meetings – the person would be responsible for ensuring that there was quorum kept, that there was order through the questions – to ensure during the Senate meeting that Senate was following – as close as possible – the rules that are in place. Also, it was important to have the Speaker part of Senate Executive – so that they would be involved in setting the agenda – agreeing for the items being put forward for the Senate agenda. The role of the Chair then would be to answer questions then to speak when items were pertinent to the Chair’s position.
- The Chair must still call the meeting – speaker just manages the meeting – while the meeting is in session the speaker has control of the meeting (a meeting management position) but the speaker does not have the authority of the Chair to call a meeting or even to dismiss a meeting. If a meeting had to be cancelled for some reason that would be at the call of the Chair not the Speaker authority.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the amendment to the Senate By-Laws as outline in Item 7.1 to introduce the roles of Speaker of Senate and Deputy Speaker and to amend the Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee of Senate to include Speaker of Senate.

The motion was moved by Dr. P. Dold, and seconded by Dr. M. Woods; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

- 7.2 Marine Institute Students’ Union (MISU) – Student Representation for Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUgS)
- Ms. Jenna Ryan

Senate received background information Items #7.2.

180. **8.0 Recommendation of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial**

8.1 Appointment of Deputy Orator – Dr. Anne Staveley

The Chair spoke on behalf of his role as Chair of the Senate Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial Committee. He noted that in accordance with the Senate By-Law C.4. Nomination and Selection Process, within the Public Orator, Deputy Public Orator and

University Orators section a call for nomination for Deputy Orator proceeded. In accordance with the process, the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial met on January 29, 2024, and following the call for nominations agreed to recommend to Senate that Dr. Anne Staveley be appointed as Deputy Orator. The Committee determined, given the unanimous support for Dr. Staveley in view of her exemplary service and performance in the role, that she be appointed as Deputy Orator for a 5 (five)-year term as Deputy Orator.

Discussion/Questions: none.

RESOLVED: That the Senate approve the Deputy Orator appointment for Dr. Anne Staveley as recommended from the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial as presented.

The motion was moved by Mr. C. Couturier and seconded by Dr. C. Purchase; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

The Chair invited Dr. McKivior to provide a brief explanation regarding item #9.0

Dr. McKivior noted that this item was a result of a new initiative involving the Chairs and their administrative support meeting together through a new Chairs' Networking gathering. She advised that the Chairs have now met on two occasions and plan to continue with the networking discussions. The topics for discussion have included socializing the roles and responsibilities of each committee, how committee Chairs can play a more active role in Senate to bring forward items of interest and discussion, and how committees can be informed and support each other in their work. Dr. Simonsen is offering the first attempt at bringing forward to Senate an initiative from within her committee that may be of interest to senate.

The Chair briefly introduced Dr. Simonsen and invited her to present to Senate.

181. 9.0 **Senate Committee Chair Networking/Discussion**

9.1 Presentation from the Chair, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards (SCUgSBA) – Dr. Kathryn Simonsen

Dr. Simonsen shared a short presentation and advised that the purpose of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards is to award scholarships, bursaries and other awards on behalf of Senate, to initiate and formulate policies for the awarding of awards, and to provide advice and support in the creation of these awards on behalf of Senate. She also noted that at present the Committee's remit is exclusively concerned with undergraduate matters and are reviewing the Committee's terms of reference.

She informed Senate that in 2023 the Committee established a subcommittee to consider whether and how Memorial University could change its definition of "need" for the awarding of bursaries and those scholarships that include need in their criteria. Currently, Memorial has a single definition of need for undergraduates: the holding of a student loan – in a time, however, of substantial increases in students' costs of tuition, housing, travel, food and other essentials, many more students are

experiencing need than in the past, and this situation has made bursaries increasingly appealing for managing these financial needs. At the same time, the proportion of undergraduates holding student loans is decreasing. International students, for example, cannot hold loans from Newfoundland or other Canadian provinces, and therefore, under Memorial's current definition of need, cannot qualify for needs-based undergraduate bursaries and scholarships. A new or expanded definition of need is required to make Memorial's system of undergraduate scholarships and bursaries more inclusive and accessible.

Dr. Simonsen advised that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards (SCUgSBA) subcommittee - to achieve clarity on this issue, has been meeting with representatives of many parts of the University, including the Centre for Institutional Analysis and Planning, the Provost's office, the Internationalization Office, Development, MUNSU representatives, the Indigenous Students Resource Centre, and the School of Graduate Studies. Still pending are meetings with the Marine Institute and provincial loan managers. The picture that has already emerged is one of great demand and many avenues of institutional response, but the capacity to respond is fragmented, making it often unclear to students where to go for help. The SCUgSBA subcommittee hope to identify some possible institutional improvements. Many of Memorial's international students are in need, and especially international, rural and indigenous students, who are suffering greatly from the current housing crisis. The cost of housing and the lack of housing have been recurring themes of meeting conversations.

She advised that the SCUgSBA subcommittee is working to develop a proposal for a new or expanded definition of need, which will be as inclusive as possible. Noting that the criteria must be clear and easy for University officers to assess, with an application process that is free from disincentives, which prevent needful students from applying. Memorial's task will then be to improve its capacity to respond to needs that challenge its efforts to recruit and retain Memorial students.

She invited any Senators who had suggestions, advice and input to please reach out to the Chair of the SCUgSBA subcommittee, Dr. Evan Simpson via email at esimpson@mun.ca.

182. 10.0 **Special meeting of Senate – Topic Submission from the Chair of the Planning and Budget Committee (PBC)**

10.1 Topic – Impact of AI on Academia

Dr. M. Woods informed Senate members that the Planning and Budget Committee (PBC) has chosen the topic of "Impact of AI on Academia" for the special meeting of Senate. That PBC has considered this topic of significant importance to academia and to the functioning of the institution. Memorial is experiencing an unprecedented growth in the number, variety and utilization of assistive and generative artificial intelligence tools. He further noted that PCB anticipates an engaged discussion to be a platform for information sharing regarding an opportunity for Senate to provide direction to the sub-committee of the Teaching and Learning Committee; and potential for future Senate motions and policy.

Comments from Senators:

- What kind of background materials can Senators expect to receive in advance to form this discussion – is there a collection of data about the effects of AI and the teaching and resources implementation. Will there be an environmental scan to understand what people are already doing to support instructors, classroom students in the new AI assisted learning environment.
- Will materials be sent out in advance of the Special Senate meeting?
- The plan for the Special Senate meeting this far is to have a short presentation and then of course what the goals of the meeting will be. In addition, background materials will be circulated prior to the Special Senate meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Senate approve the topic of “impact of AI on Academia” for the special meeting of Senate to be held on March 12, 2024, as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

The motion was moved by Dr. E. Bezzina and seconded by Dr. C. Walsh; carried with no members opposed or abstained.

183. 11.0 **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 AG Report Update – a document containing additional context on the auditor general’s finding is available through www.mun.ca/president/auditor-general/. There has been discussions between the Senate and Board to arrange a meeting with Senate (likely Senate Committee Chairs) and Board Committee Chairs. More information will be available shortly through Dr. McKivior and the interim Executive Director of the Board of Regents, Vicki Collins.
- Senate in person meeting planning. Recently conducted a poll seeking Senate members’ opinions regarding holding one Senate meeting that has the option for in-person attendance. 53 votes were registered and 66% voted in favour of one session of Senate being conducted in a lecture theatre on the St. John’s campus, utilizing the existing technology to permit Senators in other locations to join through WebEx. Dr. McKivior will reach out to senators with more information when details are confirmed. Currently, we are considering location/venue options. Memorial’s IT personnel are also looking at what options and technology maybe available or may need to be implemented for the next academic year to facilitate hybrid meetings.
- Cyber security and Grenfell Campus – there has been various updates given on Newspost - Newsline. Memorial’s IT teams both with the Grenfell and St John’s Campuses have been working excessive hours ensuring everything gets back up and running, data which was compromised (encrypted) is being re-accessed. It is anticipated that this will take several weeks or longer to ensure there are no additional risks, keeping the safety of all students, faculty and staff.
- The search committee for the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) – an update has gone out on Newspost - Newsline.

- The Vice-President (MI) Search Committee is being formed.

184. 12. **Remarks from the Deputy Chair of Senate – Question/Comments from Senators**

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

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

- A call has gone out to Senators for Senate nominations to the President and Vice-Chancellor search committee – the Chair of the Board of Regents, Mr. Glenn Barnes, will provide another update to Senate during an upcoming Senate meeting.
- Academic Leadership search updates: There are currently 7 active Dean searches within the Provost's portfolio - Senators were encouraged to refer to the Provost website for current updates.

185. **Adjournment:**

It was moved by Dr. I. Sutherland and seconded by Dr. N. Hurley and carried that the meeting of Senate be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

CHAIR

SECRETARY