

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

SENATE

The regular meeting of Senate was held on April 9, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. (NL time) in Room 1M101 Richard Fagan Lecture Room, Faculty of Medicine and via Webex.

205. PRESENT

Dr. N. Bose – Chair	Dr. E. Haven	Dr. A. Pike
Dr. J. Lokash – Deputy Chair	Dr. R. Haynes	Ms. H. Pretty
Mr. M. Alam	Dr. N. Hurley	Dr. C. Purchase
Dr. T. Allen	Dr. P. Issahaku	Dr. P. Ride
Dr. J. Anderson	Dr. D. Keeping	Dr. S. Rowe
Ms. H. Bello	Dr. D. Kelly	Mr. S. Sayeedi
Dr. E. Bezzina	Dr. E. Kendall	Mr. S. Shah
Dr. A. Bittner	Mr. N. Keough	Dr. K. Shannahan
Ms. M. Broders	Dr. C. Kozak	Dr. K. Simonsen
Dr. T. Brown	Mr. E. Ludlow–Chancellor	Dr. J. Sinclair
Dr. S. Bugden	Dr. M. Marshall	Ms. B. Smith
Dr. K. Bulmer	Dr. D. McKeen	Dr. M. Stordy
Dr. R. Burry	Dr. L.A. McKivor	Dr. A.M. Sullivan
Dr. P. Button	Dr. L. Moores	Mr. P. Sullivan
Dr. T. Chapman	Dr. S. Moore	Dr. K. Szego
Mr. J. Chowdhury	Dr. P. Morrill	Ms. C. Walsh
Mr. C. Couturier	Dr. D. Mullings	Dr. A. Warren
Dr. A. Cunsolo	Dr. S. Neilsen	Dr. B. White
Dr. G. Curtis	Ms. T. Noseworthy	Dr. M. Woods
Dr. O. Dobre	Dr. P. Osmond-Johnson	
Dr. P. Dold	Dr. D. Peters	
Dr. E. Fraser		
Dr. T. Fridgen		
Dr. G. George		
Dr. M. Haghiri		
Mr. J. Harris		

PRESENT BY INVITATION

Dr. S. Sullivan, Chair, SCUgS

206. OTHERS PRESENT (OBSERVERS)

Mr. Arif Abu	Ms. K. Butler	Mr. C. Pelley
Dr. C. Andersen	Dr. A. Craig	Ms. V. Pilgrim
Dr. P. Banahene	Ms. P. Dyke	Mr. A. Rahman
Mr. G. Barnes	Ms. M. Feltham	Ms. M. Wells
Ms. P. Beh	Ms. K. Follett	Ms. M. Whelan
Ms. M. Brown	Dr. V. Fugarino	Mx. Alida Zedel
Dr. J. Browne	Dr. D. Gill	
Ms. L. Browne	Ms. M. MacLean	
Ms. V. Collins		

207. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dr. F. Bambico
Dr. D. Hancock
Dr. K. Hodgkinson
Dr. L. Moore
Dr. L. Twells

208. WELCOME:

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

He also shared some housekeeping items.

Thanked the Faculty of Medicine for hosting a tour of their facilities and everyone who participated in this hybrid meeting.

209. MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the agenda for the April 9, 2024 meeting of Senate to be adopted as presented.

It was moved by Dr. M. Woods, seconded by Mr. C. Couturier, and carried that the agenda be approved as presented. There were no oppositions and no abstentions.

Discussion/Questions: None.

210. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Special Senate meeting held on March 12, 2024, be approved as circulated.

It was moved by Dr. J. Lokash, seconded by Dr. S. Budgen, and carried that the minutes from the Special Senate meeting on March 12, 2024, be approved as circulated. Two members abstained from the vote. No members opposed the motion.

Discussion/Questions: None.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Regular Senate meeting held on March 12, 2024, be approved as circulated.

It was moved by Dr. J. Lokash, seconded by Dr. R. Burry, and carried that the minutes from the Regular Senate meeting on March 12, 2024, be approved as circulated. One member abstained from the vote. No members opposed the motion.

Discussion/Questions:

Correction: page 17:

- It was noted that the information in the report was recovered from other reports that were, in some instances, up to a decade old.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the consent agenda as circulated.

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

Discussion/Questions: None.

211. 4.0 **Report of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies:**

4.1 **Proposed Calendar Changes – Registrar’s Office**

Proposed:

- General Academic Regulations (Undergraduate) – Several housekeeping items identified by SCUgS and the Registrar’s Office.

212. 5.0 **Report of The Academic Council, School of Graduate Studies**

5.1 The Faculty of Education:

New course ED 6464 (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and De/Colonization in Education Contexts), and the associated revisions to Section 17.9 of the Calendar.

5.2 School of Graduate Studies:

Revisions to Section 4.1.5 of the Calendar, recognizing that the English proficiency tests MUNTEL and CanTEST are discontinued.

5.3 The Marine Institute:

Addition of an accelerated format for MSTM 6074 (Aquaculture Site & Operational Assessment), and the associated revisions to Section 26.3.5 of the Calendar

213. 6.0 **Recommendation of the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees and ByLaws (SCECB)**

6.1 Graduate Students’ Union - Nomination to Senate

6.2 Memorial University of Newfoundland Students’ Union (MUNSU) Student Senators (effective May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025)

6.3 Call for Nomination for Search Committee for Vice-President (Grenfell Campus)

6.4 Election of Member: Collegial Governance Committee

REGULAR AGENDA

The Chair invited Dr. Sullivan, Chair of SCUgS to introduce Item #7.1.

214. 7.0 **Report of Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies**

7.1 **Proposed Calendar Changes – SCUgS**

Proposed:

- Add a specific reference to the academic offences regulations which speak to the use of generative artificial intelligence, including a
 - secondary calendar change to revise the School of Graduate Studies section 4.12.4, which relates to academic misconduct and the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Add a statement to clarify the permissible use of assistive tools in the regulations governing the course syllabus.

The Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUgS) approved a motion to create a joint sub-committee in Winter 2023 semester, with members from both the Teaching and Learning Committee and SCUgS, to delve into how artificial intelligence tools such as Chat GPT can impact teaching practices and how best to mitigate any negative effect these tools may have. Next steps for the sub-committee include development of definitions for the Calendar Glossary as well as a position statement on the use of detection software, and to clearly define the sub-committee's Terms of Reference for the future as an ongoing sub-committee of Senate.

Discussion/Questions: None.

RESOLVED: That Senate approve the proposed calendar changes regarding item #7.1 as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

It was moved by Dr. E. Kendall, seconded by Dr. G. George, and carried that Senate approve these calendar changes. No members opposed the motion. One member abstained from the vote.

The Chair invited Dr. McKivior to introduce Item #8.1.

215. 8.0 **Recommendations of the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees and By-Laws (SCECB)**

8.1 **Nominations re: Speaker of Senate -- Update**

Dr. McKivior advised that at the regular Senate meeting held on February 13, 2024, it was resolved that Senate approve amendments to the Senate By-Laws to introduce the roles of Speaker of Senate and Deputy Speaker of Senate. The first request for nominations or volunteers to fill the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Senate role went out on Newsline-Newspost on March 27, 2024. The deadline for nominations is set for Thursday, April 25, 2024. Dr. McKivior noted that a reminder is scheduled for Newsline-Newspost prior to the

deadline, and if Senators have any questions about these positions, they should feel free to contact senate@mun.ca.

Discussion/Questions: none.

216. 9.0 **Motion – Senate Standing Committees – Election of Chair**

9.1 **Notice of Motion Received from Dr. E. Kendall at Senate meeting of March 12, 2024.**

Background as provided by Dr. Kendall: It is noted that certain Standing Committees have appointed or default Chairs. These appointments are contrary to democratic principles and may limit the engagement of other members of Senate. It is proposed that Standing Committee Chairs be elected annually.

Whereas Senate approves the structure and composition of its standing committees;
And whereas the structure of some Standing Committees is at variance with sound democratic actions;

Therefore, be it resolved that each Standing Committees of Senate annually shall elect a Chair and other necessary officers at a time convenient for the business of that committee.

RESOLVED: That each Standing Committee of Senate annually elect a Chair and other necessary officers at a time convenient for the business of that Committee regarding item #9.1 as presented in the attached Senate package of materials.

It was moved by Dr. E. Kendall and seconded by Mr. N. Keough, that Senate accept the motion.

Discussion/Questions -- Comments from Senators:

Dr. McKivor, University Registrar and Interim Secretary of Senate asked Mr. B. Hammond to act as Interim Secretary of Senate during the discussion of item #9.1. Dr. McKivor then, as University Registrar, a voting member of Senate, proposed amending the motion put forward by Dr. Kendall.

Dr. McKivor reminded Senators that on May 9, 2023, Senate accepted a report from the ad hoc Senate Governance Review committee. Recommendation 3.4 of the report was to “propose a two-stage revision process for Senate's committee structure”. The rationale of this recommendation encouraged thoughtful engagement with stakeholders, to “foster a culture that exemplifies organizational values” and suggested “Senate committees should regularly review their membership, terms of reference, workflow processes, and workload, per the literature review” that was provided at the time. It was felt by the ad hoc committee that our “committee structures are due for a comprehensive review by the Senate as it must consider all options to become more effective and engaging to help lead Memorial forward. This review process is intricately connected with the previous EDI-AR & Indigenization recommendation” that was also included in the report.

Until such time as a complete and thorough review can take place, the Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees and By-Laws (SCECB) provide for that committee to "To recommend for Senate approval the structure and terms of reference of Senate standing committees, and any other committees as requested by Senate". SCECB recently supported and recommended to Senate an amendment to the Planning and Budget Committee's terms of reference to allow that committee to elect its own chair in September of each year. To this point, no other committee has made this request for consideration.

Dr. Kendall has included in his background material that "Specific chair appointments are contrary to democratic principles and may limit the engagement of other members of Senate". The intention of the amendment is not to disparage democratic practice, it is to highlight that Senate should review the overall committee structure to address multiple questions. By accepting the ad hoc governance review committee recommendation in May 2023 for a whole-scale review of Senate standing committees, there is opportunity to consider all elements of committee makeup, remit and applicability.

Having provided background rationale, Dr. McKivior proposed the following:

Whereas Senate approves the structure and composition of its standing committees; and whereas Senate has previously accepted on May 9, 2023 the recommendation that a revision process for Senate's standing committee structure takes place.

Therefore, be it resolved that beginning in May 2024, each of Senate's Standing Committees' Terms of Reference be considered as part of the revision process accepted by Senate in May 2023.

RESOLVED: That beginning in May 2024, each of Senate's Standing Committees' Terms of Reference be considered as part of the process accepted by Senate in May 2023.

Further Discussion/Questions -- Comments from Senators:

- The goal and spirit of Dr. Kendall's motion was to invigorate the democratic processes within Senate.
- It was noted that from time-to-time Senate may choose to give direction to standing committees.
- Each year Senate standing committees must review and submit proposals for changes to their terms of reference, if appropriate. The proposed changes must be considered by the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees and By-Laws, which sends its recommendations forward to Senate.
- Each year a committee member stands for election or re-election and in most cases that includes annual election of a committee chair.
- There are a few committees in which the process of annual election is not followed, and it was noted that goes against democratic tenets.
- In a democratic system a Standing Committee's chair should not be appointed defacto due to their position, but rather elected by the members of the committee.
- Since the Senate voted and agreed to undergo a wholesale review of its standing committees, why don't we let that process finish instead of pulling select pieces of the review out now?
- There was concern about how long the fulsome review of Standing Committee would

- take, and Senators suggested that Standing Committees could begin the process of electing chairs annually, and if in the future observed good reasons to end the practice, they could propose to Senate a return to the current system.
- Some Senators suggested that the amendment to the original motion would essentially stop the original motion altogether and as such they stated that the amendment was not in the spirit of the original motion. As such, those members stated that according to Robert's Rules the motion to amend should have been ruled out of order.

It was moved by Dr. L. McKivior and seconded by Ms. M. Broders, but the motion was defeated, and no amendments were made to Dr. Kendall's original motion.

Having been duly moved by Dr. E. Kendall and seconded by Mr. N. Keough, it carried that Senate approve the motion that "each Standing Committee of Senate annually elect a Chair and other necessary officers at a time convenient for the business of that Committee". 24 members opposed the motion, and three members abstained from voting.

217. 10.0 **Recommendation of the ad hoc Committee Concerning the Ode to Newfoundland during the University's Convocation Ceremonies**

10.1 **Interim Report.**

The Chair noted that there has been a lot of coverage on the topic of pausing the Ode to Newfoundland at our convocations, both for and against. The topic raises strong feelings on both sides. As such, the Executive Committee considered the idea of conducting a paper-ballot system for voting on this agenda item. It is proposed that for those in the room, ballots be distributed and collected and for those online, a poll be launched, so that the process is anonymous.

Senate By-Law IV. C. Rules of Order, Section 3. states that *Voting shall be by show of hands, unless otherwise specified in these bylaws. Motions to provide for other methods of voting require the consent of the majority of the members present and voting.*

Resolved, that Senate agree to conduct any votes pertaining to the Ode to Newfoundland by way of an anonymous balloting system.

It was moved by Mr. C. Couturier, seconded by Dr. J. Lokash, and carried that Senate adopt an anonymous balloting system for voting on this particular agenda item.

In addition, given the nature of the topic it was felt that Senate may wish to allow the observers in the audience an opportunity to speak, which contravenes the bylaws of Senate and therefore also requires a vote. **Senate By-Law IV. E. Observers, Section 3.** indicates *Observers are not permitted to speak at meetings of the Senate.*

Resolved, that Senate agree to allow observers speaking rights for the duration of the discussion in this meeting pertaining to the Ode to Newfoundland.

It was moved by Dr. J. Lokash, seconded by Ms. M. Broders, and carried that Senate allow observers speaking privileges for this particular agenda item.

The Chair invited Dr. M. Woods, as an elected Senator on the committee to speak on item #10.1.

Dr. Woods advised that the *ad hoc* Committee of Senate Concerning the Ode to Newfoundland during the University's Convocation Ceremonies prepared a Preliminary Report per its Terms of Reference (updates approved March 12, 2024). Contained in the report is the committee's interim recommendation as noted in item #10.1 of the attached Senate agenda package.

Discussion/Questions -- Comments from Senators:

- It was noted that the *ad hoc* committee hopes to complete consultations on this issue before the next convocation cycle (October 2024), but given the scale of consultation that the *ad hoc* committee is considering there is a distinct possibility that timeline is unrealistic.
- A member asked to hear from Dr. Purchase, whose motion followed on the agenda and was in opposition to the current motion.
 - Dr. Purchase spoke to his motion and explained that he would withdraw his motion if the current motion to continue the pause was approved.
- Some members of the *ad hoc* committee were attending the Senate meeting and spoke on behalf of the recommendation, stating in particular that voting down the motion was a form of silencing the diverse voices of those who were selected to complete the *ad hoc* committee's mandate. More than that, the Ode ignores the history and culture of those whose lands these were prior to colonial settlement.
- The Ode and Convocation Ceremonies should be compatible with the Land Acknowledgment. There is thus merit in re-instating the Ode temporarily as a way of encouraging the provincial government to change and/or update the Ode (if the pause remains, we might be in a situation similar to last year, whereby the government in the House of Assembly responded by making an angry protest in the way that they sang the Ode in unison in the House).
- A member of the student union noted that most students seem more concerned with graduation requirements and consider convocation a degree granting exercise. They do not appear to be overly concerned with how the ceremonial aspects of the event play out.
- It was also noted that more than 50% of Memorial's Graduate Students are currently international, not domestic.
- As an educational institution, Memorial should be the intellectual leaders of the province. We are committed to EDI&AR and have made significant investments into EDI&AR portfolios and strategic planning. This means we should not only select those situations where it is convenient to represent its tenets, but we also need to do the hard things. We need to be equitable, diverse, inclusive and anti-racist in all that we do, including supporting the committee to do their work.

RESOLVED: Given that the ad-hoc committee concerning the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial's convocation ceremonies has not completed consultation in order to make a more informed proposal, it is recommended that the pause on the Provincial Anthem of Newfoundland & Labrador (Ode to Newfoundland) be continued for the next cycle of convocation ceremonies (May 2024), while Senate awaits the final committee report as presented in item #10.1 in the attached Senate package of materials.

It was moved by Dr. M. Woods, seconded by Dr. J. Sinclair, and carried that Senate accept the preliminary report of the ad hoc committee and approve the recommendation to

continue the pause on the Provincial Anthem for the next cycle of convocation ceremonies. 21 members opposed the motion and two members abstained from the vote.

218. 11.0 **Motion - Recommendation that the Pause on the provincial Anthem of Newfoundland and Labrador (Ode to Newfoundland) is temporarily lifted for the next Cycle of Convocation Ceremonies (May 2024)**

11.1 **Notice of Motion Received from Dr. C. Purchase dated March 27, 2024.**

Dr. C. Purchase withdrew the motion to temporarily lift the pause on the singing of the Newfoundland Provincial Anthem during the next convocation ceremony.

219. 12.0 **Communication to Senate**

12.1 **Communication Received from Dr. D. Gill in Accordance with Senate ByLaw IV.B.1.**

- *Senate as the supreme academic body of the university reserves the right to initiate discussion and debate on any matter falling within its constitutional purview, and to receive for consideration in the first instance representations from any source, internal or external to the University.*

Dr. McKivor provided a brief explanation of how Senate came to receive the communication. There was a discussion on how the correspondence should be received and if it should become a part of Senate's official record.

Members of Senate agreed to accept the correspondence for information only and to provide no follow-up actions. The letter will remain as a part of the publicly accessible Senate agenda package, but would not be added to the minutes of the meeting.

Discussion/Questions -- Comments from Senators:

220. 13.0 **Remarks from the Chair of Senate – Question/Comments from Senators.**

Dr. N. Bose, Chair of Senate and President and Vice-Chancellor, *pro tempore* advised that he did not have any further updates for Senate.

Given that Mr. Glenn Barnes, Chair of the Board of Regents, had agreed to update Senate on the status of the Presidential Search Committee, and given that it was almost 6:00 pm, the Chair asked for a motion to extend the meeting of Senate by 30 minutes.

It was moved by Dr. C. Couturier, seconded by M. Broders, and carried that Senate would extend the meeting by 30 minutes to allow time for the Chair of the Board of Regents to update senators on the Search for a new University President.

221. 14.0 **Remarks from the Deputy Chair of Senate – Question/Comments from Senators**

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

The Chair of Senate, and Interim University President, Dr. N. Bose, then left the meeting.

The Deputy Chair of Senate welcomed Mr. Glenn Barnes, Chair of the Board of Regents, to Senate to provide an update on the Presidential Search. She reminded Senators that during the December 12, 2023, Senate meeting a motion was approved to allow Mr. Glenn Barnes, Chair of the Board of Regents, speaking privileges at Senate for the duration of the current Presidential search process.

Dr. Lokash invited Mr. Barnes to speak.

Mr. Barnes thanked Dr. Lokash for the invitation to present an update on the search for Memorial's next President and Vice-Chancellor. He noted that in the spirit of collegial governance, he was pleased to join the meeting to share the latest information on the Presidential search process.

He advised that the terms of reference and membership structure for the Presidential Search Committee (PSC) was approved (comprised of students, faculty, staff, regents, and a member of the public – with 4 Senators: Dr. Lourdes Peña-Castillo, Cyr Couturier, Dr. Johnathan Pope, and Dr. Sylvia Moore), and the first PSC meeting was held on Friday, April 5, 2024.

He shared some decisions from this meeting: members met each other, reviewed the Presidential Search, Selection and Appointment policy and procedures, and reviewed the steps and schedules of recent past presidential searches in order to decide on the type of search support required. The PSC would be seeking the services of a professional search consultant. Also, the PSC agreed to form a sub-committee to develop a request for proposals from interested firms and evaluate proposals received, giving particular attention to the cost-benefit of each.

Mr. Barnes noted that for more information about the PSC to refer to the website: <https://www.mun.ca/regents/presidential-search/>

Discussion/Questions:

- A member expressed concern about the expertise and the cost OF using an outside search consulting firm.
- Did the PSC look at alternative search support options?
 - Mr. Barnes noted that the University's Human Resources department does not currently have the capacity to conduct fulsome searches for presidential candidates. The PSC weighed the advantages of hiring external consultants, and as a group made the decision to contract out that aspect of the search. Mr. Barnes reminded Senate that four Senators are among the members of the PSC and had been a part of the decision-making process.

Dr. Lokash thanked Mr. Barnes.

222. **Any Other Business:**

Dr. Lokash asked Senators if there was any other business.

- A student Senator advised that Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union (MUNSU) would be hosting a Town Hall forum on Monday, April 22, 2024, at the Breezeway Café and Bar. Government leaders and University administrators; namely: The Hon. Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Education; Mr. Tony Wakeham, Official Opposition; President Bose, Mr. Glenn Barnes, Chair of the Board of Regents, Mr. Earl Ludlow, Chancellor. All Senators were welcomed to attend.
- A student Senator advised that MUNSU stands with all Palestinian students who are currently watching a genocide unfold in their home country. It is important that government officials and university administration take steps to support all those affected by the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the recent siege in Gaza. The student Senator expressed concern that Memorial has not made public statements to admonish the Israeli treatment of people in the Gaza strip, and further that Memorial appears to continue upholding business relationships with companies associated with Israel.

223. **Adjournment:**

It was moved by Dr. P. Dold and seconded by Dr. T. Brown and carried that the meeting of Senate be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.

CHAIR

SECRETARY