



UNIVERSITY SENATE
MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024
4:00 pm NT –WebEx

PRESENT

Dr. K. Abadie	Dr. D. Hallett	Dr. A. Pike
Dr. K. Anderson	Dr. D. Hancock	Dr. S. Power
Mr. M. Alam	Dr. J. Hawboldt	Dr. C. Purchase
Dr. C. Arnold	Dr. N. Hurley	Dr. P. Ride
Dr. R. Bailey	Dr. K. Jacobsen	Dr. S. Rowe
Dr. C. Bazan	Ms. K. Johnson	Ms. K. Russell
Ms. H. Bello	Mx. J. Joy	Dr. S. Shetranjiwalla
Dr. E. Bezzina	Dr. D. Keeping	Dr. K. Simonsen, Deputy Speaker
Dr. N. Bose, Chair	Dr. E. Kendall	Dr. J. Sinclair
Dr. P. Brett	Mr. N. Keough	Ms. B. Smith
Dr. T. Brown	Dr. K. Laing	Dr. M. Stordy
Mr. D. Budden	Dr. J. Lokash, Deputy Chair	Dr. A.M. Sullivan
Dr. S. Bugden	Dr. A. Loucks-Atkinson	Mr. P. Sullivan
Dr. R. Burry	Mr. E. Ludlow, Chancellor	Ms. C. Walsh
Dr. L. Cahill	Dr. L.A. McKivior, Secretary	Dr. A. Warren
Dr. T. Chapman	Ms. B. Meaney	Dr. J. Westcott
Mr. C. Couturier	Dr. L. Moore	Ms. A. White
Dr. G. Curtis	Dr. S. Moore	Ms. B. White
Dr. O. Dobre	Dr. L. Moores	Dr. M. Woods
Dr. P. Dold	Dr. P. Morrill	Dr. S. Wright
Dr. A. Dorward	Dr. D. Mullings	Dr. H. Yacoubian
Dr. T. Fridgen	Ms. T. Noseworthy	Mx. A. Zedel
Dr. G. George	Ms. S. Papple	
Dr. S. Giwa	Dr. D. Peters	

REGRETS

Dr. P. Button	Dr. E. Fraser	Dr. S. Neilsen
Dr. F. Bambico		

ABSENT

Dr. T. Allen	Dr. P. Osmond-Johnson	Dr. D. McKeen
Mr. A. Al Rashed	Mr. S. Ganesan	Ms. H. Pretty
Dr. J. Anderson	Dr. E. Haven	Mr. S. Shah
Dr. K. Bulmer	Dr. P. Issahaku	Dr. K. Shannahan
Dr. E. Durnford	Dr. M. Marshall	

OBSERVERS

Dr. Paul Adjei

Mr. Arif Abu

Ms. Catharyn Andersen

Dr. Patricia Beh

Ms. Margot Brown

Dr. Lisa Browne

Ms. Kelly Butler

Dr. Angie Clarke

Dr. Alisa Craig

Dr. Virginia Fugarino

Mr. Chad Pelley

Ms. Valeri. Pilgrim

Ms. Lisa Russell

Dr. Shannon Sullivan

Ms. Martha Wells

Ms. Meghan Whelan

RECORDING

Ms. M. Broders

Mr. B. Hammond

Ms. S. Sansome

J. Lokash delivered the land acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 4:11 pm.

J. Lokash welcomed Senators and Observers to the first Regular Meeting of Senate of the 2024-2025 academic year. She offered a special welcome to both returning and the recently elected/appointed members of Senate. An initial training and orientation session took place on Monday, September 9, and twenty-eight Senators were in attendance. Another session may be scheduled in the future, and those interested in reviewing the training materials were asked to request them via senate@mun.ca.

J. Lokash also welcomed Dr. Kathryn Simonsen, the first Deputy Speaker to be elected by the Senate. As the position of Speaker remains vacant, Dr. Simonsen is performing the duties of the Speaker for the first time in this meeting.

N. Bose, who had been experiencing technical difficulties, joined the meeting and reassumed the Chair, thanking J. Lokash for opening the meeting. N. Bose invited the Deputy Speaker to begin the orders of the day.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

1.1 Meeting of September 10, 2024

A draft agenda was circulated on September 5, 2024. K. Simonsen asked if there were any additions or proposed changes to the agenda. None were identified.

MOTION C. Couturier / S. Bugden

RESOLVED that the agenda for the September 10, 2024 meeting of Senate be adopted as presented.

No discussion.

CARRIED

2.0 Procedural

2.1 Annual Motion to Grant Speaking Rights to Chairs of Senate Standing Committees

MOTION S. Bugden / P. Dold

RESOLVED that any Chair of the Standing Committee of Senate who is not also a member of the Senate be permitted speaking rights at all meetings of Senate until August 31, 2025; *and further,*

RESOLVED that any person granted speaking rights by this motion shall not be granted the right to move or second motions or to vote.

No discussion.

CARRIED

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

3.1 Meeting of April 9, 2024

A draft of the minutes for the meeting of April 9, 2024, was circulated on September 5, 2024. K. Simonsen called on L.A. McKivior to present the minutes.

L.A. McKivior informed Senate that the minutes for April 9, 2024, had been tabled for revision at the May 14, 2024 meeting of Senate. At that time, two Senators had suggested amendments to the minutes related to the discussion of the preliminary report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland. The Senate office subsequently worked with these Senators to ensure their comments were reflected accurately in the minutes.

MOTION E. Kendall / C. Couturier

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2024, be approved as circulated.

No discussion.

CARRIED

3.2 Meeting of May 14, 2024

A draft of the minutes for the meeting of May 14, 2024 was circulated on September 5, 2024. No substantive changes were proposed to the Senate office.

MOTION E. Kendall / A.M. Sullivan

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2024, be approved as

circulated.

No discussion.

CARRIED

4.0 Consent Agenda

4.1 Report of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

A report was received from Jennifer Porter, Secretary to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, outlining calendar changes from the School of Arts and Social Science, Faculty of Business Administration, Faculty of Science, and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Committee recommended the adoption of all proposed changes.

4.2 Report of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies

A report was received from Dr. Amy Warren, Chair of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies, outlining calendar changes from the School of Science and the Environment, Faculty of Science, and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Council recommended the adoption of all proposed changes.

MOTION G. George / P. Sullivan

RESOLVED that the recommendations within the Consent Agenda be approved as circulated.

No discussion.

CARRIED

5.0 New Business

5.1 Report of the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees, and Bylaws

K. Simonsen invited L.A. McKivior, Chair of the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees, and Bylaws to present the report of the Committee.

L.A. McKivior described the five items included in the report:

- i. Report on Senate Election Results and Summary of Student Representation;

- ii. Recommendations for appointment of non-statutory *ex-officio* members of Senate;
- iii. Recommendations for appointment to Standing Committees of Senate;
- iv. Request for nominations: Speaker of Senate
- v. Request for nominations: Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial's Convocation Ceremonies.

Items (i.), (iv.), and (v.) were presented for information. Items (ii.) and (iii.) were recommendations for the approval of Senate.

Item (ii.) was a procedural item presented in accordance with §55.1 of the Memorial University Act. It was recommended that the following *ex-officio* positions be created for the 2024-2025 year:

- i. Vice-president (Marine Institute)
- ii. Vice-president (Research)
- iii. Vice-provost (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism)
- iv. Associate Vice-president (Academic)
- v. Associate Vice-president (Academic) and Dean of Students

Item (iii.) recommended the appointment of several volunteers to the Standing Committees of Senate.

MOTION C. Walsh / D. Budden

RESOLVED that the recommendations presented in the report of the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees, and Bylaws be approved as presented.

No discussion.

CARRIED

5.2 Report of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial

K. Simonsen invited N. Bose, Chair of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial, to present the report.

N. Bose advised Senate that the report contained a recommendation for appointment to the position of University Marshal. The Committee recommended that Dr. Kirby Shannahan be appointed University Marshal.

MOTION C. Purchase / J. Lokash

RESOLVED that the Senate approve the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial to appoint Dr. Kirby Shannahan as the new University Marshal.

No discussion.

CARRIED

5.3 University Planning and Budget Committee – Request for Special Topics for November 2024

K. Simonsen advised Senators that this item was for information only, and that a memo including more detail that was previously circulated to Senators is included in the Agenda. Senators were encouraged to submit recommendations via a Qualtrics link included in the memo. The Committee will make its recommendation at the October meeting of Senate.

5.4 Presentation re: Dissemination Schedule for EDI-AR Strategic Report

D. Mullings presented an overview of the EDI-AR Strategic Report, which was recently finalized and is now entering the dissemination stage. A brief summary was included for the information of Senate, and the full report is available online: <https://www.mun.ca/edi-ar/projects-and-reports/strategic-planning-reports/>.

Following the presentation, Senators were invited to ask questions.

A Senator asked about the difference between EDI-AR considerations and impacts for international versus domestic students.

D. Mullings advised that there is not a significant amount of literature on this topic and so there is no definitive answer as regards the varying impacts for international versus domestic students.

A Senator was under the impression that data about disabilities and impacts on students with disabilities was being collected, but did not notice mention of these groups in the presentation or report.

D. Mullings advised that though some of the consultation responses received did reference disability issues, they were ultimately not included in the report.

K. Simonsen thanked D. Mullings for the presentation.

5.5 Motion re: Academic Amnesty for October 2, 2024

K. Simonsen invited A. Zedel to present the motion.

MOTION H. Bello / E. Bezzina

RESOLVED that Senate encourage academic units and professors to grant Academic Amnesty on October 2nd, 2024, to all students of all Memorial University campuses, insofar as academic units and professors remain flexible in making alternate arrangements, including rescheduling examinations and the deadlines for submission of assignments, and in adopting any other required forms of leniency for students who are absent from classes on October 2, 2024, so that they may freely participate in the provincial strike for education without fear of academic repercussions; *and further,*

RESOLVED that in the event of unforeseen circumstances causing the day of action to be postponed, academic amnesty will be granted for the date to which it is postponed; *and further,*

RESOLVED that this offer of Academic Amnesty be communicated to students and faculty by Memorial University.

No discussion.

CARRIED

5.6 Interim Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial's Convocation Ceremonies

K. Simonsen invited L.A. McKivior, Convenor of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial's Convocation Ceremonies, to present the Motion to Suspend the Rules.

L.A. McKivior advised Senate that the purpose of this motion is to allow for voting by methods other than by show of hands with the intention of using an online poll. The motion further allows observers, in particular those who are members of the Ad-hoc Committee but not members of Senate, to participate in the discussion surrounding the Committee's report.

MOTION C. Couturier / S. Bugden

RESOLVED that Senate bylaws §IV.C.3 and §IV.E.3 be suspended until all business related to Agenda item **45.6 Second Interim Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland** has been concluded; *and further,*

RESOLVED that Observers may speak when recognized by the Speaker of Senate but may not make or second motions nor cast votes.

No discussion.

CARRIED

K. Simonsen invited C. Couturier, Senator and member of the Ad-hoc Committee, to present the Interim Report.

C. Couturier provided an overview of the report, which was circulated on September 5, 2024. The report outlined the continuing work of the Ad-hoc Committee, which has included the preparation and approval of a survey, as well as the beginning of consultation meetings with groups of interest. The Committee has provided a work plan and timeline and hopes to submit its final report for the May 2025 sessions of convocation.

The Ad-hoc Committee recommends that the pause on the Ode be continued for the October 2024 sessions of convocation while the Senate awaits the final report of the Committee.

Following the presentation, Senators were invited to ask questions.

A Senator asked if the Notice of Motion in the agenda should be considered during the current discussion due to its proposal to disband the Ad-hoc Committee.

L.A. McKivor advised that the Notice of Motion is only for information, and that Senate will consider it in order to make a decision at the October Regular Meeting of Senate. As a result, consideration of the Committee's present recommendations should be made based on the Interim Report.

A Senator spoke against the motion and advised Senate that if the motion were to fail, the Senator would propose a motion from the floor with the effect of reinstating the Ode at convocation ceremonies.

A member of the Ad-hoc Committee in attendance as an Observer provided further information on the report and recommendations. The Observer reminded Senate that the Committee has not been working since its creation in Winter 2023, but instead has been working since January 2024 due to various delays. Following the approval of the Preliminary Report, which was presented in April 2024, the Ad-hoc Committee's ability to consult was limited due to many important groups being off-campus or otherwise unavailable during the Spring Semester. The Observer advised Senate that consultations have been ongoing since August 2024 with plans to continue, and that these consultations are time- and resource-intensive. The University has also created an expectation in the community that consultation would occur, and she felt it would be inappropriate to curtail that now that it has begun.

A Senator expressed support for the recommendation and the work of the Ad-hoc Committee and made note that the release of the survey in December 2024, as suggested by the Work Plan, may hinder the Ad-hoc Committee's ability to collect

data due to the time of year.

A Senator expressed support for the recommendation, and suggested that, following the conclusion of the consultation process, the Ad-hoc Committee may consider sharing elements of convocation other than the Ode to Newfoundland that it had identified as being potentially problematic.

A Senator and member of the Committee expressed support for the recommendation and agreement with the statements of the Observer.

MOTION C. Couturier / K. Anderson

RESOLVED that the pause on the Ode to Newfoundland be continued for the next cycle of convocation ceremonies (October 2024) while Senate awaits the final report of the committee.

No discussion.

CARRIED

5.7 Motion to Extend Time

As the time was 5:50 pm and there remained a significant amount of business for consideration, the following motion was accepted from the floor:

MOTION to EXTEND TIME N. Keough / A. Dorward

RESOLVED that the meeting of Senate be extended to conclude at 6:30 pm NT.

No discussion.

CARRIED

6.0 Reports of Officers

6.1 Remarks from the Chair

K. Simonsen invited N. Bose to provide remarks to the Senate.

N. Bose advised that this is the first week back from classes and that the matriculation ceremony, held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, was the best-attended and largest such ceremony ever held.

There are currently three Vice-presidential searches ongoing. For the Vice-president (Grenfell Campus), an advertisement is being developed based on previous consultations, which were held last year. For the Vice-president (Marine Institute),

consultations have been completed and an advertisement is being developed. For the Provost and Vice-president (Academic), candidate interviews are scheduled to begin during the Fall 2024 semester.

N. Bose and the Chair of the Board of Regents continue to meet on a regular basis with the Minister of Education regarding the impacts on Memorial caused by the ongoing cuts to funding.

Finally, the previous Chair of the Board of Regents, Mr. Glen Barnes, recently resigned, and Mr. Justin Ladha was appointed to serve as the new Chair. Ms. Lisa Russell has left her position in Student Life and is now the Executive Director of the Board of Regents.

6.2 Questions for the Chair

Senators were invited to ask questions of the Chair.

A Senator was happy to hear that N. Bose and the Chair of the Board of Regents have been working with the provincial government on the subject of funding. The Senator asked if N. Bose would, in the case of increased funding to the University, commit to the lowering of tuition.

N. Bose advised that while the meetings are regular, there is a significant amount of analysis and consultation that is involved in budget planning and allocation, and so no commitments can be made at this time.

The same Senator expressed concern that N. Bose did not address the genocide in Gaza and related student protests. The Senator was disappointed that despite community and stakeholder concerns, the Board of Regents has decided not to divest from companies with investments in Israel.

N. Bose responded that the situation is complicated and is a subject of significant discussion at Universities around the world. The focus is on ensuring Memorial is a safe place for all.

The same Senator disagreed that the situation is complicated and stated that the opinion of the international community, including the United Nations, is that the conflict in Gaza constitutes genocide.

6.3 Remarks from the Deputy Chair

K. Simonsen invited J. Lokash to provide remarks to the Senate.

J. Lokash advised Senators that several Dean searches are underway and at various stages. Dr. Trevor Brown recently accepted a five-year contract as Dean of the Faculty of

Business Administration. Recommendations are forthcoming for the Faculty of Nursing and the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. Interviews are beginning for the School of Music. The Faculty of Science search is well underway and will soon be releasing a shortlist. The Faculty of Medicine search is also underway, and J. Lokash advised that the committee has chosen to employ an executive search firm. Following a pause and reset, the committee for the School of Social Work is beginning its work again.

J. Lokash thanked those who are serving on the search committees for their work and dedication. She also extended thanks to the staff in Human Resources, led by Ms. Shauna Quinlan, who have been instrumental in supporting the searches.

J. Lokash also informed Senate that, despite the Bachelor of Arctic and Subarctic Interdisciplinary Studies (BASIS) being approved for launch by Senate in Winter 2024, the program has not launched this semester as intended due to low enrolment. Those students who were accepted to the program have been given alternate academic options that will count toward their degree program. J. Lokash and A. Warren thanked the new Dean of the School of Arctic and Subarctic Studies, Dr. Sylvia Moore, for her work in the same regard.

6.4 Questions for the Deputy Chair

Senators were invited to ask questions of the Deputy Chair.

A Senator inquired about the newly appointed leadership at Harlow Campus, as the Senator was expecting an announcement. The Senator was hopeful that, in addition to an announcement at Senate, a fulsome report would be circulated, as the Harlow Campus is of particular interest to several academic units.

N. Bose advised that information on this topic would be forthcoming, but that there is no announcement to make at this time.

7.0 Notice of Motion

7.1 Motion to Disband the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial's Convocation Ceremonies

K. Simonsen advised Senators that a Notice of Motion had been received from D. Budden, and that the motion presented in the package will be discussed and voted on at the October Regular Meeting of Senate.

8.0 Other Business

K. Simonsen invited Senators to raise items of other business. None were identified.

K. Simonsen announced that Senate would be moving into a Closed Session for discussion of confidential materials and asked all Observers to leave the meeting. L.A. McKivor confirmed that all non-Senators had left the meeting room and business resumed.

9.0 Closed Session

9.1 Report of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial

The Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial presented three (3) recommendations for appointment to the position of *Professor Emerita/us*. Separate motions were made and voted on for each recommendation. Senate approved three (3) candidates for receipt of the appointment to *Professor Emerita/us*.

As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was sought and carried at 6:22 pm.