



UNIVERSITY SENATE
MINUTES

Tuesday, October 8, 2024
4:00 pm NT –WebEx

PRESENT

Mr. E. Ludlow, Chancellor
Dr. N. Bose, Chair
Dr. J. Lokash, Deputy Chair
Dr. K. Abadie
Dr. T. Allen
Mr. A. Al-Rashed
Dr. J. Anderson
Dr. K. Anderson
Mr. M. Alam
Dr. C. Arnold
Dr. R. Bailey
Dr. F. Bambico
Dr. C. Bazan
Dr. E. Bezzina
Mr. D. Budden
Dr. S. Bugden
Dr. K. Bulmer
Dr. L. Cahill
Dr. G. Curtis
Dr. P. Dold
Dr. A. Dorward
Dr. E. Durnford
Dr. T. Fridgen
Dr. G. George

Dr. S. Giwa
Dr. E. Haven
Dr. D. Hallett
Dr. D. Hancock
Dr. N. Hurley
Dr. K. Jacobsen
Ms. K. Johnson
Dr. E. Kendall
Dr. A. Loucks-Atkinson
Dr. M. Marshall
Dr. D. McKeen
Dr. L.A. McKivor, Secretary
Ms. B. Meaney
Dr. S. Moore
Dr. L. Moores
Dr. P. Morrill
Ms. T. Noseworthy
Dr. P. Osmond-Johnson
Ms. S. Papple
Dr. D. Peters
Dr. A. Pike
Dr. S. Power
Ms. H. Pretty

Mr. F. Probandho (*for N. Keough*)
Dr. C. Purchase
Dr. P. Ride
Dr. S. Rowe
Ms. K. Russell
Dr. S. Shetranjiwalla
Dr. K. Simonsen, Deputy Speaker
Mr. S. Shah
Ms. B. Smith
Dr. M. Stordy
Dr. A.M. Sullivan
Mr. P. Sullivan
Ms. C. Walsh
Dr. A. Warren
Dr. J. Westcott
Ms. A. White
Dr. B. White
Dr. M. Woods
Dr. S. Wright
Dr. H. Yacoubian
Mx. A. Zedel

REGRETS

Dr. T. Brown
Dr. R. Burry

Dr. D. Keeping
Dr. K. Laing

Dr. D. Mullings
Dr. S. Neilsen

ABSENT

Ms. H. Bello
Dr. P. Brett
Dr. P. Button
Dr. T. Chapman
Mr. C. Couturier

Dr. O. Dobre
Dr. E. Fraser
Mr. S. Ganesan
Dr. J. Hawboldt
Dr. P. Issahaku

Mx. J. Joy
Dr. L. Moore
Dr. K. Shannahan
Dr. J. Sinclair

OBSERVERS

Dr. Paul Adjei	Ms. Kelly Butler	Ms. Valeri Pilgrim
Mr. Arif Abu	Dr. Angie Clarke	Ms. Lisa Russell
Ms. Catharyn Andersen	Dr. Virginia Fugarino	Ms. Bonnie Simmons
Dr. Patricia Beh	Ms. Melissa MacLean	Dr. Shannon Sullivan
Ms. Margot Brown	Mr. Keith Matthews	Ms. Martha Wells
Dr. Lisa Browne	Mr. Chad Pelley	Ms. Meghan Whelan

RECORDING

Ms. M. Broders	Mr. B. Hammond	Ms. S. Sansome
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N. Bose delivered the land acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

N. Bose welcomed Senators and Observers to the meeting and congratulated Dr. April Pike and Dr. Laleh Alisaraie on their recent appointments to Senate. Dr. April Pike is the recently appointed Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, while Dr. Alisaraie is an elected representative from the School of Pharmacy.

N. Bose thanked K. Simonsen for returning to serve as Speaker for this meeting of Senate. As no Speaker has been elected, K. Simonsen continues to serve in the role of Speaker.

N. Bose reminded Observers that only Senators should participate in voting.

N. Bose invited the Deputy Speaker to begin the orders of the day.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

1.1 Meeting of October 8, 2024

A draft agenda was circulated on October 1, 2024. K. Simonsen asked if there were any additions or proposed changes to the agenda.

D. Hallet requested that an item be added under Other Business without objection.

MOTION E. Bezzina / A.M. Sullivan

RESOLVED that the agenda for the September 10, 2024 meeting of Senate be adopted with the addition of one item for D. Hallet under Other Business.

No discussion.

CARRIED

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

2.1 Meeting of September 10, 2024

A draft of the minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2024, was circulated on October 1, 2024. K. Simonsen called on L.A. McKivor to present the minutes.

L.A. McKivor informed Senate that no substantial amendments had been proposed to the minutes prior to the meeting.

MOTION M. Woods / A. Dorward

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2024, be approved as circulated.

No discussion.

CARRIED

3.0 Consent Agenda

3.1 Report of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

A report was received in writing from Jennifer Porter, Secretary to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, outlining calendar changes that had been approved under authority delegated to SCUgS.

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

A report was received in writing from Dr. Amy Warren, Chair of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies, outlining calendar changes from the Faculty of Science, Marine Institute, School of Arctic and Subarctic Studies, and School of Graduate Studies.

The Council recommended the adoption of all proposed changes.

3.3 Annual Reports of Senate Standing Committees

Eleven (11) annual reports were received in writing from the Standing Committees of Senate. Reports were received from the

- i. Senate Executive Committee;
- ii. Senate Committee on Elections, Committees, and Bylaws;
- iii. Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial;
- iv. Senate Committee on Academic Appeals;

- v. Academic Unit Planning Committee;
- vi. Senate Committee on Admissions;
- vii. Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies;
- viii. Senate Committee on Course Experience;
- ix. University Planning and Budget Committee; and
- x. Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning.

The reports contained no recommendations and were received for information only.

MOTION G. George / C. Walsh

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

A Senator encouraged everyone in the meeting, especially new and incoming Senators, to review the annual reports in detail as they show the bulk of the work of Senate.

CARRIED

4.0 New Business

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

K. Simonsen invited A. Warren, Associate Vice-president and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Chair of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies, to present the report of the Academic Council.

A. Warren advised Senate that the report contained a recommendation for the creation of a PhD program in Human Kinetics and Recreation. She advised that the program has been in development for several years and has strong support from the School of Graduate Studies. She informed Senate that A.M. Sullivan, Dean of the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation, was present in the meeting if there were any questions.

MOTION A.M. Sullivan / A. Loucks-Atkinson

RESOLVED that Senate approve the recommendation of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies for the creation of the PhD program in Human Kinetics and Recreation.

No discussion.

CARRIED

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

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

L.A. McKivor advised Senate that the report contains two items: (1.) a recommendation regarding amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Elections, Committees, and Bylaws and the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial, and (2.) a recommendation for appointment to the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial. The second item also contains notice of election by acclamation.

MOTION E. Kendall / G. George

RESOLVED that §VIII.D, Committee on Elections, Committees, and Bylaws, be amended as follows:

“[...]

1. Membership

(a) Secretary of Senate ~~(Chair)~~

[...]

2. ~~Terms of Reference~~ Duties and Responsibilities

[...]”

and further,

RESOLVED that §VIII.E, Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial, be amended as follows:

“[...]

1. Membership

(a) The President, Chair

(b) The Chancellor

(c) The Secretary of Senate

(d) The Public Orator

(e) Three undergraduate students, one appointed by the Memorial University Students' Union, one by the Marine Institute Students' Union, and one by the Grenfell Campus Students' Union

(f) One graduate student appointed by the Graduate Students' Union

(g) An appropriate number of academic staff members with at least one from each university campus; Grenfell Campus, Marine Institute, and Labrador Campus

2. ~~Terms of Reference~~ Duties and Responsibilities

(a) To make recommendations to the Senate on the awarding of Honorary Degrees.

(b) To make recommendations to the Senate on the holding of Convocations, and on Academic Dress and Ceremonial.

(c) To receive suggestions and recommend to the Senate nominations for ~~the title of Professor Emeritus~~ titles of Emeriti for eventual approval by the Board of Regents.”
[...]

and further,

RESOLVED that Dr. Annette Staveley be appointed to the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial.

No discussion.

CARRIED

Following the passage of the motion, a Senator inquired about the motion passed at the April 2024 meeting of Senate, which resolved “that each Standing Committee of Senate annually shall elect a Chair and other necessary officers at a time convenient for the business of that committee.” The Senator’s question related to the fact that the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial, in modifying its Terms of Reference, allowed the President to remain as chair *ex-officio*.

L.A. McKivor advised that while Senate had indeed passed that motion, it is not binding on the Committees of Senate as it did not directly modify the Senate bylaws. She advised that this interpretation was provided by legal counsel. In the case of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial, she advised that the Committee had been made aware of the April 2024 resolution but decided, following discussion, that the President is the appropriate choice of Chair for this Committee and so did not adjust the portion of the Committee’s Terms of Reference which specifies who shall serve as Chair.

4.3 Report of the University Planning and Budget Committee

K. Simonsen called on M. Woods, Chair of the University Planning and Budget Committee, to present the report of the Committee.

M. Woods thanked those who had submitted recommendations for special topics. Though the Committee is recommending that no Special Meeting of Senate be held in November 2024, they have selected a topic for March 2024.

MOTION M. Woods / N. Hurley

RESOLVED that in the absence of a recommendation for a Special Topic for the November meeting of Senate, the Senate will not hold a Special Meeting in November 2024.

A Senator asked if there would be further opportunities to provide topic recommendations to the Committee in advance of the March Special Meeting. M.

Woods confirmed that there would be and advised Senate that recommendations that are received but not used are reserved for future consideration, and that Senators can submit suggestions to the Committee at any time.

CARRIED

4.4 Report of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

K. Simonsen invited S. Sullivan, Chair of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, to present the report of the Committee.

S. Sullivan advised that in Winter 2024, Senate approved a proposal which replaced the old Pure and Applied Mathematics major programs with a single Mathematics major stream, to be implemented in September 2024. Following the approval of the program, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics advised a few students to follow the new program regulations. As a result, a small number of students who received this advice completed all of the degree requirements for the new Mathematics major in Spring 2024; however, as the new Mathematics major is not currently listed as a major in the 202302024 academic year those students are ineligible to graduate until Spring 2025.

The Committee therefore recommends that Senate allow any student who was advised by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to follow the new Math major regulations, and who completed all program and degree requirements at the end of the Spring 2024, be permitted to graduate with the new Mathematics major prior to the previously approve implementation date of Fall 2024.

MOTION T. Fridgen / R. Bailey

RESOLVED that Senate allow any student who was advised by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to follow the new Mathematics major regulations, and who completed all program and degree requirements at the end of the Spring 2024, be permitted to graduate with the new math major prior to the previously approve implementation date of Fall 2024.

A Senator asked if there were any potential downsides to the motion. S. Sullivan advised that this motion serves as a temporary solution, which affects a very limited number of students.

A Senator asked how many students this would affect. S. Sullivan stated only two students have been impacted.

CARRIED

4.5 Motion to Disband the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland

K. Simonsen called on L.A. McKivor to present the procedural motions.

L.A. McKivor advised Senate that, as with previous discussions held on the subject of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode, two procedural motions were being presented for consideration. The first was a motion to permit Observers the right to participate in discussion. The second was a motion to adjust the method of voting to provide for an online poll rather than the typical method (by show of hands).

MOTION K. Anderson / D. Budden

RESOLVED that Senate bylaw §V.E.3 be suspended until all business related to Agenda item 4.5 Motion re: disbandment of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland and item 4.6 Correspondence have 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

MOTION N. Bose / S. Bugden

RESOLVED that Senate agree to conduct any votes pertaining to agenda item 4.5 by way of an anonymous electronic voting system.

No discussion.

CARRIED

K. Simonsen advised Senate that the item included in the Agenda as item **5.0 Correspondence** was a letter submitted in response to the motion. K. Simonsen then called on D. Budden to present the motion.

D. Budden presented the rationale included in the original notice of motion and the resolutions. In addition, he thanked the Committee, the Senate office, and the Office of Indigenous affairs for the significant amount of work that has been invested in the Committee to date. He advised that the motion is not made with malicious intent, and that the concern of MUNSU is that the resources and time being used by the Committee may not be the most productive in achieving the goals of reconciliation. He raised the issue of student representation on the Committee, and expressed concern that while many pressing issues that affect students (such as housing, food insecurity, rising tuition, etc.) cannot be addressed due to insufficient resources, many resources are being used by the Committee. He asked Senate to consider what is the best use of its time and how student needs can be prioritized.

MOTION D. Budden / S. Shah

RESOLVED that the Senate disband the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland effective immediately; *and further,*

RESOLVED that the Secretary of Senate coordinate an online referendum to the student body (being as inclusive of campus, registration status, etc. as possible) to decide on the inclusion or exclusion of the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial's convocation ceremonies.

MOTION to AMEND A. Zedel / B. Meaney

RESOLVED that should the students vote in favour of including the Ode, the final verse, starting at "as loved our fathers," of the Ode would not be sung.

Though proposed and accepted as a friendly amendment, an objection was made, and the amendment proceeded to a vote.

CARRIED

The motion was thus amended:

RESOLVED that the Senate disband the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode to Newfoundland effective immediately; *and further,*

RESOLVED that the Secretary of Senate coordinate an online referendum to the student body (being as inclusive of campus, registration status, etc. as possible) to decide on the inclusion or exclusion of the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial's convocation ceremonies.

RESOLVED that should the students vote in favour of including the Ode, the final verse, starting at "as loved our fathers," of the Ode would not be sung.

Both Senators and Observers spoke in opposition to the motion and provided a variety of reasons for doing so. Senators felt that it would be irresponsible to disband the Committee, as its work has not only begun but is well-underway, and that a process such as a referendum may only exacerbate the issues of inequality that lead to the creation of the Committee. Senators also felt that students were not the only important stakeholders to consider in this discussion.

K. Butler, in attendance as an Observer and a member of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Ode, expressed to Senate that while the issue of the Ode may feel insignificant or like a waste of resources, the discussions being held by Senate and the Committee serve as important steps toward decolonization. She further advised Senate that decolonization and reconciliation are difficult and often uncomfortable processes that result in change, but that it is important to undertake them with ethics and care. Several Senators

expressed agreement with K. Butler's comments.

A Senator stated they were frustrated that the scope of the ad hoc Committee was limited to a decision regarding the Ode to Newfoundland. The Senator felt that the entire Convocation ceremony should be examined under the lens of decolonization. No Senators spoke in favour of the motion to disband the ad hoc Committee.

D. Budden thanked Senate for its input and expressed that he would be willing to consider methods other than a referendum, and that MUNSU feels that neither a referendum nor the Committee are the best possible solution to the issue Senate is facing. He hopes to ensure that the student voice is heard and considered as the University makes decisions about the Ode to Newfoundland and its Convocation ceremonies in general.

DEFEATED

4.0 Reports of Officers

4.1 Remarks from the Chair

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

N. Bose advised Senate that he had recently met with the Society of Black Graduate Students, the President of the National Research Council regarding ongoing collaborative research on oceans and rivers, and the Fry Foundation and the students awarded support by the Foundation. The Countdown to the Centennial is ongoing and began with a celebration in the Library. The Whale of a Day event was held on Saturday, September 28, and saw a turnout of more than 2000 people. He also attended the All-Nations Powwow on September 29.

He also advised that the University is currently working through the impacts of study permit limits and other international issues that are impacting enrolment.

4.2 Questions for the Chair

Senators were invited to ask questions of the Chair, and none were identified.

4.3 Remarks from the Deputy Chair

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

J. Lokash provided an update on enrolment following the end of the regular enrolment period in September 2024. She advised that the following statistics would be circulated to Senators following the end of the meeting:

- Overall Enrolment: -5.4%
- Graduate Enrolment: -7.7%
- Undergraduate Enrolment: -4.5%
- NL Student Enrolment: +3.3%
- International Student Enrolment: -14.5

She further informed Senate that Convocation ceremonies would be taking place on October 17 and congratulated all students who will be graduating at that time.

J. Lokash also provided an update on the progress of searches for Deans. The Committee for Music has completed site visits and will be deliberating on a decision soon. The Committee for Science has begun site visits. The Committee for Social Work has reset and is back underway. The Committee for Engineering is negotiating its offer. The Committee for Medicine has engaged a search consultant from Perrett-Laver and will meet with the consultant soon.

4.4 Questions for the Deputy Chair

K. Simonsen invited Senators to ask questions of the Deputy Chair.

A. Warren, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, advised Senate that while overall graduate enrolment numbers have decreased, there were record numbers of applications and offers, but study permit issues were largely responsible for the decrease.

A Senator expressed that while these numbers do not look good at first glance, we should consider what the desired size of the University is, what the University needs in terms of student enrolment, and what the University's recruitment goals are.

J. Lokash agreed that these were the right questions to be asking and are being considered by administrators across the University.

5.0 Other Business

K. Simonsen called on D. Hallett to present his item of Other Business.

While at the Presidential Search Committee Town Hall for Senators, D. Hallett wondered if it would be possible for the Senate to hold an "interview" with presidential candidates, given it was unlikely the Search for the new President was to be held openly. He had considered presenting notice of motion to this effect but was not certain about the correct procedure.

L.A. McKivor advised D. Hallett that the Senate office can assist with the preparation and presentation of a notice of motion or other suitable mechanism.

N. Hurley, a member of the Presidential Search Committee, advised that due to time constraints, and considering the next meeting of Senate will be in November 2024, Senators should also feel free to communicate directly with the Presidential Search Committee regarding suggestions.

As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and carried at 6:00 pm.