

Minutes of the Academic Senate of the University of Prince Edward Island

Friday, November 21, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00pm

Alumni Hall and via Zoom

Present: W. Rodgers (Chair), K. Mears (Vice-Chair), A. Bourque, A. Trowbridge (Secretary to Senate), A. Hsiao, A. Weenie, A. Braithwaite, B. Linkletter, C. Campeanu, D. Magbanua, D. Griffon, E. Reid, G. Naterer, J. T. McClure, J. Sentance, J. Ngobia, J. McIntyre, L. Paredes, M. von Eccher, M. Clapson, M. Sweeney-Nixon, M. McMahon, M. Turnbull, N. Clark, N. Etkin, P. Drake, P. Foley, P. Smith, R. Hoersting, R. (Bob) Deziel, R. Avoine-Dalton, S. Cassidy, S. Myers, S. Lloyd, S. Hamilton, T. Mady, T. Jackson, T. Walker, W. Montelpare, W. Whelan, Y. Rashchupkina.

Regrets: C. VanLeeuwen, I. Bhalesha, M. Buote, P. Bernard, S. Kresta.

Secretariat: P. Robichaud, R. Anwar, Gloria Tsoi.

OPEN SESSION

1. **Call to Order, Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks from Chair and Vice-Chair**

W. Rodgers called the meeting to order, welcome members at 3:03 pm and acknowledged the land.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION: MOVED by T. Mady and W. Montelpare **that the agenda of Senate of November 21, 2025, be approved. CARRIED.**

3. **Minutes of September 26, 2025**

MOTION: MOVED by L. Paredes and **SECONDED** by M. Turnbull **that the minutes of September 25, 2025, be approved. CARRIED.**

A question arose as per the report on Committee business by the VPAR. The Chair indicated that the VPAR would be providing a report on Committee business under item 6 a.

4. **Business Arising from Minutes of October 24, 2025**

None

5. **Education Session – Roles and Responsibilities of Seante and Senators**

The Secretary of Senate delivers a presentation on the Roles and Responsibilities of Senate as part of the Training Plan of Senate approved at the previous meeting.

It was noted that the role of Senators includes to be a point of contact for the Community, as described under the Processes and Procedures of Senate. The role of Senate and its committees in curriculum proposal was discussed. The Secretary indicated that Senate has not yet regulated the process for the submission, review and approval of curricular proposals. Some noted that it is important to invite Senators to ask around and seek comments from colleagues on matters of import discussed at Senate.

6. **Senior Administration Reports**

a) **President's Report**

The President spoke to the effect of having the full management team being all in on the important business of the institution.

Noting the need for Senate to carefully consider substantive matters and to be properly informed, President Rodgers stated that important items should come to Senate twice; once to give notice and have an early discussion and a second time for final debate and approval. In order that Senate may focus its attention on the most important issues at hand, the recommendations of APCC will be grouped thematically.

Turning to the Budget, the President noted that the University is making progress against the projected shortfall through both spending constraints and revenue generation. The management team is also taking a close look at our systems and processes to eliminate redundancies. An example of that is the elimination of Zoom as tool for virtual meetings, while the University also uses MS Teams.

The President noted an upcoming session with Ken Steele on November 27, to which all Senators are invited, to discuss how we navigate change in PSE in Canada.

Senators are reminded that the Board of Governors is to meet on December 2. The meeting is open to members of the University Community. Those who wish to attend should register with the Secretariat.

Just a few days before the meeting of Senate, the University published an Economic Impact Report, which makes clear that investment in UPEI generates

three dollars for PEI. As one of the largest employers on the Island, the University stimulates the economy from end-to-end. Special thanks are given to Senator Sentance for helping the University present the Report to the Community.

Just the day before Senate, the University officially launched its Strategic Plan. A one-page summary of the Plan's pillars and goals is shared with Senate. The Plan will be a living document reviewed annually. At the Town Hall launch, members of the University Community in attendance were asked to identify three behaviours that reflect our values. The President invited Senators to engage in a similar exercise, identifying one value and one behaviour that would help Senate live the values of the University.

b) Vice-President Academic and Research Report

Vice President Naterer presents updates on academic and research initiatives.

He notes that the Policy on the Sale of Course Materials has been sent back to the Steering Committee for further discussion following feedback received from Senate.

Consultations with Faculties on an early draft of the University Academic Plan are underway to identify near-term priorities. More information will soon be shared with the University Community with opportunities for feedback provided.

The Campus Life Program has been improved following a review over the last year. Areas of significant change are recreation, events, varsity and many others. Those who wish to know more can contact Johnathan Hewitt, Manager of Student Culture and Community Standards.

VP Naterer notes that 14 colleagues have signed up for faculty peer mentoring in areas of teaching and research, with several workshops being delivered.

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) has created a micro-credential on Teaching with Technology. Senators are encouraged to reach out to the TLC for more information.

As per committee business, VP Naterer noted that the Senate Committee on Teaching Evaluations has been meeting monthly and will soon recommend to Senate methods to mitigate bias and bring other voices to teaching evaluations. There will be University-wide consultations with recommendations coming back to Senate for consideration.

The Ad Hoc Committee on a Policy on Academic Units has met to develop a policy to bring clarity to the role of academic units, their operations and the criteria for

their creation and disestablishment. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of Senate or the VPAR upon request.

c) Vice-President People and Culture Report

Vice President Ngobia confirmed that the Report of the Audit of the implementation of the Action Plan is now out to the Community. One of the recommendations of the Audit Report was that the University revisit the scope and scale of the Action Plan in part by reprioritizing actions based on capacity. The Campus Culture Oversight Committee of the Board of Governors has agreed to review the Action Plan. We should expect some recommendations to revise the Plan.

As per the management of Human Resources, the University is moving from a more transactional model to a more service-focused one. It may not happen overnight, but the University is moving in the right direction. Work has started on a new standard program to onboard new employees. The University has launched a program to recognize remarkable colleagues, with many submissions already received. A new Exit Interview Program is put in place to gather information about the reasons that motivate some employees to leave their role or the University, so that we can improve the University's work environment.

Work continues to rebuild the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office, with expert advice

The Vice President's learning tour is a most enriching experience as members of the Community have shown up in very authentic ways. There have been over 204 hours of deep listening, hearing some 242 voices.

7. Question Period

a) Placemat questions

Three placemat questions have been received and are part of the meeting materials. Although answers were not provided, some indications were given:

- The VPAR indicated that the University does have detailed information regarding retention rates of students per year and per Faculty. Senators can reach out to the VPAR for more information.
- The Registrar will conduct an environmental scan of practices at other universities for their Dean's Lists.

The President and Secretary noted the need for a process to ensure that placemat questions are brought back to Senate with drafted answers.

b) Questions received in advance

None were received

c) Questions from the floor

Q1: Should we populate the Scholarly Integrity Committee? **A1:** There has not been a need for the Committee to meet since the policy was updated. VPAR agrees that it might be a good idea to populate the Committee.

Q2: Do the Exit Interviews include internal movement from one role to another within the University? **A2:** Yes, those are counted.

Q3: What is the effectiveness of the SOTS in small classes? **A3:** There are provisions regarding this in the Collective Agreement of the UPEIFA. We should look at those provisions.

8. Reports from Standing Committee

a) Senate Steering and Nominating Committee

President Rodgers directed members to the written report from SSNC and brings to the attention of Senate a note from the Committee regarding the confirmation of the status of the Associate Vice President Students at Senate. The seat had been left vacant for some time while the position was combined with that of the University Registrar. With the recent separation of the roles, the AVPS resumes their seat at Senate. This gave rise to a discussion of the composition of Senate, with the understanding that the University Act prescribes that Senate must be comprised of at least half from full-time faculty. Members signified a desire to have this for discussion at the December meeting of Senate.

b) Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee

Vice President Naterer presents the third report of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, noting that the Committee meets every two weeks and confirming a new grouping of recommendations for future reports. In those reports, major initiatives will be handled separately.

Graduation Requirements of UPEI1010/1020/1030.

The recommendation is to remove the requirement that undergraduate students complete UPEI 1010, 1020 or 1030 to graduate. This recommendation comes following a quality assurance review by the MPHEC of the “first-year suite”. Following an independent review, the VPAR struck a working group to consider the recommendation stemming from the review and provide advice. The approval of the recommendation implies a course deletion (UPEI1010), a course listing change (ENG1010) and two calendar entries (UPEI1010 and UPEI1030).

MOTION: MOVED by G. Naterer and SECONDED by T. Jackson that Senate approve new course proposals, deletions and listings, changes to course titles, descriptions and pre-requisites and Calendar entries as presented. Vote: 3 opposed. CARRIED.

Bachelor of Arts, Indigenous Studies

The VPAR provides a recommendation to approve the establishment of a new undergraduate degree in Indigenous Studies, noting that Senate has approved the creation of this degree in principle on March 14, 2025, that it has been approved by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission at the condition that the program structure be posted on the University's website and that an Associate Professor be hired for July 2026; both conditions will be fulfilled.

MOTION: MOVED BY G. Naterer and SECONDED by E. Reid, that the establishment of the degree program for the Bachelor of Arts, Indigenous Studies, be approved. CARRIED.

Other changes

Vice President Naterer presents several modifications to courses, calendar entries and course descriptions approved by APCC. They include:

- Course deletions: HIST3520, HIST3910, HIST3920, HIST3930, HIST3940, HIST4260, HIST4410 and HIST4420
- Cross listing change: HIST3780
- Calendar entries: History department list of courses, Bachelor of Arts, Indigenous Studies, Academic Calendar Dates for 2026 – 2027.
- Course description change: IKE2046, IKE3062, IKE3065, IKE3221, IKE3410
- Pre-requisite change: IKE3056

MOTION: MOVED by G. Naterer and SECONDED by E. Reid that all course deletions, cross listing, calendar entries, course description and pre-requisite additions and changes recommended by APCC be approved. CARRIED.

c) Report of the Research Advisory Committee

Dean Sweeney-Nixon presents the annual report of the Research Advisory Committee to Senate. The report was received as part of the meeting materials and is considered read.

9. Report of the Board of Governors to Senate

In the interest of time, the report of the Board of Governors to Senate is considered received and read.

10. Shout Outs

- To Sister Sue, who does a lot for student wellness at the University.
- To Dr. Cynthia Guzman, who put on a fantastic graduate recruitment panel this week.
- To Dale Sorensen, Martha Giraldo-O'Meara and Magdalena Von Eccher for being granted tenure.
- To Facilities Management, for dealing quickly with a major leak such that major damages were averted.

11. Adjournment

All business being concluded, the Chair adjourns the meeting at 4:58pm.

Pascal Robichaud,
University Secretary