

Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of Senate
Friday, May 3, 2024
3:00 – 5:00 pm
Alumni Hall and via Zoom

Present: G. Keefe (Chair), K. Mears (Vice-Chair), A. Trowbridge (Secretary to Senate), M. Arfken, P. Bernard, A. Braithwaite, L. Brinklow, O. Brown, M. Buote, A. Campbell, A. Carrothers, D. Coll, S. Connolly, E. Côté, N. Etkin, S. Fitzpatrick, R. Gauthier, D. Griffon, A. Hsiao, G. Jiang, T. Judson, B. Linkletter, A. MacKenzie, T. Mady, N. Mannholland, M. McMahon, W. Montelpare, D. Moses, C. Murray, S. Myers, G. Naterer, W. Peters, R. Raiswell, E. Reid, S. Reijers, C. Ryan, T. Saunders, J. Sentance, P. Smith, B. Stoughton, M. Sweeney-Nixon, M. Turnbull, M. von Eccher, W. Waterman

Regrets: C. Adeyanju, P. Augustine, S. Hamilton, A. MacLaren, C. Mady

Recorder: K. Porter

G. Keefe called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm and gave a land acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: (W. Montelpare/C. Ryan) to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. April 4, 2024

MOTION: (R. Gauthier/E. Reid) to approve the minutes of April 4, 2024 as presented. CARRIED.

b. April 12, 2024

MOTION: (A. MacKenzie/M. Sweeney-Nixon) to approve the minutes of April 12, 2024 as presented. CARRIED.

3. Business Arising from Minutes

G. Keefe informed Senators the 2024-2025 Senate meeting schedule was adjusted to include an additional meeting in December, with a total of nine meetings scheduled for the 2024-2025 academic year.

4. President's Report and Question Period

- a) G. Keefe provided Senators with the list of announcements that took place during "Good News Week", held during the last week of April.

On March 27, 2024, the Board of Governors approved the UPEI Action Plan. There have been several positions hired recently as part of the Action Plan action items: Kelly Drummond, Director of Human Resources; Scott Gosse, Manager of Security; and Sobia Ali Faisal, Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights. These people will now start to build out their frontline

teams. Also recently hired, Kate Richard, Program Manager, will focus on implementing the Action Plan and monitoring progress to ensure goals are being met.

Related to the Action Plan, Senators should have received a survey from Cheryl Foy, the consultant who has been hired for the Board of Governors governance review. Senators are asked to please complete the survey as soon as possible.

G. Keefe offered congratulations to Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) who recently won the Rural Medical Education Award from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada for matching the most graduates to rural family medicine residency programs at 71%.

Congratulations were also offered to Greg Naterer, Charlene VanLeeuwen and the team who organized the very successful Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Indigenization, and Decolonization Symposium on April 30th.

G. Keefe recognized the Senators that are finishing their terms: E. Côté, B. Stoughton, D. Coll, L. Brinklow, C. Ryan, B. Linkletter, T. Saunders, A. Carrothers, E. Reid, W. Peters, C. Mady and O. Brown. Also, A. Braithwaite and R. Raiswell were recognized that they will be on sabbatical leave beginning in July 2024. C. Ryan was thanked for her 3-4 consecutive terms as a Senator as well as a long-term member of the Senate Steering and Nominating Committee.

G. Keefe attended the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) and Universities Canada (UC) meetings in April. The focus of the AAU conference was on the international student cap and the impact it has had on universities. It is quite apparent that brand Canada has been tarnished with much less interest in applications from international students. It is important that we celebrate the international students currently attending UPEI.

The UC meetings revealed that it is a discouraging time for higher education. Surveys continue to show a decline in public opinion related to universities, which is split based on political philosophy with those holding more conservative views having a lower opinion of the value of universities.

In closing, G. Keefe encouraged Senators to participate in the convocation ceremonies happening in mid-May to help celebrate the students that are graduating.

b) Update and Announcements from Vice-President Academic and Research

G. Naterer recognized faculty members that have received grants recently: Karen Overall, Jonathan Spears, Stevan Springer, Jingen Liang, Amy Hsiao, William Montelpare, Aitazaz Farooque and Adam Fenech.

Senators are reminded that today is the deadline to submit feedback to the Questions Committee on proposed changes to the University-wide questions. If anyone has additional questions or feedback, they are welcome to submit them to the Office of the VPAR.

A faculty mentorship program has been created through the Teaching and Learning Centre which matches colleagues from different faculties with mentorship opportunities. If faculty members are interested in becoming involved, they should contact Charlene VanLeeuwen.

G. Naterer thanked G. Keefe for his leadership as the Chair of Senate and as Interim President over the past two and half years.

c) Question Period

W. Peters, as Chair of a sub-committee that has been formed to review the Academic regulations, provided Senators with an update. The sub-committee has been reviewing to ensure consistency between the Academic regulations and the undergraduate calendar and to ensure processes are clear. The next step is to ensure the undergraduate regulations are consistent with the graduate regulations. Once the sub-committee has completed their review, the updated regulations will be brought forward to the Senate Academic and Student Discipline Appeals Committee (SASDAC) for feedback, the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee (APCC) and finally to Senate for approval. There may be a need to update Senate Committee Terms of Reference documents as a result of the changes to the regulations.\

K. Mears asked if there was any consideration of sharing some of the decisions, with the redaction of private information, to help students and others that are going through the same situations. W. Peters indicated the sub-committee has not discussed this aspect as of yet. The SASDAC and possibly the APCC would need to be included in that discussion.

T. Saunders referenced the Terms of Reference (TOR) which indicates all decisions of the SASDAC are relayed to the appellant, and without disclosure of identity, to the Senate. If this process isn't going to be followed, the TOR will need to be updated. W. Peters indicated that the sub-committee is only focused on reviewing the Academic Regulations, while updating TOR would be a discussion for Senate. G. Keefe acknowledged that TOR for all committees may need to be updated.

M. Arfken asked for the status of the recommendation to change the membership of the APCC to include additional faculty members. G. Keefe reported that the Senate has approved the updated membership of the APCC with the new membership coming into effect at the end of this academic year.

Senators discussed Canada not being as attractive to international students. UPEI representatives continue to meet with agents and various representatives across the world. This is impacting all universities.

5. Board Report to Senate

W. Montelpare provided an update on Board of Governors meetings since the April 12th Senate meeting.

The Board held an e-vote on April 19th and approved: the naming of the UPEI Faculty of Business to the McDougall Faculty of Business; the renaming of the Don and Marion McDougall Hall to the McDougall Building; and the naming of the new entrepreneurship centre as the Catherine Callbeck Centre for Entrepreneurship. Another e-vote was held on May 2nd to approve the appointment of George Jiang to the Finance & Audit Committee and to the Development, Fundraising & External Relations Committee and to appoint Camille Mady to the Campus Culture Oversight Committee.

The Board and Senate had joint training sessions on April 17th, 23rd and 29th with CCDI Consulting for equity, diversity and inclusion training.

6. Senate Reports

a. Senate Steering and Nominating Committee

i. Senate Election

G. Keefe reported there were just enough nominations to fill the vacancies, therefore everyone was elected by acclamation. New Senators from Faculty include Peter Foley, J. McClure, Melanie Buote, Charles Adeyanju, Robert Dennis, Yuliya Rashchupkina, Raquel Hoersting, Marissa Clappson, Adam Fenech, Amy Hsiao, Bill Whelan, Kathy Gottschall-Pass, Susan Brown (to replace R. Raiswell for sabbatical) and Shannon Murray (to replace A. Braithwaite for sabbatical). New Senators from the Student Union include George Jiang as President; Noah Mannholland as Vice-President Academic; Fatima Sadat, Anna MacLaren, and Adam MacKenzie as undergraduate student representatives; Hexi Wang as the International student representative; and Ngozi Roseanne Agunbiade as the graduate student representative.

7. Other Business

a. UPEI Ethical Principles – Seven Sacred Teachings

G. Keefe acknowledged that Indigenous leaders from campus were consulted for input on adopting the Seven Sacred Teachings as UPEI's ethical principles and acknowledged the Faculty of Nursing for adopting the Teachings in their processes. The following motion was made:

MOTION: (E. Reid/C. Murray) following the approval of the UPEI Indigenous Strategic Plan by Senate on March 15, 2024 and the Board of Governors on April 2, 2024, the UPEI Senate endorses the Seven Sacred Teachings, as stated in the document, UPEI Ethical Principles, as the University's ethical principles.

R. Raiswell raised his concern that the proposed Teachings contravene the University Act which states that "The government, management, and control of the University shall be non-denominational and non-political, and no religious or political tests or religious observance shall be required of any officer, member of the teaching staff, employee or student of the University." Indigenous spirituality is a set of spiritual traditions on par with other religious traditions and should be treated as the same way. It is not ethical to impose one faith-based system of ethics universally upon an institution.

Senators debated their thoughts and concerns for adopting the Seven Sacred Teachings as UPEI's ethical principles. Concerns raised were the lack of a larger discussion with campus members on what the guiding principles should be and whether the Seven Sacred Teachings are considered religion or a statement of philosophy.

The Teachings are not universal across First Nation. They are a way of diving deeper into what reconciliation actually is and acknowledging that we are all among the Mi'kmaq land.

The proposal of adopting the Seven Sacred Teachings as ethical principles was brought forward from the Faculty of Nursing strategic plan which includes seven guiding principles.

MOTION: (R. Raiswell/J. Sentance) to table the motion to endorse the Seven Sacred Teachings as the University's ethical principles for future discussion. CARRIED.

MOTION: (R. Raiswell/B. Linkletter) to request independent legal counsel to review if the Seven Sacred Teachings contravenes section 3 of the University Act.

Senators discussed revising the document and returning it to Senate prior to a legal review.

MOTION: (E. Reid/W. Montelpare) to table the motion to request independent legal counsel and to allow additional consultation and discussion. K. Mears, R. Raiswell and J. Sentance OPPOSED. A. Campbell ABSTAINED. CARRIED.

b. Affiliate Faculty Appointments

G. Keefe introduced the proposed guidelines for Affiliate Faculty appointments. Affiliate academic appointments acknowledge significant ongoing contributions to teaching, research, scholarship and/or service activities at UPEI. Affiliate appointments are not members of the UPEI Faculty Association.

There were proposed amendments to the document after it was circulated to Senators, which is to include librarians within the context. Additional changes were suggested as follows.

- Replace “faculty” with “academic” throughout the document, to include librarians;
- Include librarian in the ranks;
- Replace “Dean” with “Dean/University Librarian”; and
- Add “and other designations as appropriate”.

MOTION: (W. Montelpare/W. Peters) that the UPEI Senate supports the Guidelines for Affiliate Faculty Appointments as amended. K. Mears, R. Raiswell, T. Saunders, A. Hsiao, A. Braithwaite, J. Sentance, B. Linkletter, S. Fitzpatrick OPPOSED. CARRIED.

MOTION: (K. Mears/N. Etkin) to extend Senate by 15 minutes. CARRIED.

MOVE TO IN CAMERA

c. Dean Searches

8. Approval of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees

MEETING RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION

9. Adjournment

MOTION (A. Braithwaite) that the meeting be adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Trowbridge,
Secretary of Senate