

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of Senate
Friday, October 15, 2021
3:00 – 5:00 pm
Alumni Hall and Via Zoom

Present: A. Abd-El-Aziz (Chair), D. Sutton (Secretary to Senate), R. Bissessur , A. Braithwaite, M. Buote, T. Carroll, E. Côté , R. Dennis, L. Doiron, A. Doyle, N. Etkin, G. Keefe, N. Kujundzic, C. Lavoie, M. LeClair, T. Mady, J. MacDonald, A. MacKenzie, S. MacLean, K. Mears, T. Miller, W. Montelpare, D. Moses, A. Muralidharan, C. Murray, W. Peters, J. Podger, R. Raiswell, C. Ryan, J. Stewart, B. Stoughtan, A. Trivett, B. Waterman, M. Arfken

Regrets: D. Coll, A. Fitzgerald, K. Gottschall-Pass, B. Linkletter, J. McIntyre, T. Ngo, J. Spears, C. Stevenson, A. Zinck

Guests: M. Belvadi, D. Desserud, Y. Hood, R. Lafaive, S. Lloyd, R. Milligan, G. McSorley, L. Ngo, N. Phillips, M. Rejskind, D. Sanderson, D. Varis, W. Whelan

Recorder: M. Arbing

President Abd-El-Aziz called the meeting to order and began with informing the Senate of loss of one of our students and asked the Senate to stand for a moment of silence to recognize the life of our student lost.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION (B. Montelpare/N.Etkin) to approve the agenda as presented.

Senator Briathwaite requested Indigenous Academic Programming be moved to the top of the agenda as she had to leave the meeting by 4:30 pm for another commitment.

The Chair asked all Senators if they will allow for that change and it was agreed on that this item will move to the top of the agenda.

The agenda was approved with the above-noted revision.

2. Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2021

MOTION (G.Keefe/C.Ryan) to approve the minutes of September 17, 2021 as presented.

Senator A. Trivett requested the opportunity to submit amendments to the September 17 minutes, specifically regarding the discussion of the Medical school item.

The President reminded Senators that prior to the announcement that took place on Friday, October

10, he sent an email to all Senators and Board of Governors members that, while both Senate and Board have endorsed the expansion of the Faculty of Nursing, the expansion of the UPEI Health and Wellness Clinic and the development of the Faculty of Medicine, there are many steps to be taken. The program structure and curriculum will come to Senate, ACCHR, and MPHEC and the infrastructure will go to the Property and Assets Committee of the Board and the finances will go to the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board, prior to going to the full Board of Governors.

Discussion ensued regarding the details of the minutes and the spirit of the motion.

Senator A. Trivett and Senator E. Cote suggested some changes to the motion.

Senator G. Keefe indicated very clearly that the motion was moved and seconded and was read to the entire Senate and he agreed that the minutes could reflect a more fulsome discussion but did not support a change to the motion itself.

Senator A. Braithwaite requested that the minutes be more robust and that all motions be placed in the chat component of Zoom.

Senator L. Doiron indicated that the motion voted on was clear and reflected accurately in the minutes and he also agreed there was not a lot of discussion reflected in the minutes.

The President asked the mover and seconder of the motion if the motion was an accurate reflection of the motion they moved and seconded.

Senator C. Murray (motion mover) and Senator M. LeClair (motion seconder) confirmed that the motion was accurately captured in the September 17 minutes.

Senator N. Etkin clarified that the motion was to endorse the development of a Faculty of Medicine, however, the curriculum and the program will have to come to Senate for approval.

The President indicated to Senator A. Trivett that he was part of the development of a School of Engineering and we are following the same process. He also indicated this is a great idea that was supported by the government and moving into the processes that we have in place that we have to follow. He also indicated that it was very important that the Senate is aware of the discussion that is taking place. While the announcement was made, the Faculty of Nursing is already in the process of hiring three additional positions: a faculty member, a clinical nurse instructor and an administrative assistant. He also indicated that the Doctor of Psychology program that was supported by both the Senate and the Board of Governors went through the same processes.

The President also indicated that a number of other programs, such as Paramedicine, Veterinary Medicine. He also noted the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was a part of the announcement for an MRI that will serve both animal and human health.

The President indicated that as we develop the curriculum, he will invite the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at MUN to address the Senate so we are very familiar with the program. He spoke about

the connection with MUN in the areas of rural and Indigenous health. He reiterated that Senators will be involved the processes. The accreditation process will be comparable to engineering and that Senate will be involved in that process.

MOTION (E. Cote/A. Trivett) that the approval of the minutes of September 17, 2021 be tabled and reviewed and corrected if need be.

A vote was cast and the result was 8 in favour, 25 opposed, 0 abstention. MOTION DENIED.

Senator A. Trivett requested that minutes of Senate meetings be available to all Senators in advance of the Senate meeting.

MOTION (G. Keefe/C. Ryan) to vote on minutes with the understanding that there will be some editorial to the discussion but not to the motion and that Senate would have the opportunity to review before posting.

A vote was cast and the result was 29 in favour and 4 opposed, 0 abstention. MOTION CARRIED.

The Senate Steering Committee will review the edits of the minutes related to the above-noted discussion before it is sent to the full Senate.

3. Business Arising

a. Indigenous Academic Programing at UPEI

Senator A. Braithwaite indicated that a group has been talking about Indigenous Academic Programming at UPEI and is under the purview of Senate. This is motivated by the Truth and Reconciliation event on September 30 and Chief Lisa Cooper's call to do more.

Both President Abd-El-Aziz and Senator A. Braithwaite acknowledged the need for such curriculum and need to move quickly to create a minor and major in this area.

Senator A. Braithwaite indicated that David Varis is attending today's meetings as a guest and John Doran was unavailable. Dr. Doran and others in the Faculty of Arts are working to establish a minor very quickly. She acknowledges this normally would go to APCC first but wanted to bring this issue to Senate to give Senate the opportunity to make a public stance.

MOTION (A. Braithwaite/T. Carroll) that Senate recognizes the lack of and need for Indigenous Studies and Academic Programming at UPEI and commits to the rapid development of such curriculum, as a freestanding separate program, offering a minor in the short term and moving quickly to establishing a major.

The President supported Senator A. Braithwaite's comments 100% and indicated that we have failed; we need to do better and do more. The President expressed that he felt Senate should fully support this initiative.

Senator T. Carroll indicated the he felt extremely privileged to second this motion.

Senator G. Keefe expressed that he is in favour of the concept of program delivery following the normal process wherein curriculum goes to APCC and he also spoke of the importance of consulting the Indigenous community.

The President read a statement he received from the Vice-President Academic and Research: "Met with our Indigenous faculty members and elder to review applications for the Advisor Position. We created a short list and will interview as soon as we are able to schedule. This position is to work with our Indigenous students, faculty, elder to ensure Indigenous priorities are identified, and plans made to realize these. Also provides advice to President, VPAR and VPAF. Some funding received for scholarships."

The President stated that he has been in conversation with the Chiefs and that nothing should occur without involvement of the Indigenous Community.

Senator N. Etkin voiced her strong support for this motion.

Senator L. Doiron would like to see Senate endorse this motion.

Senator T. Carroll expressed that we need to recognize our failures.

Senator W. Peters provided his support of the motion but feels that the broader Indigenous Community needs to be included.

Following discussion the mover and seconder agreed to a friendly amendment.

MOTION (A. Braithwaite/T. Carroll) Senate recognizes the lack of and need for Indigenous Studies Academic Programming at UPEI and endorses the timely development of such curriculum, as a freestanding separate program, offering a minor in the short term, and moving quickly to establishing a major. This programming will be done led by and in consultation with Indigenous faculty, staff, students, and community. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The President stated that while he is very pleased and very supportive of this discussion and this motion, he wanted to note that we voted on the above motion without any documentation. However, this was very important and he wanted to support it and he wanted the whole Senate to support it.

Senator A. Braithwaite indicated that further, Senate recognizes that there is demand and need for resources to further the call to Indigenize and decolonize the University beyond the creation of a freestanding Indigenous Studies Program. She also indicated that while decisions about academic programming have resource implications that extend beyond the purview of Senate, the potential costs of the latter cannot be used to inhibit the necessity of the former. She is willing to make this part of the more fulsome discussion as opposed to a second motion.

The President reminded Senators that prior to the pandemic, Chief Gould attended a Senate meeting. The President indicated that Chief Gould and Chief Bernard met with the Vice-Presidents, Associate Vice-Presidents, Chief Information Officer, Deans, University Librarian and the Indigenous faculty members during the summer. The President also spoke with Chief Cooper after the Truth and Reconciliation event and assured her that we will be acting on what we are saying. The President ended by saying that we should act on what we are saying and serve all the Indigenous people on our Island the best we can.

Senator L. Doiron asked what does it mean to Indigenize and Senator A. Trivett asked how do we learn to Indigenize and decolonize.

The President said that Senator A. Trivett said it best, that we need to learn and he stated that we need our Indigenous Community to teach us. He also said that he will speak with both Vice-Presidents on how we are going to move forward to Indigenize and decolonize our campus. Deans are going to be looking at ideas for workshops to ensure our faculty, staff and students are educated.

MOTION (T. Mady/N. Etkin) to extend Senate by 15 minutes. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

4. President's Report

Due to the shortage in time, the President indicated that he will go through his report very briefly and highlighted the following:

- AAU Enrolment for the Atlantic Universities and that UPEI is in good standing.
- International Enrolment is close to 30%
- MacLean's Rankings and that UPEI moved from 10 to 7

The President ended his report by thanking the faculty and staff for their outstanding performance during difficult times and acknowledges the students, indicating that the students have many choices and he is very pleased that they made UPEI their home academic institution.

The President reported faculty, staff and student vaccination rate is about 90%.

Senator K. Mears expressed that while she is excited about the enrolment numbers, she wanted Senators to be aware that moving above 5,000 puts us in a different category for library costs and

has a significant impact on access to resources. The President indicated that there will be a conversation with the University Librarian regarding this when planning the budget for next year and that a comprehensive university requires appropriate library resources.

The President made some closing remarks and reminded Senators to keep our student and family in our thoughts. He stated that this was a difficult Senate but with good conversations.

With the extended time of the Senate some items were not addressed and they will be on the next Senate agenda.

5. Business Arising

a. Indigenous Academic Programing at UPEI

Moved earlier in the agenda.

b. Updates

- i. Winter 2022
Tabled to next meeting due to time shortage.
- ii. Dean Searches
Tabled to next meeting due to time shortage.
- iii. Vice-President Academic and Research
Tabled to next meeting due to time shortage.

6. Adjournment

Motion (B. Montelpare/C. Murray) that the meeting be adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Sutton
Secretary of Senate