



## Senate Meeting

Alice Egan Hagen Board Room (Rosaria 312)/MS Teams

February 28, 2025

2 p.m.

### MINUTES

**Present:** J. Dickinson (Chair), J. Bail, E. Ballantyne, C. Barker, A. Benzaquén, R. Bursey, C. Cameron, A. Card, E. Copeland Solas, P. Crouse, C. Dawson, G. Durepos, L. Francis, J. Gahagan, M. Gonick, S. Hale Wills, D. Hazelton, S. Huntemann, K. Jones, S. Kaur, M. Matthews, M. McGonnell, C. McLean, M. Minocha, I. Nault, D. Piccitto, B. Russo, J. Sawler, K. Schlieff, M. Siddiquee, G. Sneddon, L. Steele, A. Thurlow, S. Trenholm, J. Valcke, T. Yu

**Regrets:** M. Eskritt, E. Henderson, J. R. Sylliboy

**Observers:** G. Batten, M. Caswell, E. Johnson, J. Keefe, J. Lamb

*The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m.*

*Observers were identified and welcomed. Procedures to be used during the meeting and while voting on motions were outlined.*

#### 1. Indigenous Land Recognition

J. Dickinson provided an acknowledgement that the Mount is built on traditional, unceded Mi'kmaq territory and paid respect to the Indigenous peoples of the land on which Senate meets.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

**Moved** by S. Hale Wills, seconded by S. Trenholm, to approve the agenda as circulated.  
CARRIED.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. January 31, 2025

**Moved** by B. Russo, seconded by T. Yu, to approve the minutes of January 31, 2025, as circulated. CARRIED.

#### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising from the minutes was identified.

#### 5. Administration Updates

5.1. President

J. Dickinson noted that she would be taking the full time allotted for Administration Updates and began by reporting on two key government updates:

Firstly, regarding bilateral agreements, J. Dickinson reported that universities have been asked for input and that MSVU made the following requests/recommendations:

- Enhanced access to affordable post-secondary education for Nova Scotian students, including increasing the Nova Scotia undergraduate bursary, capping tuition increases at 2%, expanding graduate student scholarships and increasing the portion of forgivable NS student loans
- A 5% increase in the University's operating grant
- Advocacy for regional labour market needs to be reflected in the IRCC Post-Graduate Work Permit exceptions list
- Yearly infrastructure grants to address deferred maintenance and accessibility projects

Secondly, J. Dickinson reported on the proposed omnibus act (Bill 12) and its potential impact across various areas of advanced education, including:

- Bestowing degree granting privileges to NSCC
- More government control over the composition and size of university boards
- Mandated "revitalization" plans for universities running year-over-year deficit budgets

Additionally, J. Dickinson provided updates on AAAPs (Aboriginal Academic Access to Post-Secondary) program funding, which is now guaranteed for three years; the resignation of Art Gallery Director, M. Colosimo; and the ongoing Black & Indigenous Speaker Series.

5.2. Vice-President Academic and Provost  
No report—see above.

5.3. Vice-President Administration  
No report—see above.

## 6. Question Period

Extensive discussion occurred on Bill 12, with Senators raising various opinions and questions while emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the Board of Governors and Senate. Topics included a new "University Board Governance Act" proposed to oversee all post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia; concerns about the potential for conflict between the new act and our charter; the role of MPHEC and its composition; education of the public on the role of universities in society and the importance of university autonomy; suggestions for media training and public affairs involvement; efforts underway to expand partnerships with NSCC and other colleges, including those in other provinces; and a joint meeting of the Board and Senate. (D. Piccitto, J. Dickinson, G. Durepos, L. Francis, A. Benzaquén, A. Thurlow)

D. Piccitto spoke about the MSVU EDIA Advisory Committee, highlighting that it is intended to meet four times per year, as per the Terms of Reference, and requested the committee be reactivated and report to Senate. I. Nault reported that a subcommittee has held multiple meetings to develop the EDIA Action Plan, which will be released soon. B. Russo expressed support for the whole EDIA committee to meet, noting that it has not convened as a whole in the past two years. She also raised concerns about EDIA programs and policies being targeted for cuts, citing examples at other universities. J. Dickinson reaffirmed the Mount's commitment to EDIA and stated that efforts are underway to explore ways to effectively present this commitment.

C. Barker requested that, when staff retire, resign or move to other positions, formal communication be sent to the Mount community to ensure continuity of services. J. Dickinson clarified that the AVP of University Relations typically handles such communications and emphasized that once a candidate is hired, addressing this will be made a top priority.

C. Barker inquired about the scheduling of formal discussions between faculty, students, and administrators regarding post job action and rebuilding relationships. J. Dickinson shared that the AVP of People & Culture has provided a draft plan on University wellness and culture, advising to contact C. Hattie for further details and offering to bring this update to the next Senate meeting.

M. Gonick requested information on the course selection process for the AAAPs program, specifically regarding any decolonization efforts. C. Dawson explained that they consult with current students and staff at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre for course recommendations. She also mentioned that the Friendship Centre advocates for the inclusion of Indigenous instructors and the representation of specific courses in the program.

## **7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)**

### **7.1. Senate Executive**

#### **7.1.1. Review of Senate Award for Service in University Governance**

D. Piccitto provided an overview of the changes that Senate Executive are considering and encouraged Senators to send their suggestions and feedback to the Senate Secretary.

B. Russo noted that staff are not eligible for the award and wondered if they should be. J. Dickinson noted that staff are eligible for other service awards.

E. Ballantyne offered to share with EX SCOTL's scoring rubric used for awarding the teaching awards.

- 7.2. Graduate Studies Program and Policy
  - 7.2.1. Child and Youth Study
    - 7.2.1.1. Change to Existing Course
      - 7.2.1.1.1. New course description for GCYS 6010: Foundations in Child and Youth Study  
**Moved** by S. Trenholm, seconded by C. McLean, that Senate approve the new course description for GCYS 6010. CARRIED.
    - 7.2.1.2. Course Deletion
      - 7.2.1.2.1. GCYS 6609: Graduate Internship  
**Moved** by S. Trenholm, seconded by C. McLean, that Senate approve the deletion of GCYS 6609. CARRIED.
  - 7.2.2. Communication Studies
    - 7.2.2.1. New Course Proposal
      - 7.2.2.1.1. GPRL 6399: Graduate Internship  
**Moved** by S. Trenholm, seconded by B. Russo, that Senate approve the new course, GPRL 6399. CARRIED.
    - 7.2.2.2. Change to Existing Program
      - 7.2.2.2.1. Requirements for Master of Public Relations  
**Moved** by S. Trenholm, seconded by A. Thurlow, that Senate approve the new calendar entry to include GPRL 6399 in the list of elective courses for the Master of Public Relations. CARRIED.
  - 7.2.3. Education Curriculum Studies
    - 7.2.3.1. Changes to Existing Course
      - 7.2.3.1.1. New course title for GCRD 6314: New Dimensions of Geographic Thinking for Education  
**Moved** by S. Trenholm, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the new short course title for GCRD 6314. CARRIED.
  - 7.2.4. Applied Human Nutrition and Child and Youth Study
 

S. Trenholm presented the following two new course crosslistings for information.

    - 7.2.4.1. New Crosslisting
      - 7.2.4.1.1. GCYS 6740 *with* GAHN 6740: Food and Nutrition for Children and Youth
  - 7.2.5. Applied Human Nutrition and Family Studies and Gerontology
    - 7.2.5.1. New Crosslisting
      - 7.2.5.1.1. GFSG 6735 *with* GAHN 6735: Food and Nutrition for Older Adults

### 7.3. Undergraduate Curriculum

#### 7.3.1. Biology

##### 7.3.1.1. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.1.1.1. Requirements for Biology Major, Combined Major and Honours degree

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. Dawson, that Senate approve the change in requirements for the Biology Major, Combined Major and Honours degree. CARRIED.

#### 7.3.2. Child and Youth Study

A. Card presented items 7.3.2.1.1 - 7.3.2.1.5 as an omnibus motion.

##### 7.3.2.1. New Course Proposals

7.3.2.1.1. CHYS 1140: ECE: Introduction to Play and Creative Expression

7.3.2.1.2. CHYS 2140: ECE: Playful Pedagogy and Inquiry-Based Approaches

7.3.2.1.3. CHYS 3334: CREATIVE Youth Engagement

7.3.2.1.4. CHYS 3336: Relational Engagements with Children and Youth

7.3.2.1.5. CHYS 4417: Transforming Knowledge into Action

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. McLean, that Senate approve the new courses CHYS 1104, CHYS 2140, CHYS 3334, CHYS 3336 and CHYS 4417. CARRIED.

##### 7.3.2.2. Course Deletions

A. Card presented items 7.3.2.2.1 - 7.3.2.2.6 and 7.3.2.3.1 as an omnibus motion.

7.3.2.2.1. CHYS 2204: Observation and Documentation in Child and Youth Study

7.3.2.2.2. CHYS 3314: Play and Development: Infancy through Early Childhood

7.3.2.2.3. CHYS 3315: Play and Development: Middle Childhood through Adolescence

7.3.2.2.4. CHYS 3327: Interpersonal Communication Skills

7.3.2.2.5. CHYS 4421: Emerging Research Topics in Child and Youth Study

7.3.2.2.6. CHYS 4423: Psychosocial Care of Children, Youth and Families in Health Care Settings

##### 7.3.2.3. Changes to Existing Program

7.3.2.3.1. Requirements for Bachelor of Arts (Child and Youth Study) and Concentration in Early Childhood Education  
**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by C. McLean, that Senate approve the deletion of CHYS 2204, CHYS 3314, CHYS 3315, CHYS 3327, CHYS 4421 and CHYS 4423, and the change in requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (Child

and Youth Study) and Concentration in Early Childhood Education. CARRIED.

7.3.3. English

7.3.3.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.3.1.1. ENGL 2276: Re-Imagining the Middle Ages

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by D. Piccitto, that Senate approve the new course, ENGL 2276. CARRIED.

7.3.4. Modern Languages

7.3.4.1. New Course Proposal

7.3.4.1.1. MIKM 1101: Introduction to Mi'kmaw Language

**Moved** by A. Card, seconded by J. Valcke, that Senate approve the new course, MIKM 1101. CARRIED.

7.3.5. Changes

A. Card presented the following changes for information.

7.3.5.1. Business Administration

7.3.5.1.1. New prerequisite for BUSI 3343

7.3.5.2. Biology

7.3.5.2.1. New prerequisite for BIOL 2202

7.3.5.3. Child and Youth Study

7.3.5.3.1. New prerequisite and description for CHYS 2251

7.3.5.3.2. New prerequisite for CHYS 3311

7.3.5.3.3. New prerequisite and description for CHYS 3351

7.3.5.3.4. New description for CHYS 3352

7.3.5.3.5. New prerequisite for CHYS 4424

7.3.5.3.6. New description for CHYS 4451

7.3.5.4. Communication Studies

7.3.5.4.1. New prerequisite for PBRL 3016

## 8. Other Reports

8.1. Students' Union

C. Cameron reported on the status of several items, including the review of past audits; an endowment fund concerning community housing; the President's Special Projects Fund; revisions to the standards of excellence grant; and naloxone training.

S. Kaur reported on the food security roundtable, where discussions focused on financial models and sustainable funding sources. She also provided an update on the elections and hiring processes and shared details about a proposed inter-disciplinary seminar series on research topics, including thesis defense and writing skills.

M. Minocha reported on several events hosted by the Pride Centre, including a burlesque party, a name change workshop and a sex, disability and chronic pain workshop. M. Minocha also reported on the community partners project aimed at connecting students with external organizations to foster community engagement

and reported on efforts to establish service-based learning opportunities at the Mount.

D. Hazelton announced the upcoming "Safe Rave" event, with all proceeds benefiting the organization "Wellness in Nova Scotia."

K. Schlieff reported on the ongoing work to reconcile the SU's financial statements from the previous two years and the continued operation of SU services over the summer. K. Schlieff encouraged committee chairs to contact the SU if student committee representatives are not attending meetings and provided an update on the upcoming SU elections, urging Senators to direct interested students to the SU.

## 9. New Business

### 9.1. Posthumous Degree **Confidential business**

**Moved** by S. Hale Wills, seconded by C. Barker, to move in-camera to discuss confidential business. CARRIED.

### 9.2. Senate Award for Service in University Governance **Confidential business**

**Moved** by S. Hale Wills, seconded by A. Thurlow, to move out of the in-camera session. CARRIED.

## 10. Items for Communication

Senate approved:

- Minutes of January 31, 2025
- Graduate and undergraduate curriculum changes
- The awarding of a posthumous degree
- The awarding of the Senate Award for Service in University Governance to Dr. Derek Fisher and Dr. Melissa McGonnell

Senate received for information:

- Graduate and undergraduate curriculum changes

## 11. Adjournment

As the agenda was exhausted, J. Dickinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.