



Minutes of the Senate meeting of Monday 11th September, 2017

A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday 11th September, 2017 beginning at 4:00 p.m. with Chair A. Kiefte presiding and 46 present.

- 1) Approval of Agenda **Motion to approve the agenda. Moved by B. Anderson and seconded by M. Robertson.**

The Chair asked for agenda items 4)a) to be changed to 4)b) and for items 4)b) to be changed to 4)a) to reverse the order of discussion.

MOTION APPROVED AS REVISED.

- 2) Minutes of the Meeting of 14 June, 2017 **Motion to approve the Minutes of Wednesday 14th June, 2017 as distributed. Moved by R. Raeside, seconded by A. Smith.**

The Chair asked for any errors, omissions or changes to the Minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES CARRIED.

FOUR ABSTENTIONS.

3) **Announcements**

a) **From the Chair of Senate**

Regrets were received from J. Leidl, S. Landry and J. Locke.

The Chair asked all Senators, new and returning, to identify themselves by name and to indicate who they represented on Senate. The Chair welcomed President Ricketts to Senate.

The Chair then pointed out that regular Senate meetings would last for two hours but that the May and June meeting of Senate would be scheduled for a three-hour period. The Chair noted that if business was underway close to the scheduled end time of a meeting, a motion to extend the meeting could be made if needed.

The Chair drew Senators' attention to the website link on the agenda which was an updated list of membership for all Senate standing committees and a list of all ad-hoc committees.

The Chair announced that an orientation session for Senators would be held in BAC 132 on Monday September 25th, 2017, commencing at 5:00 p.m. All Senators were invited to attend but the Chair particularly extended the invitation to new Senators.

b) **From the President**

President Ricketts reminded Senators that this was the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 event and noted that it was a good time to reflect on world events both

past and current. Universities seek to explore and understand these events and President Ricketts hoped that through research and education, events such as 9/11 could be made to happen less often. He also noted the human kindness that occurred as people in the Maritimes took people into their homes during the event. President Ricketts also reflected of recent natural disaster events in India, the Caribbean and the USA and hoped that through education and research we could understand and manage them better. He noted that both Acadia students and faculty could be affected by the recent hurricanes.

President Ricketts expressed his appreciation to the Acadia community for placing their trust in him as he assumed his position as the 16th President and Vice Chancellor. He intended to work to make the University better and stronger than it was now and to build on the achievements of the past.

President Ricketts expressed thanks to R. Ivany for the amazing job he had done as President as he and the Acadia staff and faculty worked through some very difficult times. He congratulated R. Ivany on the recent re-naming of the NSCC Waterfront Campus to the Ray Ivany Campus.

President Ricketts congratulated the ASU and all of the University community for their contribution to making the Welcome Week so impressive and so welcoming for new and returning students. He felt that this was the best Welcome Week that he had experienced at an institution. President Ricketts also thanked Safety and Security for their constant vigilance and efforts to ensure that everyone remained safe during the weekend.

President Ricketts referred to the Provincial Government's recent announcement that the 7 million dollar SOFI loan would be written off and that the annual operating grant for Acadia would now reflect the 3.5 million dollars that had been added for several years. He pointed out that while this was not new money, it did provide some stabilization of the current level of funding for Acadia. President Ricketts expressed appreciation to the Government for righting a wrong that had been done to Acadia in 2008 when changes to the funding formula had proved very negative to both Acadia and Cape Breton University.

President Ricketts pointed out that many people at Acadia had worked to cut expenses and improve efficiencies and he noted that M. MacVicar and C. Callbeck had worked hard to provide the Government with the financial facts to back up the arguments for increased funding to Acadia.

President Ricketts stated that S. Mesheau had retired and he recognized that this was a great loss to the University. He thanked C. Callbeck for taking over the Enrolment and Student Services portfolio on an interim basis while a review is conducted to identify any issues, before a search commences. He noted that Senate would be engaged in the review and that input would be requested.

President Ricketts congratulated A. Redden on her appointment as Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and also extended a sincere thank you to D. MacKinnon for his role in that position for several years.

President Ricketts listed a number of research announcements that had occurred over the summer including the following:

- Provincial Government funds for A. Tong’s Wine Analysis Lab (Acadia Lab for Agri Food and Beverage). He noted that Acadia had recently hosted a delegation from Japan and that they were interested in working with Acadia. It was expected that the lab would be a big part of putting Acadia and this region more on the map with regard to wine production, tourism and culinary aspects.
- ACOA and the Atlantic Innovation Fund of \$3 million for K. Hillier’s research on pest control. This research would look at sustainable ways to control pests that create huge losses to the forestry and agricultural sector.
- CFI and the John Evans Leaders Fund Awards to D. Charke in Music and K. Hillier in Biology.
- Start-Up Canada Award for the Acadia Entrepreneurship Center

President Ricketts also noted that funding was provided by the Clark family for the opening of the Clark Terrace outside the Wu Welcome Center and also the Faye and David Huestis gift for the Huestis Pavilion which will be part of the Science complex when completed.

President Ricketts stated that great progress was being made on the Elliot and Huggins renovation and he thanked M. Falkenham and his team for getting Elliot ready for the start of term.

President Ricketts will be in Cape Breton next week to attend the Truth and Reconciliation Symposium which is being held at Membertou. He noted that this was an important symposium and stated that he would attend the whole symposium to listen and learn about the way in which the Truth & Reconciliation recommendations were taking effect in Nova Scotia. This will be an important part of Acadia’s initiative to engage more effectively with indigenous peoples and to continue to make Acadia a more active University in terms of recognising the role of indigenous knowledge and culture and being a more welcoming place for Indigenous students, faculty and staff. He will be part of a panel that is being chaired by R. Ivany on the role of universities in the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations. President Ricketts observed that Acadia was located on ancestral unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq and that the University was now able to fly the Mi’kmaq flag permanently from University Hall.

President Ricketts stated that in the near future a strategic planning would be discussed but that for now he was immersing himself in the Acadia culture and meeting with units to listen and learn and find out what excited and interested faculty, and what they wanted for the future. Strategic planning will be an interactive and collaborative process and Senate would play an important role.

c) From the Vice-President Academic

H. Hemming announced the names of those appointed to full time faculty positions in July 2017. These were as follows:

EDUCATION	TT	Kate Gignac
HISTORY	CLT	Jamie Sedgwick
FRENCH	CLT	Kate Ashley
SOCIOLOGY	CLT	Jesse Carlson

ENGLISH	CLT	Coplen Rose
ENGLISH	CLT	Paul Barrett
ECONOMICS	CLT	Jun Zhao
MUSIC	INSTRUCTOR	Nicholas D'Amato
EDUCATION	CLT	Jennifer Tinkham
BUSINESS	CLT	Danielle Mercer
KINESIOLOGY	PROBATIONARY INSTRUCTOR	Lauren Lattimer
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	HALF TIME CLT	Gabrielle Donnelly
PSYCHOLOGY	CLT	Maxime Pelland
MATH AND STATS	CLT	Lerna Pehlivan

H. Hemming updated Senators on the CRC process that had been engaged in over the last six months. Due to M. Leiter's retirement as a Tier I SSHRC and N. Driscoll having completed a Tier II NSERC term; faculty had been asked to put forward proposals for focus areas for the openings of the CRC vacancies.

H. Hemming reported that 12 good proposals had been received and that the committee had decided to convert the Tier I SSHRC vacancy into two Tier II SSHRC positions. One would be in Food, Health and Social justice and the other would be in History of the Atlantic World with a focus on the peoples of the African diaspora and their interrelationships with the communities in which they settle. In the case of the Tier II NSERC vacancy a decision was taken to combine this with the existing Tier II NSERC Chair to advance M. Mallory to a Tier I position in the area of Coastal Ecosystem Resilience and Connectivity.

H. Hemming explained that recruitment for the two Tier II SSHRC positions was expected to begin in the Fall of 2017. There will also be two further CRC vacancies in the coming years: B. Trofanenko will complete a term as a Tier II SSHRC in September 2019 and M. Stokesbury will complete his term as a Tier II NSERC in June 2020. H. Hemming a call for proposals was expected in early 2018 to fill these future vacancies.

Dr. Hemming stated that the number of Chairs that an institution was awarded was directly related to the amount of research funding that the institution received from the three granting agencies: CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC. Every two years the Tri-Council conducts its national re-allocation of chairs to institutions process. This will next occur in 2018.

H. Hemming provided updates from each of the three Faculties:

In the Faculty of Arts J. Whidden (History and Classics) had published a new book *Egypt: British Colony and Imperial Capital* (Manchester). J. Slights (English & Theatre) had published a scholarly edition of William Shakespeare's *Othello* for Broadview Press. A. Schwenke-Wyile (English & Theatre) had again organized the Authors at Acadia series which will feature a number of indigenous authors this year. The first presentation will feature Metis author Patti LaBoucane-Benson and artist Kelly Mellings who will discuss their graphic novel *The Outside Circle* on September 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the KCIC Auditorium. Mi'kmaq author Rebecca Thomas will speak on October 4th and

this will also feature a ceremony to commemorate the official raising of the Mi'kmaq flag above University Hall.

In the Faculty of Professional Studies R. MacNeil (Business) and Honours student S. Sproule have worked together to design and implement a living-learning community (LLC) around entrepreneurship at Acadia this year. This project was partially funded through the Harrison McCain Emerging Scholars Grant. H. Hemming reported on the work by the School of Education and a Liaison group in China to place over 125 Acadia teacher interns into 4-month teaching practicums in Shanghai during the last 15 years. As a result of this partnership, the Liaison company has now proposed that Acadia offer a STEM camp for a select group of Grade 6/7 students from a Shanghai school. These students visited Acadia for the weeklong camp, which was designed and offered by G. MacKinnon. Dr. Jonathan Fowles (Kinesiology) was confirmed for a Scientific Affiliate Appointment with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, commencing Aug 1, 2017. Dr. Fowles will be delivering the Keynote Lecture at the European Initiative for Exercise is Medicine Symposium in Lisbon, Portugal on Sep 14, 2017.

In the Faculty of Science C. Morley (Nutrition and Dietetics) was a keynote speaker at the First Scandinavian Critical Dietetics Conference at Uppsala University in August. The Critical Dietetics movement originated in Canada in 2009 with C Morley and B. Anderson involved from the very beginning.

Dr. Stephen Mockford (Biology) will receive three years of funding through Environment Canada & Climate Change's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk, for the project, "Protecting Reptiles at Risk in Nova Scotia: Engaging Citizens on the Landscape". The total value of the ECCC award is \$205,878 with a total project value is \$465,366. This project addresses priority activities for Blanding's turtle, Wood turtle, Snapping turtle, and the Eastern ribbonsnake in NS, and involves collaboration with the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, as well as with first nations and government organizations in southwest NS.

d) From the Divinity College

H. Gardner welcomed G. Wooden, the new Senator from the School of Divinity and noted that B. Brackney had recently retired after serving on Senate for many years.

e) From the President of the ASU

G. Hamilton-Burge reported that a very successful initiative during Welcome Week had been to turn the Michener Lounge into an interactive 'chill space' for students that did not want to engage with high level activities. Many new students, especially international students, took advantage of what was offered in the Michener Lounge.

G. Hamilton-Burge stated that conversations had taken place to look at what consent meant and looked like at Acadia and she also noted that the Academic Orientation had gone well this year. The ASU will be circulating a request for feedback so that they can see how to make things even better for the future.

G. Hamilton-Burge described the Acadia 'Indspire' event which was well attended. This was an indigenous awareness and celebration event with talking stick creations, discussion around reconciliation, a medicine walk, storytelling, a bonfire in the evening and a blanket exercise. She noted that a couple of Senators were at the event and thanked them for attending.

G. Hamilton-Burge reported that the AXE renovations were proceeding well and would be complete in October.

G. Hamilton-Burge noted that the Student Representative Council would be holding its first meeting at 6:00 p.m. that evening and that the ASU had officially filled all of their student support workers positions. Elections would be held on September 25/26 to fill the Science Senator position as well as First Year Officers.

J. Grant asked about the Mental Health Initiative.

G. Hamilton-Burge stated that this was originally called the Mental Health Society but that this would run a lot of campaigns and as such, the ASU wanted to have a new description that would highlight what the initiative was about. She noted that the Mental Health Society had been different from a club and was an internal organisation that the ASU helped to fund and ensure that the position was filled every year. The Mental Health Initiative will be working on a poster campaign and organising chill weeks and mental health weeks.

4) New Business

a) Enrolment Report for Senate from S. Mesheau (*previously circulated*)

The Chair explained that the S. Mesheau had been asked by Senate last year to provide a more detailed report than that normally received by Senate in order to glean more information regarding the demographics of incoming students. The request was made due to a request made by a Senator last fall. S. Mesheau had intended to make a presentation to Senate during the last academic year but was not able to do so, and provided a report when she retired this past summer.

The Chair stated that C. Callbeck would be providing a brief report on enrolment but was not in a position to address the report from S. Mesheau today. The Chair was prepared to receive questions about the report and direct them to recruitment and enrolment representatives through C. Callbeck.

J. Hollett stated that he was the person who had made the original request and his request had been prompted by the original enrolment presentation from last fall which was year over year and he was interested in seeing what the longer term trend was in terms of enrolment. His request identified and was searching for information on certain populations that he considered to be marginalized communities: aboriginal students, students of African descent, youth in care and students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. He noted that those aspects of the request had not been addressed in the report. He wondered whether this meant that Acadia does not gather that sort of information.

The Chair was not sure whether this was a correct assumption, but agreed to ask the question on behalf of Senate again.

L. Aylward asked who would be asked.

The Chair stated that C. Callbeck would assume responsibility for finding the answers to these questions through the staff in recruitment and enrolment.

C. Callbeck confirmed that questions should be addressed to him and that he would see that they went on to the right individuals and that information could be gathered from several different sources within the department.

S. Nixon asked C. Callbeck about a recent agreement that Acadia had made on a new Nova Scotia Community College e-transfer system.

C. Callbeck agreed to follow up on this.

b) Enrolment Report for Senate from C. Callbeck

There were no further questions about S. Mesheau's report.

C. Callbeck noted that this was his first Senate meeting and that there was a requirement for him to provide Senate with a verbal report of student enrolment for 2017-18. The numbers were as follows:

- 1092 new students compared to 1132 last year
- 132 B.Ed students compared to 126 last year
- 2301 continuing and returning students compared to 2241 last year
- 3525 total students compared to 3499 last year.

C. Callbeck noted that this represented a 40 student decline in new students if compared to the same point in time last year. There were 6 additional B.Ed students, and continuing and returning student numbers were up 60. This resulted in an FTE increase of 26 students. This represented a 1% increase.

C. Callbeck discussed the negative difference of 40 new students and explained that this year departments had checked carefully for 'no shows' more assertively than last year and that 'ghosts' had been removed from the system more quickly. C. Callbeck noted that it would be October 1st before official numbers were reported to the AAU.

C. Callbeck expressed thanks to the Deans, faculty and recruitment staff who were involved in recruiting students, noting that a total effort had been made to recruit new students.

G. Bissix emphasised the recruitment role played by Administrative Assistants in the Schools and Departments.

C. Landry asked whether there could be issues with aboriginal students that don't return to Acadia and she asked which body would address this issue.

The Chair noted that this would be related to retention of continuing students.

H. Hemming noted that J. Sanford was involved in the retention of students and would be working with the Deans to bring forward some ideas shortly.

The Chair asked C. Callbeck to provide additional information at the October meeting of Senate.

C. Callbeck was asked by a Senator whether the hurricanes in the Caribbean had affected the arrival of students and whether Acadia had made provisions for any affected students. He felt that Acadia would certainly make provision for any student caught up in those sorts of circumstances.

S. MacNeil asked whether Acadia was concerned at the Nova Scotia Government decision to offer free tuition at NSCC.

C. Callbeck stated that this was not free tuition, it was a level of income support for students, and this did not concern Acadia.

President Ricketts commented that the two tuition free issues that he had heard about were specific to apprentice programs and to allowing students to take their high school equivalency. This was therefore a different cohort of students but those students that did manage to complete high school equivalency could potentially come to university, so that this could help Acadia.

J. Hennessy let Senators know that D. Hurlburt was the Aboriginal Student Advisor and that her office was on the main level of Rhodes Hall. He pointed out that there were over 100 self-identified aboriginal or indigenous students on campus. This had a direct positive effect on retention.

There were no additional questions related to the enrollment report, and the Chair asked Senate whether there was any other business that it wished to discuss.

D. Holmberg asked when the Faculty Support Committee would be reporting to Senate.

The Chair stated that this had been removed from the agenda following a request from the Faculty Support Committee that they would like to defer their report and motion until the October Senate meeting due to some wording changes that they were working on.

D. Holmberg asked the VP Academic when units might hear about tenure track position hiring approvals.

H. Hemming expected that there would be an update of tenure track position approvals at the October meeting of Senate.

D. Holmberg pointed out that advertisements for tenure track positions were already circulating for other institutions.

G. Bissix stated that during the last year Senate had identified a number of substantive issues and determined that time would be put aside to discuss these. He asked whether Senate would be continuing to do this during the next year.

The Chair stated that they would come up on the agenda based on work done by the committees tasked with the addressing these issues and topics. One example was a specific item related to on-line course offerings, which had been referred to Senate Executive from a committee. The Chair stated that at the October Senate meeting J. Banks would give a presentation which would be followed by a discussion. The Chair stated that other items had been pushed out to various Senate committees and that in May and June many of these had reported on their progress. The outcomes of the committee work would eventually come back to Senate for further discussion.

The Chair asked whether any members of the Senate Executive wished to add anything further.

H. Hemming agreed that ideas from the 'big picture' discussions had gone out to the committees and that Senate expected that these would be fed back to Senate for discussion through the reports from the sub-committees.

G. Bissix noted that he did not have any particular topic in mind but asked whether any substantive issue that emerged could be added to the Senate agenda.

The Chair stated that she was quite open to adding items to 'New Business' that Senators wished to see added as long as it was within the purview of the academic life of the Institution, whether from the 'big picture' discussions or not. She asked that ideally items be added a week prior to any Senate meeting so that they appeared on the circulated agenda so Senators were prepared for any discussion.

J. Hennessy reported that the President's Advisory Council on Decolonization was about to start engaging in discussions with the Acadia Community to see what decolonization would look like at Acadia. They would also be reaching out to the broader community and to the Mi'kmaw community in order to gather as much information as possible. Discussions had already been held with various academic bodies on campus but J. Hennessy felt that a discussion at Senate would be needed eventually. He thanked President Ricketts for providing him with Carleton University's Aboriginal Strategic Plan which was ratified by the Senate there and he expected that ratification would also be required in the case of Acadia.

C. Landry asked about the status of the Ph.D. Program in Education.

H. Hemming responded that the first two students in the program had received their degrees in May 2017. Additional applications were being accepted.

L. Aylward stated that the deadline for applications was November 15th, 2017 and noted that this was an inter-university program. Acadia had not yet been filling its quota but expected to have approximately 10 students in the program.

The Chair reminded Senators that some items could be brought up for discussion spontaneously but that some items did require motions and that in those instances the Senator must provide the motions one week in advance of the meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 5:15 p.m., moved by P. Doerr.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

R. Hare, Recording Secretary