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Minutes of the Senate Meeting of Monday March 11th, 2019.

A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday March 11th, 2019 beginning at 4:00 p.m. with Chair A. Kiefte presiding and 40 present with one guest. The meeting took place in BAC 132.

1) **Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order, noting that there was quorum at present.

Motion to approve the agenda. Moved by D. Benoit and seconded by R. Raeside.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA CARRIED.

2) **Minutes of the Meeting of Monday February 11th, 2019:**

Motion to approve the Minutes of Monday February 11th, 2019. Moved by G. Bissix and seconded by R. Seale.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES CARRIED.

3) **Announcements:**

a) **From the Chair of Senate**

Regrets were received from H. Hemming, D. MacKinnon, C. Landry, P. Callaghan, J. Grant, P. Doerr, D. Seamone, C. Rushton and S. Thomas.

The Chair noted that M. Neilson was attending as a guest to discuss agenda item 4) b) Establishment of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

The Chair asked if there were any questions, comments, or requests for elaboration related to the President's written announcements.

P. Abela asked whether the request from student leaders for a 3% increase to the operating grant for universities had been received positively by the Government at recent meetings to discuss the MOU.

President Ricketts pointed out that this was in line with the original request from institutions in the Province. It was not possible to comment on the Government's response but he noted that the proposals had been taken to the Treasury Board. President Ricketts remained cautiously optimistic.

G. Whitehall asked about the recent incident involving Acadia and St. FX hockey players.

President Ricketts noted that there were background issues for both players that contributed to the aggressive response and escalation of the situation. He noted that the AUS had carried out suspensions and disciplinary actions towards both players and coaches. He felt that unfounded and inappropriate information had been made public which had not yet been fully resolved. President Ricketts stated that both Saint F.X. and Acadia had appealed the disciplinary action against their respective coaches.

President Ricketts stated that what led up to the incident, the incident itself, and the things that followed were inappropriate and unacceptable. There was a strong desire by both institutions to do better in the future and avoid this sort of situation occurring again. President Ricketts noted that although one could never be sure that this would not happen again, there were things that could have been done to have prevented it from turning into the inappropriate display of violence that occurred that evening. The situation was on-going but had been partly resolved.

The Chair asked if there were any questions, comments, or requests for elaboration related to the VP Academic's written announcements.

Z. Whitman urged academic units to make use of the Indigenous Handbook which was available from the President's website at https://indigenous.acadiau.ca/tl_files/sites/indigenous/Acadia-IndigProtocolsHandbook_27February2018.pdf and she noted that the development of the Handbook had been supported by the Mi'kmaw leadership and community.

The Chair asked if there were any questions, comments, or requests for elaboration related to the ASU's written announcements.

B. Anderson was pleased to see the note regarding Career Services and the lack of it in the ASU report. She noted that other universities provided students with support for resume writing and interviewing skills and that the School of Nutrition make use of materials from other universities in order to try to make their students more competitive.

D. Benoit pointed out that the Coop Office provided assistance with résumés and cover letters but only for students going out into Coop. It was possible that this experience could be tapped into if the workload of the staff was reduced so that they might offer workshops to all interested students. Coop staff also have all the connections to businesses who may be looking for students to hire.

4) New Business

- a) **Motion to reconstitute the Academic Planning Committee (*attached*)**

Motion to reconstitute the Academic Planning Committee. Moved by G. Whitehall and seconded by G. Wooden.

G. Whitehall noted that the motion included comments and suggestions from the previous Senate meeting.

G. Whitehall wished to clarify the membership changes and make any changes easier and he proposed a friendly amendment to his own motion. As the motion was currently worded all members of the committee would need to resign and new members be reinstated by March 15th, 2019.

G. Whitehall noted that since two positions on the APC were not due to expire in June 2019 he was proposing that the following wording in the motion:

Procedures for Appointment:*

Vice President Academic (ex officio)

Dean of Arts (ex officio)

Dean of Prof. Studies (ex officio)

Dean of P&A Sc. (ex officio)

University Librarian (ex officio)

Student VP Academic (ex officio)

Faculty members - elected by respective Faculties**

Faculty member at large - elected from the Faculty as a whole***

***Initial term is 1 or 2 years to stagger retirements going forward starting March 15th 2019.**

****Eligible faculty members are those with continuing or tenured status. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer of each Faculty.**

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Be changed to read:

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Vice President Academic (ex officio)

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Dean of Prof. Studies (ex officio)

Dean of P&A Sc. (ex officio)

University Librarian (ex officio)

Student VP Academic (ex officio)

*Faculty members - elected by respective Faculties***

*Faculty member at large - elected from the Faculty as a whole****

**An immediate temporary additional elected Arts representative should be made by March 29th, 2019 and last until June 30th, 2019, after which regular elections should follow the new membership guidelines. Initial term is 1 or 2 years to stagger retirements going forward starting March 15th 2019.*

***Eligible faculty members are those with continuing or tenured status. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer of each Faculty.*

****Eligible faculty members are those with continuing or tenured status. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer.*

President Ricketts pointed out that since G. Whitehall was moving the amendment, if the seconder of the original motion agreed, this would become the new motion.

The Chair confirmed that this was the case.

B. Anderson spoke for D. Seamone who could not be present and asked Senate to consider adding to the APC another member who would come from an IDST program. She noted that there was concern from Women's and Gender Studies and other inter-disciplinary programs that there was no formal representation on the APC. B. Anderson pointed out that faculty were trying to do things across the campus and across programs and requested that an amendment be brought to make this change.

The Chair asked whether this would be an extra fifth member of the APC, or would it replace the fourth member-at-large that was currently being added to the committee.

B. Anderson agreed that it would be an additional member of the Academic Planning Committee.

Motion to add to the membership of the Academic Planning Committee one faculty member from inter-disciplinary programs and units to represent inter- and multi-disciplinary collaborations by faculty.

Moved by B. Anderson and seconded by G. Bissix.

S. Currie stated that IDST programs were already discussed with enthusiasm at the Academic Planning Committee and she felt that the committee members were very open to growing and enhancing the current IDST programs and also open to other opportunities. These would be discussed by the committee.

S. Currie cautioned that one IDST group might not be able to speak for another but that IDST programming remained top of mind for the committee. She was concerned that the committee could become sufficiently large to become unwieldy.

G. Bissix reminded Senate that several years ago an Ad-hoc IDST committee had been struck and that discussions had been held to decide how the members might best represent IDST. At that time it was felt that one individual could successfully represent all of the IDST programs.

President Ricketts was in favour of the motion to amend the original motion. as the VP Academic was not present he commented that he recognized that the committee currently functioned well because the faculty membership did not represent a particular constituency, and therefore took a broader institutional perspective. President Ricketts believed that this was important but also felt that representation on a committee of this type was reflective of the broad range of the Academy. Certainly one area should not be over-represented while another part was not represented.

President Ricketts suggested that Senate have faculty representation from sectors of the Academy as opposed to Faculties. This would include humanities and social sciences, professional studies, science and engineering, and inter-disciplinary studies. He felt that faculty members could stand for those sectors but be elected by all faculty at large. This would provide a good distribution of the Academy and prevent faculty representation from becoming skewed. This would also avoid the notion that faculty on the committee represented a certain constituency.

A. Vibert pointed out that there was currently a member on the APC who belonged to an inter-disciplinary program and that therefore it was quite possible that members coming from a Faculty could also be from an IDST program.

G. Whitehall agreed in spirit with the amendment but felt that there would be difficulty implementing this. He pointed out that the Ad-hoc IDST committee had been a one-year experiment by Senate and had been housed under the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. After one year the committee no longer met and he felt that IDST did not have a constituency from which to elect members from. He noted that there was also an IDST committee in the Faculty of Arts but that it had not met for several years either. G. Whitehall felt that so many faculty members were involved in IDST that there was a good likelihood that any or all of the four faculty members of the committee could be from an IDST program.

J. Hennessy agreed and also stated that inter-disciplinary emphasis was already factored into the criteria and process that was established when determining tenure track allocations.

B. Anderson felt that adding a representative from the IDST programming should be tried. She noted that people's voices were being raised around representation because they felt that they were not being heard. She wanted to ensure that faculty that were in inter-disciplinary programs were heard clearly so that this subject did not come back to Senate again.

D. Benoit was opposed to electing faculty members to represent their particular constituency because it created a process that would not work well for the University as a whole. He expected that the faculty on that APC would be making fair and rational decisions when it came to allocation of resources and to focus on what would be best for the University as a whole.

D. Benoit felt that with the proposed amendment already on the committee there would be two people and perhaps more than two that would be representing the two Faculties that offered inter-disciplinary programming. D. Benoit did not see the need for a separate committee member to advocate for IDST programming and he felt this was the wrong way for the committee to move.

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILED. THREE ABSTENTIONS.

Discussion now returned to the main motion as changed by G. Whitehall.

G. Whitehall spoke to President Ricketts recommendation and now suggested a further change to the motion. In each instance of the double ** line of text “*Eligible faculty members are those with continuing or tenured status. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer of each Faculty*” this would be removed and the current *** line of text would remain.

Motion to remove the line in both places in the motion ***Eligible faculty members are those with continuing or tenured status. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer of each Faculty*
and leave

**** Eligible faculty members are those with continuing or tenured status. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer.*

Moved by J. Hennessy and seconded by D. Benoit.

D. Benoit asked whether faculty members could nominate themselves or should be nominated by someone else.

The Chair stated that both options would apply, as this was currently the practice.

The Chair then asked whether faculty members would self-identify about who they were representing, since some faculty members were cross appointed between Faculties.

President Ricketts expected that faculty would need to self-identify to determine which position they were running for on the committee.

J. Hennessy agreed and noted that there was a staggering of the member positions on the committee. If the Elections Officer was calling for a member from the Faculty of Arts, he/she would have to identify that the person nominated was from the Faculty of Arts.

M. Adam asked whether the wording *Eligible faculty members are those with continuing or tenured status. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer* needed to be changed to make it clear that faculty would come from a particular Faculty.

The Chair felt that the listing of members and affiliations in the committee list would make it clear for the Faculty Elections Officer when seeking nominations and running an election.

G. Gibson was against the amendment to the motion and the main motion because she felt that the deans were positioned to represent each Faculty and that faculty members could come from any faculty and represent the interests of the University more broadly.

G. Whitehall pointed out that this election approach could mean that the Arts representative could be decided by faculty members that were not from the Faculty of Arts. This was a concern because the Faculty of Arts was getting smaller.

P. Abela was voting against the amendment to the motion. He pointed out that having members of the APC that were Faculty designates was important because they then brought a degree of expertise and knowledge from that Faculty, at the same time as making judgements based on the best interests of the Institution.

P. Rigg was also voting against the amendment and noted that each Faculty held a different perspective. She would vote against having other faculty members vote for representation of her own perspective.

A. Vibert asked how the APC could want faculty members to come from each Faculty but then expect them to be elected by the general faculty body. A. Vibert thought that the original motion ensured that there would be faculty from each of the Faculties, and that they would be selected by each Faculty.

J. Hennessy stated that the amendment was a good compromise because there would be representatives from each constituency but faculty would be voting for those representatives in the spirit of asking who would represent the University as a whole. While it would be good if all faculty understood the perspective of Arts and the faculty from Arts, he felt that this approach created a good balance.

A. Wilks pointed out that there was a difference between perspective and advocacy. She noted that it was important to have a variety of perspectives chosen by each Faculty. This was not in order to advocate for the Faculty but to bring a perspective from each Faculty.

President Ricketts felt that by having all of the faculty members voting, a nominated member would be likely to be elected if all faculty felt that they were a suitable member for the committee, as opposed to just their own Faculty feeling that they were a good person for the committee. This would provide a broader University perspective.

D. Benoit pointed out that even though faculty members would be voting for someone that came from a certain Faculty, once the person was on the committee they no longer just represented their Faculty. He expected that they had knowledge of a Faculty but represented everyone on campus. D. Benoit stated that when voting, he would be looking for people that he felt would be level headed and consider all of the issues for the University as a whole. These members bring a perspective but represent all interests.

A. Redden commented that not all faculty knew all of the members in other Faculties and so she asked how they could vote without this knowledge.

M. Adam felt that this represented a good compromise and pointed out that faculty could always choose not to vote if they did not know the candidate.

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION CARRIED.

G. Bissix asked G. Whitehall for the rationale behind including a 'member-at-large' on the committee.

G. Whitehall responded that this would ensure that there was a broad discussion across all Faculties. He noted that there were originally four faculty members on the Academic Planning Committee and that this would maintain that count.

G. Bissix asked what the point of the extra member was on the committee.

President Ricketts suggested that the 4th member of the committee could be replaced by a faculty member representing IDST programs.

Motion to replace the one faculty member-at-large with one faculty member from an IDST program. Moved by P. Ricketts and seconded by G. Bissix.

J. Hennessy stated that there were originally four faculty members on the committee to balance the fact that there were three Deans and the University Librarian. He was in favour of designating the fourth faculty member to be from an IDST program.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION CARRIED.

P. Abela pointed out that the current process was to have four faculty members without particular Faculty representation. The new process was such that all of the faculty members would elect each of the designated members from each Faculty. He questioned which option was preferable.

D. Benoit stated that currently faculty members self-identify that they would like to be on the APC and the complete faculty then elect them. That would not change with the exception of the fact that now one person from each Faculty would need to be elected. He expected that the quality of the members would continue to be good and would work for the benefit of the whole University.

The Chair agreed that the process was the same as it currently is in that the Faculty Elections Officer would handle the elections. The only real change was that the four members would come from specified Faculties and IDST.

G. Whitehall reminded Senators that the central force of the argument had been that there needed to be representation from each Faculty. Despite the watering down of the original motion he would agree to vote for the amended motion.

A. Wilks felt that this represented a substantial change that was worth voting for.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED.

b) Motion from the By-laws committee for the establishment of a Senate committee on Equity,

Motion from the By-laws committee for the establishment of a Senate committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

**Diversity, and Inclusion
(attached)**

Moved by R. Raeside and seconded by G. Wooden.

R. Raeside reminded Senate that this motion arose from the conclusion of the work of the Ad-hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion which had been reported to Senate by M. Neilson at Senate in October.

The Chair asked M. Neilson to speak to the motion.

M. Neilson acknowledged that Acadia was in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq nation, and she expressed gratitude.

M. Neilson also thanked the By-laws committee for their assistance in creating the Terms of Reference for the new standing committee.

M. Neilson commented on progress that had already been made since October, pointing out that D. Kaszas had been hired and that a Black Student Advisor would also soon be hired along with other initiatives across the campus.

M. Neilson noted that the original report submitted by the Ad-hoc Committee on Inclusion and Diversity had not been entirely inclusive of all voices on the campus, in particular in the way that disability had been framed in the report. The emphasis had been on accommodations as opposed to elevating the voices of disabled scholars.

M. Neilson stated that this remained a living document that would be revised and then passed on to the standing committee, once formed.

M. Neilson urged Senators who were involved with the election process for this committee to encourage first voices and representation on this committee, or members of their units that were dedicated to listening and consulting.

M. Neilson was excited to see this initiative happening and felt that it spoke to the University's dedication to this.

Z. Whitman was pleased to see the initiative but noted that it had to be meaningful. In looking at the proposed membership she felt that there could be more members that did not represent the marginalized community despite this being the mandate of the committee. She gave as an example the ASU Equity Officer or a student from the ASU Executive, which meant that there could be no student that represented the different demographics that the committee was trying to reach. She also asked whether the Black Student Advisor could be added to the membership of the committee.

The Chair stated that the membership of the committee could be changed once the advisor was hired.

Z. Whitman asked whether the ASU Equity Officer would be able to speak to indigenous issues or should there be a separate voice.

M. Adam thanked M. Neilson for the report which had represented a great deal of work. He did not feel that four of the positions on the committee

needed to be outlined as coming from the four Faculties. M. Adam felt that broad representation needed to be demonstrated by finding a more interesting way of naming the positions and then finding the representation and diversification that was needed.

M. Neilson appreciated the feedback and was open to any changes so that the membership could do the best work possible.

G. Gibson wanted to see faculty representatives on the committee and noted that if substantive changes were to be brought forward by the committee they would need to carry through to the academic programs.

G. Philp suggested that the ASU Equity Officer had in fact been re-named to 'ASU Diversity and Inclusion Representative' and this would be a hired position. He suggested making that change to the membership and striking 'the ASU Executive'. There was a possibility that this person would not be present during the summer.

Motion to amend the composition of the membership to rename the ASU Equity Officer as the ASU Diversity and Inclusion Representative, or delegate.

Moved by G. Philp and seconded M. Branch.

AMENDMENT CARRIED.

The Chair suggested that the document could go back to the By-laws committee and to M. Neilson for further changes based on this and other discussion.

M. Neilson agreed that it could go back to the By-laws committee for further revisions.

R. Raeside agreed to take this back to the By-laws committee to discuss the two changes that had been proposed.

J. Richard noted that the wording current stated: *1 member from each Faculty other than an Academic Librarian*. She stated that other committees did not word their membership in this way and that this distinction was not necessary.

The Chair noted that this had come up in light of the fact that one of the faculty positions was specifically listed as being for an academic librarian, and that in most cases the academic librarians were elected to committees in the same way as other faculty members due to their faculty affiliations.

M. Adam was in favour of having four general faculty members with the academic librarians as an option for general faculty positions.

Motion to refer the motion back to the By-laws committee.

Moved by M. Adam and seconded by J. Richard.

MOTION TO REFER BACK CARRIED.

- c) **Motion from the By Laws Committee for the following amendment to the Bylaws, adding to VI Committees, 11. If a committee member misses two consecutive meetings without sending regrets, an election will be triggered for a replacement. (attached)**

Motion from the By Laws Committee for the following amendment to the Bylaws, adding to VI Committees, 11. If a committee member misses two consecutive meetings without sending regrets, an election will be triggered for a replacement.

Moved by R. Raeside and seconded by D. Benoit.

R. Raeside reminded Senators that this item also arose from the October meeting of Senate where it was pointed out that the committee had been finding it difficult to hold meetings due to the lack of quorum. This matter had been referred to the By-laws committee.

R. Raeside also noted that Senate has a similar policy in place that calls for the replacement of a Senator after absence from three consecutive meetings. Senate meets monthly but many sub-committees only meet occasionally so the By-laws committee felt that missing two meetings was sufficient to trigger an election.

A. Redden asked whether committee members would receive a warning.

R. Raeside agreed that this could be done by the chair of the relevant committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

- d) **Motion from the By Laws Committee for an amendment to the membership of the Senate Disability Policy Committee, item VIII (u) i, where the member “One student appointed by the Student Representative Council” will be replaced with “One student, appointed by the Student Representative Council; priority will be given to a student who self-identifies as having a disability” (attached)**

Motion from the By Laws Committee for an amendment to the membership of the Senate Disability Policy Committee, item VIII (u) i, where the member “One student appointed by the Student Representative Council” will be replaced with “*One student, appointed by the Student Representative Council; priority will be given to a student who self-identifies as having a disability*”.

Moved by R. Raeside and seconded by D. Benoit.

J. Hennessy noted that he had raised some concerns about the confidentiality aspect at the last Senate meeting but that he was happy with the motion as it now read. He had appreciated conversations with L. Aylward on this matter.

G. Whitehall pointed out that in the drafting of the motion the By-laws committee had taken into account comments and feedback from the last Senate meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

- e) **Motion that Senate approve the proposed Declaration of Cause (for**

Motion that Senate approve the proposed Declaration of Cause (for student absence).

student absence)
(*attached*)

Moved by B. Anderson and seconded by D. Benoit.

B. Anderson appreciated the changes that had been made to the document.

The Chair invited M. Bishop to speak to the motion.

M. Bishop reminded Senators that this policy was being brought forward to facilitate the process of officially noting course absences, partly because students were now experiencing difficulty obtaining doctors notes for their absences. He had worked with J. Sanford to address comments and recommendations made by Senate at a previous meeting.

D. Benoit asked why the student needed to list the course numbers and the instructor because that information would be in the student record on EDEN.

M. Bishop stated that a student was not always missing an assessment in the full list of the courses that they were enrolled in and this allowed them to specify only the relevant courses.

MOTION CARRIED.

f) **Motion from the Graduate Curriculum committee that Senate approve the proposed graduate curriculum changes to EDUC 50H3**
(*attached*)

Motion from the Graduate Curriculum committee that Senate approve the proposed graduate curriculum changes to EDUC 50H3.

Moved by A. Redden and seconded by D. Benoit.

A. Redden noted that this was a request for a Calendar description for Education 50H3, which passed through the Senate Graduate Studies committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

g) **Awards Committee Report**

The Chair explained that the report from the Awards Committee with a list of nominations for Honorary Degrees had been received by the Recording Secretary at 12:55 p.m. followed by the required memo at 3:20 p.m. This was considered to be too late to allow for sufficient time for Senators to review the information prior to a vote at this meeting.

The Chair recognised that the item was time sensitive. She suggested various options, including an electronic vote or a special meeting of Senate, and articulated some advantages and disadvantages of the presented options.

There were concerns about conducting an electronic vote and questions about whether it would provide opportunity for deliberation. There were questions about whether electronic votes for these types of Senate motions had been carried out before.

The Chair stated that she was not aware of a case when an electronic vote had taken place for this type of motion.

Following some discussion the following motion was suggested:

Motion to hold a special meeting of Senate on Monday March 18th, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in BAC 132.

Moved by M. Adam and seconded by S. Currie.

MOTION CARRIED.

The documentation will be forwarded to Senators as soon as possible. The Chair reminded Senators that the materials must be treated confidentially.

There was no other business.

5) Other Business

6) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Moved by B. Anderson.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

R. Hare, Recording Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 11, 2019

MOU Development

A meeting of the MOU Partnership Committee was held on Monday, March 4. While we did discuss some final wording and content changes to the draft MOU, no further details were provided on the specifics of the funding decisions. We will not hear about those details until either on or just before budget day, which has been set for March 26. Following the committee meeting, we were joined by student leaders from across the NS universities to listen to and discuss their issues and concerns. Not surprisingly, tuition fees were the biggest issue raised, which concerns being expressed particularly for international students, graduate students, and those students in programs that are not covered by the tuition cap. Also, the student leaders made a strong plea for the government to increase its financial support by increasing the operating grants to universities by 3% per year. This is in line with the proposal submitted by CONSUP. Other issues raised included the lack of MSI coverage for international students in their first year, and the issue of increasing costs beyond tuition (including such areas as housing, books, and overall cost of living) as well as concerns about the increasing debt loads that some students are facing upon graduation. It was good discussion and the issues raised by students echo many issues that have been raised by CONSUP in ongoing MOU negotiations with the Ministry.

Acadia 2025

I am working with the Acadia 2025 Task Force on finalising a Strategic Directions document which will be made available to the Acadia community in the coming weeks. This document will be important for guiding the development of the final strategic plan.

Executive Search Processes

The two search processes for the positions of Provost and Vice-President Academic and Vice-Provost Students, Recruitment and Enrolment Management are proceeding on schedule. Both search committees are now in the process of interviewing candidates and determining which candidates to short-list for a second round of interviews to be held later this month or early April.

AUS Championships

Our Acadia Axewomen basketball team won the AUS Championships for the second year in a row, beating Dalhousie, UPEI and Memorial in the finals held in Halifax last weekend. It was a spectacular performance by a team that was not expected to repeat their 2018 victory, yet they played superbly with excellent team and individual performances, including our two Port Williams stars Jayda Vienot as Player of the Game and Haley McDonald as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. It would also be remiss not to mention Haley's record 51 points in the semi-final game against UPEI, breaking a 40-year record of the most points ever scored in a single AUS finals game. Also, congratulations to our Axewomen volleyball team who made it to the finals but had a tough loss to UNB in the quarter final match; and to our Axemen hockey team on their exciting and well-played series against St. FX in the quarter-finals.

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC'S REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 11, 2019

FACULTY OF ARTS:

Dr. Kevin Whetter, Department of English and Theatre, and Cory James Rushton, St. F.X. University, received a SSHRC Connections Grant to host an international conference, "Malory at 550" in August 2019 celebrating the 550th anniversary of the completion of Sir Thomas Malory's late-mediaeval Arthurian tale *Le Morte Darthur*.

On February 4, the Department of History and Classics hosted Dr. Charmaine A Nelson, Professor of Art History at McGill University, for the 2019 Moody-Hamilton Lecture in Atlantic World History. Dr. Nelson's talk is titled: "he...had meditated an attempt to get on board a

ship...bound to Newfoundland’: The Limits of the Term ‘Refugee’ for Enslaved Africans in Canadian Fugitive Slave Advertisements.” This event also celebrated African Heritage Month.

Dr. Susan Franceschet, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary, presented a paper on her most recent work, “the Politics of Gender Quotas Around the World,” on February 4. Dr. Franceschet presented information as gender quotas are one mechanism that have been used in other countries to increase women’s representation in national legislatures, but the politics of implementing them are often contentious. Could they boost women’s representation in Canada and the US? What lessons can we learn from other countries?

Dr. Jeffery Sachs, Departments of Politics and Sociology, will be giving a presentation at the Harry Crowe Foundation Conference in Toronto on February 22. It is an annual conference organized by CAUT, with this year’s theme focused on free speech issues in Canadian universities. This February he also wrote editorial pieces for the Heterodox Academy and the Niskanen Center.

Dr. Erin Crandall, Department of Politics, published the following in the last six months: Emmanuelle Richez and Erin Crandall (2018) “Judicial Discretion as Political Choice: The Supreme Court of Canada’s Cost Awarding Power,” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 51(4): 929-47; Erin Crandall and Andrea Lawlor (2018) Policy versus Practice: Third Party Behaviour in Canadian Elections,” *Canadian Public Administration* 61(2): 246-65; Andrea Lawlor and Erin Crandall (2018). “Regulating Third Party Spending in Canada and the United Kingdom: A Comparative Policy Framework,” *Public Policy and Administration* 33(3): 332-53; Erin Crandall (2018) “Supreme Court Judges: Traditional Elite Roles in a Digital Age” in Alex Marland, Thierry Giasson, and Andrea Lawlor, eds., *Political Elites in Canada: Power and Influence in Instantaneous Times* (Vancouver: UBC Press), 128-48; Erin Crandall and Andrea Lawlor (2018) “Third Party Policy and Electoral Participation after *Harper v. Canada: A Triumph of Egalitarianism?*” in Emmett Macfarlane, ed., *Policy Change, Courts, and the Canadian Constitution* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press). 210-29.

On Monday, February 25, the Politics Department featured journalist, David McGuffin who gave a talk on “Why Journalism is a Pillar of Democracy.” In his 20 years in journalism David McGuffin has worked for some of the world’s leading news organizations including CBC, CTV, PBS, ABC and NBC; has been a bureau chief and correspondent in Moscow, Beijing, Rome and Nairobi and has reported from over 40 countries, including conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Congo and Sudan. Most recently McGuffin was based in Washington, DC as a Senior Editor at Morning Edition, NPR’s award-winning national news and current affairs program

Dr. Piita (Peter) Irniq, Former Commissioner of Nunavut gave a public presentation on February 26 titled, Inuuqatigiittiarniq: Living in Peace and Harmony with One Another in celebration of Nunavut’s 20th Anniversary Year as a Territory in Canada. There was a pre-keynote screening of the documentary *The Angry Inuk*. The event was sponsored by the Departments of English and Theatre, History and Classics, Languages and Literatures, Sociology, the Manning School of Business, the School of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Women’s and Gender Studies Programme.

Katie Winters, a Sociology Honours student, won the top award for the best undergraduate presentation at the Acadia Student Research & Creative Works Symposium held the weekend of January 24, 2019.

Master students and fourth year Sociology Methodology Seminar students completed their stunning research project on Immigrants to NS from non-English speaking countries, 1901, 1911, 1921. The immigration project was completed January 2019.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE:

Dr. Diane Holmberg, **Psychology**, was inducted into the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation's (NSHRF) Decade Club, acknowledging people who have been continuously involved with NSHRF for a decade or more. She was acknowledged for student mentoring – having had 9 Master's students and 3 undergraduate students receive NSHRF awards over the years. Not counting those still in the program, every one of these students either went on to a Ph.D. program or is now a practicing clinical psychologist.

Computer Science: The 2018/2019 Acadia Robot Programming Competition held on Feb 16th was a smashing success, with 24 FIRST LEGO League teams (aged 9-14) and 25 ROBOFEST teams (aged 14-18) competing. The top team from the FIRST competition (Royal Robots - Annapolis West Educational Centre) will advance to the World Festival in Detroit, MI, while the top five ROBOFEST teams will receive an invitation to the World ROBOFEST Championship in Southfield, MI. The 2nd and 3rd place FIRST LEGO League teams have received invites to the West Virginia Open Competition held at the NASA facility in West Virginia.

On February 9, 2019, the **Bio Student Society and Biology Curriculum Committee** held an event called *Coping with Cortisol: Stress Less with Science* for students in Biology. The Biology Department has an active program designed to help students understand the physiological effects of stress, develop coping mechanisms, and connect with support services on campus. *Stress Less with Science* is part of that initiative and was developed specifically in response to student comments on the success of other parts of the Biology de-stress program. Over 160 students attended (~ 30% of our majors) this student-led event. The schedule included a key note address by Dr. Sherman Boates on the Science of Mindfulness, a panel discussion led by Hilary Hunter (BSc 2019), Makenzie Branch (BScH 2019), Helen Allen (BSc 2021) and Adam Discher (BScH 2019), and a short presentation by Jenna Purkis (ASU Mental Health Initiative) on MHI services. Will Bauer (BScH 2020) was the entertaining MC. Major themes were the importance of mentorship, looking after yourself and finding a good support network.

Recognizing our FPAS student and faculty publication achievements:

- Biology undergraduate student K Heo recently published their work in the peer-reviewed journal, Botany

Heo, K, G Gibson, and R Evans. 2019. Effects of bisphenol-A and folic acid on growth, reproductive development, and DNA methylation in snapdragons (*Antirrhinum majus*). Botany (In Press).

- A recently published paper (February 2019) in the *International Journal of Food Science and Technology*, authored by BSN graduate, **Laura Gosine '18**, and co-authored by Dr. Matt McSweeney, on *Consumers' attitudes towards alternative grains: a conjoint analysis study*. Laura was an undergraduate research assistant in the *Centre for the Sensory Research of Food Lab* for three years and worked on numerous sensory research projects. She is currently a Dietetic Intern with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ijfs.14126#articlecontent>

Engineering: After taking first place in the Junior Design competition at the Atlantic Engineering Competition at Dalhousie on January 26th, the student team of Matthew Kneen-Teed, Matthew Hill, Cole Everson, and Lee Weber captured **second place at the Canadian Engineering Competition at Waterloo on March 3rd** that included engineering schools from across Canada. This is the first time Acadia has competed at the national level in over 20 years, and possibly the first time ever that our team of engineering students have placed this high. Congratulations!

FACULTY OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES:

Dr. Lauren Lattimer and her Kinesiology undergraduate students have received notification that their project titled “*Feasibility of a Low-Cost Electromyography Unit for Biofeedback Training of the Transverse Abdominus and Pelvic Floor Musculature in an Athletic Therapy Setting*” was accepted for presentation at the CATA and NATA conferences. The abstract will be published in the *Journal of Athletic Training and Sport Healthcare*.

The School of Music hosted 40 auditioning students, over two weekends in February and early March. These students and parents met faculty members, played their auditions, were treated to concerts, fed breakfast and lunch, and were taken on tours of the University. These audition weekends have become a hallmark of the School of Music's approach and help differentiate Acadia's audition experience from other Universities.

RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES:

NS Dept of Communities, Culture & Heritage: Dr. Alan Warner (Community Development)

Dr. Warner was successful in his application to the 2018 Culture Innovation Fund for \$14,550 to support the project, Culturally Accessible Earth Adventures. Earth Adventures are self-guided learning experiences for children, families, youth groups and school classes through which they learn about their local cultures and natural places. Created initially by Dr. Warner, George Taylor and Janet Barlow, it is a long-running program in NS, that started with a book, originally published in 2003 and updated in 2007 and 2010. It has sold more than 6000 copies and has had a large community impact in NS on children, youth and families with respect to appreciating and understanding natural places in their community and encouraging stewardship of them. Dr.

Warner's latest grant will help develop the Earth Adventures model so that it increases awareness of Mi'kmaw history and culture, embraces cultural diversity and becomes more accessible to all in the digital age. This latest project is a partnership with the Mi'kmaq Conservation Group, Kings County Recreation, Hike Nova Scotia, and the Halifax Adventure Earth Centre.

Natural Resources Canada, Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP): Tier II CRC, Dr. Mark Mallory (Biology)

The PCSP provides logistics throughout the Canadian Arctic for field research that is conducted by Canadian government, university, northern, independent and international research organizations. Mark Mallory works extensively in the High Arctic and this program has been a critical source of support for him throughout his career. This year he submitted three applications for flight, fuel, accommodation, and field equipment logistical support towards ongoing, long-term collaborative seabird research in field camps in Prince Leopold Island, Tern Island, and Cape Vera, in Nunavut. He was successful in all three applications which totaled \$45,504. These funds are held at NRCan, so don't flow through the university, but without them, Dr. Mallory would be unable to undertake/participate in these projects.

Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP)/Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC): Tier II CRC, Dr. Mark Mallory (Biology)

As part of a large award from ECCC to CARP, Dr. Mallory has received \$55,000 to fund the project, Coastal Gull Habitat, in 2019/2020. This sub-project builds on ECCC's existing tracking of gulls in this region, to help inform on the extent of the environmental footprint of some human waste sites in coastal areas (dumps, agricultural sites, mink farms, fish plants), to determine how far gulls are moving to use them. Research has suggested that gull populations have increased on some of southern NS's islands and are having a negative effect on local nesting marine birds like terns and petrels. This project will contribute to part of the MSc work of one student and will have spin-off research projects for at least 2 other undergraduate or graduate students. It will also make use of Acadia's research station on Bon Portage Island.

Industry & Community Engagement Office:

Service Agreement with Nutrilife Plant Products: Dr. Kirk Hillier (Biology) and Dr. Nicoletta Faraone (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Biology)

Acadia signed a Service Agreement for \$80,020 with Nutrilife Plant Products, a British Columbia based company that manufactures and sells fertilizers & plant nutrients. The company is working with Drs. Hillier and Faraone to validate insecticidal, miticidal, and fungicidal activity of new formulations of materials. The funding will support student and the post-doc at Acadia.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) International Secretariat: Tier II CRC, Dr. Mark Mallory (Biology)

Dr. Mallory has received a contract for 20,000 Euros through CAFF's Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI). AMBI brings together experts in Arctic migratory bird species and conservation issues from across the globe, to improve the conservation status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. This project,

involving researchers from Denmark, Russia, and Iceland, is supporting work that will increase the understanding and ability to respond accordingly to the distribution and effects of plastic pollution on Arctic seabirds and seaducks. The funding will support an MSc student at Acadia.

Industry Meetings/Events

Acadia worked with Nova Scotia Business Inc and Perennia Food & Agriculture Inc to host Think Export: The Wine Edition on February 19th. This half day event drew twenty-one participants from industry (nearly half of the NS wineries took part) and government to campus. While the focus was on export, it provided an opportunity for attendees to visit our recently opened David Huestis Innovation Pavilion, tour the relocated ALAB, speak with both our ALAB technician and the Wine Quality Specialist with Perennia/Acadia, and generally get updated on the analytical testing ALAB is currently undertaking. Feedback from participants on this event was very positive.

ASU PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO SENATE – MARCH 11, 2019

1. **ASU Elections:** Polls closed for the 2019 ASU General Election on February 14th. Our voter turnout of 37%, which exceeds the turnout levels at most other institutions across the Maritimes and Canada, this illustrating Acadia students' high level of engagement in campus democracy.
2. **Career Services:** Having heard a number of reoccurring concerns from students, recent Acadia-alumni, and faculty regarding the gap in career services on campus, the ASU is exploring options to fund and coordinate resume, cover letter, and interview workshops and other information sessions to help students secure employment and succeed in their graduate school opportunities for the upcoming academic year. Input from faculty is welcomed at this point as we are in the preliminary stages of this initiative. Please forward your comments to George Philp, ASU President at georgephilp@acadiu.ca.
3. **Student Employment:** The ASU is presently soliciting applications for a number of our part-time student positions for the 2019/2020 Academic Year to complement our student staff of over 100. Students are encouraged to visit the ASU Employment Facebook Page to view current job postings.
4. **Cheaton Cup:** ASU Student Leaders are presently working with Acadia University Student Services Staff to ensure a safe, supportive, and fun Cheaton Cup event. This year's event will have a keen focus on supporting our community, this will include an inter-house food drive competition to support the ASU Food Cupboard and the Wolfville and Area Food Bank in the lead up to the event.
5. **ASU Leadership and Teaching Awards presented by BMO:** The ASU is currently soliciting nominations for the ASU Student Leadership and Excellence in Teaching Awards. Nominations are open until March 10th, 2019. The full list of awards and nomination forms has been circulated by Rosie Hare to all Senators. Senators are encouraged to nominate one or more members of our campus community who is deserving of recognition. The Awards will presented at a Dinner Reception on April 3rd, 2019.

Motion to immediately reconstitute the Academic Planning Committee.

Rationale:

- 1) The process for allocating Tenure Track positions has substantially changed the ways in which the APC committee is to be consultative. As such, a guarantee of representation is desirable and legitimizing.
- 2) Since there is no process to ensure that each faculty is represented on the APC, the faculty of Arts currently has the Dean as our sole representative. This could be the same situation for other faculties in the future.
- 3) The proposed APC reconstitution ensures equal representation for each Faculty and yet maintains the originally desired flexibility.
- 4) Faculty eligibility has been modified to reflect the committee's new gravitas.
- 5) Student representation has also been modified to reflect the committee's new gravitas.

Motion to immediately reconstitute the Academic Planning Committee as presented below:

Type: Standing

Status: Active

Mandate:

The Academic Planning Committee shall make recommendations to Senate on matters relating to academic principles and planning.

In carrying out its work, the Committee shall consult widely with all stakeholders and relevant bodies on campus.

The APC shall report regularly to Senate, no less than two times per year.

Membership (10)

- 1 Vice President Academic (Chair)
- 1 Dean of Arts
- 1 Dean of Prof. Studies
- 1 Dean of P&A Sc.
- 1 University Librarian
- 1 Faculty Member from the Faculty of Professional Studies
- 1 Faculty Member from the Faculty of Arts
- 1 Faculty Member from the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science
- 1 Faculty Member from an IDST Program
- 1 Student VP Academic

Procedures for Appointment:*

- Vice President Academic (ex officio)
- Dean of Arts (ex officio)
- Dean of Prof. Studies (ex officio)
- Dean of P&A Sc. (ex officio)
- University Librarian (ex officio)
- Student VP Academic (ex officio)
- Faculty members - elected from the Faculty as a whole**

***An immediate temporary additional elected Arts representative should be made by March 29th, 2019 and last until June 30th, 2019, after which regular elections should follow the new membership guidelines.**

*Initial term is 1 or 2 years to stagger retirements going forward starting March 15th 2019.

** Eligible faculty members are those with continuing or tenured status. They shall be elected by a general call for nominations from the Faculty Elections Officer.

Motion from the By-Laws Committee for the establishment of a Senate Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

THE SENATE EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE (EDI)

- i. The membership of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee shall be elected in accordance with Article VI. 1. Members are to be elected by their respective departments/schools/programs/offices and shall be as follows:

Membership	Term
Chair: Provost and Vice-President OR Vice-Provost	<i>ex officio</i>
1 member from the Faculty of Arts other than an academic librarian	3 years
1 member from the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science other than an academic librarian	3 years
1 member from the Faculty of Professional Studies other than an academic librarian	3 years
1 member from the Faculty of Theology other than an academic librarian	3 years
1 Academic Librarian	3 years
ASU Diversity and Inclusion Representative	1 year
Executive Director of Student Services	<i>ex officio</i>
Accessible Learning Coordinator	<i>ex officio</i>
Coordinator of Indigenous Affairs and Student Advising	<i>ex officio</i>
Campus Equity Officer	<i>ex officio</i>

- ii. The duties of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee will be:
- a. to help elevate the voice of under-represented and marginalized communities at Acadia University Senate meetings;
 - b. to advocate for best practices surrounding diversity and inclusion in an academic setting;
 - c. to engage in ongoing consultation with groups, programs, departments, committees, and individuals across the campus who have a unique stake in the diversity and inclusiveness of the Acadia University community;
 - d. to address, with campus partners, recommendations outlined in the Senate Ad Hoc Diversity and Inclusion Committee Final Report;

- e. to collect further recommendations on diversity and inclusion initiatives on campus and oversee their coordination;
- f. to consider national and international trends in diversity and inclusion policy development;
- g. and to support efforts on campus to develop and implement policies that further diversity and inclusion at Acadia University.

Motion from the By Laws Committee for the following amendment to the Bylaws, adding to VI Committees, 11. If a committee member misses two consecutive meetings without sending regrets, an election will be triggered for a replacement.

Motion from the By Laws Committee for an amendment to the membership of the Senate Disability Policy Committee, item VIII (u) i, where the member “One student appointed by the Student Representative Council” will be replaced with “*One student, appointed by the Student Representative Council; priority will be given to a student who self-identifies as having a disability*”

Declaration of Cause (for absence)

Absences

When required, a student must complete a Declaration of Cause form, and submit this form, along with any relevant documents to the Registrar's Office. The Registrar's Office will record receiving the form and document/s and notify the student's instructor/s. In the case of a final examination, the procedures for Setting and Conducting a Special Exam will be followed.

Absence from Coursework or Final Examination

Please complete this Declaration of Cause Form and submit to the Registrar's Office.

Student Name (print): _____ Student Number: _____

Academic Integrity is the foundation of course evaluation. Every student is responsible for their success in academic studies. The Declaration of Cause outlines the extenuating circumstances that have caused, or will cause you to miss a final examination or coursework (including tests/midterms).

Your signature on this form acknowledges the validity of your cause, and your awareness of the Academic Integrity section of the Acadia University Academic Calendar (current calendar found at http://registrar.acadiau.ca/tl_files/sites/registrar/pdfs/Academic_Calendars/calendar_final.pdf).

I (insert name), _____ acknowledge that due to extenuating circumstances, I was (or am) unable to complete coursework, or attend class, for the following course/s:

Course Name _____ Instructor _____

Course Name _____ Instructor _____

Course Name _____ Instructor _____

Course Name _____ Instructor _____

Course Name _____ Instructor _____

Course Name _____ Instructor _____

Dates of missed classes ("to date" may be an estimate) From _____ To _____

*In the case of a final exam you may be required to include documentation such as medical notes from a physician, communication from a counsellor or other health professional, or other information that is pertinent to the declaration.

I understand that falsification of this statement is an academic offence and will be investigated. The investigation could lead to penalty (ies) for violation of Academic Integrity.

Signature of Student

Date

Motion from the Graduate Curriculum committee that Senate approve the proposed graduate curriculum changes to EDUC 50H3:

Acadia University Senate Graduate Studies Committee
Form 3: Proposed Modification to an existing course

Please forward an electronic copy of this form to the Research and Graduate Studies Office.

Department/School: Education
Date: February 6, 2019

Brief summary of comments from Department/School meeting: The discussion was brief and oriented around minor revisions that would facilitate adherence to the 60 word limit.

1. What modification are you requesting?

- Change in course number within same year
- * change in calendar description
- change in course title
- change in course weight
- other _____

2. Please give the course number, title, calendar description, and prerequisites of the existing course, exactly as they are stated in the most recent University Calendar.

EDUC 50H3 Introduction to Disability Studies

The course introduces students to various theories of disability by tracing the historical and contemporary ways in which societies define and respond to disability. Disability studies provides a critical framework for understanding the socio-political context of disability and thinking about the extent to which exclusion, aesthetic “ideals”, and social policies and practices have significant consequences for people with disabilities. Course work involves an exploration and critique of the dominant views informing schooling policies and practices around disability (usually named as special education and student support services).

Prerequisite/Corequisite(s): EDUC 5063.

3. Please state the proposed new course number, title, calendar description (max 60 words), and prerequisites (give both course and grade prerequisites), exactly as you would like them to read in the next University Calendar.

EDUC 50H3 Introduction to Disability Studies

The course introduces students to theories of disability and considers how historic and contemporary disability definitions shape societal responses to disabled people. Disability

Studies offers a critical framework for understanding disability as a social/political/cultural phenomenon. It also supports examinations of the normative ideals informing social policies and practices and the significant consequences they produce for disabled people.

Prerequisite/Corequisite(s): EDUC 5063.

4. Briefly state the reason for requesting this modification. Please be specific.
The proposed revisions are intended to update the description to reflect contemporary schooling contexts, policies, and language related to disability supports and services.