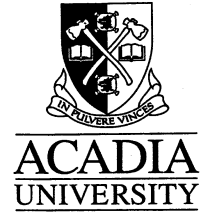


**Office of the Senate Secretariat**

Acadia University  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
Canada B0P 1X0

Telephone: (902) 585-1617  
Facsimile: (902) 585-1078



Minutes of the Senate Meeting of Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:00 p.m., with Chair A. Kieft presiding and 47 Senators. This was a Teams meeting due to the University pandemic operations.

**1) Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order, noting that there was quorum at present and thanked Senators for meeting virtually.

**Motion to approve the agenda. Moved by D. Benoit and seconded by D. Seamone.**

The Chair noted that one further committee transition report had been received and had been added to the agenda as Item 4) a) ii). A revised agenda, with that report added and no other changes, had been circulated just prior to the meeting. The agenda that Senate was approving was version 3 of the circulated agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA AS REVISED CARRIED.

**2) Minutes of the Senate Meeting of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021**

**Motion to approve the minutes of December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Moved by R. Seale and seconded by D. Rice.**

D. Seamone requested a correction on page 6 of the minutes, first paragraph. This would now read “Financial *decisions* were determining the situation.”

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS REVISED CARRIED.

**3) Announcements:**

**From the Chair:**

The Chair welcomed Senators back after the break and noted that regrets had been received from P. Leonard, Z. Whitman, and C. Lu. C. Haigh would be leaving early. L. Narbeshuber and B. Wilson would be arriving late.

The Chair welcomed J. Brady, the new Director of the School of Nutrition and Dietetics, to Senate and also welcomed J. Colton, Head of the Department of Community Development, back to Senate.

**From the President**

President Ricketts wished Senators a Happy New Year but noted that there were continuing challenges. He recognized that everyone was weary but

hoped that it would be possible to get to a post-pandemic stage when the virus would become endemic. He recognized that the Nova Scotia case load was currently high for the first time during the pandemic and that as a result there had been changes to the Winter term prevention safety campus plan. These changes had become necessary by the second week of December.

President Ricketts stated that with the change in the testing policy by the Province, Acadia was no longer able to offer testing kits broadly. This approach had been successful in preventing Covid in the campus community and had enabled the University to control the handful of cases that occurred in mid-December. In-person examinations had been shut down.

President Ricketts noted that there were a number of cases presently that were being managed but he acknowledged that it would not be possible to prevent the Omicron variant in view of how much more transmissible it was. It was now a case of dealing with the level of infection. Evidence seemed to be growing that Omicron resulted in milder illness, however, increased numbers of infections resulted in increased hospitalizations and that could strain the Public Health system.

President Ricketts stated that in-person classes were still expected to resume on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Close attention would be paid to numbers of infections and he noted that the University would continue to take advice from Dr. R. Strang. University Presidents would be meeting with him at the end of the week.

President Ricketts commented that the Report of the President's Anti-Racism Task force and his response to it had now been posted, and that he looked forward to working with Senate and others on campus to review the recommendations; and to implement as many as possible within a reasonable time frame. He felt that the formation of an Acadia Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (EDIAR) Council under the Chair of the Provost would be an important step forward for Acadia. This would allow the University to set a direction for the future and he recommended that Senators study the report. President Ricketts noted that many of the issues and recommendations that had been raised in the report were related to EDI in addition to anti-racism. He thanked the Task Force for making everyone more aware of the impacts of racism so that its existence could be recognised in various areas of the Institution, including the processes in use and the ways that Acadia carried out business.

President Ricketts referred to the discontinuation of acadia-fyi and noted that he had received feedback from some Senators who pointed out that this was missed and that much value had been attached to the distribution list. He agreed that acadia-fyi had played an important role in informal communications and reported that the administration were looking for ways to create a new mechanism for internal communication that would provide the ability for everyone to communicate in a respectful manner. President Ricketts agreed that the University needed to do a better job of providing ways in which the community could communicate with each other.

C. Mutlu did not feel that Covid would soon become endemic and noted that the hospitals in Halifax were under strain. He asked whether a stronger

masking requirement would be put in place by the University because he was seeing students wearing a variety of homemade masks or bandanas. C. Mutlu asked whether KN95 masks would be required and whether the University would be reimbursing the cost of these masks or making them available. He noted that this was an airborne disease spread by breathing.

President Ricketts agreed that this was an airborne disease but pointed out that hand sanitizing and the washing of hands was still important. There was already a mandatory mask policy when inside and he suggested that C. Landry and Dr. R. Strang would be able to speak to this when they next met. He agreed that cloth masks were no longer considered to be sufficiently effective.

D. Looker appreciated the clarification provided by President Ricketts with respect to acadia-fyi and looked forward to seeing what would be designed to replace it.

D. Seamone was pleased to hear of the work of the anti-racism task force. She asked whether an equity audit, which had been endorsed by Senate the previous year, was underway.

President Ricketts stated that this had not yet been started but he felt that the EDIRC could take this on.

D. Seamone asked that this go on the agenda early for the EDIR Council because an accurate picture of what was currently going on at the University was needed.

K. Pinder noted that the risk of contracting Omicron was significantly higher and asked whether faculty would have an option to teach in a hybrid or virtual manner after the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

President Ricketts pointed out that faculty and students were now vaccinated compared to 2020 and that the intention was to offer in-person classes. He expected that rather than move to a hybrid approach, it was possible that the online only period might be extended if the need arose. He felt that the campus protocols were comprehensive. Although the disease was more transmissible this was now the case off campus as well as on campus.

C. Mutlu pointed out that faculty were at different stages of life; some with young children that were not eligible for vaccination. He was looking for an acknowledgement that not everyone would be vaccinated.

President Ricketts agreed that this was the case. He noted that those in the community were less vaccinated than those on the campus. Although unvaccinated people could pass the virus on to others more effectively, it was no longer true to say that vaccinated individuals would not contract the disease and pass it on. President Ricketts noted that the unvaccinated people would be far more at risk of severe illness.

C. Mutlu was concerned that he could take the virus home and infect his children. He felt that faculty should be given a choice about their teaching modality.

D. Seamone felt that her age was a risk factor and she also had an elderly parent in her home and felt that an equitable approach needed to be taken by the University.

D. Benoit had 70 students in his class and was concerned that if numerous students were missing from class for several days, by which time a number of other students would be absent or quarantining, it would be very difficult to cover all of the material. He felt that the hybrid option would allow students that were not feeling well to remain at home and be part of the class, or for him to teach from home if he was not well.

President Ricketts agreed that this was always an option for a faculty member to choose.

N. D'Amato was pleased to hear this and asked for some clarity because it was causing anxiety at present.

D. Keefe stated that the University was looking at possible impacts after January 24<sup>th</sup> and the Deans were discussing this with the Heads and Directors. Possibly some programs or portions of programs would be online but he stated that the approach needed to be managed. D. Keefe stated that employees would not be brought back to campus if it was not safe to do so. Hybrid delivery would not be required this year and the feedback from students had been that they preferred to be studying in-person this year.

D. Keefe stressed that faculty could take whatever approach they wanted to if they were feeling unwell or if students were unwell. Individual classes could be offered online at the discretion of the faculty member, but it was not expected that courses would be 100% online.

D. Keefe responded to C. Mutlu with respect to masking and stated that the bandanas and shields with no masks were not acceptable within the University masking policy and he suggested reporting students to Safety and Security if students were using these.

**From the Provost and  
VPA**

D. Keefe also welcomed J. Brady to Senate.

D. Keefe stated that the Planning Task Force would meet on Friday and receive information from Dr. R. Strang and from the Provincial Government. The Deans were consulting to determine what options could be available if not all courses could be offered in-person.

D. Keefe noted that if it was deemed unsafe, courses would remain online. However, he did not want decisions to be made on a week-by-week basis, so he expected that if the University went back to in-person courses on January 24<sup>th</sup>, things would continue that way unless there were exceptional circumstances requiring a change.

S. Duguay reported that applications for 2022/23 were around 3000 which was higher than the pre-pandemic numbers. This in turn generated higher

numbers of offers and acceptances from students. He noted the challenge on the international side while the pandemic continued. S. Duguay was pleased to see that the increase in enrolment was spread across all Faculties.

S. Duguay reported that the return to residence had been busy and complicated by the need to isolate students as required. There were currently eight students in isolation but obviously this changed from day to day. S. Duguay reported that about 80 students had remained in residence throughout the holiday break and that programming had been provided for them during that time. He thanked the residence staff for their commitment over the break.

S. Duguay noted that vaccinations would be mandatory for all students in residence during the winter term and that C. Landry was handling this.

D. Looker asked whether D. Keefe had seen an article in a recent issue of 'The Walrus' which discussed the recruitment of international students and concerns about the use of a recruiting tool called The Flyboard, which was used by Acadia. The article was entitled "the Shadowy Business of International Education".

D. Keefe was not aware of this particular article and neither was S. Duguay. S. Duguay explained that international students were picked up at the airport and there were many protocols to cover quarantine and vaccination if required. He noted that some countries were ahead of Canada with their vaccinations while others were well behind Canada. As a result, Acadia was scheduling vaccination clinics on campus.

The Chair provided a link to the article mentioned by D. Looker in the meeting Chat.

V. Provencal asked whether a student could be in residence if they were not vaccinated.

S. Duguay agreed that this was the case but that there would need to be medical exemptions. Deadline dates had been provided to the students and he noted that about 1% of the students had yet to be vaccinated. Providing proof of vaccination or being tested twice a week was also required.

The Chair asked what consequences a student could face if they did not complete the pledge or follow the vaccination or testing requirements.

D. Keefe stated that they could be deregistered from their classes and the University. C. Landry was tracking the list to ensure that students had completed the pledge.

**From the Associate VP  
Research, and Dean of  
Graduate Studies**

A. Redden welcomed E. Bremer, the new Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Kinesiology in the field of Healthy and Inclusive Communities. There was now a Canada Research Chair in each of the three Faculties. She noted that the CRC Program would be announcing this appointment and others shortly and a press release would be put out once that happened.

A. Redden stated that the submission date for 25.55 submissions would be moved to February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 following an MOU that had been signed by AUFA and the University. This was due to the Omicron situation.

A. Redden stated that her office would be announcing the NSERC undergraduate student research award competition shortly, followed by the honours summer research award competition. These applications will be due by mid-February.

**From the President of the Divinity College**

There were no announcements from the Divinity College or Faculty of Theology.

**From the President of the ASU**

M. Stanbrook noted that the ASU had been involved with discussions around Omicron recently.

C. Mutlu asked whether the Acadia Graduate Student Association and the Acadia Student Union were similar organizations, or whether one existed inside the other. He had heard that the AGSA did not have its Association standing this year.

M. Stanbrook agreed to look into this and report back to C. Mutlu.

A. Redden agreed that this was problematical. Because it was not an association, it was treated like a club. There were a large number of graduate students on campus and they did not feel as though they had an organization or a home meeting place. She noted that Senator N. Jamieson was leading a strong executive and trying to get the AGSA re-established. A. Redden was working with N. Jamieson on this initiative.

C. Mutlu explained that he was asking because the graduate students paid a fee for the AGSA and he felt that if students were paying fees the body should be separate from the ASU.

A. Redden agreed that those fees ought to be returned to the AGSA so that they could get themselves established. They were a group that had very different interests from the undergraduate students. A. Redden was investigating this matter.

D. Keefe stated that the University collected fees on behalf of the ASU and the AGSA only for the purpose of having the fees flow through to the organizations.

C. Mutlu requested clarity on what would happen to the money that was being paid by graduate students.

The Chair asked whether A. Redden would be willing to report back to Senate next month on this matter.

A. Redden expected that N. Jamieson would be at the next Senate meeting and could report. She pointed out that the association status had been lost last year and that this was a difficult time. The new Executive was attempting to set up some structure in order to ensure that the work done each year was carried forward to the following years. Previous Executives had not consistently done this in an effective manner.

**Other Announcements**

There were no other announcements.

**4) Old Business**

**a) Transition Reports from Senate Sub-Committees**

**i) By-laws transition report**

The By-laws Committee transition report was received.

**ii) Curriculum Committee (Administrative) transition report**

The Chair noted that this report was being provided verbally as it had been added to the agenda just prior to the meeting.

K. Pinder explained that the committee had met twice to work on the curriculum forms that had been received from units. These changes would be coming to Senate in February. There were many proposed changes as a result of the Colleague system implementation and as a result the Curriculum Committee had agreed to meet again in the Winter term.

The Curriculum Committee (Administrative) transition report was received.

**5) New Business**

**a) Notice of Motion from the By-laws Committee: Motion that Senate approves an amendment to incorporate changes in University administration/organizational structure in Senate Constitution and By-laws (attached)**

The Chair noted that this was a notice of a motion related to Constitutional changes, which will come Senate at its February meeting.

Igor Semenenko noted that this was a technical change to reflect changes to the University administrative/organizational structure, reflected in the Senate Constitution and By-laws.

D. Keefe pointed out that although the first two were title changes, the last one comprised of two separate portfolios currently filled by one individual. This might not be the case going forward. He asked the By-laws committee to consider these two positions and consider which references in the By-laws should be to the Director of Open Acadia and which should be to the Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning Innovations, since these were two distinct roles.

D. Keefe offered to meet with the By-laws committee to discuss the different roles for each of these portfolios. Open Acadia covered extension, outreach, non-credit and intersession. Teaching and Learning Innovations, and a Teaching and Learning Centre would provide support to both faculty and students in terms of pedagogy and development.

The Chair suggested that I. Semenenko follow up with D. Keefe on this matter and send an updated motion for Senate distribution.

J. Banks pointed out that the Faculty Support Committee membership currently showed a Coordinator of Academic Technologies, which was a position that no longer existed. At the moment the Manager of the Learning, Technology and Development group was filling the membership position.

The Chair asked I. Semenenko to also note this change to the Motion for Senate.

## 6) Question Period

J. Dyment asked for clarity regarding the proposed changes to the tuition model for 2022-2023.

D. Keefe stated that this was on the agenda for the February Board of Governors meeting.

J. Dyment pointed out that programs had in good faith made changes to their curriculum offerings to reflect a per course tuition model.

H. Teismann asked how active the Covid Planning Task Force had been recently.

D. Keefe confirmed that the committee had not met during the Fall but met before Christmas as the situation changed. Decisions were made to move the first two weeks online and the Task Force will be meeting again on Friday to receive input from the Deans and review information from Public Health. Data would be reviewed and a decision reached on what would happen after January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

P. Callaghan was considering the registration cycle to commence in March using Colleague. He was finding that students did not understand Colleague as well as they needed to despite of the resources that had been posted online for them. He asked what additional steps would be taken to support students so that they could fully utilize the student registration system.

D. Keefe responded that the ACE Project Team had received feedback that training and support was a concern and he stated that they were actively looking at ways in which they could provide better support. This could involve internally seconding a person who could provide support. The vendor's approach to training had not worked well for Acadia.

P. Callaghan asked what communications were going out to students because many were under-enrolled or enrolled in the wrong courses.

D. Keefe stated that the vendor had not expected students to be a concern. He wished to gather information that would demonstrate the scope of the problem.



C. Mutlu asked how the University decided to move into online learning and how it would decide how to move out of it, and how Senate was engaged in that decision making.

The Chair stated that in-person learning was the norm. In order to move into the mixed teaching modalities for the full 2020-2021 academic year, Senate had debated that decision in June of 2020. She noted that the current decision to move to online learning for a temporary period had been seen as an operational decision at the Planning Task Force because it was more related to the safety of students and faculty.

C. Mutlu asked what might happen in two weeks' time if the online learning needed to continue. He felt this to be a pedagogical question and asked whether there would be a debate at Senate on this point.

The Chair stated that this also came up on both the Covid Planning Task Force and at Senate Executive. She felt that there was a balance to be struck between temporary operational changes for safety and longer-term changes.

The Chair stated that she would continue to do her best to ensure that Senate debate issues that fall under its purview. The Chair noted the interaction between the responsibilities of the Senior Administration, the Senate, and the Faculty Association.

C. Mutlu thanked the Chair for clarifying the process.

D. Keefe pointed out that Senate had a role in planning when the University knew what things would be like for a longer period, for example the 2020-2021 changes, but when the University was reacting to a health and safety concern making it unsafe to continue in a certain mode for a temporary period, the University would need to make operational decisions based on health and safety. He pointed out that in December 2021 the in-person examinations were cancelled based in information and warnings received from the Occupational Health and Safety nurse on campus and from Public Health.

K. Pinder stated that she had asked at Senate Executive in December how confident the University was that the current plan to be online for only two weeks and then back to in-person learning was in fact a safe one. She noted that the response to her question had been that by January 10<sup>th</sup> the University would know more and that this could be discussed at Senate if necessary.

K. Pinder felt that there had been an opportunity to plan in advance and provide pedagogical reasoning behind what was happening. She commented that online teaching for those faculty that wished to do so and whose courses lent themselves to this modality could be planned in advance. On the other hand, it was not possible to plan in advance to safely return to campus on January 24<sup>th</sup>. She asked whether this could be considered.

The Chair noted that there were members of the Covid Planning Task Force and Senior Administration present and asked that these comments be recorded and noted.

V. Provencal referred the AUFA MOA that had been recently signed. There had been concerns that switching course back and forth between online and in-person would affect pedagogy, and that time was needed to make that adjustment. He felt that faculty needed flexibility to determine for themselves the best method of delivery for their courses. AUFA and the Board of Governors would need to discuss this. He pointed out that the AUFA contract currently stipulated that teaching was to be in-person.

V. Provencal felt that this should be discussed in Senate at a future date once the Covid pandemic had ended.

**7) Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Moved by V. Provencal.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

---

R. Hare, Recording Secretary

**Senate By-Laws Committee  
Plans for 2021-2022**

Committee members 2021-2022:

Arts: Can E. Mutlu  
Professional Studies: Igor Semenenko  
Pure & Applied Science: Michael Robertson  
Theology: Glenn Wooden

The duties of the Senate By-Laws Committee are:

- 1) to incorporate, on an annual basis, any changes to the By-laws of Senate occasioned by the decisions and operations of Senate;
- 2) to review any changes to the By-laws of Faculty and Faculty Councils prior to their presentation to Senate and recommend any revisions or additions deemed necessary;
- 3) to conduct periodic reviews of the By-laws of the Senate, Faculty and Faculty Councils and recommend any changes or additions deemed necessary. These reviews should be staggered such that the By-laws of each of these bodies are reviewed at a minimum every five years;
- 4) to monitor the evolution of the academic committees and to recommend changes to the committee structure of Faculty Councils and other bodies at the University for which it is responsible;
- 5) to deal with any other matters which Senate might refer to the Committee.

Committee held its first formal meeting of the year on 2 November 2021.

1. Igor Semenenko is appointed as chair of the Committee for the 2021-22 academic year.
2. The Committee meets as regularly as needed by the Senate, with virtual MS-Teams as the preferred medium for the 2021-22 academic year.
3. The Committee attends to issues as they arise; it recently introduced a motion to incorporate the following changes to The Constitution and By-Laws of the Senate of Acadia University:
  - replace “Dean of Research and Graduate Studies” with “Associate Vice-President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies”
  - replace “University Librarian” with “Dean of Libraries and Archives”
  - replace “Director of Open Acadia” with “Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Innovations and Director of Open Acadia”
4. In 2020-2021 the committee proposed the following motions:
  - that the membership of Senate Curriculum Committee (Admin) is changed to include Associate Registrar as an ex officio – non-voting – member as per the Committee’s request
  - that Research Ethics Board is no longer required to report on complaints it receives back to Senate

- that duties of the By-laws Committee is clarified in regard to responsibilities and procedures associated with the periodic reviews of Senate, Faculty, and Faculty Council bylaws
- that the membership of Senate to include two new ex-officio (non-voting) members. One for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer and one for Coordinator of Indigenous Affairs
- that Senate Library Committee be made redundant as per request from the Committee membership as highlighted in the Senate Library Committee – Annual Report to Senate 2019-20
- that Archives Committee’s list of duties include a mandate “to support academic activities.”

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bylaws Committee*  
*Igor Semenenko, chair*  
*Can E. Mutlu*  
*Glenn Wooden*  
*Michael Robertson*

## **Curriculum Committee (Admin) Transition Report 2021**

### **Membership of 2021-22 Committee:**

Chair of Curriculum Committee (Policy): Roxanne Seaman

Registrar: Mark Bishop

Assistant Registrar: Shawna Singleton

Dean of Libraries and Archives: Heather Saunders

Arts Rep: Sonia Hewitt

Arts Rep: Kait Pinder

Prof. Studies Rep: Igor Semenenko

Prof. Studies Rep: Michael Corbett

P&A Sc. Rep: Andrew Mitchell

P&A Sc. Rep: Rob Raeside

Theology Rep: Chris Killacky

Student Rep: Menat Tahoun

**Co-chairs:** Michael Corbett and Kait Pinder

**Secretary:** Mark Bishop

**Meeting dates:** The Committee met on Oct. 8 to decide on the chairs and future meetings. Meetings have taken place over Zoom or in person when possible.

The duties of the Curriculum Committee (Administrative) shall be:

- 1) to oversee and co-ordinate all proposed changes in undergraduate degree, certificate or diploma requirements, including interaction with the originators, and to make recommendations to Senate concerning such changes.
- 2) to identify issues arising as a result of recommended changes in undergraduate degree, certificate or diploma requirements, and to forward issues to relevant bodies for consideration and action.
- 3) to consider all changes in undergraduate courses from all departments or schools, or from any individual concerning changes in the curriculum, including interaction with the originators, and to make recommendations to Senate concerning such changes.
- 4) to collaborate with the Registrar's office to produce the programs of study and course listings sections of the annual Calendar.
- 5) to consider such matters as Senate may from time to time entrust to the Committee.

The Committee met on December 7, 2021 and January 4, 2022 to review curriculum changes submitted from across campus. These changes will be brought to Senate next month. Given the number of changes required by the implementation of the ACE system, the committee has agreed to meet again in the Winter term, if more forms are submitted by faculties.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Corbett and Kait Pinder

### **Notice of Motion from By-Laws Committee**

Motion that Senate approves an amendment to incorporate changes in University administration/organizational structure in Senate Constitution and By-Laws. References to the following three positions will be amended as follows:

- reference to “University Librarian” will be replaced with “Dean of Libraries and Archives”
- reference to “Dean of Research and Graduate Studies” will be replaced with “Associate Vice-President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies”
- reference to “Director of Open Acadia” will be replaced with “Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Innovations and Director of Open Acadia”

**Context:** changes to the constitution and bylaws will reflect changes to the University’s organizational structure.