

**MINUTES  
OF THE SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE 53rd SENATE  
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 @ 2:00 PM  
BY ZOOM**

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Present: Dr. David Docherty (Chair); Dr. Bernadette Ardelli; Dr. Edward Bach  
Dr. Heather Duncan; Dr. Derrek Eberts; Dr. Scott Forbes; Mr. Greg Gatien;  
Dr. Jane Karpa; Dr. Breanna Lawrence; Ms. Katie Gross; Mr. Scott Lamont;  
Ms. Stacey Lee; Dr. Lynn MacKay; Ms. Andrea McDaniel; Ms. Nancy McPherson;  
Ms. Susan Med; Dr. Serena Petrella; Mr. Grant Prairie; Dr. Doug Ramsey;  
Dr. Lisa Robson; Dr. Steve Robinson; Dr. Linda Ross; Ms. Tami Rourke;  
Ms. Melanie Sucha; Dr. Candy Skyhar; Dr. Gautam Srivastava;  
Mr. James Maxon (BUSU); Ms. Sophia Rivera (BUSU);  
Ms. Kim Fallis (Recording Secretary).

Regrets: Mr. Max Kemp (BUSU); Ms. Christina Keshane (BUSU);  
Ms. Jennifer Omoregie (BUSU);

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**1. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION 165.FEB21 Skyhar/Lawrence**

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Amendments:

- 4.3.1 Spring/Summer 2021 Online
- 4.3.2 Election of representative to Student Services review committee (“one person from outside the unit/program appointed by Senate”)
- 4.3.3 Election of replacement representative on the Senate Research Committee for Senate Award for Excellence in Research adjudication process Senator nominated
- 4.3.4 Fall Delivery Discussion

**CARRIED**

**2. Closed Session**

**MOTION 166.FEB21 Petrella/Gross**

THAT the committee move into CLOSED session.

**CARRIED**

**3. Raise Motion(s) from Closed Session**

The following motions were raised from Closed Session

THAT Senate approve that motion 168.FEB21 final list of February 23, 2021 Graduates.

THAT motion 169.FEB 21 SE be moved to Open Session, conditional upon the honorand’s agreement to acceptance an Honorary Degree from Brandon University.

**4. Open Session**

4.1. Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2021

**MOTION 172.FEB21 McPherson/Forbes**

THAT the minutes of January 19, 2021 be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

4.2. Business Arising

4.2.1. Special Motions Passed by Senate Executive on Behalf of Senate *for information*

4.3. New Business

4.3.1. Spring/Summer 2021 Teaching Online

**MOTION 174.FEB21 Robinson/Gatien**

THAT Brandon University continue to deliver Spring/Summer 2021 courses virtually, other than those recommended by the Course Scheduling Working Group and approved by Senate to be offered in-person.

**CARRIED**

4.3.2. Election of Student Services Review representative elected by Senate Breanna

Senator Duncan nominated Senator Lawrence  
Senator nominated Senator Lee

**ELECTED**

Using the polling function on zoom a election was conducted. Senator Lawrence was deciare as the Senate elected individual on the Student Services internal review.

4.3.3. Election of Senate representative to the selection of the Senate Awards in Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research

Senator Skyhar volunteered

**Elected by acclamation**

4.3.4. Teaching on Campus for the fall – discussion

There was discussion by the committee regarding the delivery of courses during the Fall 2021 session and items that should be considered.

- What will social distancing rules be like in September?
- How much of the population will have received vaccinations?
- Will current classroom be large enough to meet the social distancing requirements?
- Chairs of the Faculty of Arts have met and have had the discussion and they feel that September would be too soon to offer courses on campus.
- What will the cleaning protocol for classrooms be after each class?
- Students will be looking at registering for Fall classes and how they are to be delivered could be a deciding factor of if they will continue their education next year or take a year off.
- Students need to be included in the discussion.
- Problems and gaps from this last year must be solved moving forward

- If courses are to be delivered on campus where will the larger classes be held.
- The University needs to direct more resources to Student supports. Students are missing the social interaction of on campus learning.
- BU should have conduct a survey of our students
- There should not be a hybrid of course delivery. Students may have issues with having an online class and then their next one on campus how will they make it their campus course and not be late.
- Representative from BUSU reported that students are dealing with more stress with online exams more than the classes being virtually.
- Education students in the two year after degree could graduate without every being on campus at all.

4.3.5. Scholarships, Bursaries, Medals, and Awards Committee of Senate (Sen. Gatien)

4.3.5.1. New Awards

**MOTION 173.FEB21 SC Gatien/Duncan**

THAT Senate approve the following new awards:

- Alan Ehnes Memorial Brass Scholarship
- Janine Gerencser Memorial Scholarship in Music Theory
- Be Excellent to Each Other Bursary

**CARRIED**

4.3.6. Indigenous Education Senate Subcommittee (Sen. Sucha)

4.3.6.1. Mandatory Indigenous Education Course Requirement

**MOTION 175.FEB21 IESSC Sucha/Robinson**

THAT the Senate approve that a minimum of 3 (three) credit hours of Indigenous education is required for every undergraduate and graduate degree at Brandon University. On the model of liberal education requirements.

AND

THAT Students will chose from a list of approved courses.

There was a discussion that included the following:

- All members of Senate were in agreement in principle with the motion, however they have a number of concerns.
- The committee was concerned with the burden that could be placed on the department of Native Studies to meet this requirement.
- The individuals that deliver the indigenous courses need to be very knowledgeable in indigenous culture.
- Indigenous instructors need to be in support of this requirement.
- How will these courses be included in student degrees.
- Hiring of a individual who would have the capacity to teach these courses only.
- If BU wants to indigenize the student experience then requiring one three hour course into the degree requirements will not accomplish that.
- The University of Winnipeg initiated a program two years ago that each student is required to take some indigenized course content. The IEC contact the University of Winnipeg to see how there program is working.

After much discussion the following motion was proposed and carried

**MOTION 176.FEB21 IESC Eberts/Petrella**

THAT Senate postpone motion 175.FEB21 until the September Senate pending review and further review and investigation and development by the curriculum committees.

**CARRIED**

#### 4.3.7. Report from the Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) President

Senator Maxon reported on the following:

- BUSU had a successful snowintation. We collaborated with BUGA to have a virtual game night where students could play games, have fun, build community and meet other BU students. We received a lot of positive feedback through Discord, Facebook, emails; and BUGA had new signups on their Discord server as well.
- BUSU also had a virtual yoga session as part of snowintation and we had a fair turn out. Possibly because students had classes at that time.
- BUSU partnered with UTILE to conduct a survey to see what housing challenges students are facing and hope to use the result to better serve students and help them find better housing.
- BUSU is celebrating Black History month properly for the first time. Throughout the month, we will be highlighting Prominent black people and their achievements in the advancement of black people. We also partnered with a BU student to run a weekly podcast talking about black issues especially black mental health and the stigma behind it. We will also be having a zoom meeting with the president of the newly formed collective Racialized collective (formed October 2020) to talk about black history.
- BUSU started a monthly meeting with the president of the university and we are looking forward to our discussions.
- BUSU is currently running its annual election and as such some senate/council members have taken a leave of absence to run. The election will end on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:30pm.

#### 4.3.8. Report from the Board of Governors Representative to Senate (Sen. Rourke)

Senator Rourke had to leave the meeting earlier so Dr. Docherty reported that at the last meeting of the Board the committee reviewed the university budget.

#### 4.3.9. Reports from the Members of Deans' Council

Arts – Senator Robson

- The next instalment of the Faculty of Arts Speaker Derious will be Dr. Dwivdula (Business Administration) – Entrepreneurship Studies in Higher Education a Bibliometric Analysis from Canada. Business administration
- Arts is currently conducting searches from three positions one term position and two tenure track positions.

Science – Senator Ardelli

- Searches:  
Tenure track position in Psychology – clinical psychologist  
Tenure track position in Mathematics and Computer Science – software engineering  
Five-year term position in Biology – toxicologist  
One-year term position in Chemistry – analytical and/or physical chemist
- Major / Minor Count:

B.Sc. – 507 majors (21 co-op)  
B.A. – 165 majors  
Minor – 589

- Why scientists say ‘plastivores’ could be the solution to plastic pollution - a recent PBS/Why/NPR piece part of a discussion on plastic pollution and plastivores. Drs. Chris LeMoine & Bryan Cassone- Biology
- The link: <https://why.org/segments/why-scientists-say-plastivores-could-be-the-solution-to-plastic-pollution/>
- CBC's Information Radio - MB: A Brandon University Professor and his student played an integral part in discovering it. Wondering what that find is? The link:
- <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-29-information-radio-mb/clip/15824926-a-brandon-university-professor-student-played-integral-part?onboarding=false>
- World Cancer Day 2021 - Thursday, February 4, 2021
- The Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM) and their foundation featured the research of Dr. Michael Charette.
- Sunday February 28 is World Rare Disease Day. A number of events will be taking place across the globe – the program of events can be found at [rarediseaseday.org](http://rarediseaseday.org). There will be events in Manitoba that will feature the research of Dr. Michael Charette and their work on Bowen-Conradi Syndrome.
- Provincial Engineering and Geoscience Week in Manitoba is from February 28 to March 7. Brandon University will be celebrating (as much as we can) the year 2021 as it marks 110 years in the study of geoscience at the university.
- Hunter Plowman accepted by the University of Waterloo as a Masters student. Worked as a NSERC USRA and completed topics courses on fractional integral equations. In collaboration with Dr. Chenkuan Li (supervisor) three joint research papers in the journals of Mathematics and Axioms were produced.
- Department of Mathematics & Computer Science will host the Western Canada Linear Algebra Meeting (May 29-30, 2021) - online format.
- Master of Science Thesis Defense - Cody Koloski, MSc. Environmental & Life Sciences Candidate
- Title: The Repellency Effect of DEET on the American Dog Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*): An Investigation through Behavioral and Molecular Analysis.

#### Music – Senator Gatien

- School of Music has two faculty searches underway.
- Registration opened on Friday for the Music Enrichment Program. This program is an online outreach program to provide some high quality music instructions to students in the public school system.
- There are four pro-series in the next two months Aaron Wilson, Daniel Tselyakov – former student, Cathy Wood & Nancy Hennen,
- Music graduate students are organizing an online community celebration of their music making achievements over the year where they are unable to see each other.
- They have had responses from current and graduated international students organizing outreach to international communities.

Education – Senator Duncan

- VP Research – The committee adjudicated NSERC awards for undergraduate awards. There seven awards given as well as two indigenous awards.
- There were 27 BURC awards submitted by faculty, the committee did not give out there total budget but this could be due to the impact that COVID 19 has had on research.
- In Education Faculty – Students will be beginning their final placements in two weeks.
- Education has four searches underway.

Health Studies – Senator Ross

- They currently have two searches underway.
- Health Studies students are in the process of receiving their COVID 19 vaccinations.

Dean of Students – Senator Gross

- The Indigenous Peoples' Centre in partnership with the Faculties will be hosting various virtual events for Indigenous Education Month from February 14-March 21.
- The External Review for Student Services should begin late Spring.
- Recruitment is hosting an Indigenous Sponsor Day on March 3, 2021.

CIO – Senator Sucha

- As health orders in Manitoba continue to change, Library & IT Services maintains its operations in a mainly virtual capacity, with some essential services available on campus (study spot/workstation appointments, contactless book pickup).
- IT Services completed a firewall replacement on January 30. This change enables greater reliability our network, already mitigating one major outage from our partners on February 15 from impacting BU's IT environment.
- The Library and Archives received funding from the Research Office that is being applied towards digitization of Manitoba Elevator Pool Records, the Brandon Sun, and Indigenous newspaper collections.
- The Library has released a new virtual book display for Freedom to Read Week Feb 21-27.
- The Library provided support to the Diversity and Human Rights office in gathering a bibliography of works by Black authors to support Black History Month events.

University Registrar – Ms. McDaniel

- The convocation committee is actively reviewing what it may look like in May and would like to make a public announcement by the end of March. Information will be updated on the graduation website as well as sending messages out to students.

4.3.10. Report from the Vice-President (Academic & Provost) (Sen. Robinson)

Senator Robinson had no reported at this time.

4.3.11. Report from the President (Dr. Docherty)

Dr. Docherty reported on the following:

- The joint meeting of the Senate and Board of Governors has been delayed at this time.
- The government has just released a report Manitoba Skills Talent and Knowledge Strategy. There are some good information in the document including-

promoting truth and reconciliation, increased work integrated learning and employment and improving outcomes in this areas.

- He suggested that Senate form an ad hoc committee to discuss the report.

**5. Other Business**

**6. Correspondence**

**7. Adjournment**

**MOTION 178.FEB21 Bach/Gross**

THAT the Senate adjourn at 4:46 pm

**CARRIED**