

**MINUTES  
OF THE SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE 53rd SENATE  
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 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 Gatién;  
Dr. Jane Karpa; Dr. Breanna Lawrence; Ms. Katie Gross; Mr. Scott Lamont;  
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;  
Ms. Sophia Rivera (BUSU);  
Ms. Kim Fallis (Recording Secretary).

Regrets: Ms. Stacey Lee; Ms. Olufunke Adeleye (BUSU);  
Ms. Valentina Eigbiremonien (BUSU); Mr. Max Kemp (BUSU);  
Ms. Christina Keshane (BUSU); Mr. James Maxon;  
Ms. Jennifer Omoregie (BUSU); Ms. Alexia Walters (BUSU);

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**1. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION 157.JAN21 Gross/Rourke**

THAT the agenda be approved as distributed.

**CARRIED**

**2. Closed Session**

**MOTION 158.JAN21 Robinson/Bach**

THAT the committee move into CLOSED session.

**CARRIED**

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

No motions were raised from Closed Session at this meeting.

**4. Open Session**

4.1. Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2020

**MOTION 161.JAN21 Rourke/Robinson**

THAT the minutes of December 15, 2020 be approved as distributed.

**CARRIED**

4.2. Continuing Business

4.2.1. Indigenous Education Committee

Senator Robinson reported on the following:

- The recent report of the Auditor General into the governance of Universities and Colleges in Manitoba has suggested that the composition and structure of these institutions' governing bodies be revised.
- Because of the recommendation from the Auditor General, the Indigenous Education Committee of Senate has made asked that the Senate support their recommendation as noted in the following motions.

**MOTION 162.JAN21 IEC Robinson/Petrella**

THAT Senate recommend to the President that he pursue changes to the BU Board of Governors composition such that one seat at least be designated reserved for an Indigenous member.

**CARRIED**

Discussion by the committee:

- Dr. Docherty was asked what recommendation he would make to the Government regarding how this seat should be filled: will it be an additional seat or will an existing seat be converted to be held by a member of the Indigenous community? Dr. Docherty said that he would have discussion with the Board of Governors on this point.

**MOTION 163.JAN21 IEC Robinson/Bach**

THAT Senate recommend to the President that he pursue changes to the BU Senate composition such that one seat at least be designated reserved for an Indigenous member.

AND

THAT any proposal not diminish the current proportion of faculty and students on Senate. (Friendly amendment)

**CARRIED**

- Some Senators supported this motion in principle but were unable to vote in support of the motion if it meant that either the number of faculty members or the number of students were reduced.
- Many suggestions were offered and questions asked as to who this individual could be or what University role they might hold.
  - Does it have to be an individual of Indigenous descent?
  - Could the Director, Indigenous Peoples' Centre become a member of Senate?
  - There are currently two positions on Senate for which there are no members because the associated University position titles, as noted in the BU Act, no longer exist.

4.3. New Business

4.3.1. Report from the Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) President (Sen. Adeleye)

There was no report from BUSU as Senator Adeleye was absent with regrets.

4.3.2. Report from the Board of Governors Representative to the Senate (Senator Rourke)

Senator Rourke was unable to make a report from the Board at the December 15, 2020 meeting. She has since forwarded a report to the Senate Office.

- The Board of Governors' last meeting was held November 20th, 2020.

- Dr. Docherty reported on the Senate granting Dr. Meir Serfaty Professor Emeritus status on November 17th and noted other award acknowledgments throughout BU.
- The Board was able to see the final list of October graduates.
- The Board spent the majority of its open session discussing the ongoing University budget. The Board requested that the University present, throughout the year, status updates of where the budget is at and revised projections, including rationale, if there are distinct changes. Mr. Lamont led the Board through changes in enrollment, projected out the changes and demonstrated their effects on the financials. The Board also reviewed the financial impact of COVID-19 on the University.
- For general knowledge, the Board receives reports from the following committees:
  - Brandon University Senate
  - Knowles Douglas Centre
  - BU Retirement Plan Trustees
  - Brandon University Foundation
  - Brandon University Students' Union

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

##### Arts – Senator Robson

- The Faculty of Arts is recruiting for three positions: one term position in History and two tenure track positions in Native Studies.
- The Faculty will be offering a large number of courses for Spring/Summer 2021.
- There are two Arts Speaker Series, with the first speaker being Kevin McKenzie from the IshKaabatens Waasa Gaa Inaabateg Department of Visual Arts on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The title of his presentation is Confronting the Intangible. The second series begins on January 19<sup>th</sup> and is called How Inciteful. It has been organized by students from the Department of Political Science and will run over three weeks. The theme of the series is “the lasting impact of Trump on society”.
- There was an article in the Brandon Sun regarding donations made to various community organizations by BU's Gender and Women's Studies program. The money for the donations came from the Margaret Laurence endowment fund.

##### Science – Senator Ardelli

- Dr. Mousumi Majumder (Department of Biology) is a Tier II Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Genotoxicology. There is a substantial CFI associated with it.
- Dr. David Greenwood (Department of Biology) - A dinosaur's last meal: A 110 million-year-old dinosaur's stomach contents are revealed; CNN - Science's most fascinating and awe-inspiring discoveries in 2020
- Congratulations to Dr. Rachel Herron, Associate Professor in Geography & Environment and CRC in Rural and Remote Mental Health, on receiving \$ 260,101 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for their research project entitled “Safe Places for Aging and Care? A Site-Specific Analysis of Features Influencing Violence in Care of Older Adults”
- Science has received a very unique piece of equipment called the Anatomage Table. We will be the 5<sup>th</sup> university in Canada to own one of these. The Anatomage Table is the most technologically advanced anatomy visualization system on the market in the world. It is described as a game changer in student learning.
- Dr. Gwyn Richards, Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, retired on 31 December 2020 after 38 years of service; he began his appointment in 1982.

##### Education – Senator Duncan

- The Faculty of Education is recruiting for four vacant positions.
- They are in the process of recruiting for students in both the graduate and undergraduate programs and it is going well.

- The Brandon University Journal of Graduate Studies is edited by Dr. Marion Terry and is a peer reviewed journal that focuses on graduate student authored articles. The BU Journal of Graduate Studies is approved and indexed by ERIC. ERIC is an online library of education research and information, sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences. Recent numbers from ERIC indicated that BU Graduate student articles had been downloaded over 19,000 times in the last 6 months, which are tremendous metrics, and show that BU graduate students' research is widely read.

#### Health Studies – Senator Ross

- The Faculty of Health Studies have hired two new IAs in the Department of Nursing.
- They are recruiting for a position in the Department of Psychiatric Nursing.
- They are still hopeful that all of the 4<sup>th</sup> year students clinical placements will continue without interruption and these students will graduate this year.

#### Music – Senator Gatien

- The School of Music is dealing with the passing of a previous Dean as Dr. Glen Carruthers passed away in December. There are still many faculty members at BU who worked with Glenn. The faculty are looking for a way to honour his work at Brandon University.
- The School of Music recently hosted its first virtual open house. They had approximately 38 students attend and have received 20 applications for next year.
- The Brandon University Music Educators Association held a virtual conference with 70 participants from a number of peer institutions across western Canada. There were a number of presentations by faculty members from, Brandon University, University of Toronto, Oregon State University, University of British Columbia, as well as Music Educators from New Brunswick and Manitoba.
- They are doing a collaborative festival with the group, Sound Scotland.
- They have posted a tenure track Composition position with a focus on Indigenous knowledge. The School of Music is currently recruiting for two full-time faculty positions.

#### Dean of Students – Senator Gross

- Virtual New Student Orientation was held on January 4, 2021.
- January 25-29th, 2021 is Bell Let's Talk week. Counsellor Marsha Harris is once again hosting the "Movies for Mental Health" event on Tuesday, January 26th.
- There are currently 97 students in residence.
- Thanks to the Office of International Activities and the WUSC Committee for assisting to reach out to international students during their 14 day quarantine. There are 7 students now on campus from the Emerging Leaders of Americas program.
- Please encourage students to visit BU's social media pages and online events to help build relationships.

#### CIO – Senator Sucha

- Library & IT Services continues operating in limited capacity and as an essential service in line with public health orders. Reference, research and IT Helpdesk are available remotely. Access to wifi study spots and Convergys Lab workstations remain available by appointment.
- Network outages in Fall term were investigated with MERLIN and they have reported back on resolution and mitigations.
- Two issues with online proctored exams were escalated to the CIO during finals. These have been resolved and process improvements were discussed with the vendor, Top Hat.
- Cybersecurity assessment work is underway. A firewall upgrade is scheduled for February for ongoing maintenance and improvement to BU's IT security infrastructure.

- Speaking Our Truth Book Club launched in collaboration with the IPC and Organizational Learning. It is facilitated by Susie McPherson-Derendy.
- The CIO is engaged in the Indigenous Education Senate Committee, which is exploring avenues to broaden access to Indigenous programming, with a vision for recognition and celebration of Indigenous worldviews in balance with western worldviews at Brandon University.
- Budget Allocation Implementation Committee has reconvened to examine results of the new budget model pilot. Senate Library and Archives Committee to be re-engaged in March.

University Registrar – Ms. McDaniel

- The Winter 2020 course add/drop deadline is today (January 19).
- The deadline for students to request Pass/No Credit grade conversions for Fall 2020 courses is tomorrow (January 20).
  - Students who have an outstanding Incomplete or Deferred Exam on a Fall 2020 course after the request deadline will have two weeks from the time that the INC or DEFX is changed to a letter grade to request Pass/No Credit grade conversion.
- The Convocation planning team is beginning to work on Spring Convocation 2021.
  - The team is operating under the assumption that a full, traditional set of Convocation ceremonies will not be possible due to the ongoing pandemic and so is looking at alternate more restricted in-person and hybrid options.
  - If Senators have ideas, they should feel free to send them to Ms. McDaniel so she can share with the planning team.
- The ongoing ERP implementation is presenting an opportunity to create policies to fill existing gaps and revise long-standing policies that no longer function as originally intended/desired; Senators will begin to see a number of policy drafts coming to their Faculty/School councils in the coming months:
  - Graduate level – academic performance assessment and progress tracking; leaves of absence; continuing registration requirements/active status.
  - Undergraduate level – academic performance assessment; PLAR & Challenge for Credit; Mature admission.

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

Senator Robinson reported on the following:

- Last spring, an external review was scheduled for Student Services but due to COVID-19 this did not happen. This review will begin moving forward, and he will be bringing the information back to Senate hopefully in the spring.

4.3.5. Report from the President (Dr. Docherty)

Dr. Docherty reported on the following:

- He reminded Senators that at the February meeting of Senate Executive, they will be reviewing the nominations that have been forwarded for Chancellor. Their selection will come forward to the February meeting of Senate.
- The search for the Provost is moving forward. There are three candidates who will be making presentations to the campus on January 29<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup>, and February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Annual Fund fundraising drive was successful with over \$283,000 raised by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The largest amount, over \$47,000, was directed to the Student Emergency Fund.
- There will be another joint meeting of the Board and Senate in late February.

- In the Fall of 2019, Dr. Docherty was in Ottawa and met with the Presidents of SSHRC and NSERC. The office of the President of SSHRC, Mr. Ted Hewitt, contacted him regarding interest in having a virtual meeting with Brandon University. Dr. Docherty, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Robson, and Dr. Hewitt's office will be discussing a virtual town hall meeting, and all interested faculty members will be invited to attend.

**5. Other Business**

**6. Correspondence**

**7. Adjournment**

**MOTION 164.JAN21 Skyhar/Lamont**

THAT the Senate adjourn at 3:15 pm.

**CARRIED**