

OPEN MINUTES
SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE 56th SENATE
HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 @ 2:00 pm
ROOM 045, HEALTH STUDIES BUILDING

Present: David Docherty (Chair); Edward Bach; Brody Burr; Kofi Campbell; Kathryn Chachula; Chidimma Joy Chikezie; Matteo Di Muro; Mabel Dzigbordzi; Alysha Farrell; Greg Gatien; Linden Haubrick; Bryan Hill; Taylor Holland; Christophe LeMoine; Rory Lucyshyn-Wright; Michelle Magnusson; Andrea McDaniel; Eftihia Mihelakis (Zoom); Chukwuanugo Okudo; Doug Ramsey; Lisa Robson (Zoom); Curt Shoultz; Balfour Spence; Melanie Sucha (Zoom); Katie Whelpton; Britney McNamee (Recording Secretary).

Regrets: Barbara MacKalski; Linda Ross.

Absent: Chris Lagimodiere (non-voting); Scott Lamont; Mary Jane McCallum; Grant Prairie.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION 016.SEP23 LeMoine/Spence

THAT the Senate approve the Open Session agenda of the September 19, 2023, meeting as presented.

CARRIED

2. Closed Session

MOTION 017.SEP23 LeMoine/Magnusson

THAT the Senate move into Closed Session.

CARRIED

3. Motion(s) Raised from Closed Session

No motions were raised from Closed Session.

4. Open Session

4.1. Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2023

MOTION 021.SEP23 Shoultz/Magnusson

THAT the Senate approve the Open Session minutes of the June 13, 2023, meeting as attached.

CARRIED

4.2. Business Arising

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

MOTION E001.SEP23 Hill/Bach

THAT the Senate Executive, acting on behalf of the Senate, approve a one-time exception to the entrance scholarship policy for the School of Music, as outlined in the letter from Greg Gatien, dated August 9, 2023.

CARRIED

4.2.2. Election of ONE Senator to the Board of Governors (2-Year Term)

- Senator Magnusson resigned from the remaining year of her existing 2-year term as a Senate representative to the Board of Governors.
- Senator Whelpton nominated Senator Magnusson to serve the available 2-year term as a Senate representative to the Board of Governors.
- Senator Gatien nominated Senator Bach to serve the remaining year of the term vacated by Senator Magnusson.

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

4.2.3. Re-election of Student Senators for Knowles Visiting Professorship and Senate

Executive

- Senator Okudo and Senator Burr accidentally self-nominated to the wrong committees. Both Senators have resigned.
- Senator Burr volunteered to serve as the Student Senator on the Committee to Administer the Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professorship.
- Senator Okudo volunteered to serve as the Student Senator on the Senate Executive Committee.

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

4.3. Continuing Business

4.4. New Business

4.4.1. Elections

4.4.1.1. Indigenous Education Committee (IESSC)

- Three members of Senate, including a BUSU representative

Senator Gatien volunteered to serve on this committee.
Senator Farrell volunteered to serve on this committee.

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

Senator Okudo indicated that because none of the current Student Senators are Indigenous, they need to confer with the rest of the BUSU Executive before

nominating a Student Senator for this committee. This will be brought back at the October Senate meeting.

4.4.1.2. Academic Integrity Committee

- Faculty or School Dean (replacing Heather Duncan)

Senator LeMoine volunteered to be the Faculty/School Dean representative on the Academic Integrity Committee.

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

4.4.1.3. Bylaws Review Committee

- One representative from each Faculty/School, two of whom must be Senators
- One Student Senator elected by Senate

The following Senators volunteered to the committee:

- Arts – no representative elected
- Education – Senator Di Muro
- Music – Senator Gatien
- Science – Senator Lucyshyn-Wright
- Health Studies – Senator Chachula
- Student Senator – Senator Okudo

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

4.4.1.4. Dean of Science Search Committee

- Two Faculty Senators, elected by Senate, who are not members of the Faculty/School concerned

Senator Hill nominated Senator Ramsey to be a Faculty Senator on the Dean of Science Search Committee.

Senator Gatien nominated Senator Bach to be a Faculty Senator on the Dean of Science Search Committee.

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

- One Student Senator, normally from the Faculty/School concerned

Senator Haubrick volunteered to be the Student Senator representative for the Dean of Science Search Committee.

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

4.4.2. Faculty of Health Studies

Nursing

4.4.2.1. Nursing New Policies

MOTION 022.SEP23 Chachula/Whelpton

THAT the Senate approve the attached Math Competency for BN Students policy, as submitted by the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies, and the policy be effective immediately.

CARRIED

Psychiatric Nursing

4.4.2.2. Psychiatric Nursing New Policies

MOTION 023.SEP23 Chachula/Whelpton

THAT the Senate approve the attached Math Competency for B.Sc.P.N. Students policy, as submitted by the Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Faculty of Health Studies, and the policy be effective immediately.

CARRIED

4.4.3. Graduate Studies Committee (Sen. Campbell)

4.4.3.1. Faculty of Education – Master of Education

4.4.3.1.1. Graduate Education Course Revisions

MOTION 024.SEP23 Farrell/Shoultz

THAT the Senate approve the following course revisions, as submitted by the Master of Education, Faculty of Education:

- 01.770 Issues and Trends in Leadership and Educational Administration
- 02.793 Graduate Explorations in Education
- 07.798 Selected Topics in Education

CARRIED

4.4.4. Senate Bylaws Revisions

4.4.4.1. New Senate Standing Sub-committee: Indigenous Curricular Content Committee

MOTION 025.SEP23 Campbell/LeMoine

THAT the Senate approve creation of a new standing sub-committee, the Indigenous Curricular Content Committee, with Terms of Reference as proposed.

CARRIED

Two Senators proposed adding at least one student representative to the Indigenous Curricular Content Committee, and there was general agreement that student representation is important. Another Senator also expressed the need for more Faculty members to hold membership to this committee. However, given that the committee needs to begin its work immediately in order to consider additional courses for the Indigenous Content Course Requirement list before December, it was agreed that revisions to the membership of this committee would be reviewed by the Senate Bylaws Review Committee as part of its normal work this fall.

4.4.4.2. Remove Brandon University Biosafety Committee from Senate Bylaws

The Senate decided to wait until the Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies assumes their position to consider this motion. The VP will formally bring this motion to Senate accompanied by an operational plan. The notice of motion will stand in the meantime.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

4.4.5. Registrar's Office (A. McDaniel)

4.4.5.1. Faculty/School Specific Academic Policies

MOTION 026.SEN23 Whelpton/Chachula

THAT the Senate approve that all departments and faculties must review existing department/faculty-specific academic regulations and policies to identify those that have not been approved by the curriculum committees and Senate and bring them through the formal academic approval processes;

AND

THAT moving forward, all department/faculty-specific academic regulations and policies must flow through the normal academic approval processes, culminating with approval by Senate.

Friendly amendment:

THAT the Senate approve that all departments and faculties must review existing department/faculty-specific academic regulations and policies to identify those that have not been approved by the curriculum committees and Senate and bring them through the formal academic approval processes;

AND

THAT moving forward, all department/faculty-specific academic regulations and policies must flow through the normal academic approval processes, culminating with approval by Senate;

AND

THAT the review and approval of existing department/faculty-specific academic regulations and policies be complete within one year.

CARRIED

There was robust discussion about what constitutes an “academic policy”. The Brandon University Act indicates that the Senate is responsible for the “academic policy of the University” without further definition or qualification. As such, any policy that concerns academic matters at the University falls under the purview of Senate and needs to be approved by that body, even if the policy is limited in scope/application.

4.4.5.2. Retroactive Post-Graduation Student Record Corrections *for information*

The Senate received notice of the following retroactive post-graduation student record correction for information:

Reanne Janee Vanden Brink (201161)

- Major corrected from Performance & Literature (Collaborative Piano) to Performance & Literature (Piano)

4.4.6. Scholarships and Awards Committee of Senate (Sen. Gatien)

4.4.6.1. Award Revisions

MOTION 027.SEP23 LeMoine/Shoultz

THAT the Senate approve revisions to the Terms of Reference for the following awards, as attached:

- Elizabeth Ann Bremner Award
- Senior Botany Scholarship in Biology

CARRIED

4.4.6.2. Award Deletions

MOTION 028.SEP23 Gatien/LeMoine

THAT the Senate approve the following award deletions as submitted by the Scholarships and Awards Committee of Senate:

- Dean's Awards for Undergraduate Research Excellence

CARRIED

There was concern that deleting this award would reduce the availability of funds available to recognize quality undergraduate research. It was explained that these awards have never had specific, definite amounts allocated to them. They were direct-funded by the University on an annual basis if/as awarded. Accordingly, deleting these awards will not compromise the University's ability to create a new mechanism to publicly and meaningfully recognize undergraduate research.

4.4.7. Report from the Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) President (Sen. Chukwuanugo Okudo)

Senator Okudo reported on the following:

- BUSU helped with Student Orientation which was a huge success; students appreciated what was offered.
- On September 12, BUSU held Services Day in collaboration with the Canadian Federation of Students.
- BUSU assisted the Office of International Activities with the Clear Lake trip and barbeque.
- BUSU held the Decades Social at Bailey's on September 15th for Homecoming weekend.
- On September 19, BUSU will welcome community members to inform students about what BUSU does.

4.4.8. Report from the Board of Governors Representative (Sen. MacKalski)

- Barbara MacKalski was absent with regrets, but Senator Bach indicated that the Board of Governors had recently passed fifteen resolutions, which were summarized in an email sent to the BU community by the President's Office.

4.4.9. Reports from the Members of Deans' Council (Dr. Docherty)

Faculty of Arts – Senator Spence

- The Faculty of Arts welcomed several new faculty and staff, including Dr. Stacey Koosel (IshKaabatens Waasa Gaa Inaabateg Department of Visual Art), Dr. Mikhail Tsoy (Business Administration), Dr. Mohamed Ebeid (Economics), Dr. Natalie LaFleur (Francophone Studies & Languages), and Heather Gillander (Business Administration Program Advisor).
- Dr. Wayne Kelly transitioned from Interim Director to Director of the Rural Development Institute (RDI).
- The recent search for a Sociology faculty member failed.
- Three new certificate programs are up and running: two in French and one in Business
 - Business Administration received 47 applicants, 11 were admitted.
- First-time enrollment increased in the Faculty of Arts by 21.9% over the last year. Domestic student enrollment increased by 25%; Indigenous student enrollment increased by 26%; International student enrollment increased by 9%.
- Senator Spence informed the Senate of a Rural Development graduate student gathering to be held on September 20th at 5pm at Bailey's celebrating diversity, where attendees are invited to dress in attire from their culture.

Faculty of Science – Senator LeMoine

- The Faculty of Science has welcomed 2 new faculty members: Dr. Shrin Pal, Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Roberto Limongi in Psychology.
- On September 5th, C. LeMoine hosted an orientation event for new students, with Cora Dupuis as a guest. Throughout the afternoon, several departments in Science organized sessions for students to explore the building and various programs in Science.
- On September 15th, MELS had an orientation for graduate students. It was well attended and provided students with various tips to get started on their degrees.
- On September 16th, Science unveiled the latest addition to the Science Wall of distinction on the 1st floor of Brodie Building. This year they celebrated Abraham Kuot, an outstanding alumnus and WUSC student. Please stop by the wall of distinction and read his amazing journey of "Braving the world through education".
- On September 21st, Brandon University's Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies department is hosting the Manitoba Association of Municipal Emergency Coordinators (MAMEC). The MAMEC members will be learning and practicing the skills for setting up an evacuation center in EOL.

Faculty of Education – Senator Farrell

- Dr. Ayodeji Osiname accepted a 1-year term in the Department of Leadership and Educational Administration.
- The Faculty of Education added a standing item to their Faculty Council Meetings titled, *Curriculum in Conversation*. The purpose of this standing item is to deepen and broaden the collective understanding about important issues in public education, and to spark new questions, thinking, and ideas in classes, departments, programs and research centre. The first Curriculum in Conversation focused on the Parental Rights Movement.
- The Faculty of Education will begin working on the After Degree Program Review recommendations in October.

- On October 3, the Faculty of Education will be hosting an event centred on the story, Valley of the Birdtail, that will be open to the university community.

School of Music – Senator Gatien

- The School of Music had a busy summer providing live music and conferences all over the world and has had an exciting start to the Fall semester.
- Over the summer, the Music Office focused on annual planning, and updated policies and processes to improve their ability to support staff and research of Music students and faculty.
- Ms. Dianna Neufeld was appointed the new Director of the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music.
- The student numbers have increased significantly from previous years, denoting both excellent recruitment and retention efforts, and the challenging impacts of COVID-19 on the performing arts in previous years. For example, credit hours have increased by 10.8% compared to last year. Additionally, first-year students are registered in 157% more credit hours than last year.
- International student registration has significantly decreased. While the University is reporting a 13% increase in international enrolments, the School of Music has decreased by over 20%. This could be a combination of the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Music recruitment and retention plans for this year include:
 - Regular Open House cycles (in-person in late October, online in February 2024); Brandon University Jazz Festival (which is more focused on BU Faculty and students than previously); in-person recruitment event in May 2024.
 - Retention efforts will involve regular points of contact with first-year cohort.
- Plans are underway for the School of Music to host the annual MusCan Conference in May of 2024, dovetailing with the E-Gré National Music Competition.
- Professor Ken Gold will be finishing his term appointment in Saxophone, Jazz & CPM at the end of this term. The School of Music extends thanks Dr. Gold for his excellent service and wish him a long and happy retirement. The School of Music is working to identify a candidate to take over this important role.
- The School of Music's Indigenous Education working Group, which reports to the IEESC, is looking forward to a preliminary report from Julia Stoneman-Sinclair and Susie McPherson-Derendy. Julia and Susie have begun the important work of meeting with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit folks who have applied to, auditioned for, attended, and/or graduated from the School of Music over the last ten years to discuss and learn from their experiences.
- The School of Music was delighted to host multiple Juno award winning pianist and composer, David Braid, and brilliant jazz drummer/bassoonist, Serkan Alagok, over the last week. Students received inspiring information in the form of one-on-one lessons, masterclasses, rehearsals, and two inspiring performances of original music. The School of Music was thrilled to feature their own faculty in the concerts: Maddy Hildebrand, sessional piano instructor, Kerry DuWors (Associate Professor of Violin), Cathy Wood (Professor of Clarinet), and Marika Galea (Assistant Professor of Bass and J&CPM), as well as Dylan Pilcher, a student of Senator Ed Bach and up-and-coming jazz trumpet performer. The School of Music has a wonderful relationship with David Braid – he is writing music for our faculty (unsolicited) and spreading word of us throughout his travels. This leads to some potentially valuable international connections, including with Serkan, who is the Director at Hacettepe University Ankara State Conservatory's Jazz Department.
- There are many upcoming events in the School of Music, including, on September 30th, a wonderful concert curated by Dr. Leanne Zacharias, "Sung Stories and Love Songs to End Colonization" that will feature the work of Christine Fellows, Peter

Morin (former BU faculty member), and current member of the sessional faculty in Arts, Jimmie Kilpatrick. For a complete listing, please visit the events page.

- Senator Gatien spoke to his work as the Chair of the Senate Scholarship Committee, and praised the excellent work being done by the members of that committee – making excellent decisions in the awarding of scholarships, bursaries, and awards and adjudicating some very challenging appeals.

Faculty of Health Studies – Senator Ross

- Linda Ross was absent with regrets.

Dean of Students – Senator Whelpton

- Student Services has had a busy start to the semester, wherein Recruitment and Retention hosted a very successful Welcome Week for students.
- Senator Whelpton extended thanks to all of the faculty and staff for their participation and support as orientation events continue throughout the month.
- Student Services faculty also participated in orientation events specific to international, athletics and after-degree programs.
- Interviews for the Director of the IPC are scheduled for next week. The Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Transition Officer is posted. Emails have been sent to all self-identified Indigenous grads.
- Connor Trueman will be joining Student Services as a part-time Academic Advisor on Oct. 10.
- Senator Whelpton extended thanks to all of those who helped students find housing. Due to renovations on a plumbing stack, 80 residence rooms are shut down, 50 students are on a waitlist. Residence has a few rooms available if anyone knows of any student needing housing.

CIO – Senator Sucha

- Library, Archives and IT Services piloted extended hours in the summer, with “Work Late Wednesdays”. While this program was created with intent to support PENT Students, they also noticed uptake in these service hours by community borrowers. Users from the Brandon community at-large have varied information needs; some users access both BU’s and Brandon Public Library to access information and technology that is not otherwise available to them. To quote one user “I am homeless, and I have PTSD, and being able to come to a safe and quiet space to use a computer really helps me with managing this. I can watch videos, read newspapers, and it helps me in working things out.”
- Library, Archives and IT Services contributed to Orientation Sessions in several ways, offering pre-orientation information sessions, Orientation Day info booth, Library Tours. In partnership with CTLT they offered an overview of AI technologies to the Masters of Psychiatric Nursing Program as part of their orientation in August, highlighting the need for transparency and honesty with respect to use of technology in academic studies, and driving at open communication between students, professors, and advisors to align on appropriate and ethical use of technology in courses and thesis programs.
- Library, Archives and IT contributed to Homecoming Celebrations, hosting a reception with Dr Beverley Hicks on 100 Years of Psychiatric Nursing in Canada, and with Christy Henry hosting an Archives display at the Homecoming Soiree. Senator Sucha extends thanks to the Advancement Office for another successful event.
- Library Council has remained steadfast in its commitment to intellectual freedom, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the University community and beyond, and are proud to work with Gender and Women’s Studies cohost Melissa Adler’s talk “My Queer Manitoba, in Books” on Sept 21 at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Space. Substantial effort was put into the safety and logistic planning for this event, and

they are hoping that will inform continuous improvement into event management – as it looks like we are in for a busy and active year!

- The installation of the new BellMTS link was completed last spring and remains reliable part of our infrastructure, enabling connection to the Research and Education Network via Winnipeg. BellMTS will be installing additional network monitoring equipment on this link in early October.
- October is Cybersecurity Awareness month, and ITS will be issuing regular communications, and will conduct our self-phishing program as part of monitoring vulnerabilities and promoting greater awareness. Senator Sucha stated they are increasingly seeing threats coming by way of mobile devices. In other organizations and sectors, they are seeing cyberattacks stemming from advanced social engineering, and impersonation of senior leadership. It is important to be vigilant to such trends. It remains important to also practice good general security practices, such as not leaving electronics and other personal effects unattended in public locations such as the library.

University Registrar – Senator McDaniel

- Senator McDaniel welcomed Britney McNamee as the Academic Governance Administrative Assistant who has already begun providing essential and professional support to the Senate and its sub-committees.
- The Registrar’s office is currently short-staffed, but it is anticipating that a replacement will soon be in place for the duration of Amber Barbeau’s leave.
- The registration picture for 2023-24 academic year is positive:
 - 1.2% increase in overall headcount; 3% increase in overall credit hours registered
 - 9.4% increase in first-time student headcount; 18% increase in first-time student credit hours
- The add/drop deadline for Fall 2023 term is tomorrow, September 20, 2023.
- The new admission cycle for 2024-25 opens October 1, 2023.
- Brandon University is observing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Friday, September 29, 2023, even though many local organizations are observing it the following Monday; Senator McDaniel encouraged Senators to remind colleagues to ensure minimal surprises.

4.4.10. Report from the Vice-President (Academic & Provost) (Sen. Campbell)

Senator Campbell reported on the following:

- The current Acting Dean of Science term has been extended. Senator Campbell reported currently being in consultation with the Faculty of Science regarding the decanal role and upcoming search until September 22, 2023.
- Faculty members were just elected to the Dean of Science search committee at this meeting. The advertisement for the position will be posted at the end of October; a decision meeting will be held in December; an offer will hopefully be made in January 2024.
- There is also an active search for the Sexual Violence Education and Prevention Coordinator position. A search committee was formed, and the job advertisement has been posted. The decision process for the position will begin shortly.

4.4.11. Report from the President (Dr. Docherty)

Senator Docherty reported on the following:

- The Senate recommended to the Board of Governors in Motion 009.JUN23 that “they waive tuition and course fees for Indigenous education students who are taking courses in which content of those courses would have already been known

had residential schooling and colonialism not happened. Specifically, this motion applies to two courses in the Faculty of Education: 02:231 Teaching of Indigenous Studies and 04:222 Nature-Based Learning.” The Board of Governors discussed this tuition and course fee waiver and were concerned about it. The Board of Governors was concerned about one Faculty implementing this tuition and fee waiver, and what would happen if other Faculties implemented a similar waiver. The Board has requested more information. The decision was Tabled.

- As part of their policy review, the Senate Executive Committee discussed removing the General Faculty Committee and its requirement to hold regular GFC meetings from Senate bylaws. This will be discussed further as the Bylaws Review Committee begins its work.
- Senator Docherty recommended to the HR committee of the Board of Governors that a statement be added to the Board of Governors Bylaws indicating that the President of the University will hold at least one annual State of the University Address.
- In early September, Senator Docherty met and had a great discussion with Ministry Officials and Jan Forster, Deputy Minister, Advanced Education and Training.
- Senator Docherty informed the Senate of Provincial election debates on September 20th from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in the Lorne Watson Recital Hall.
- On Friday, September 22, the Dean of Medicine of the University of Manitoba, Peter Nickerson, will be visiting Brandon University for a tour of the John R. Brodie Science Centre.
- Senator Docherty spoke to the campus-wide email regarding the Parental Rights parade taking place tomorrow. The group has obtained a parade permit and will be walking down 18th Street in front of Brandon University. Senator Docherty has discouraged counter protests.

5. Other Business

- Senator Shoultz mentioned the upcoming events for Truth and Reconciliation week at the Discovery Centre, encouraging a link for these events be added to the Brandon University website.
- Senator Farrell held a book draw for the present Senators.

6. Correspondence

7. Adjournment

MOTION 029.SEP23 Bach/Campbell

THAT the Senate adjourn at 3:50 pm.

CARRIED