

**OPEN MINUTES
FOR THE SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE 56th SENATE
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – 2:00 pm
045 Health Studies Building**

Present: David Docherty (Chair); Bernadette Ardelli; Edward Bach; Kofi Campbell; Kathryn Chachula; Matteo DiMuro; Alysha Farrell; Taylor Holland; Chris Lagimodiere (non-voting, joined at 2:10pm); Scott Lamont; Christophe LeMoine; Rory Lucyshyn-Wright; Michelle Magnusson; Mary Jane McCallum (Zoom); Andrea McDaniel; Eftihia Mihelakis (Zoom; left at 2:37pm); Chukwuanugo Okudo; Doug Ramsey; Lisa Robson; Linda Ross; Pamela Rutherford; Curt Shoultz; Balfour Spence; Jens Watt; Katie Whelpton; Beth Wilson; Britney McNamee (Recording Secretary). Guests: Wayne Kelly; Gary McNeely.

Regrets: Brody Burr; Chidimma Joy Chikezie; Linden Haubrick; Bryan Hill; Greg Gatien; Melanie Sucha.

Absent: Mabel Dzigbordzi; David Huberdeau-Reid; Grant Prairie.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION 130.JAN24 Ross/Magnusson

THAT the Senate approve the Open Session agenda of the January 16, 2024, meeting as presented.

CARRIED

2. Closed Session

MOTION 131.JAN24 LeMoine/Bach

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 December 19, 2023

MOTION 135.JAN24 Whelpton/Okudo

THAT the Senate approve the Open Session minutes of December 19, 2023, meeting as presented.

CARRIED

4.2. Business Arising

4.3. Continuing Business

4.4. New Business

4.4.1. Digital Badges (for discussion) (Sen. Campbell)

Senator Campbell provided a brief introduction to digital badges – digital credentials provided on campus that can be integrated onto one’s CV or LinkedIn page to denote skills or accomplishments. While digital badges are not degrees or certificates, Senator Campbell recommended that digital badges be placed before the Senate for discussion.

Gary McNeely and Wayne Kelly provided a discussion brief for Senate titled “RDI Digital Badge Initiative.” McNeely and Kelly explained to the Senate that the Rural Development Institute currently issues digital badges to recognize staff participation on projects and are working on a framework to provide digital badges to student employees or volunteers to highlight their demonstrated skills. Kelly explained that he gives many referrals for employment and post-graduate studies, and the digital badges are extremely helpful for the employers to review the candidate’s skills. The RDI digital badges are hotlinks that lead to the criteria required to receive the badge. The RDI is looking to provide digital badges to students who participate in a Practical Internship at the RDI between the two academic years of their master’s degree, to highlight the practical skills they have obtained.

Senator Campbell provided a notice of motion from the floor that the Senate strike an ad-hoc committee to review the Senate Policy of Non-credit Certificate Programs to reflect the variety of non-credit recognitions currently provided on campus, such as digital badges. Senator Campbell requested that Senators identify representatives interested in potentially serving on this ad-hoc committee at their next Faculty Council meetings.

Dr. Docherty recommended that the ad-hoc committee include two staff reps in addition to the ad-hoc committee membership outlined in the Bylaws.

Senator Shoultz noted the Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology hopes to develop digital badges.

Senator Okudo recommended listing the badges offered at Brandon University and their qualifications on the university website.

4.4.2. Report from the Brandon University Students’ Union (BUSU) President (Sen. Okudo)

Senator Okudo reported on the following:

- Last month, BUSU sent a letter to the Minister of Advanced Education and Training regarding the funding BU received by the previous government in hopes of receiving similar or greater funding from the new government.
- BUSU also visited and provided letters to Brandon grocery stores to request they consider providing BU students discounts when shopping at their stores.
- On December 21, 2023, BUSU held the Multicultural Dinner which was well attended.
- BUSU has engaged with new and returning students at orientation events over the last two weeks and provided BU swag.

4.4.3. Report from the Board of Governors Representative (Sen. Huberdeau-Reid)

Reports from the Board of Governors are presented every second month in accordance with the Board meeting schedule; the next report will be at the February Senate meeting. Senator Huberdeau-Reid was absent.

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

Faculty of Arts – Senator Spence

- Senator Spence would like to congratulate Doug Ramsey on his appointment to the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation Board.
- The Department of Rural Development in partnership with the Rural Development Institute (RDI) and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana, have received \$450,000 in funding from Global Affairs Canada. The five-year funding will allow top Ghanaian students to come to BU to pursue a MA in Rural Development with all costs funded.
- The Department of Rural Development will host a welcoming session for graduate students beginning their program this year.

Faculty of Science – Senator LeMoine

- The Faculty of Science has welcomed Dr. Hem Sharma for a 1-year term position in Biology.
- Senator LeMoine extended invitations to Senators to visit and learn about the Tyndall Stone in the 1st floor concourse of McMaster Hall. The installation is the result of an initiative led by Simon Pattison and the Department of Geology, in collaboration with Student Services and Ancillary Services.

Faculty of Education – Senator Farrell

- On January 1st, the Faculty of Education welcomed Andrea Antoniuk to the Department of Educational Psychology and Student Services. Senator Farrell is happy to share that Angela Voutier will be joining the Department of Educational Psychology and Student Services on July 1st.
- The Faculty of Education has been busy determining the priority questions that are going to guide their work for the next 5 years.
 - The priority questions are: How might teaching continuously remake the world in ways that strengthen relationships? Where, and to what extent, does place inform and enrich the educational experience in a changing climate? What does mental, physical, and spiritual health look like in the classroom, school, and community? What and who informs and inspires our curricula and pedagogies? How, and to what extent, do we honor different ways of knowing, doing, being, and becoming in the educative encounter?
 - The next steps are to: Use the priority questions to collaboratively make decisions about the AD Review recommendations; Engage in a strength-based storytelling process to inspire growth in the priority areas; Collaboratively articulate parameters that will help guide changes to courses, programs, and structures.
- This term, all first- and second-year Integrated Program (IP) students will be doing their course-based micro-practicums with the students and teachers at Earl Oxford School.
- On January 19th, BU CARES will be hosting another NourishEd talk with Dr. Lili Jardine at Baileys. The title of the session is “The Intercultural and Holistic Transformative Learning Experiences of Professional Immigrants in Canada.”
- Next week, Senator Farrell and Shawna Philpott, the Field Experience Director, will facilitate mock interview sessions for students in the AD and IP programs. So far, 17 students have signed-up for a mock interview.
- On January 25th, the Faculty of Education Field Experience team, including Shannon Tomlinson and Shawna Philpott, will host the Career Fair from 10:00am-2:00pm. Representatives from 26 school divisions and recruitment agencies will be at the fair.

School of Music – Senator Gatien

- Senator Gatien was absent with regrets.

Faculty of Health Studies – Senator Ross

- The Faculty of Health Studies welcomed the following new Instructional Associates in January 2024: Cindy Finlayson (Dept. of Psychiatric Nursing – Winnipeg site), Tarissa Moore (Dept. of Nursing), and Angela Miller (Dept. of Nursing).
- The Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program is once again undergoing an approvals process by the College of Registered Psychiatric Nursing (CRPNM). This process happens every 4 – 5 years. CRPNM is the regulatory body for Psychiatric Nursing in Manitoba. The documentation requested for the approvals process has been prepared and submitted to the external reviewer and to the CRPNM.

Dean of Students – Senator Whelpton

- Last week, Student Services held Orientation. Leanne Barcellona emailed information to students across campus, and it proved helpful. Student Advisors are still offering walk-ins for students.
- The Writing Skills Specialists are trying a new approach to the writing skills workshops where students design workshops based on their writing needs. The Writing Skills Specialists hope this increases student engagement in the writing skills workshops.
- The Office of International Activities is requesting donations of winter clothing for international students. Donations of mitts, hats or jackets would be greatly appreciated.
- Suzanne Letain is retiring on January 26th after over 30 years of service.
- Doug Pople in the Career Placement & Advancement Office is hosting the Winter Career Fair on January 24th from 10:00am to 2:30pm at the Knowles Douglas Centre.

CIO – Senator Sucha

- Senator Sucha was absent with regrets. Senator Whelpton reported on the following on Senator Sucha's behalf:
- The library was recently profiled by the Manitoba Library Association, highlighting the role of the library in defending intellectual freedom, and equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- The Library and IT Services participated in the winter orientation organized by Student Services and are happy to welcome back students to the Winter semester.

University Registrar – Senator McDaniel

- Senator McDaniel reminded Senators that tomorrow, January 17th, is the Add/Drop Deadline for 2024 Winter Term courses.

4.4.5. Report from the Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives) (C. Lagimodiere)

Chris Lagimodiere reported on the following:

- C. Lagimodiere is the Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives) and has Chaired the Indigenous Education Committee (IESSC) since 2016. The IESSC has accomplished their mandate outlined in their Terms of Reference, which was to pull together resources and present a variety of ways for faculties and staff to build relationships on campus.
- The Indigenous Curricular Content Committee (ICCC) has developed a Course Requirement Guiding Document and has so far approved eight courses for the 2024-25 academic year. The ICCC will be looking for proposals for additional courses soon.

- On February 8th and 9th, the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint is hosting an Indigenous Education Gathering at the Victoria Inn and Convention Centre in Winnipeg. Senator Lagimodiere informed the Senate that there is currently a waitlist for the event that those interested could sign up for.
- The Indigenous Peoples Centre will host numerous events between mid-February and the spring solstice. Julia Stoneman-Sinclair will be reaching out to departments for ideas of how they can celebrate Indigenous students.
- Planning is currently underway for the 2024 Our Journey Indigenous Grad, which honours Indigenous student success at all academic levels in the Brandon School Division, at Sioux Valley High School, Assiniboine Community College, and Brandon University.

4.4.6. Report from the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) (Sen. Ardelli)

Senator Ardelli reported on the following:

- Senator Ardelli is looking forward to this new role as the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies). There are many exciting things that will be coming forward soon, but their office is still in transition. Kerry Murkin and Julia Herr have moved offices from Clark Hall to the basement of the A.E. McKenzie Building, where the Research & Graduate Studies Office now occupies the space previously occupied by Campus Manitoba. Sally Spiss is now with the research team, and there are two new team members they would like to bring on board.
- Senator Ardelli has requested that any developments in research and graduate studies within the faculties be sent to her so she can better serve as the Vice-President.

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

Senator Campbell reported on the following:

- The new Sexualized Violence Education and Prevention Coordinator, Jessica Laxdal, has started at Brandon University. Senator Campbell noted that while there was an excellent pool of candidates, Laxdal brings an abundance of experience that will be beneficial in this role.
- The Dean of Science search is currently underway; the ad should be going to HR in the next two days and the search committee is eager to fill the Dean of Science position.
- Work on the Academic Plan which started last spring has been on pause since the Collective Agreement bargaining began. Work on the Academic Plan will resume once bargaining is completed.

4.4.8. Report from the President (Dr. Docherty)

Dr. Docherty reported on the following:

- Dr. Docherty extended thanks to the members of the Senate joining online, and welcomed Bernadette Ardelli, Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies), to the Senate.
- Scott Lamont, Vice-President (Administration & Finance) will be retiring at the end of June 2024. A search committee has been composed to fill this role.
- Last week, Dr. Docherty attended a Professional Development for President's Conference put on by Universities Canada in Banff. At the event, Presidents remarked they wished they were in Manitoba, for which Dr. Docherty would like to extend thanks to Wab Kinew.
- Dr. Docherty noted there was discussion at the Professional Development for President's Conference about the five MPs who wrote to Canada's largest

universities asking the university presidents to answer the same questions about antisemitism that were asked to the presidents at Harvard, and Penn State University, among others. Dr. Docherty noted that while it was clear where the President of Harvard University, Claudine Gay, stood in her answers to these questions, she has since been forced to resign. Dr. Docherty informed the Senate of a House of Commons committee requesting Canadian universities to respond to these questions. Dr. Docherty would like to remind Senators that what is happening in the United States is affecting Canadian universities as well. Dr. Docherty advised that Brandon University will have to be more proactive in telling Canadians what we do, as trust in Canadian universities has declined since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020.

5. Other Business

6. Correspondence

7. Adjournment

MOTION 136.JAN24 Holland/LeMoine

THAT the Senate adjourn at 2:51 pm

CARRIED