

**Special Meeting of Senate
Thursday January 6, 2022
3:00–5:00 pm
Alumni Hall and Via Zoom
Minutes**

Present: G. Keefe (Chair), D. Sutton (Secretary to Senate), M. Arfken, R. Bissessur, A. Braithwaite, M. Buote, T. Carroll, D. Coll, R. Dennis, L. Doiron, A. Doyle, N. Etkin, G. Evans, A-M. Fitzgerald, K. Gottschall-Pass, N. Kujundzic, T. Mady, C. Lavoie, M. LeClair, B. Linkletter, J. MacDonald, R. MacKay, A. Muralidharan, J. McIntyre, K. Mears, T. Miller, W. Montelpare, D. Moses, C. Murray, T. Ngo, W. Peters, J. Podger, R. Raiswell, C. Ryan, J. Spears, J. Stewart, B. Stoughton, A. Trivett, B. Waterman, A. Zinck

Regrets: E. Côté, A. MacKenzie, J. VanLeeuwen

Recorder: M. Arbing

President Keefe called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

1. Winter 2022

The President expressed his appreciation for everyone attending this meeting on short notice. The meeting was called to contemplate an extension to online learning that would also enable us to better support faculty, staff, and students as we safely return to campus, in accordance with guidance from the Chief Public Health Office.

He referenced that earlier today the Vice-Presidents communicated an extension to support “work from home where possible” until January 17.

Motion (K. Gottschall-Pass/A. Trivett) that teaching and learning for the winter 2022 semester continue online delivery until January 24, 2022.

Exceptions:

- **Some laboratories and clinical activities in the faculties of nursing, veterinary medicine, and sustainable design engineering will be in person following CPHO guidance.**
- **Faculty, researchers, and graduate and honours students will be able to conduct research on-campus and in the field following CPHO guidance.**

Senators voiced concern in the areas of: the ability of international students to return to PEI; ventilation and HEPA filters; masking protocols; COVID-19 related absenteeism of faculty, staff and students; the importance of planning more than a week at a time for pedagogical reasons; and a mechanism for faculty to receive approval to deliver their courses in person.

Student Senators also raised concerns stemming from their recent mental health survey, which indicated that 80% of students’ mental health worsened because of online schooling.

J. Podger confirmed that, with respect to ventilation, we are very close to the report being complete. As part of the ventilation review, they are looking at ASHRAE recommendations and that the engineers are taking into account COVID-19.

It was recommended, as a friendly amendment to the motion, to extend online learning until January 31 (rather than January 24). Both the mover and the seconder of the motion agreed to the friendly amendment.

K. Gottschall-Pass confirmed that the process for exceptions to the motion would be granted by permission of the Chairs (where applicable), Deans, and Vice-President Academic and Research.

The motion was CARRIED, noting B. Stoughton opposed and L. Doiron abstained.

The President acknowledged how quickly the pandemic evolves and reiterated that he will continue to work with the Chief Public Health Office and consult with Senate if adjustments need to be made.

It was agreed that we would set a meeting for January 21 at 3:00 pm.

2. Adjournment

Motion (L. Doiron) that the meeting be adjourned at 4:35 pm. CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Sutton
Secretary of Senate