

**Special Meeting of Senate
Minutes
Friday, January 21, 2022
3:00–5:00 pm
Alumni Hall and Via Zoom**

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

Regrets: N. Kujundzic

Recorder: M. Arbing

President Keefe offered a land acknowledgement.

President Keefe called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm and provided opening remarks. He reiterated the important role of the mandate of Senate with academic planning. He spoke to the process of Senate particularly for the understanding of guests to Senate. He emphasized the importance of collegiality and the need for Senators, in their leadership role at the university, to move forward in a student-focused manner. He also acknowledged some of the difficulties that come with a virtual meeting. He noted the importance of all Senators having their voices heard.

Given the significant role of the Senate as laid out in the University Act, it is important to focus on academic policy issues and today's meeting needs to focus specifically on the question at hand for Senate in respect to the motion distributed in advance of the meeting.

1. Winter 2022

The President provided a summary of what other universities in Atlantic Canada plan to do with return to in-person classes for Winter 2022.

Motion (K. Gottschall-Pass/A. Muralidharan) that teaching and learning for the 2022 winter academic semester continue to be delivered online until February 27, 2022.

In keeping with a student-focused teaching model and in line with dynamic PEI Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) guidance that there may be certain exceptions and extensions including:

- **Some laboratories and clinical activities in the faculties of science, nursing, veterinary medicine, and sustainable design engineering may be in person following CPHO guidance.**
- **Some small-class-size courses may 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.

- **Extensions to online teaching for individual courses for the remainder of the semester based on class size/facility capacity, pedagogical, or accommodation principles.**

The President indicated that the mover and seconder of the motion would have the first opportunity to speak to the motion.

A. Muralidharan voiced that the UPEISU was in favour of this motion and was appreciative of the Faculty of Science being included.

K. Gottschall-Pass noted that the motion allows flexibility for students and also addresses concerns regarding whether the pandemic situation will improve.

Senators voiced concern regarding the process for courses being allowed in-person versus remaining online. The Vice-President Academic and Research clarified that this should be initiated within individual programs to prioritize, and then discussed with Chairs, Deans, and the Vice-President Academic and Research to see if requests could be accommodated.

Discussion ensued regarding the February 27 date in the motion and at what point we determine how we proceed safely with the remainder of the Winter 2022 semester, in accordance with CPHO guidance. The President indicated that consideration could be given to delaying our regularly scheduled meeting on February 11, in order to ensure we have sufficient information from PEI-CPHO to determine whether can safely return to in-person classes. Other Senators suggested that it was important to conduct the other business of Senate and that if sufficient information regarding public health restrictions were not available by the 11th an additional meeting may be necessary.

Senators voiced the importance of making the call for post-February 27 planning by mid-February.

CARRIED.

2. Adjournment

Motion (L. Doiron) that the meeting be adjourned at 3:54 pm. CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Sutton
Secretary of Senate