



**Minutes**

A meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee to consider the inclusion of the Ode to Newfoundland at Memorial’s convocation ceremonies was held on **Thursday July 18, 2024 at 12:30 pm NDT via Teams**

**Committee members:**

Arif Abu (Internationalization Office); Edwin Bezzina (senator); Kelly Butler (Indigenous Affairs); Cyr Couturier (senator); Delores Mullings (Vice-Provost EDI-AR); Kati Szego (senator); Valeri Pilgrim (Indigenous Student Resource Centre); Michael Woods (senator); Saravana Ganesan (GSU student).

**Convener:** Lee Ann McKivor [non-voting]  
**Recording secretary:** Brian Hammond [non-voting]

Present: Arif Abu, Edwin Bezzina, Kelly Butler, Cyr Couturier; Brian Hammond, Lee Ann McKivor, Kati Szego, Michael Woods

1.0		<b><u>Land Acknowledgement</u></b>	
		We acknowledge that the lands on which Memorial University’s campuses are situated are in the traditional territories of diverse Indigenous groups, and we acknowledge with respect the diverse histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi’kmaq, Innu and Inuit of this province.	
2.0		<b><u>Approval of Agenda</u></b>	Approved
		Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.	
		Move: E. Bezzina; Second: K. Szego No objections or abstentions; motion approved.	
3.0		<b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b>	
	3.1	Approval of the Minutes for the June 25, July 4 and July 10, 2024.	Approved
		The Committee discussed a number of amendments to the minutes presented.	
		It was moved by E. Bezzina, seconded by M. Woods, and carried that the minutes of June 25 be approved pending amendment.	
		It was moved by K. Butler, seconded by C. Couturier and carried that the minutes of July 4 be approved pending amendment.	
		It was moved by E. Bezzina, seconded by M. Woods, and carried	

		that the minutes of July 10 be approved pending amendment.	
4.0		<b><u>Next Steps: Consultation Process</u></b>	
	4.1	<p>Plan for moving forward over the Spring Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that Ms. Catharyn Andersen and Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei are scheduled to join the Committee’s September 5, meeting.</li> <li>• There is also a plan to consult with the VPACIA on August 16<sup>th</sup>. V. Pilgrim, K. Butler, and L.A. McKivor will attend this consultation meeting on behalf of the Committee, but other members of the Committee are welcome. The Senate office will circulate link to this meeting. The meeting (which will be online) was scheduled through Catharyn Andersen’s office. We will supply VPACIA with the survey questions before the meeting. The meeting will be recorded, but only the audio—no video.</li> <li>• It was noted that K. Butler and V. Pilgrim will be at this meeting as members of the Committee.</li> <li>• Members discussed the distribution of the Survey and consultation options with University Alumni. A committee member had scheduled a meeting Lynn Squires (Associate Director, Alumni Affairs). The meeting that had been arranged for July 16<sup>th</sup> did not go ahead.</li> <li>• It was noted that the Committee can consult with international and Indigenous students simultaneously, and two committee members have developed a short plan that will help navigate how to accomplish that.</li> <li>• Two sharing circles could be planned, one for St. John’s Campus (including MI) and another for Grenfell Campus. Privacy protection would be an important element. The circles would involve both international and Indigenous student groups.</li> <li>• It was noted that providing food to these groups of students will likely increase attendance.</li> <li>• Members stated that the communications sent out with regard to scheduling consultations/sharing circles should be consistent.</li> <li>• Standard wording for this communication should be created.</li> <li>• A member suggested that the Committee should book another group for consultation during the middle of August.</li> </ul>	Action
5.0		<b><u>ATIPP Request</u></b>	
	5.1	Request # 007-13-01-24	

		<p>The request asks only for information related to Dr. Purchase’s resignation from the Committee. Documents sent to the requester will be redacted of any information that is not pertinent to the resignation.</p> <p>Members discussed best practice for finding all the requested information, i.e. best keywords to use when searching, etc....</p>	
6.0		<p><b><u>Other Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request to review the chart of consultees at the next meeting of the Committee.</li> <li>• Future meeting item: consideration of how to handle media reactions to the announcement of the survey.</li> <li>• Future meeting item: sharing of information about the practices involved with the Marine Institute’s convocation ceremonies.</li> <li>• The Committee will have a look at the work the Communications Team in the Registrar’s Office have done to modify the ad hoc Committee’s website in preparation for sharing consultation information.</li> <li>• Several committee members formally recognized the work that Dr. McKivor and her support staff have done for this committee and the University regarding the issue of the inclusion of the Ode to Newfoundland at University Convocations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Meeting adjourned 1:33 p.m.</b></p>	