



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 October 31, 2024 at 11:00 am via Teams**

Committee members:

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

Convener: Lee Ann McKivior [non-voting]

Recording: Brian Hammond [non-voting]

Present: Arif Abu, Kelly Butler, Cyr Couturier, Brian Hammond, Denise Hooper, Lee Ann McKivior, Delores Mullings, Michael Woods, Jill Hunt (Communications advisor, Registrar’s Office)

1.0		<p><u>Land Acknowledgement</u></p> <p>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.</p>	
2.0		<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>The October 31, 2024, agenda was approved as circulated.</p>	Approved
3.0		<p><u>Approval of Minutes</u></p> <p>The Minutes of September 12, October 10, and October 24, 2024, were approved, with a minor amendment requested to the attendance record.</p>	Approved
4.0		<p><u>Quantitative Data: Convocation Demographic Information</u></p>	For discussion

Members engaged in a discussion about gathering detailed demographic information regarding convocation ceremonies to provide a comprehensive overview for the report to the Senate. The Committee expressed interest in comparing the number of students who attended the ceremonies with the total number of parchment recipients each year. They emphasized the need for data extending beyond the recent Spring and Fall convocation ceremonies, ideally including demographics from before the University decided to suspend the Ode. The Committee’s analysis should encompass the evolving demographics of Memorial’s Convocation ceremonies, focusing on

attendees, including graduands, their friends, and family members. Ultimately, members decided to request the retrieval of this information, after which they would determine the most effective way to utilize it.

5.0	<u>Consultation Process and Work Plan</u>
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The Committee received communication from the Labrador Campus indicating that approximately 25 individuals associated with the Campus might participate in the consultations. The Dean of the Campus noted that these consultations should wait for 2 to 3 weeks to occur.

The Committee is set to consult with various groups and discussed the sequence of their upcoming communications. They emphasized the importance of reaching out to underrepresented groups, such as international, Indigenous, and Black faculty, staff, and students. They decided to notify the Alumni and Donor groups first, while postponing broad faculty consultations until after the alumni and donor groups have been scheduled.

The Committee agreed to send emails to alumni and donors and then deliberated about their communication plan for faculty. It was decided that the Senate office would send notifications to the various offices of academic heads, using the same procedure they follow when seeking lists of eligible electors for Senate elections.

Before closing the meeting, members discussed various options for graphics that could be used as headers for emails to be sent to the Alumni and Donor groups.

4.0	<u>Other Business</u>
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A member noted that they would like to present at the next scheduled meeting on the following topics:

- An overview of the bigger picture: where we are, what we're doing, and our future direction
- Strategies for engaging with the Office of Public Engagement
- Effective communication methods for reaching the remaining individuals on the Committee's priority list

As there was no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.