



**University Planning and Budget Committee (PBC) of SENATE**

**MINUTES**

Monday, November 18, 2024

2:30 pm NT | A3047, [Teams](#)

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**CHAIR**

Dr. M. Woods

**SECRETARY**

Mr. K. Matthews

**PRESENT**

Dr. E. Haven, Vice-Chair  
Dr. D. Peters  
Dr. R. Haynes  
Dr. E. Kendall

Dr. C. Bazan  
Ms. J. Porter  
Ms. C. Walsh  
Mr. B. Mishkat

**REGRETS**

Dr. D. Hancock  
Dr. J. Lokash  
Ms. L. Pike

**ABSENT**

Mr. M. Alam (MUNSU)  
Vacant (GCSU)  
Vacant (GSU)  
Vacant (MISU)

**RECORDING**

Ms. M. MacLean

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Dr. M. Woods called the meeting to order at 14:30 pm NT  
Land Acknowledgement delivered by Dr. Woods.

**1.0 Approval of the Agenda**

**1.1 Meeting of November 18 2024**

A draft agenda for the meeting was posted online via Brightspace.

**MOTION** D. Peters / C. Bazan

*RESOLVED* that the agenda be approved as circulated.

No discussion.

**CARRIED**

**2.0 Approval of the Minutes**

**2.1 Meeting of October 2024**

A draft of the minutes for the meeting of October 2024 was posted online via Brightspace. Request for minutes to include “Mr.” for K. Matthews.

**MOTION** C. Bazan/ E. Haven

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as circulated with title amendment.

No discussion.

**CARRIED**

### **3.0 New Business**

#### **3.1 Centres Policy**

##### **3.1.1. Quantum Communications and Computing Centre [new centre]**

**Brightspace files: report and pdf presentation**

**Presented by E. Haven**

E. Haven presented a PDF presentation on the proposal for the establishment of the Quantum Communications and Computing Centre at Memorial. The presentation covered the following: key objectives, evidence of research intensity, evidence of graduate enrollment, revenue sources, space resources, risk profile, and co-existence with existing CQSCS (Center for Quantum Social and Cognitive Science).

The Q&A which followed E. Haven’s presentation included the following topics:

- Composition and complement of PhD and Masters students with QC3; clarity on totals at each level over each academic year the centre exists.
- Funding sources (CERC and CRC); clarity on which funds are tethered to particular faculty and allocation to faculty, staff, and students required to fulfill Q3.
- Recruitment of PhD students; current demographic and impacts of IRCC changes.
- Partnerships in Industry beyond MUN; i.e., IBM, Xanadu Quantum Technologies, etc.
- Partnerships and collaborations within MUN; i.e. medicine, physics, pharmacy.
- Space allocation at core science; i.e., provision of formal confirmation from Dean or Facilities Management.
- Conflict in having newly announced Dean of Engineering key proponent; time demands, funding, etc.

E. Haven then left to allow PBC Discussion of unresolved questions to be addressed by Q3.

- *Unresolved*: clarification on plan for centre’s students once funding expires if CRC/CERC funding is not renewed.
- *Unresolved*: clarification on plan for resource/service support for students who join in year 5 of 5.
- *Unresolved*: clarification on the proposed funding packages for Masters and PhD students who join each upcoming academic year.
- *Unresolved*: clarification on staffing allocations (which funding stream supports, who will oversee, and any sharing required with collaborators).
- *Unresolved*: clarification on the promised space (ex. letter from Dean or Facilities Management) and clarification if this space is adequate for current needs and projected needs at the 5-year renewal.

E. Haven returned to board room at 15:20 to rejoin PBC meeting.

### 3.2 Enrollment Update

#### Brightspace files: pdf presentation

K. Matthews presented a PDF presentation with updates regarding enrollment at Memorial. The presentation covered the following: major enrollment trends, tuition revenue assumptions, total enrollment 2018-2024, enrollment comparison 2018-2024, enrollment comparison 2023-2024, enrollment by level 1949-2024, composition of enrolment by level 2024, FT vs. PT undergraduate enrolment, 1949-2024, international undergraduate students by year of study – St. John’s Campus, undergraduate and graduate students change since 2008, graduate enrolment by route 2008-2024, composition of graduate population by route 2008-2024, undergraduate students by origin 2008-2024, graduate students by origin 2008-2024, total students by origin 2008-2024, and summary of trends.

The Q&A which followed K. Matthew’s presentation included the following topics:

- Clarification on the COVID bump in trends; noted as an artificial increase in programming shifting online and external activities eliminated for many during the COVID time period.
  - Increase in number of international students joining 2<sup>nd</sup> year or higher.
  - Temporary bump in international students noted in the semesters prior to tuition increase.
  - Percentage of NL students attending MUN remains high; compared to Atlantic region, MUN has highest percentage of students who elect to attend in-province.
- Clarification on IRCC changes’ impact; MUN’s rates were already within the federal allocation.
  - Discussion of funding and support for recruitment internationally.
- Discussion that fee schedule is complicated and expansive. As well, special fees collected by specific programs on top of the international fees has created significant revenue for those programs.
- Discussion that comparing nationally, MUN graduate enrollment has been consistently steady and consistently high. Trend since the 1960s shows most significant growth in graduate student numbers occurred when MUN became a research focused university.
  - Increasing percentage of international students in graduate programs; particularly in the Masters thesis programs.
- Cumulative budget cuts over 10+ years
  - Increased tuition coupled with increasing cost of living/inflation creating exponential stress.
- Role of Strategic Enrolment and Retention Plan (SERP) in addressing emerging needs and financial realities of MUN.
- Role of SERP in addressing the “right size” of the student population at MUN.

Discussion by PBC to prepare a letter to SERP’s proponents ahead of their scheduled annual report asking them to speak to trends in types of students and what support may be needed to finalize development of SERP.

**3.3 Plans/Framework Work Group Update**

**3.3.1. Response letter to Public Engagement Framework**

**3.3.2. Nov 15th meeting with Ms. Browne on Public Engagement Framework**

**3.3.3. Winter semester presentations timeline**

**3.3.4. PEC Accountability Committee (Mr. K. Matthews)**

*Unable to discuss 3.3.1-3.3.4 due to time limitation of meeting.*

**3.4 Special Meeting of Senate Working Group Update**

*Unable to discuss 3.4 due to time limitation of meeting.*

**3.5 Senate Update**

**3.5.1. Inter-Committee Collaboration and Communication**

*Unable to discuss 3.5. due to time limitation of meeting.*

**3.6 Action Items Tracking 2024-2025 (Appendix B, pp. 6-7)**

*Unable to discuss 3.6 due to time limitation of meeting.*

**4.0 Other Business**

No further business.

Meeting adjourned at 16:00 pm.