

Senators Present:

Dr. Nicolette Bethel, Faculty Representative, Social Sciences, Professor, Chair
Dr. Dion Hepburn, Faculty-At-Large, Associate Professor, Vice Chair
Mr. William Fielding, Staff Representative, Data Analyst, Institutional Strengthening, Secretary
Dr. A. Marie Sairsingh, Faculty Representative, Professor, English Studies, Assistant Secretary
Ms. Janyne Hodder, Administration, Acting President & CEO
Dr. Maria Woodside-Oriakhi, Provost & Vice-President Academic Affairs
Dr. Walteria Tucker-Rolle, Administration, AVP, Institutional Strengthening & Accreditation
Dr. Marlo Murphy-Braynen, Administration, Dean, Business
Dr. Thalia Micklewhite, Administration, Dean, Social and Educational Studies
Dr. Veronica Toppin, Administration, Interim Dean, Pure & Applied Sciences
Dr. Veronica Ferguson, Administration, Dean of Faculty, UB North
Mrs. Michelle Cunningham, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Business
Dr. Camille Smith, Assistant Director, Counsellor II, Libraries/Counselling
Dr. Christine Kozikowski, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, English Studies, Parliamentarian
Dr. Neresa Wallace-Bandelier, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, Education
Mr. Paul McCann, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Education
Dr. Larry Russell Jr. Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Chemistry, Environmental & Life Sciences
Dr. Kayla Stubbs, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, Chemistry, Environmental & Life Sciences
Mrs. Justina Toote-Knowles, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Nursing and Allied Health Professions
Mrs. Karol Mackey-Missick, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Nursing & Allied Health Professions
Dr. Paul Jones, Faculty Representative, Professor, Communication and Creative Arts
Ms. Catharine Archer, Faculty-At-Large Representative, Librarian II
Dr. Amin Kabir, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, Mathematics, Physics & Technology
Ms. Renate Roberts-McWilliam, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Mathematics, Physics & Technology
Mr. Mario Adderley, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Dean, TheCALM
Ms. Vivian McIntosh, Staff Representative, UB-North, Assistant Director, Enrolment and Retention
Ms. Lennise Lopez, Staff Representative, UB North, Assistant Registrar
Ms. Claire Charlow-Patton, Staff Representative, Registrar
Ms. Natasha Taylor, Staff Representative, Administrative Assistant II, CeLearn
Ms. Alexandria Neely, Student Representative
Mr. Anthony Ferguson, Jr. Student Representative – UB North

Senators Elect

Mr. Orenthal Newchurch, Student Representative – UB North
Mr. Andre Davis, Student Representative Elect
Mr. Kendall Isaacs Davis, Student Representative
Ms. Firoella Zancolla, Student Representative

Absent with Apologies

Dr. Ruth Gardiner, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, TheCALM
Mrs. Keturah Babb-Higgs, Staff Representative, Director of Government Relations & Civic Engagement
Mr. Kamrenn King, Student Representative
Mrs. Decoda Darville, Staff Representative, Assistant Director, Campus Life

Absent Senators

Dr. Marky Jean-Pierre, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Communication and Creative Arts
Ms. Shelby McPhee, Adjunct Faculty Representative
Dr. Sophia Rolle, Adjunct Faculty Representative
Mrs. Dale McHardy, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Business
Mrs. Leslie Dorsett-Lewis, Director, CeLearn, UB North
Ms. Jessica Minnis, Faculty Representative, Professor, Social Sciences
Mrs. Lesvie Archer, Staff Representative, Policy Fellow, Public Policy Institute
Ms. Shannon Louissaint, Student Representative

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. by N. Bethel.
2. **Roll Call** - This was taken by W. Fielding.
3. **Prayer** - The prayer was offered by P. Jones.
4. **Approval of Agenda** – On a motion by W. Tucker-Rolle and seconded by C. Smith the agenda for the meeting was accepted as presented.
5. **Minutes**
 - 5.1 Approval of Minutes 11 March 2025 – **Deferred**
 - 5.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 11 March 2025 – **Deferred**
6. **Remarks** – Chair, Academic Senate

Chair, Academic Senate began her remarks by congratulating L. Archer for finalising her PhD and also extended condolences to R. Gardiner on the passing of her brother. The Chair also welcomed the new student senator representatives for 2025/26:

 - Mr. Orenthal Newchurch – UB North
 - Mr. Andre Davis
 - Mr. Kendall Isaacs Davis
 - Ms. Firoella Zancolla

The Chair gave brief highlights about her visit to Bishop's University. She learnt how this university conduct its senate meetings. She would like to extend an invitation to senators from

Bishop's University to attend a University of The Bahamas Academic Senate meeting. She believes that the learning exchange would be beneficial.

7. New Business

7.1 Policies

AS Paper No. 25-48 – Policy on Awarding Credit (New)

This policy was presented to the Academic Senate for its urgent consideration as it is required to complete the accreditation application to SACSCOC. The Chair reminded senators that the process for approving a policy “usually” required that a policy be presented to the Academic Senate twice. However, given the pressing need for this policy, she should be willing to have an extraordinary meeting if senators were unwilling to vote on the policy at this meeting. After a discussion, it was agreed that a vote on the policy should be taken.

Decision: *Following a motion moved by W. Tucker-Rolle and seconded by M. Woodside-Oriakhi AS Paper No. 25-48 was approved as presented.*

AS Paper No. 25-49 – Policy on University of the Bahamas Archives (Revised) – This was presented by the C. Archer and after a brief discussion it was agreed that a vote would be taken at the next of the Academic Senate.

7.2 2025 Honorary Doctorate: J. Hodder

J. Hodder presented the names of the two nominees for the Honorary Doctorate Degree recipients:

- Mr. Lowell J. Mortimer
- Mr. Franklyn R. Wilson

Following a motion moved by J. Hodder and seconded by M. Woodside-Oriakhi the nominees for the Honorary Doctorate degrees were unanimously approved.

7.3 Student Awards: M. Woodside-Oriakhi

M. Woodside-Oriakhi shared that the student awards ceremony will be different this year in that it will be incorporated into the Graduation ceremony which will be held on Tuesday 27 May 2025. Academic Unit Awards for Excellence will be given to students who are the highest achievers in their unit.

7.4 Curriculum Papers

AS Paper No. 25-43 – Programme Requirements Bachelor of Education: Primary to Grade 12 Certification: French (Revised)

Decision: *Following a motion moved by P. Jones and seconded by C. Kozikowski, AS Paper No. 25-43 was approved as presented*

AS Paper No. 25-44 – Programme Requirements Bachelor of Education: Primary to Grade 12
Certification: Music (Revised)

Decision: *Following a motion moved by P. Jones and seconded by C. Kozikowski, AS Paper No. 25-44 was approved as presented*

AS Paper No. 25-45 – Programme Requirements Bachelor of Education: Primary to Grade 12
Certification: Spanish (Revised)

Decision: *Following a motion moved by P. Jones and seconded by C. Kozikowski, AS Paper No. 25-45 was approved as presented*

AS Paper No. 25-46 – Programme Requirements Bachelor of Education: Primary to Grade 12
Certification: Visual Arts (Revised)

Decision: *Following a motion moved by P. Jones and seconded by C. Kozikowski, AS Paper No. 25-46 was approved as presented*

AS Paper No. 25-47 – Programme Requirements Diploma: Midwifery (Revised)

Decision: *Following a motion moved by P. Jones and seconded by C. Kozikowski, AS Paper No. 25-47 was approved as presented*

7.5 Reports of Academic Senate Committees

7.5.1 Statutes, Bye-Laws and Rules – T. Micklewhite – Chair

No update was available at this time.

7.5.2 Committee on Committees – D. Hepburn – Chair

No update was available at this time.

7.5.3 Faculty Development – R. Gardiner – Chair

R. Gardiner reported that the Committee met and reviewed some of their concerns. The Committee met with one of the executives of UTEB and will schedule a meeting with the Provost and VP, Academic Affairs. There are some outstanding issues that must be dealt with one of them being the survey that should have been completed in one of the previous faculty development committees however, they are not sure that the survey was administered and they will do further investigation.

7.5.4 Curriculum/Academic Programmes – P. Jones – Chair

P. Jones reported that In February 2025 the committee met and passed three programmes, they also met in March 2025 where five programmes were worked on and passed in today's Senate meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2025 where additional programmes and courses will be considered. The work of the committee will continue through May and June.

7.5.5 Academic Policies Committee – C. Archer – Chair

C. Archer reported that the committee approved three of the four online learning policies, Online Learning, Accessibility in Online Learning and Privacy in Online Learning. They have been trying to look at the Gen Ed policy which is a large, data intensive document and requires additional time for review.

She noted that the fourth policy, the Learning Management System Policy which is connected to online learning also has a component dealing with intellectual property. She noted that they will have to address the intellectual property component before they can address that policy. She also noted that the committee received some information from Secretary W. Fielding that was helpful as they develop a draft.

7.5.6 Student Affairs Committee – L. Lopez – Chair

L. Lopez reported that the committee met on 1 April 2025 which concluded a total of five meetings for the Academic year. At that meeting, Ms. Tilus, on behalf of VP, Student Affairs shared concerns for the Senate to assist with.

They included consideration for:

- a centralised model for academically advisement of students where there are trained student affairs professionals staff advisors to work along with faculty
- Counselling 100 to be taken in the first semester or in the summer II semester.
- Academic Calendar needs an inclusive approach
- Acceptance letters are provided too late
- Accommodating students with disabilities in the classroom
- The enforcement of the dress code policy

The committee agreed to conduct a courtesy call with the VP. Academic Affairs in the new academic year. L. Lopez gave an overview of the upcoming commencement ceremony which will be held on 27 May 2025. There are approximately 650 students who will be graduating.

7.5.7 Research and Creative Works Committee – A. Kabir – Chair

A. Kabir reported that the Committee had had a meeting last week and agreed on some recommendations to promote and support research:

- 1) That the Graduate Office arranges a Research Edge session in the fall semester for the students who complete top quality course projects the spring semester.
- 2) That there is a need to develop channels for better communication about understanding the IRB policies and thus recommends a slot be given in the faculty seminar for presentation on the IRB.
- 3) That there is low attendance at the Research Edge Forum and out forward the idea of changing the time from 2 pm to 12 pm on Friday with occasional incentives for example coffee and cookies.

The Committee will send all the minutes of meetings this semester to the Secretary of the Academic Senate.

7.5.8 Faculty Handbook – N. Bandelier – Chair

N. Bandelier reported that the Committee is not fully populated, but it is functioning. It met on 1 April, 2025 and it is currently awaiting the signed official copy of the Industrial Agreement, however it has a document that it is working from.

The Committee had discussed changes that need to be made to the faculty handbook and it is its recommendation that general faculty body read the handbook to dispel some of the misunderstandings that have been taking place. The Committee hopes to have the document completed by the end of June 2025.

Adjournment

Following a motion by M. Cunningham and seconded by C. Archer the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.