

**Ordinary Academic Senate Meeting**  
**10 September, 2024, 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**  
**RBC Auditorium**  
**Zoom link for UB North Senators**  
**The meeting was recorded.**



**UNIVERSITY**  
**OF THE BAHAMAS**

**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  
Dr. Christine Kozikowski, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, English Studies, Parliamentarian  
Dr. Douglas Barkey, Administration, Dean, Liberal & Fine Arts  
Dr. Maria Woodside-Oriakhi, Provost & Vice-President Academic Affairs  
Dr. Veronica Toppin, Administration, Interim Dean, Pure & Applied Sciences  
Dr. Neresa Wallace-Bandelier, Faculty Representative, Associate, Education  
Mr. Paul McCann, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Education  
Dr. Kayla Stubbs, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, Chemistry, Environmental & Life Sciences  
Mrs. Dale McHardy, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Business  
Mrs. Michelle Cunningham, Assistant Professor, Business  
Dr. Paul Jones, Faculty Representative, Professor, Communication and Creative Arts  
Mrs. Karol Mackey-Missick, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Nursing & Allied Health Professions  
Dr. Amin Kabir, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, Mathematics, Physics & Technology  
Ms. Renate Roberts-McWilliam, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Mathematics, Physics & Technology  
Dr. Ruth Gardiner, Faculty Representative, Associate Professor, THECALM  
Dr. Camille Smith, Assistant Director, Counsellor II, Libraries/Counselling  
Mrs. Keturah Babb-Higgs, Staff Representative, Director of Government Relations and Civic Engagement  
Mrs. Decoda Darville, Staff Representative, Assistant Director, Campus Life  
Mrs. Leslie Dorsett-Lewis, Director, CeLearn, UB North  
Ms. Vivian McIntosh, Staff Representative, UB-North, Assistant Director, Enrolment and Retention  
Ms. Natasha Taylor, Staff Representative, Administrative Assistant II, CeLearn  
Ms. Lennise Lopez, Staff Representative, UB North, Assistant Registrar  
Mrs. Lesvie Archer, Staff Representative, Policy Fellow, Public Policy Institute  
Ms. Alexandria Neely, Student Representative  
Mr. Kamrenn King, Student Representative  
Ms. Shannon Louissaint, Student Representative  
Mr. Anthony Ferguson, Jr. Student Representative – UB North

**Late Senators**

Dr. Thalia Micklewhite, Administration, Dean, Social and Educational Studies  
Dr. Marlo Murphy-Braynen, Administration, Dean, Business  
Dr. Marky Jean-Pierre, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Communication and Creative Arts  
Ms. Catharine Archer, Faculty-At-Large Representative, Librarian II, Parliamentarian  
Mr. Mario Adderley, Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Dean, THECALM  
Dr. Larry Russell Jr. Faculty Representative, Assistant Professor, Chemistry, Environmental & Life Sciences

**Absent with Apologies**

Ms. Janyne Hodder, Administration, Acting President & CEO  
Ms. Claire Charlow-Patton, Staff Representative, Registrar  
Ms. Jessica Minnis, Faculty Representative, Professor, Social Sciences

**Absent Senators**

Mrs. Justina Toote-Knowles, Faculty Representative, Nursing and Allied Health Professions  
Mr. Shelby McPhee, Adjunct Faculty Representative  
Dr. Sophia Rolle, Adjunct Faculty Representative

**Note taker**

Mrs. Natasha Pyfrom

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 2:17 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 V. Toppin and seconded by D. McHardy the agenda for the meeting was approved.
5. **Approval of Minutes**
  - 5.1 **Extraordinary Meeting of 27 August 2024** – On a motion by D. Hepburn and seconded by K. Mackey-Missick the minutes were approved with the following amendment: L. Russell – late.
    - 5.1.1 **Matters Arising** – None.
  - 5.2 **Extraordinary Meeting of 3 September 2024** –  
M. Murphy-Braynen and D. McHardy indicated that they had submitted apologies, and  
Spelling of Alexandria Neely was corrected,  
Following a motion by M. Sairsingh and seconded by C. Archer, the minutes as corrected, were approved.
  - 5.3 **Matters Arising** – None.
6. **Remarks**
  - 6.1 **M. Woodside-Oriakhi, Provost & VP, Academic Affairs** – She highlighted two significant milestones to celebrate this year: the first being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this institution and the second, the submission of the application for international accreditation this fall semester.  
  
She thanked senators for approving papers necessary to support the accreditation application. In addition, many senators had been involved with assessment reports and also with the faculty credentialing process.  
  
She thanked the Academic Senate for all its support during the last academic year and she looked forward to working with the Academic Senate in advancing the mission and vision of the institution.



6.2 N. Bethel, Chair – The Chair thanked the Senators and the officers for their support as she starts her role as Chair.

The Academic Senate is a governance body. She invited senators to use these Tuesday meetings and their committee meetings as opportunities to engage more with the role of governance and the role of the Academic Senate.

Senators have an opportunity to affect the next 50 years of the University. What might that mean and look like as the Academic Senate propels the University forward? What might it entail? How might it look? The focus of the University is academics and its academic authority is an Academic Senate not a Faculty Senate. There is a need to determine the boundaries of the Academic Senate and the Office of Academic Affairs, governance and administration are different, but related. Further, the Academic Senate needs to determine how it works alongside the University's other governing body, The Board of Trustees.

Senate meetings, in particular the meetings of the committees of the Academic Senate, must be the highest priority of all meetings which senators attend. The Chair expressed her hope that when items come to the Academic Senate that they will address principles such as, how do they affect academic freedom? How do they contribute towards the University's mission? The work of the Academic Senate must be evidence based, focused on principles and indicate that it has done due diligence.

The Chair was of the opinion that the University's graduation ceremony is due for review. It was concerning that students did not stay until the end of the ceremony. How might the Academic Senate affect the change that will make graduation from University of The Bahamas a sacred and joyous occasion?

There was a brief discussion about graduation and the Chair stated that Senate will seek to prepare a resolution on this matter through suggestions and recommendations.

## 7. New Business

### 7.1 Terms of Reference of the Faculty Handbook Committee

The Chair noted that the Faculty Handbook Committee is the newest standing committee of the Academic Senate. She shared the proposed TORs. The Committee will meet four times in the Academic year to ensure that the text in the handbook is up-to-date each June.

The proposal stated that the Committee will be composed of three senators, two faculty, one staff, and one person nominated by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Many questions and suggestions were raised from the floor.

A motion was made by D. Barkey and seconded by N. Wallace-Bandelier to increase the Faculty Handbook Committee members by one additional non-senate faculty member. The motion was approved.

On a motion by N. Wallace-Bandelier and seconded by M. Sairsingh the faculty handbook working TORs were approved with amendments.



### **7.2 Population of Academic Senate Committees**

At the end of the last session, approval was given to reduce the number of meetings for committees so that senators would not be over-committed and would be able to conduct the work of the Academic Senate. N. Bethel noted that all of the committees are quorate and so can start working. A working schedule of the meeting dates of the Committee was shared so as to overcome the issues of quorum which had been experienced in previous years.

The Secretary noted that Senate Committees should meet on a Tuesday between the hours of 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and the business of the first meeting should be to select a chair and a secretary.

### **7.3 Training of Senators**

The Chair noted that the training session for senators will be held on 13 September 2024 at 12 noon in the American Corner. Senators are encouraged to attend.

## **8. Adjournment**

Following a motion by M. Adderley and seconded by R. Gardiner the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

### **Attachment:**

Approved Terms of Reference of the Faculty Handbook Committee

#### **Terms of Reference for Faculty Handbook**

The Faculty Handbook Committee will ensure that the text of the Faculty Handbook is up-to-date by June of each year so that the Office of Academic Affairs can share the Faculty Handbook with all Faculty at the start of the Academic Year.

The Committee will be composed of:

Three senators (two faculty, and one staff), one faculty non-senator and one person nominated by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

The Faculty Handbook Committee will meet no fewer times than four times per Academic Year