

Item: Senate Minutes, April 1999
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

***APPROVED* MINUTES**

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, 12 April 1999, at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. C. Stuttard in the chair were the following:

Apostle, Belanger, Bell, Binkley, Bishop, Bleasdale, Brett, Carlson, Chiasson, Clements, Coffin, Connolly, Cunningham, El-Hawary, Faulkner, Fooladi, Furrow, Galley, Guppy, Johnston, Kimmins, Kipouros, Lalji, Lee, MacDonald, MacInnis, McIntyre, McNiven, Neumann, Pacey, Phillips, H. Powell, Ricketts, Ruedy, Scully, Slonim, Starnes, Tindall, Ugursal, White, Whyte.

Regrets: Abi Daoud, Barnes, Bradfield, Emodi, Girard, Ipson, Kimmins, Lohmann, MacKenzie, Maes, Maloney, C. Powell, Rosson, Russell, Rutherford, Shafai, Traves, Vohra, Wainwright, Wallace

99:036.

Adoption of Agenda

On behalf of the Secretary, Mr. Stuttard apologized that the minutes of the previous meeting were not yet available. At the request of President Starnes of King's College, agenda item 4(d) was postponed until the meeting of 3 May, 1999. The Agenda was then adopted as amended.

99:037.

Question Period

Mr. Chiasson asked Vice-President Scully to speak to the issue of registration deposit fees which had arisen at the previous meeting, and to clarify which Committee of the University would normally deal with such matters. Mr. Scully had consulted with the President of the DSU, the Vice-President (Student Services), and the Deans, among others. The initial proposal for a \$100 registration deposit per class, to a maximum of \$500, had been modified. Students registering for 1999/2000 would now be asked to pay a single common fee of \$200. Mr. Scully shared Mr. Chiasson's concern that consultation on this matter should have been much broader and should have begun much earlier. He suggested that in future SAPBC be one of the vehicles for such consultation.

99:038.

Nomination to the University Tenure Panel

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That Denis Riordan (Computer Science) be appointed to serve on the University Tenure Panel for the term April 1999 to June 30, 2001.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

99:039.

B.Sc. (Minor in Environmental Studies)

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the proposed B.Sc. (Minor in Environmental Studies) be approved.

Mr. Coffin noted that under Section IV of the program proposal form, "Related Programs", the Nova Scotia Agricultural College's major in Environmental Studies could have been noted. Ms. Furrow raised concerns about whether the classes noted in the proposal would be able to accommodate the increased enrolments set out on page 7. For example, the addition of 10 students to the Political Science class listed would represent an enrolment increase, and the same could be said for other classes. Ms. Furrow supported the proposal, but cautioned that Senators keep in mind not just what a new program would look like in the Calendar, but also how it would be perceived and experienced by students attempting to enroll in the required and optional classes. Mr. Stuttard noted that those concerns had been raised in the discussions at SAPBC, and SAPBC had been assured that potential problems with enrolment would be manageable.

Mr. Ryall added that at this stage the numbers were a little speculative, but one of the key classes for this program, "Environmental Problem Solving", would be limited to a maximum of 40 students. The optional classes would offer some room to manoeuvre. The Faculty of Science perceived this program primarily as a repackaging and refocussing of classes. Ms. Binkley noted that the two Sociology and Social Anthropology classes listed were very popular and already tied to other offerings. At some point in the future she would like to discuss the possibility of funding extra sections or teaching assistants or both, for those classes from monies generated by the Environmental Studies initiative. In general, Faculties should start talking about the impact of cross-Faculty demands on existing classes. Mr. Ryall responded that the two classes noted by Ms. Binkley had been recommended by her for inclusion; and it was his understanding that when a program created increased class enrolments for a Faculty, that Faculty benefitted from increased ERBA funding which might be a source for additional money for positions or sections. In response to Mr. Slonim's question as to why no Computer Science classes were included in a program for the 21st century, Mr. Ryall trusted that 21st-century Science students would normally take some Computer Science offerings as part of their regular programs.

The motion was then **CARRIED**.

99:040.

School of Biomedical Engineering

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the proposal to create a School of Biomedical Engineering be approved.

Mr. Apostle wondered about the general impact of a program of this magnitude: what would happen when the initial funding dried up, and what was the broader impact on other areas of the University of cross-appointments to new units such as this? Mr. Ruedy responded that the necessary long-term support had been guaranteed by the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering. This School was to house a new program, made possible by new resources and attracting new faculty. It was a priority for both Faculties and would affect other priorities; but it was not a development the University could afford to pass up.

Mr. Brett noted that the calculations on page 3 of Mr. Christie's memorandum indicated that the program would take in \$81,000 in ERBA funding but only \$ 52,000 in tuition in any given year, presumably because there would be ten thesis-only students not paying full tuition in their second year. He was concerned that this type of funding might put pressure on to create two-year programs with the accompanying funding cushion, something that might not necessarily be desirable. The Chair noted that Mr. Brett's concerns applied to the proposed program, which was the next agenda item, rather than to the proposed School.

The motion was then **CARRIED.**

99:041.

Master of Applied Science in Biomedical Engineering

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the proposed Master of Applied Science in Biomedical Engineering be approved with the following conditions:

- 1) ERBA for the M.A.Sc. students only be credited to the School of Biomedical Engineering;**
- 2) the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering transfer funds to the University Library for the identified library requirements: a) for the retrospective upgrade, one-time payments of \$3,265 from Engineering and \$6,530 from Medicine, and b) for on-going requirements, a permanent base budget transfer of \$5,625 from Engineering and \$11,250 from Medicine;**
- 3) the source of scholarship funding to be provided from University funds for the M.A.Sc. students be identified and agreed upon by the President's**

Office and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

99:042.

Report of the Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Medicine

Mr. Stuttard informed members that the Report of the Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Medicine had been accepted by SAPBC. The approved minutes of SAPBC, circulated to all Senators, included discussion of the Report, and a copy of the Report was available in the Senate Office.

99:043.

Biological Engineering

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the name of the undergraduate and graduate programs in Agricultural Engineering be changed to programs in Biological Engineering.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

99:044.

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the name of the Department of Biochemistry be changed to the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.

Mr. Lee noted that Biology was not enthusiastic about this change; however, the Department had not been as efficient as it would have liked in conveying their position. Consequently, at this stage members did not oppose the change, provided it did not exclude Biology from developing programs in Molecular Biology in the future. Mr. Pacey had parallel concerns, particularly over the potential for confusion at the graduate level, where the Biology Department listed Cell and Molecular Biology as an area of specialization. Would prospective students interested in graduate studies in Molecular Biology be confused by the new name? He understood that the Faculty of Science had not discussed this issue, and recommended that it be referred to that Faculty for input. Mr. Ruedy emphasised that the intention had not been to restrict education or research in molecular biology to this single Department, since it was an integral part of a variety of science programs. The proposers simply wished to provide a better description of the Department of Biochemistry's focus; to be congruent with changes in the name of other Departments of Biochemistry; and to be in line with journals and international meetings which focussed on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The

Faculty of Medicine had communicated with the Dean of the Faculty of Science. Mr. Ricketts clarified that up to this point there was no suggestion of changing the name of the degree.

The motion was then **CARRIED**.

99:045.

President's Report

The President had sent his regrets, and had asked Vice-President Scully to speak to his Report circulated to members. Mr. Scully began by congratulating Deans Bell, MacInnis and Ruedy, together with their three Faculties, and in particular Professors Lee and Stroink, on the new School and Program in Biomedical Engineering. He trusted their ability to cooperate across Faculties would encourage others working in interdisciplinary areas. Referring to paragraph four of the President's Report, Mr. Scully also congratulated Dean Slonim, the Faculty of Computer Science, and the large team who had collaborated in securing the CFI funding for the new Global Information Networking Institute. Such efforts to reach across the disciplines were increasingly important to the well-being of Universities.

Mr. Brett noted that the final paragraph of the President's Report indicated that the bids for the new FASS Building were higher than had been anticipated. He wondered by how much the bids exceeded projections, and to what extent the architects had a responsibility to match expectations with reality. Mr. Scully could not disclose the bids at this stage in the process, but reminded members it was not uncommon for bids to overrun anticipated costs. The University and the architects would require time to work through the bids. In the meantime, Mr. Scully encouraged Senators to take heart from the President's "strong commitment to proceeding as close to the original plan as possible."

99:046.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.