

Item: Senate Minutes, January 1999

Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5 Accession 2007-039 Box 6

Additional Notes:

This document is a compilation of Senate minutes, staff matters and miscellaneous documents for January 1999. The documents have been ordered chronologically and made OCR for ease of searching. The original documents and additional documents for this year which have not yet been digitized can be found in the Dalhousie University Senate fonds (UA-5) at the Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections.

The original materials and additional materials which have not been digitized can be found in the Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections using the call number referenced above.

In most cases, copyright is held by Dalhousie University. Some materials may be in the public domain or have copyright held by another party. It is your responsibility to ensure that you use all library materials in accordance with the Copyright Act of Canada. Please contact the Copyright Office if you have questions about copyright, fair dealing, and the public domain.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

***APPROVED* MINUTES**

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, 25 January 1999 at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

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

Abi Daoud, Apostle, Barnes, Belanger, Bell, Binkley, Bradfield, Carlson, Chiasson, Clements, Coffin, Crocker, El-Hawary, Faulkner, Furrow, Galley, Girard, Guppy, Ipson, Johnston, Kipouros, Lohmann, MacInnis, MacKenzie, Maloney, McIntyre, Neumann, Pacey, Phillips, Rathwell, Ricketts, Rosson, Ruedy, Sastri, Scully, Shafai, Slonim, Starnes, Tindall, Traves, Ugursal, Vohra, Wallace.

Regrets: Bleasdale, Cunningham, Fooladi, Lee, McConnell, McNiven, C. Powell, H. Powell, Wainwright, White, Whyte.

Invitees: Ms. Susan Brousseau (University's Sexual Harassment Officer), Mr. Brian Crocker (University's Legal Counsel), Mr. Bryan Mason (V-P Finance and Administration).

99:01.

Adoption of Agenda

Item 7 of the draft agenda, a presentation by the Registrar, was postponed to the next Senate meeting (February 8). The amended agenda was then adopted.

99:02.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 14 December 1998 were approved as circulated.

99:03.

Open Question Period

The Chair's public invitation to all members of the Dalhousie Community to take this new opportunity to raise questions regarding the internal regulation of the University elicited no response at the meeting. Mr. Stuttard hoped that sustained publicity might encourage more dialogue on University affairs in future.

99:04.

Nominating Committee

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

That Senate approve the nomination of Mr. Dale Retallack to serve as the Faculty of Engineering representative on the Senate Discipline Committee for the term January 1999 to June 30, 2000.

The motion was CARRIED.

99:05.

Steering Committee

a) Report on e-mail voting

Mr. Stuttard reported that although the e-mail vote on academic dates had been an interesting experiment, endorsed by more than two-thirds of Senate members, in retrospect the Steering Committee had agreed that e-mail could not replace face-to-face meetings and should not be used to conduct votes on debatable questions. Mr. Slonim pointed out that in some specific questions, e-mail was appropriate and good, if good judgement was exercised. The electronic vehicle should not be discarded. Mr. Stuttard explained that the senate-list was intended to be used to raise questions and exchange news on issues which would eventually come to Senate for full debate. No rules had been established for using e-mail as a voting mechanism; for instance, the mechanics of proposing and adopting amendments by e-mail, including time limits for responses, had not been established and could well be impractical. Discussions and votes that would take minutes in a Senate meeting could take days to accomplish by e-mail. Mr. El-Hawary agreed that e-mail chat was undesirable as replacement for meetings, but asked that the Steering Committee take the usefulness of e-mail into consideration. Mr. Traves noted that some votes on non-debatable issues such as approval of nominations for committees, could be conducted by e-mail, but e-mail discussions on other matters could be conducted at the Chair's discretion before he referred the issue(s), if necessary, to a regular meeting of Senate.

Mr. Starnes asked whether the results of e-mail voting would be reported on paper. Mr. Stuttard had announced the results by e-mail on January 8, 1999, and repeated them for the record as follows:

Motion from SCAA, amended as proposed by Mr. Chiasson & Ms. MacKenzie:

That the academic dates for 1999-2000 for all Faculties except Dentistry, Health Professions, Law, and Medicine, be as follows:

Classes in the Fall term will begin on Thursday, September 9, and end on December 3, followed by an exam period from December 6 to 16; winter term will begin on January 10, 2000, with a study break from February 28 - March 3, last classes on April 10, and the final exam period of April 12 - 29.

The actual vote count was: For the amended motion.....49
For the unamended (SCAA) motion..... 3

The current Senate membership is 69, with 1 vacancy.

b) Revised Policy on Sexual Harassment

Ms. MacKenzie moved:

That a motion to adopt the proposed revisions to the University's Sexual Harassment Policy be considered as if in Committee of the Whole until a time no later than 5 p.m. today.

The motion was CARRIED.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair reported that there were no motions arising from the discussion for Senate to consider formally. Mr. Traves then suggested that any input to improve the document be transmitted to the Steering Committee before the next Senate meeting. Mr. Slonim asked whether the document could be distributed in electronic form to the Senators. Mr. B. Crocker agreed that could be done.

Mr. Traves moved:

That formal consideration of the revised Sexual Harassment Policy be deferred to the next Senate meeting on February 8, 1999.

The motion was CARRIED.

99:06.

SAPBC

i) BAC XIV Report

Mr. Mason introduced the fourteenth report produced by the Budget Advisory Committee. He pointed out that in the absence of any action there would be a \$3.75m operating deficit in 1999-2000 and a further \$3.5m deficit the following year.

To achieve the required balanced budget, therefore, it was necessary to decrease expenditures or raise revenue, or both. The BAC was seeking advice on this. Mr. Ugursal asked for an explanation regarding the Amalgamation line which showed \$1.6m instead of the \$2.0m expected. Mr. Mason explained that the provincial government had agreed to support amalgamation with three years of funding, namely, \$100K in 1997-98, \$900K in 1998-99 and \$2m in 1999-2000. The Nova Scotia Council of Higher Education had reduced the 99-2000 allocation to \$1.6m, with the inference that support would continue at that level. As enrolment in Computer Science increased, this money would be rolled into the University's regular operating grant. Mr. Ugursal had understood that the amount of \$2m was to be added to the basic budget in perpetuity. Mr. Traves replied that the amalgamation agreement included funding for three years only; there was no commitment to a permanent increase in the University's allocation.

Ms. Furrow asked for comment on the apparent increase in numbers of administrators concomitant with the decrease in faculty numbers. Mr. Mason had no numbers at hand, but

noted that the same levels of cuts were applied to administrative units as to Faculties, and the former lacked the revenue-generation possibilities available to many of the latter. Mr. Ruedy asked what had happened to the projected \$10m savings on administration that were to accrue to Dalhousie through its membership in the Metro Consortium.

Mr. Mason replied that the Consortium did not materialize, especially with respect to administrative consolidation. Also, savings had been projected from inter-Faculty collaborations, but these, too, had not occurred. Only the Dal-TUNS amalgamation had produced savings estimated at \$0.75m.

Mr. Traves added that there had been a cut of \$17m in government funding in the last three years for all metro universities collectively, of which the amalgamated Dalhousie had absorbed two-thirds. In addition, there had been cost increases of \$15m (for salaries, fuel, and so on) resulting in a total negative impact of \$42m. At the same time there was a net increase in tuition income (through enrolment and higher fees, less increased costs) of about \$16m, giving a negative balance which necessitated about \$26m in cuts.

Mr. Bradfield posed two questions: firstly, were the needs for new administrative positions related to the BANNER activities; and secondly, he had understood from Mr. Mason's presentation to Senate last September that the Endowment funds included an amount held in reserve to cover fluctuations in income so that transfers to the operating budget could be sustained within the Board's policy. However, levels of realized income and capital gains seemed to exceed amounts needed to maintain the reserve. Therefore, why could not more endowment income be transferred to the operating budget?

Mr. Mason replied that the new positions recommended for administrative departments were not related to BANNER which was a limited time project. On the issue of endowment spending, he noted that he had responded to this question from Mr. Bradfield many times and would simply reiterate that the University Board's policy was to spend 5% of the market value of the Endowment per year in addition to 0.5% to cover related expenses and about 1% retained for capital maintenance. Thus, three-year average returns of 6.5% were needed to allow 5% to be transferred to the operating budget. For the first nine months of this year the annualized return was 4%. The reserve fund allowed the operating budget to get its 5%.

Ms. Binkley asked for clarification regarding Appendix D of the BAC XIV report, and more specifically recalled that the FASS building was supposed to operate at a lower cost than the houses it would replace. Mr. Mason replied that the new building would indeed cost less to operate per unit area, but it would provide more space thus resulting in an increased operating cost. Also, since the building would not be open until rather late in the financial year (2000-2001) the savings from the existing houses would not be fully realized until the following year.

ii) Early Modern Studies Program Proposal

On behalf of SAPBC, it was moved:

That the proposal for a combined Honours BA degree program in Early Modern Studies be approved, provided that Dalhousie and King's College agree to amend the 2nd Bulletin of Interpretation to the financial transfer agreement to add the words "and Early Modern Studies program" immediately following each occurrence of the words "Contemporary Studies program."

The motion was CARRIED.

99:07.

Report of the President

Mr. Traves announced three decanal appointments and offered his congratulations to Mr. Emodi, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Ms. Binkley, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Ms. N. McDonald, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He also congratulated the Faculty of Computer Science on the launching of its Global Information Networking Institute (GINI), an initiative for partnership in research activities with local and world-wide corporations, at a community breakfast last Tuesday. This was the first in a planned series of public meetings designed to build links to the community. The province had signed a \$7.2 grant under a federal-provincial agreement to support the research activities of GINI, including part of the Faculty of Computer Science building (a total project of some \$9m). Another proposal had been submitted to CFI for a grant to match support from MT&T, ACOA and others which together would produce \$10m for Computer Science. The results of this application were expected to be known in early April.

Mr. Traves also announced the signing of a collective agreement with NSGEU which included the merging of two staff units that existed before the Dal-TUNS amalgamation. Negotiations with the International Union of Operating Engineers were continuing, one objective being the merger of four units. The services of a conciliator had been engaged, and the University remained optimistic that a successful conclusion to these complex negotiations would be reached soon.

Finally, at its last meeting, the Board of Governors had approved the formation of a Facilities Renewal Strategy Committee to develop a strategy for the long-term maintenance of the fabric of the University's buildings. It would be analogous to the Board's Financial Strategy Committee and would pursue broad consultation. Its membership was: Jim Cowan (Chair), John O'Brien, Andrew Philopoulos, Karen Cram, Robert Dexter, and himself.

99:08.

Student Appeal (In Camera)

Following the in camera consideration of the Hearing Panel's report, the Chair reported that Senate had ratified the decision of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee Hearing Panel.

99:09.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.