

Item: Senate Minutes, March 2008
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

Additional Notes:

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF
SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were: Binkley, Breckenridge, Butler, Camfield, Campbell, Cochrane, El-Hawary, El-Masry, Frank, Grundy, Harman, Helland, Johnson, Jones, Kesselring, Kroeker, Maes, McConnell, McLarney, Persaud, Richard, Roberts, Robinson, Schellinck, Schroeder, Shaver, Slonim, Spence Wach, Sutow, Taylor, Tindall, Traves, Tschirhart, Voegeli, Wanzel, Watters, Wheeler.

Regrets: Adshade, Bodorik, Chowdhury, Cook, Croll, Fanning, Geldenhuys, Haslam, Leon, MacLaren, Moukdad, Nowakowski, Pegg, Sadek, Scherkoske, Singleton, B. Smith, Webster.

Absent: Barker, Garduno, Gault, Gray, Johnston, Pelzer, Plug, Precious, Ross, Rutherford, Saunders, Shepherd, J. Smith, Thornhill, Tipping, Willison, Yeung.

Guests: Wm. Baldrige, F. Black, D. Buszard, S. Brousseau, A. Power.

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2008:25

Adoption of Revised Agenda

The revised agenda was **ADOPTED**.

2008:26

Draft Minutes of February 11, 2008 Senate Meeting

- a. Approval
The minutes were **APPROVED** as circulated.
- b. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

2008:27

Question Period

There were no questions.

2008:28

Follow up, Questions and Discussion – Student Survey Data

Mr. Fraser noted that Senate was pressed for time at the last meeting at the end of the presentation that Mr. Traves had given on the Student Survey Data; therefore, this item was placed on the agenda for follow up and questions. Mr. Slonim inquired if the university was moving toward a more student centric approach and Mr. Traves indicated that this was indeed the direction. There is a need to reduce attrition and increase our retention numbers to match or exceed the G13 university group average. Mr. Fraser noted that discussion in these areas will be a matter that Senate and other committees will undoubtedly revisit.

2008:29

Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Mr. Wayne Garland, Faculty of Dentistry, and Mr. Michael Hymers, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, be elected to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term March 10, 2008 to June 30, 2011.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the nominees were declared elected to the Senate Discipline Committee.

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Ms. Laurette Geldenhuys from the Faculty of Medicine be elected to the position of Secretary of Senate for the term March 10, 2008 to June 30, 2008.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Ms. Laurette Geldenhuys was declared elected.

2008:30

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC)

- a. Name Change Request: Degree Programs from M.Sc. & Ph.D.(Anatomy) to M.Sc. & Ph.D. (Anatomy & Neurobiology)

On behalf of the SAPBC, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the name change request for the degree programs, M.Sc. & Ph.D. (Anatomy) to be changed to M.Sc. & Ph.D. (Anatomy & Neurobiology).

Ms. Watters indicated that the name of the department had changed ten years ago, and they are now changing the degrees to match.

The motion **CARRIED**.

- b. New Program Proposal: B.Sc. in Environmental Science (Oceans and Global Change)

On behalf of the SAPBC, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the new program proposal for a B.Sc. in Environmental Science with a concentration in Oceans and Global Change.

Ms. Buszard briefly outlined the proposal indicating that the programs had been built on the current strength in Oceanography, and combined the broad multi-disciplinary approach of the environmental science program with the in-depth requirements for Oceanography. Mr. Maes inquired as to how many potential graduates of the program will gain employment in the region and how many jobs are out there for these graduates. Ms. Buszard responded that the graduates will not be professional oceanographers; they will be graduates with a B.Sc. in Environmental Science, so their area of emphasis will not show on their transcripts; however, there is a strong market for our environmental science graduates in general, and they do find work in the region. Mr. Maes also inquired into the few electives for the program. Ms. Buszard explained that it is a very dense program and the study of oceanography is very broad and it requires a good base in a broad range of science subjects. Ms. Binkley noted that this program is important but she was disappointed in the lack of social science content, such as Coastal Communities, Marine Management or other social sciences beyond policy and economics. Ms. Buszard informed Senators that the university community has been very actively engaged in a much broader discussion to address these shortcomings and a proposal would be before Senate in the near future.

The motion **CARRIED**.

c. New Program Proposal: Master of Information Management (MIM)

On behalf of the SAPBC, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the new program proposal for the Master of Information Management, subject to budget review.

Mr. Fraser indicated that the budget for a program is something that would normally be dealt with at SAPBC, in conjunction with the academic component; however, in this case, we have not yet been able to deal with the budget. Ms. Black, Director, School of Information Management, explained that there are issues that relate to University-wide financing which meant that the financial aspects could not yet be fully discussed and assessed; nevertheless, it was felt that it was important to move forward on the academic programs since this was a new program and we would like to, if it is approved, have it up and running as soon as we are able to deal with the financial aspects.

Ms. Black provided a brief summary of the Master of Information Management (MIM) program proposal and indicated that Dalhousie would very much like to be the first on-line degree in Information Management at the graduate level. The University of Ottawa is preparing a proposal at this time as well. In regard to financing, the Faculty of Management budget awaits approval by the University and, once this has been achieved, the MIM financial component of the program proposal will also be approved. Mr. Slonim inquired how the budget could be an obstacle for the program. Mr. Fraser explained that the program will operate initially at a loss; over time it will break even and then generate a significant surplus. Mr. Wheeler noted that the financial risk is minimal because it is a full cost recovery program and, unless there are sufficient enrolments in the next 6 – 9 months, the program will not proceed.

Mr. Fraser again indicated that although this is not our normal practice, it is also not without precedent. There have been other occasions when it was found to be preferable within SAPBC, and in turn, within Senate, to deal with the academic program separate from the financial review. Mr. El-Hawary asked if it would be fair to assume that the details of the financials would be forthcoming at the next April Senate meeting. Mr. Shaver replied that his understanding of the details of the financials was that most of these programs are sign-offs from the Office of the Provost and so Senate will certainly be informed when that sign-off occurs.

Ms. Watters noted some confusion regarding the reference in the SAPBC excerpt to Graduate Diploma and Advanced Graduate Diploma. The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies had referred to these as a Certificate and Graduate Diploma. Mr. Fraser indicated that he would look into this and report back to Senate.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2008:31

Senate Discipline Committee Annual Report 2006-2007

Ms. Gudrun Curri, Chair, Senate Discipline Committee, presented the 2006-2007 Annual Report and provided a short summary for Senators. She explained that the new faculty discipline process had resulted in (as of March 10, 2008) 67 cases dealt with at the faculty level and 39 cases dealt with by the SDC with 9 still outstanding. This is an overall increase in the case numbers with the final date for reporting not until the end of June. Mr. Fraser added that the Academic Integrity Officers have been meeting on a fairly regular basis to address matters as they arise with the new process and another joint meeting of the AIOs and SDC is anticipated for May 2008.

2008:32

Academic Integrity Officer Ratifications

Ms. Binkley **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. El-Hawary:

THAT the Academic Integrity Officer agreed penalties, as listed in the Secretary of Senate's March 3, 2008 memo, be ratified.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2008:33

Report of the Task Force on Graduate Student Funding Presentation & Discussion

Ms. Watters, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) and Chair of the Task Force on Graduate Student Funding provided an overview of the Report. Mr. Fraser noted that the Report had previously been discussed at SAPBC and, once Senate has had an opportunity to discuss the Report, it will return it to SAPBC for further comments, feedback, and recommendations.

Ms. Watters highlighted two basic assumptions for the Task Force. The first was that at Dalhousie, research matters and the second is that graduate students are critical to the notion of research at Dalhousie and at the same time the professional Masters are not second class citizens. Ms. Watters outlined the recommendations in the report, the funding scenarios and the need to provide capacity planning.

Mr. Cochrane inquired into enrolment for graduate programs and if the static numbers were the desired targets. Ms. Watters stated that the long-term planning report from the Board indicated that they wanted Graduate Studies enrolment to stay fairly flat. Mr. Maes indicated that we always seem to be going back to the same sources for funding. Is that a sustainable strategy? How do we increase our capacity? Ms. Watters stated that she does not have a solution either, and she thinks that is why they thought that of increasing endowments and going to the federal government was a viable option. However, if enrolment numbers are not expected to increase then we must be more competitive. Mr. Maes wondered if there was any way we could approach industry. Ms. Watters said she doesn't know what the mechanism would be other than through External Relations and through the individual Deans.

Ms. Watters noted that the Report had been filed with the Vice-President, Academic & Provost, who commissioned the report and the FGS have actually started to implement some of the recommendations where they apply to FGS, and where they fit with our strategic plan. The balance of the recommendations that would be at the University level are on Mr. Shaver's desk. Mr. Shaver noted that we should not restrict our fund-raising locally because this does not recognize the fact that we are in and a part of a global market. In terms of the background behind the Task Force, Mr. Shaver explained that he was being inundated with many comments about the state of graduate student funding at Dalhousie, and so the Task Force is a response to get the people to do an analysis of graduate student funding from first principles to first inform the community, to suggest some priorities and inform the senior administration of those two issues. There was recognition that there was nothing equivalent of the President's Awards and there are things that would top up fellowships that recognize quality that came out of the task force report and were immediately acted upon, to establish that funding line. What we are trying to do is build a systematic approach to graduate student funding as it is not only about capacity. A large aspect of this is about quality. The first item is to try and properly fund the students we have, raise the quality, get them through, and have more impact that way. Where we can expand capacity and support with the proper kind of funding, we will look at that. Part of capacity is reviewing programs that we already have, analyzing where they do not still have the impact that they used to have, and determine if they are still worth the kind of investment that we are putting into them.

Ms. Camfield asked if retention of Ph.D.s and Masters in Nova Scotia, rather than having them across Canada or throughout the world, has been reviewed. Mr. Shaver indicated that he thinks it is important to recognize that Nova Scotia is in a global market and the idea that we will only be appointing or hiring our own is not very realistic in addition to the fact that we will be hiring people from outside Nova Scotia and places from outside Nova Scotia will be hiring our graduates. Mr. Wheeler spoke to the need to look at market segmentation for graduate funding which reflects both the fund-raising and the expenditure side.

Mr. Tschirhart noted the absence of funding from the provincial government and inquired into lobbying efforts targeted to the provincial government. Mr. Traves responded by saying that there has been pressure on the province from a variety of perspectives on the importance of this issue, and the fact that Nova Scotia contributes very little as compared to the rest of the country. Mr. Fraser noted that this is obviously a very important area, and one which will require a lot of attention. Ms. Watters indicated that she would welcome emailed comments from Senators as the work of the Task Force is finished, but the problem has yet to be solved.

2008:34

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser invited Mr. Butler, the Vice-Chair of Senate to report on the progress of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee which has been charged with the responsibility of reviewing the roles and responsibilities, operations and functions of the Senate Standing Committees. The committee has met three times and anticipates having a report prepared by June. The Committee is currently seeking responses from Chairs of Standing Committees in addition to a general call for input from the University community.

Mr. Fraser congratulated Ms. Jones, Dalhousie Student Union Senator, who had recently raised over \$20,000 for the Spread-the-Net challenge. He then went on to inform Senators about the Working Group on the Program Approval Process which is reviewing the processes for program approvals and invited Senators who may have any input, suggestions, or observations on the program approval process to please direct them to Mr. Fraser in the Senate Office. Mr. Fraser also noted that a memo had been circulated regarding the issue that arose at the last meeting regarding senior administrative appointments and indicated that he will be asking the Senate Steering Committee to review the policy.

2008:35

President's Report

Mr. Traves had three items for comment and the first one was the discussions that are still ongoing around the Memorandum of Understanding on provincial funding for the University for the next year and the two years subsequent. Secondly, there will be a campus planning exercise and extensive consultation to help us position where we want to go with future expenditures at the University for new facilities or the renovation of existing facilities. The report will come forward in the next 12 months, and there will be an opportunity for input from the University community as that process unfolds. Finally, the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation was cancelled but the funding which was allocated (\$350,000,000/year) will continue to flow through new government vehicles. In addition, there were some additional investments in the research area - 3% increase in funding for the granting councils and similarly for the indirect costs of the universities.

Three other smaller items to note were the major new announcement relating to the creation of the Vanier Scholarships; which is a federal government program for attracting outstanding students both from Canada and abroad; the creation of a new class of federally-funded research chairs aimed at attracting internationally or national caliber applicants; and various environmental initiatives of funding for a carbon storage project in Nova Scotia.

2008:36

Other Business

There were no items of other business.

2008:37

Adjournment

The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 6:00 pm.