

Item: Senate Minutes, February 2006
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, February 13, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barker, Beazley, Binkley, Bond, Cercone, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Cook, Dawson, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Edelstein, Fraser, Geldenhuys, Hubert, Johnson, Klein, Leon, Livingston, Maes, McNeil, Murphy, Rosson, Saunders, Schroeder, Scrimger, Shelkovyy, Slonim, K.E. Smith, Stone, Stroink, Swanston, Thornhill, Traves, Urbanowski, Webster, Wien, Whyte, Zuck.

Regrets: Breckenridge, Butler, Camfield, Caron, Cleave, Coughlan, El-Hawary, Hicks, Jordan, Kwak, Lane, McMullen, Oppong, Pegg, Phillips, Plug, Rutherford, Salmon, Scully, B. Smith, Sullivan, Taylor, Wallace, Wanzel, Wright.

Absent: Ben-Abdallah, El-Masry, Finbow, Gray, Horackova, Morgunov, Pelzer, Precious, Yeung.

Invitees: B. Mason, A. Wainwright

2006:19

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Fraser called the meeting to order. He reported that the Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee had asked that the nominations to the University Tenure & Promotions Committee come forward, as an additional item, under Agenda # 5, Senate Nominating Committee.

With this one addition the agenda was **ADOPTED**.

2006:20

Draft Minutes of January 23, 2006 Meeting

a) Approval

With a few corrections to the text of Mr. Bryan Mason's presentation, and a correction on page 4, 10th line from the bottom, the word "inability" should read "unavailability"; the minutes of January 23, 2006 were **ADOPTED**.

b) Matters Arising

Mr. Fraser indicated that there were two items included in today's meeting package for information only and are follow up from past Senate meetings: December 21, 2005 SSC approved meeting excerpt re: SDC jurisdiction and the issue which had been raised as to whether jurisdiction extended to faculty or was restricted to students; as requested during the January 9, 2006 Reputation Management presentation – the role of Dalhousie's International Development Projects and Lester Pearson International – Contributions to Dalhousie's Reputation Management.

During Mr. Mason's Senate presentation on January 23 regarding the Pension Plan, a question was raised about the exact amount of the pension surplus that was used in 2000. Mr. Mason has indicated that he would bring that information forward in the not too distant future.

2006:21

Budget Advisory Committee Report XXXII

Mr. Bryan Mason, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, was invited along with members of the Budget Advisory Committee, for the presentation of the BAC XXXII Report. He explained that the purpose of this Report is to seek input from members of the University community to inform, first of all, and to get some advice. What has been laid out in this Report are the knowns, such as they have been identified with respect to the planning for the 2006-07 University Operating Budget. There are a few remaining questions that we're struggling with in BAC and looking for assistance across the campus. In fact this year there are more knowns than we normally have come to expect. The government grant has already been announced as part of the Memorandum of Understanding, signed about 16 months ago, so we do know that our government grant will be going up by 5 ¼ %, which we all recognize as a very welcome change from the experience of prior years. We know as well that tuition fees in general cannot be raised by more than 3.9% so that closes a large area of debate. We know what our compensation costs are going to be as most of our collective agreements are in place for the year. We have re-signed a tentative agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers and hope that within another ten days or so it will ratify. Areas that are perhaps a little less certain, but nevertheless where we made some estimates based on information provided to us in the first instance by the Enrolment Management Committee is in the question of student enrolment for 2006-07 and based on the information we have received, we should expect an overall decrease in enrolment of about 400 students. The Budget Advisory Committee has built in a reduction in revenue on that basis of about \$1.8 million. Overall we are looking at revenue increases of about 3.3% and as it stands now we are looking at cost increases of about 5.7%. A factor in those cost increases, beyond the normally inflationary impacts on compensation and other items, is the decision that has been made to increase our student recruitment budgets in terms of the expenses incurred by the Registrar's Office and those incurred in promotion and advertising and marketing. So, we have been advised to include that \$1.3 million in increased commitment in that area. That leaves us with an overall shortfall in our budget of about \$5.6 million and BAC, as usual, has identified a number of options, which are set forth on page 8 of the Report. Mr. Mason indicated that he wants to emphasize that BAC hope it is clear in the Report that we do not see scenario A and scenario B as the choices – pick one, or pick the other. These were simply meant to be illustrative, not only is there a mix and match possibly, but there are other possibilities, although there are not a lot of levers that we can pull this year to bring us to the balanced budget that we are required to develop. BAC have some additional room to maneuver in selected areas of tuition fee increases and those would be tuition fees paid by students in the faculties of Law and Dentistry and by international students. And so we have set out a couple of ways of looking at those numbers and that is very much an area where BAC are looking for input before we formulate our final recommendation for the President, and ultimately, for the Board of Governors. BAC have been pursuing a program of strategic initiatives for a number of years and 2006-07 and 2007-08 were to be the two final years of that program, so clearly we could stretch out those two years. Recognizing that in doing so, there are prices to be paid.

Finally, we have budget reductions. Those are substantial numbers that are in the scenarios if we don't do some of the items further up in the scenarios then those numbers would be even bigger. If we tried to balance the budget solely on the back of budget cuts that would call for a 3.1% average budget cut across the University. He reminded all Senators that last September we had for the first time in decades a mid-year budget cut of 1% to all budget units. Some units are still in the process of coping with that cut and then on top of that will be a new cut as of April 1st. There may be other items that members of Senate would like to share advice with us today or following this meeting by sending us additional comments and thoughts that you might have, but we would like to get some discussion and debate on the alternatives and on the questions that we have put forward.

The Chair thanked Mr. Mason and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Mr. Slonim expressed an interest in energy asking what the cost to the University would be today, as there was concern over the price of oil, but it turns out that, we are having a much warmer season than expected, at least until today and secondly, the prices are coming down, as they thought it would happen. He said that he assumed that when BAC did the \$3 million issue, you took the worse case scenario. Mr. Mason explained that it was not the worse case scenario; because what BAC do in regard to heating fuel is average consumption over the past three years. He said they try to take into account the variability in weather patterns, etc. We do use average consumption values. We did not project further price increases in September when we put the extra money in and we were using an average price for the first number of months in the year. We were not using the peak price so we don't know again until the end of the year what that number will be. Mr. Slonim asked if there is the possibility that we will ever see a surplus on it. Mr. Mason said that there is the possibility that we would not spend all that money. The other area, however, that still remains to be determined is the price of electricity. Nova Scotia Power has requested a 16% rate increase. We built into our projections a substantially lower number. We didn't think they would be successful. There is no decision yet, so we don't know what that will be. That might be worse news though than what we had built in, because we are part of a group that has intervened in those hearings before the Utility Review Board to argue against such big increases and our sense is that NS Power has done a better job this year than they did in previous rounds. BAC have had built an electrical rate increase in from January 1st, which was the effective date of the application.

Ms. Stone recalled that last year there was quite a debate about the pros and cons of relying on tuition fee increases for international students as a way of increasing revenues for the University. Ms. Stone's recollection was that some persuasive evidence was presented then that Dalhousie University might still be competitive if we raised our fees for international students. Do I take it from the statement on the bottom of page 6 in this year's Report that, "The international student data presented below suggest perhaps that there is some question with respect to Dalhousie's market position", that we are no longer sanguine about trying to address the fixed tuition rate for domestic students by turning to areas where it is not regulated by, for example, international students? Mr. Mason responded by point to the numbers presented in the Report on top of page 7 with respect to international students; Total Applications and Total Registrations. Certainly the 2005-06 data are notable in terms of is there a trend, or isn't there a trend? One year, obviously, does not make a trend, but it is a little bit harder for us having looked at the previous five years or so of steadily growing enrolments in this area, and now we have a one year of slight retrenchment. We are not sure whether that has anything to do with this lot of opinions. We are not sure whether it has anything to do with fees. The more information we can get from people around the campus, the better it is. The one thing we would note is that if you look at international enrolments over an extended period they don't steadily move in one direction or the other. They go up and they go down and so to say why they went down this time versus why they went down seven years ago, or whenever the last time was that this time is because we put the fees up and then we didn't, one can make that case, but it is hard to substantiate and so we are struggling with it. Ms. Stone asked, even though different universities draw on different populations of students making a comparison difficult, do we have any data from other universities that indicates whether or not their enrolments for international students have gone down? Mr. Mason explained that we are in the process of trying to gather data from across the country, but the experience on the west coast is so totally different than from the east coast and we you look at the east coast, there are not a lot of other universities that are comparable to Dalhousie in the sense of the large graduate programs. Ms. Stone commented that since it is a relative small amount that would be generated, \$150,000, by the larger increase in tuition fees for international students, she indicated that it seems that given that we know that we have a declining population in Atlantic Canada, particularly Nova Scotia right now, that maybe the small gain we get from raising tuition fees for international students would be offset by the potential of losing international students at a time when we need to have more students from abroad.

Mr. Cercone commented that the numbers do not tell him a very good story. He said that he does not know what the breakdown is on graduate versus undergraduate, but more importantly, he sees the total

number of total applications going way down and questions whether the students that are being admitted are of the same quality as they had been. This is big concern because in one of the graduate programs in Computer Science the faculty actually wrote or telephoned every student who had accepted but did not show up to find out why. He added that he has a little bit of data on this, but is reluctant to generalize on a case that only involves about 25 applicants, and pointed out that the BAC report indicates a larger number and wonders if we are accepting students of lower quality, because the graduate program is a key to the vitality of research dollars. Mr. Traves responded by explaining that he pursued this issue with the Dean of Graduate Studies in the past and others in the University and the impression is that the tremendous increase in the usage of web-based information distribution and web-based application has led international students to be more efficient in their application processes. They now have more information from the Web and they can be more discerning in their application rates. Also they are more likely to apply to schools that they are at the same time likely to go to if accepted, so to his knowledge there has been no decline in the standards of admission with respect to the quality of the incoming student body from abroad.

Mr. Whyte observed that as a Senate representative from Medicine he always felt obliged to raise issues of social responsibility with respect to increasing the fees for the three professions identified on the grounds that by so doing you will limit access to the professions to poorer students. We traditionally get the response that the social accountability of the institution is recognized but it is also shared with the province, so perhaps that should be addressed by the province. If the province is waiting for the university to address it and the university is waiting for the province to address it, he wonders who will provide this leadership. By increasing medical student fees, for example, such that it arrives at the median, or above the median for university fees is something that comes to the arms race. Every other institution is going to respond and “leap frog” one another on the grounds of where the other institutions have pitched their admission fees. Every year, he explained, he urged the BAC to either limit or annul the increase in medical student fees and he indicates that he does so again without much hope.

The Chair thanked Mr. Mason for the BAC XXXII presentation and reminded Senators that any further questions or comments should be addressed to the committee.

2006:22

Notice of Motion – Robin Whyte

Mr. Whyte **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Bond:

THAT Question Period be moved on the Senate Agenda to follow Business Arising rather than its present place on the bottom of the regular Senate Agenda.

The Chair clarified that the motion relates to regular structuring of the agenda and does not affect today’s agenda.

Mr. Whyte explained that he proposed this motion because Question Period used to be in a position similar to this and was moved by what he thought was a Steering Committee decision to the bottom of the Agenda. He pointed out that Senators are “urged” to leave the meeting by that time and anyone that has a serious question to ask is usually competing with Senators who are making obvious body movements towards the door. The serious issue of Question Period is that it is the place where Senators “own” the Senate; that is where Senators may ask genuine questions or rhetorical questions in much the same way as Question Period is played out in Parliament. He added that it is a very important function of Senate and seeing it reduced to the end of the Agenda diminishes its importance, and as a result, Senate has had much less productive discussion and frankly, boring Senate meetings because Senate has become much more placed in the position of hearing reports, and those are often played out until adjournment time of Senate. Finally, he stated his argument of returning Question Period to its original place behind Business Arising is for Senators to regain ownership of the proceedings and raise their questions appropriately.

Ms. Stone spoke in support of the motion because Senate is very important as the academic decision-making body on campus and this particular motion would Senate more responsive, potentially more participatory. She expressed some concern over how Senate has changed over the years becoming less “rowdy” and less participatory. She added that very interesting debates used to take place. She pointed out that members of the university want to raise important issues and we should give them the respect and the due courtesy to listen to those issues carefully and with open minds and when we are not exhausted at the end of a long day and a two-hour Senate meeting when, as this has been pointed out, there are also questions that might arise out of the regular business of Senate. In particular, for people, who are not just Senators, but are not members of Senate (non-Senators could ask questions in Senate with permission from the Chair), if they come to Senate with issues they would like this body to take under advisement, or look into, they could be presented at a time when they are going to at least have people who are not tired at the end of the day.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2006:23

Senate Nominating Committee

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

THAT Patricia Cleave, Faculty of Health Professions, be elected to serve on the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee for February 2006 to June 30, 2007; and

THAT Catherine Venart, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, be elected to the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching Committee for February 2006 to June 30, 2008.

Following the requisite three calls for further nominations, the nominees were declared elected to their respective committees.

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

THAT the following persons be appointed to the University Tenure and Promotions Panel for the period February 2006 to June 30, 2008:

Horand Gassmann - Management/Business Administration

Jill Grant - Architecture/Planning

Duane Guernsey - Medicine/Ophthalmology

Rebecca Jamieson - Science/Earth Sciences

Grant MacDonald - College of Continuing Education

Patricia Melanson - Health Professions/Nursing

William Phillips - Engineering/Engineering Math

Dianne Pothier - Law

Kathleen Russell - Medicine/Biomedical Engineering

The motion **CARRIED**.

2006:24

Senate Academic Priorities & Budget Committee

New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Arts – Concentration in Creative Writing

Ms. Marian Binkley, Dean, and Mr. David Schroeder, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Mr. Andrew Wainwright, McCulloch professor in English were present for discussion.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposal by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for a Concentration in Creative Writing as part of a 20-credit BA Double Major or Combined Honours program.

Mr. Schroeder spoke briefly in support of the proposed program indicating it was very well received in the Faculty.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2006:25

Senate Committee on Academic Administration

Bachelor of Software Engineering Hood Color

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Mr. Bruce Dunphy **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the academic hood colors for the degree of Bachelor of Software Engineering to be gold lining with emerald green border.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2006:26

Sexual Harassment Office Report

The report of the Sexual Harassment Office, presented to Senate for information only, was received.

In response to a question by Mr. Stroink regarding any improvement over the many years in terms of reports of complaints about sexual harassment, Mr. Traves replied that, the trend contained over three years of information from 2002-2005 is there has been no significant change in the level of complaints or activity.

2006:27

Appointment of Assistant Ombudsperson

On behalf of the Ombudsperson's Advisory Committee, Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Student Services, **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the appointment of Ms. Patrice Barnett as Assistant Ombudsperson for a term ending April 2006.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2006:28

Senate Honorary Degrees Committee

In Camera - Voting on Honorary Degree Candidates, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, and the NSAC Spring Convocation 2006

The assembly moved *in camera* to consider and vote on two honorary degree candidates for Fall 2006, Spring 2007, and the NSAC Spring 2006. On return to open session, the Chair reported that the honorary degree candidates had been approved.

2006:29Report of the Chair

On behalf of the Chair of Senate, Mr. Fraser reported that Senator Peter Butler has recently been appointed to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, and on behalf of Senate, congratulations are extended to Mr. Butler on that appointment. On January 25, 2006 the Chair of Senate received notification that the following program proposals have received approval from MPHEC:

- Master of Science (Human Communication Disorders) – Thesis Stream only
- Master of Science (Audiology) – project stream
- Master of Science (Speech-Language Pathology) – Project Stream

Mr. Fraser informed Senators that we are continuing to explore various options in an effort to work out the bugs in the electronic distribution of Senate mail out material and thanked Senators for their patience in the meantime. He reminded Senators that if anyone would prefer a hard copy form to inform the Senate Office.

2006:30Report of the President

Mr. Traves noted the election of the new leader of the progressive conservative party who will take over office as Premier of Nova Scotia, Mr. MacDonald, noting that that is an important development for the University, insofar as we are substantially dependent upon the provincial government for significant amounts of funding for both our operating budget and research funding, and it is hoped eventually, for capital funding as well. During the course of the selection process that went on, Mr. Traves had an opportunity to meet with all three of the candidates for an extended interview which provided an opportunity to review issues of concern to the post-secondary sector. Mr. MacDonald made no commitment at this point with respect to funding levels. Dalhousie University is in the process of a multi-year agreement in any event. Mr. Traves added that he remains hopeful of the premier's vision of the post-secondary system as he comes into the provincial office.

The University has been working fairly extensively to extend and deepen our relationship with the senior public service of the province. A few weeks ago we had a very positive encounter. All the deputy ministers of Nova Scotia were invited to the University. An agenda was worked out with their Steering group for a five-hour session in which essentially the Deans and Vice-Presidents of the University met with the Deputy Ministers and a few major issues, agreed to in advanced were discussed. It was an excellent meeting, very dynamic discussion, that provided a positive engagement and opportunity to do a little advertising about the University's capacity, particularly, around research capacities to facilitate policy development in the province. Mr. Traves said that he has received excellent feedback from this leadership group of the public service. He thinks this is an important and positive development for the University and he hopes that we will be able to repeat this again in the future. He thinks it will create a number of opportunities for different groups of faculty members who have expertise that bears on issues of public concern to contribute that expertise and derive substantial support for some of the research activities that they are doing at the University.

On a more immediate area, Mr. Traves explained that a meeting of the University's Community Relations Committee, which was set up a few years ago to meet with neighbors who live in the surrounding area of the University to talk about a number of concerns they had about their relationship with the University, in particular, some of the trials and tribulations they have experienced living in an area, where understandably, thousands of students come and go. Some of the students lived on campus, and on occasion some of them were a little rowdier than the neighbors would like, so we established this committee and have been meeting regularly. There is active student involvement. There is participation by the University of King's College. In general, he believes it has been a very productive relationship; a good opportunity to explore a host of issues. We have made a number of "program" developments,

which he thinks helped to calm the situation and increase trust and confidence in the University. Within our immediate community we had our annual meeting a couple of weeks ago which was quite a positive event; a lot of appreciation for some of the steps taken at the University. While this is inevitably bound to be an ongoing issue with ongoing tensions, it is just in the nature of our relationship, he thinks it is being well-managed and perceived to be well-managed and that is appreciated in the community. He expressed appreciation for the many hours that faculty, staff, and students put into this as well as a number of community volunteers who serve on this committee.

Finally, he said he was pleased to update that in the past he had mentioned that we have some plans for the recently-vacated old Management building located on Coburg Road. We are now moving to the next step of development of this project. Our intention is to essentially remove the building from the site, strip it down essentially to the steel girders and the foundation, and then build a new replacement building on the site of the existing tower part of that building complex. We will be proceeding with that. We have a couple of final details to work through, but assuming the cost estimates that we receive are consistent with some earlier work that we did about a year and a half ago, it is our intention to proceed. This will not constitute a significant drain on the University's budget insofar as the financing for this project will come essentially from the two inhabitants of the building, as it were; the Faculty of Computer Science has a substantial CFI grant which is matched by a grant now several years standing from the Economic Development Agreement that exists between the province and the federal government. That money will be contributed to the cost of building the structure and the Faculty of Computer Science will obtain some needed research space to house some of their activities, present and future. The College of Continuing Education, which is located downtown in rented space off Spring Garden Road, will, in due course, move into this building as well, and the University will essentially take the rental payments that are now being contributed to sustain the College's rented space, and turn that into payments on an ongoing "mortgage", or loan of some sort for the property and we should be able, therefore, to finance this building, which we estimate to be in the \$5.8 million range. If it turns out that that estimate is wildly out of whack with the new realities of construction costs, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the project, however, that is not anticipated to be the case, so the University is moving forward with its plans for that space, and hopefully demolition can start this summer.

2006:31

Dalhousie Student Union Presentation

Mr. Edelstein and Ms. Bond were present to give a brief presentation on the DSU. Mr. Edelstein went on to explain that the DSU is the representative body of all students on campus. Every student at Dalhousie pays a per student fee, depending on whether they are full time or part time. A large portion of that fee goes towards societies that receive a per student fee from the DSU. Exempt from that are the Gazette, CKDU, a number of the A level societies, the Nova Scotia public industry and research group, the Women's Centre, and a number of other ones. We also house and support over two-hundred societies, everything from academic societies to politically-based societies, or special-interest societies. Our favorite example of those is the Dalhousie Tea Drinking Society. The DSU is governed by five executives. Those executive take their direction from a council of 34 members. The Council is made up of representatives from every faculty as well as representatives from every residence hall, and interest groups. We have a representative each from the women's community, the aboriginal community, the black student community, and the lesbian/gay/bisexual & trans-gendered community. Currently the five executive are the President, the chief spokesperson of the DSU, the Vice-President, Internal, who oversees communication as well as all of the societies, and that person also administers grants that the DSU gives out, which is approximately \$50,000 a year in grants to societies and individuals. Society grants are mostly for special events or conferences that societies are organizing, and individual grants go mostly towards funding for students to attend conferences of an academic nature. The Vice-President, Finance oversees the financial and operational side of the DSU, including purchase orders & cheque requisitions. The Vice-President, Student Life, organizes the social events that the DSU runs, such as a carnivals or charity balls, is the main organizer for frosh week, as well as OctoberFest. The Vice-President, Education, Jen Bond, deals with the internal academic and external lobby side.

Ms. Bond spoke to what she felt were some common misconceptions around the University, not only by students, but by faculty and staff about the Dalhousie Student Union. She clarified, first of all, that the DSU does not control the functions of the Dalhousie Gazette, CKDU, A level societies, which are the faculty societies. They are societies of the DSU, but are certainly at arms length and the DSU only administer the student fee that they receive. The second misconception is that the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (DSAS) is a legal service and is comprised of all law students. The DSAS is another arm's length service underneath the office of the Vice-President, Education that assists students in navigating their way through the student discipline process, the academic appeals process, as well as faculty appeals processes. Their purpose, it was pointed out, is not to dispense legal advice. Further, although the majority of student advocates are in the Faculty of Law, some are senior-level Arts, Science and MPA students. Thirdly, the DSU is not a "chicken little" when it comes to addressing student concerns, particularly, with senior bodies such as Senate and the Board of Governors. She explained that the DSU does disseminate the opinions of the student body as they hear it.

Mr. Edelstein spoke briefly about the DSU's internal relationships; three members sit on the Board of Governors, the President, and two others who are elected in a general election of all students, which arises each year immediately following the spring break. The second internal relationship is with Senate; there are six seats on Senate, the President, the Vice-President, Education, a graduate student senator, and three other student representatives, who may be graduate level students as well. They are elected in a general election as well. These students also sit on a number of committees, such as the University Community Committee and committees associated with Senate and the Board of Governors. Ms. Bond explained that the student representatives are involved in a couple of external relationships; the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), which is a national lobby group that is specifically post-secondary education related, with approximately 19 student organizations within, representing about 333,000 students. The two delegates to that group are generally the President and the Vice-President, Education. The provincial lobby group is the Nova Scotia Students Association, which does not hold any affiliation to CASA, represents approximately 75% of all the universities in the province, and is specifically post-secondary education focused. Some of the major issues of both groups addressed are access and affordability to post-secondary education, provincially addresses the existence, or need for existence of a needs-based grant program, noting that Nova Scotia is one of the few provinces that does not administer its own program. Currently CASA is lobbying for a holistic review of the Canada Student Loans program that was adopted by the Liberal party, as well as lobbying for a per student versus per capita funding model from the federal government.

Ms. Bond went on to say that the DSU has a policy committee called the Academic and External Committee, which is chaired by the Vice-President, Education. This committee has just passed a policy on Turnitin.com, looking for opted out policy for students who are essentially wary, or objectors of Turnitin.com. Other issues to be examined will be course evaluations, standardized spelling, academic appeals, and exit surveys, both upon graduation as well as when students withdraw.

Ms. Binkley rose to inform the Chair that sometime in the 1980s it was passed at Senate that the Collin's Dictionary was accepted as the official University dictionary because it included both the American and British spelling, a typical compromise because it does not exclude one or the other.

Mr. Whyte asked whether given the close relationship between politics and law, is the Dalhousie Student Union executive traditionally over-represented by Law students or any other particular group of students, and is it under-represented of any particular group of students. Ms. Bond indicated that there is representation from all faculties.

Mr. McNeil asked Ms. Bond to expand on the potential opt out policy regarding Turnitin.com. She explained that there has been some concern that students are not knowledgeable about what Turnitin.com actually is until something goes wrong, that their paper will end up in a database in the United States, and that Turnitin.com has ownership over that paper, and the idea that someone, somewhere owns the ideas of

these students and is using them for profit. Also, there has been some concern expressed by certain faculties that there may be problems in the future if students want to expand on ideas that were in papers submitted to Turnitin.com in terms of patent rights. The intellectual property idea in that sense has been a concern. There has also been some concern about not knowing where to go to find the sources put into Turnitin.com, the assumption of guilt of putting in an entire class of papers into Turnitin.com in the hopes of finding some irregularity. The Opt Out policy would be for students who have a concern with Turnitin.com understanding that their paper or assignment would then be subject to further scrutiny if they knew they had opted out a little bit higher level of care on that paper. It is not a new idea and a number of universities across the country that have their own opt out policies, the least of which is McGill University and we would like to see it adopted at Dalhousie.

2006:32

Question Period

There were no questions.

2006:33

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, February 27, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. El-Hawary in the chair: Adshade, Barker, Beazley, Ben-Abdallah, Binkley, Bond, Breckenridge, Cercone, Chowdhury, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Dawson, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Finbow, Fraser, Gray, Hicks, Johnson, Jordan, Klein, Kwak, Lane, Leon, Livingston, Maes, McMullen, McNeil, Murphy, Opong, Pelzer, Plug, Precious, Saunders, Schroeder, Scrimger, Scully, Slonim, B. Smith, K.E.M. Smith, Stroink, Sullivan, Taylor, Traves, Urbanowski, Wallace, Wright, Yeung, Zuck.

Regrets: Butler, Camfield, Caron, Coughlan, Geldenhuys, Pegg, Phillips, Rosson, Shelkovyy, Stone, Swanston, Thornhill, Wien, Whyte.

Absent: Edelstein, El-Masry, Horackova, Hubert, Morgunov, Rutherford, Salmon, Wanzel, Webster.

Invitees: J. Grant, E. Grundke, A. Power, H. Ryding.

2006:034

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

2006:035

Draft Minutes of February 13, 2006 Meeting

a) Approval

The minutes of February 13, 2006 were **ADOPTED** as circulated.

b) Matters Arising

Mr. Bryan Mason, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, during his Senate presentation on January 23, 2006 indicated that he would confirm the exact amount of the pension surplus that was used in 2000. Mr. Mason has provided a written response for Senators which is available at the entrance to University Hall.

At the February 13, 2006 meeting it was mentioned that the Collins Dictionary was the official University dictionary. In fact, on September 11, 1989 Senate advised the President of Dalhousie University that the Gage Dictionary of Canadian English be used in the preparation of official University documents. This was a formal motion that was carried.

Ms. Bond wanted to clarify the fact that the President of the DSU and the Vice President of Education for the DSU are both full-time positions; however, they must enroll in one class. Also, it would be beneficial of faculty were aware of the fact that the Gage Dictionary is the official university dictionary as some students are still being docked for incorrect spelling.

2006:036Question Period

Ms. Jen Bond, on behalf of Mr. Robin Whyte who could not attend the meeting, asked given that the Senate Discipline Committee will no longer consider breaches of academic integrity for faculty, what structures are in place to receive such complaints and what protections are in place to protect whistle blowers and potential conflicts of interest at the level of department head? Mr. El-Hawary invited Mr. Traves or Mr. Scully to respond to the questions. Mr. Scully stated that allegations around academic integrity, particularly around research, are dealt with as stipulated through a formal process outlined in the Senate policy on Integrity in Scholarly Activity. There have been cases handled under this policy. The policy does need to be revised in the light of experience. When there are issues and people feel that they cannot bring them forward under that policy the fundamental line of approach would be the unit or department head or the school director; depending on the title. If an individual was reluctant to bring the matter forward to that individual then the next course would be to the Dean. If anything came directly to the Vice President Academic's desk then it normally would be referred back to the Dean.

Mr. Gerhard Stroink queried the President about the announcement of the remodeling of the old management building and the process that the administration takes in making the decision – needs assessment, financial assessment, and all other factors. It would be beneficial if the President could sketch the process for decision making. Mr. Traves noted that Dalhousie University now has a building that is empty. The building is composed of an older structure and a newer part, after the 1960s. The tower and the adjacent building both have all sorts of operational problems. In making the decision to build the new management building there was a prior assumption that this building was not sustainable in its present condition. When the building situation was being assessed one particular area of concern was zoning. If Dalhousie University demolishes the structure entirely then we face a restrictive zoning situation and there was no ability to replace the building with a bigger building or a building of exactly the same size. The second restraint was financial and there was no recognized source of funding. The thought of leaving the building vacant was not a desirable option for the university. We have certain space demands within the university that are fairly urgent. There is the potential for two units to contribute funds to the financial solution. When the two components were put together we identified a building plan and then an occupancy and financial plan. The idea would be to knock down the existing structure to the steel girders and the foundation and then rebuild the tower building. Remodeling will provide some cost savings. The next question was who was going to pay for this. The College of Continuing Education, who presently rent from City Centre Atlantic, rent payment could go toward a mortgage payment. The second source of funding would come from the Faculty of Computer Science which has a CFI research grant which is matched by funds from the old economic development agreement between the province and ACOA for approximately \$2.6 million. Combining the two groups who need space and could fund the construction and the ongoing mortgage would ensure occupancy and a financial resource.

Mr. Stroink asked if the consideration and the decision of these questions are performed in the President's Office or other offices. Mr. Traves said that ultimately this does occur within the President's Office but with a substantial input from the Vice Presidents that have varying responsibilities for this project. This project involves the Vice President Finance and Administration and the Vice President Research. There has been a lot of discussion also with the various Deans and much of the information has been gathered for several years through the on going management of the institution. Mr. Scully noted that the CFI and the matching monies are time limited in their availability and Dalhousie University would have lost those funds if they were not used.

2006:037

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee

a) Academic Program Proposal – New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Informatics

Mr. Nick Cercone, Dean, and Mr. Ernst Grundke, of the Faculty of Computer Science were present for discussion of this item.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED:**

THAT Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Informatics with Majors in Health Informatics, Software Systems, and BioInformatics, and the transfer of \$475 per year to the Library.

Mr. Cercone noted that he would be pleased to answer questions. Mr. Cercone distributed a small handout the Association for Computing Machinery, ACM, which had five points that demonstrated that the computer science program is at the leading edge of the field and this is why the program developers created the Bachelor of Informatics proposal.

Mr. Opong questioned if the School of Information Management had been consulted in regard to the proposal and what the outcome of the discussion was. Mr. Cercone indicated that there was a letter in the package from the former Dean of Management. Also, one reason the name Informatics was chosen was to avoid confusion with Information Management. The aim would be to collaborate with the School of Information Management.

Mr. McNeil questioned the finances for the proposal outlined in the February 20, 2006 SAPBC excerpt page 1:#2, Mr. Scully indicated that while the proposal offered a timely and innovative new program, there were major cost implications for new staff, facilities and equipment. The inability to determine what initial enrolments would be made assessing the financial viability of the program difficult. Recognizing the value of the program, he had recommended that central funding in the amount of \$265,000.00 be provided over two years, with the understanding that \$150,000.00 of the total would be directed to recruitment. As well, his approval was contingent on agreement that the two new faculty positions would not be filled without solid evidence of student demand and would be subject to the identification of a suitable multi-purpose classroom.

Mr. McNeil indicated that since none of this financial information was contained in the motion, he would be unclear as to what he is voting on in terms of the finances of the program proposal. Mr. McNeil stated that he could not support the motion. Secondly, he would like some information on how the \$150,000 which would be spent on recruitment compares to Dalhousie University's overall budget for recruitment. It seems like a lot of money to spend on one program. In response to the recruitment monies to be spent, the \$150,000 is monies to be spent over a two year period and will be released when the Dean of Computer Science, the Registrar, and the Director of Communications and Marketing submit a plan agreeable to all three. The monies associated with recruitment cannot be captured by one budget amount; however, he estimated that the amount allocated to marketing would constitute no more than 5% of what we currently spend. There are many expenditures at the faculty level for recruitment that are not captured in a single accounting process. Mr. McNeil asked if the \$265,000 was to be provided over two years as well. Mr. Scully indicated that it was to be provided over two years as well through the academic initiatives budget of \$450,000/year (designed for one time expenditures) and the enrolment management budget of \$80,000/year. Mr. McNeil asked if the \$265,000 included the amount for the two new faculty positions for the program. Mr. Scully indicated that the salaries were not included in this amount. These positions will only be filled if enrolments are 'solid'. Mr. McNeil asked for a definition of 'solid'. Mr. Scully indicated that there would have to be clear evidence that there is enough tuition revenue which will be assigned to the two faculties to cover those positions. The financial projections indicate that the Faculty of Computer Science will make money from these programs. It is premature to allocate

additional staff and funds to this program until concrete evidence is available to support the hiring. Mr. McNeil queried if existing faculty had been considered for these courses. Mr. Scully noted that what is lacking is the specialized expertise to support these new programs if they ramp up to the levels that are predicted. Mr. Cercone indicated that existing resources have been redeployed to ensure that the program goes off with minimal expense. Mr. Cook stated that the Faculty of Medicine has been quite involved in the first phase of the implementation of the proposal and is quite convinced of the thorough development and background from the Faculty of Computer Science in putting this together. The first concern was that the Master of Health Informatics not be diluted by the introduction of this program and the Faculty is convinced that this will not take place. The second being that the program must be financially self sufficient in the long run.

Mr. Klein stated that he felt that the proposal was interdisciplinary (with at least the two faculties offering the program), innovative (documentation speaks to this fact), and prudent (if the faculty positions are warranted then they will be hired; only then). Mr. Jordan wanted to indicate the distinction between Information Science and Informatics. There has to be a lot of algorithm development and research that the Faculty of Management does in collaboration with the Faculty of Computer Science. However, Computer Science provides the actual algorithms, which would help to explain the need for two additional staff members.

The motion was **CARRIED** with one opposed.

b) Academic Program Proposal – New Program Proposal: Master of Science in Prosthodontics

Mr. Jan Kwak, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Mr. David Precious, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, were present for discussion of this item.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposed program for a Master of Science in Prosthodontics.

The Department of Dental Clinical Sciences in cooperation with the School of Biomedical Engineering currently offers the Combined Diploma in Prosthodontics and Master of Applied Science in Biomedical Engineering. The proposed M.Sc. program was developed in order to offer an alternative path for students who wish to specialize in clinical research while pursuing the graduate Prosthodontics program. The two programs (M.Sc. and M.A.Sc.) will have many courses in common, and lead to the same professional qualification in Prosthodontics. The proposal program will not increase enrolment beyond the level of the current M.A.Sc; in future the enrolment would be split between the two programs.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

c) Academic Program Proposal— New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Community Design Honours Conversion

Ms. Jill Grant, Director of the School of Planning, Faculty of Architecture and Planning was present for the discussion of this item.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

THAT the Senate approve of the proposed program for a Bachelor of Community Design Honours Conversion.

Ms. Grant introduced the proposed Honours Conversion stating that it would allow students who had graduated with the Bachelor of Community Design, BCD, (3 year program) to return to Dalhousie to complete the honours year and earn an Honours degree with a Major in either Environmental Planning or Urban Design Studies. Their BCD general degree would be converted to an honours BCD degree. There will be a nominal number of students (1-2/year) and these students would be going into existing courses so there is no additional cost.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

- d) Academic Program Proposal— Request for Change in Designation of the Degree: Master of Architecture (First-Professional)

Mr. Jan Kwak, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies was present for discussion of this item.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

THAT the Senate approve of the request to delete the designation from the degree Master of Architecture (First-Professional), so that the degree name would be simply Master of Architecture.

The Faculty of Architecture and Planning noted that designation did not offer anything to the name and suggested that it be dropped to simplify the degree name and to indicate more clearly its comparability to similar programs across North America.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2006:038

Senate Committee on Academic Administration

Retroactive Approval- Faculty of Dentistry Doctor of Dental Surgery

Mr. Sam Scully, Chair of SCAA, and Mr. David Precious, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, were present for discussion of this item.

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration Mr. Scully **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the remaining 34 students who have completed the Qualifying Program to be granted DDS degrees at the May 2006 Convocation.

Mr. Scully noted that there were two compelling reasons for retroactively awarding the degrees: one year ago Dalhousie University granted the DDS degree to the qualifying year students who were completing their qualifying year in the spring of 2005 and equity of treatment should then apply to prior students who had completed the qualifying program; and secondly, we are dealing with a very specific cohort of students all of whom have completed the program in this decade. The SCAA saw no impediment to the retroactive granting of this degree.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2006:039

Report of the Chair

No report.

2006:040

Report of the President

Mr. Traves commented that last week he had attended a meeting sponsored by the Council of the Federation, primarily comprised of the Premiers of the provinces and territories. The discussion was primarily about secondary education. The principal outcome of the meeting was that the Council would advocate for a specified transfer of funds specifically for post secondary education to the provinces.

Five additional Canada Research Chair appointments to Dalhousie University have been approved recently as well as the reappointment of the existing research chairs. Dalhousie University is doing very well and has approximately 12 of the 54 potential chair positions remaining to be filled. There are on-going searches for the remaining positions.

2006:041

New Business

There was no new business.

2006:042

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.