

Item: Senate Minutes, October 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, October 23, 2006, at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Mo El-Hawary in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barker, Binkley, Bodorik, Breckenridge, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Croll, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Edelstein, Fraser, Geldenhuys, Grundy, Haslam, Hicks, Johnson, Jones, Kesselring, Khimji, Leon, LoRusso, McConnell, McLarney, Mukhida, Nowakowski, Pegg, Pelzer, Persaud, Poulton, Saunders, Scherkoske, Scrimger, Shaver, Sheng, Simmonds, Slonim, Spence Wach, Taylor, Tindall, Tipping, Traves, Wallace, Wanzel, Watters, Webster, Wheeler, Whyte, Yeung.

Regrets: Butler, Camfield, Chowdhury, Helland, Klein, Moukdad, Schroeder, Sidler, Singleton, Smith, Sullivan, Sutow, Swanston.

Absent: El-Masry, Gray, Hubert, Maes, Precious, Rutherford, Urbanowski.

Invitees: M. Doelle, I. Mendez, J. Murphy, B. Neuman, A. Power

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed four new Senators – two from the Faculty of Science - Ms. Marina Adshade, Department of Economics and Mr. Jinyu Sheng, Department of Oceanography; and two from the Dalhousie Student Union - Mr. Karim Mukhida, Graduate Representative and Ms. Victoria Jones, Undergraduate Representative. Mr. El-Hawary also expressed his thanks on behalf of Senate to two retiring Senators from the Faculty of Science - Ms. Tetjana Ross, Department of Oceanography, for her service to Senate since July 1, 2006 and Mr. Swapan DasGupta, Department of Economics, for his service to Senate since July 1, 2002.

**2006:110**

Adoption of Agenda

The Chair advised that Mr. Traves had a prior commitment for which he must leave in a timely manner and requested Senate's agreement to move the President's Report on the Senate agenda to item #3.

Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**, Mr. Pegg seconded:

**THAT** the President's Report be moved to item #3 on the September 23, 2006 Senate agenda and the following items be re-numbered accordingly.

The motion **CARRIED** and the agenda was **ADOPTED** as amended.

**2006:111**

## Draft Minutes of September 25, 2006 Meeting

### 2.1 Approval

The minutes were **APPROVED** as circulated.

### 2.2 Matters Arising

Mr. El-Hawary advised that the discipline process is currently under review by a working committee and a verbal report will be presented today under agenda item 10. The administrative report on the University Computing and Information Services will come forward to Senate on November 27, 2006 for discussion of the recommendations and Mr. Shaver, Vice-President Academic, is currently consulting with the Registrar's Office to determine if there is an opportunity to obtain an aggregate of high school grades. There were no additional matters arising from the September 25, 2006 minutes.

### **2006:112**

#### Report of the President

Mr. Traves advised that a summary of the recommendations of the Administrative Review of University Computing and Information Services has been prepared and, as the Chair had previously indicated, will be discussed at Senate in the near future. Mr. Traves also outlined the process that will unfold in the near future in regard to the President's Strategic Focus. This will be a repeat of the process followed in the past where the heads of all academic and administrative units, Deans and administrative directors will be asked to prepare a brief Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of their unit with a vision to identifying project priorities both from the unit's perspective and identify what they might regard as University projects that need attention. Senators will receive feedback on the Strategic Focus process from himself and Mr. Shaver. Mr. Traves asked that those who are asked to respond to this request could consider their reply as an individual submission. The Strategic Focus will be brought back to the University community for comment and further reflection in January 2007.

### **2006:113**

#### Question Period

There were no questions.

### **2006:114**

#### Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC)

##### a. Brain Repair Centre: Application for Establishment as a Dalhousie University Institute

The Chair of Senate welcomed Mr. Ivar Mendez, Faculty of Medicine and Director of the Brain Repair Centre; Mr. Keith Taylor, Dean, Faculty of Science; Mr. Harold Cook, Dean, Faculty of Medicine; and Mr. Carl Breckenridge, Vice-President, Research. Mr. Mendez explained that the establishment of the Brain Repair Centre is a gradual movement that combines basic and clinical research that has a focus upon repairing the brain and dealing with neurological conditions deemed to this point to be incurable. One hundred researchers linked to the center are working in several areas of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and basic Neurosciences. In some of the areas of cell restoration for repairing the brain, the Brain Repair Centre has been at the forefront in both Canada and worldwide.

Mr. Slonim asked what the financial commitment would be from the university. Mr. Breckenridge replied that the Centre is self-financing. Mr. Cook spoke in favor of the proposal and indicated that it has

been an asset in terms of recruitment to the university. The Centre has been highly successful in attracting both general operating grants and major infrastructure grants. The Centre is recognized internationally for outstanding achievements and is a significant credit to both the University and the Faculty of Medicine. The Centre is a true asset and one that has been largely achieved with minimal input of additional resources directly from the Faculty of Medicine.

Ms. Pelzer stated that her understanding, as outlined in the application, is that for the first five years the Centre will be completely research-oriented; however, in other parts of the application, it states that the Centre will provide an interdisciplinary environment for the training of students in the Health Professions.

Ms. Pelzer inquired if the institute plans to embrace teaching programs on a graduate or undergraduate level such as the Neuroscience Institute currently does, or has this not yet been decided? Mr. Mendez responded that the Brain Repair Centre is dedicated to both basic science and clinical research and is dedicated to the training of qualified personnel, mainly in the realm of graduate students and technicians, rather than in formal teaching that is done by the different faculties.

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

**That Senate approve the Brain Repair Centre as a Dalhousie University Institute.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. El-Hawary informed Senators that Mr. Mendez has agreed to provide a comprehensive presentation on the Brain Repair Centre and its activities at a later date.

b. New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Community Building and Design

The Chair of Senate welcomed Mr. Grant Wanzel, Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, who indicated that the program proposal for the Bachelor of Community Building and Design comes after three years of work and is the result of a partnership between the Faculty of Architecture and Planning and the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) in West Africa. The program itself is a further development of that project. The project is funded under an AUCC tier two project that is meant to address a sustainable future for the Gambia. The academic program is one step towards training paraprofessional who will work as skilled paraprofessional individuals in the community, the government and in the private sector. The program will be based at the GTTI. The content of the program relates to the Gambia and will be delivered by Gambians to Gambians. A Memoranda of Understanding has been obtained from all of the affiliated institutions.

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

**THAT Senate approve the new program proposal for the Bachelor of Community Building and Design with the understanding that the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning will be responsible for the monitoring of the program.**

Mr. Tindall asked for an update on the proposed starting date. Mr. Wanzel responded that the program has not started yet, and the start date is as yet unclear. He added that there were over 80 applications for 15 to 20 positions. The students were all interviewed but the physical facilities for the program are not yet complete, and the program is expected to start in January or September 2007.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2006:115**

Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Ms. Geldenhuys, Interim Chair, **MOVED:**

**THAT for the term November 1, 2006 – June 30, 2008, Mr. Michael Poulton, Faculty of Architecture & Planning, and Mr. Kevin Grundy, Faculty of Science, be nominated to the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee.**

**THAT Senate recommends the names of Ms. Rita Caldwell, College of Pharmacy, and Mr. Lloyd Fraser, College of Continuing Education, to be put forward for membership to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC).**

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

**2006:116**

Senate Steering Committee (SSC): Senate Nominating Committee Nominee

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED:**

**THAT for the term October 2006 to August 31, 2009, Mr. John Hubert, Faculty of Health Professions, be nominated for membership to the Senate Nominating Committee (SNC).**

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the nominee is declared elected to the Senate Nominating Committee.

**2006:117**

Senate Committee on the Environment 2005-2006 Annual Report

The Chair invited Mr. Meinhard Doelle, Co-Chair of the Senate Committee on the Environment (SCE) for 2006-07, to speak to the Senate Committee on the Environment 2005-2006 Annual Report. Mr. Doelle described 2005-06 as a transition year for the SCE. The committee was without a chair early in 2005 and many members were new to the SCE. As a result, last year was mainly spent supporting existing initiatives such as the Annual Senate Environment Award, the Social Environmental Responsibility Pledge and various student-based initiatives. The Senate Committee on the Environment 2005-2006 Annual Report was received.

**2006:118**

Code of Student Conduct 2005-2006 Annual Report

The Chair invited Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Student Services to speak to the Code of Student Conduct 2005-2006 Annual Report. Ms. Neuman highlighted a few points, particularly that in January 2006, Mr. Lloyd Fraser was cross-appointed to a part-time position in Student Services as Manager, Student Relations. In his role, Mr. Fraser is the Chief University Disciplinary Officer for the Code of Student Conduct in terms of conducting investigations. The Student Services practice continues to be to investigate and seek informal resolutions wherever possible and implement resolutions based on principles of restorative justice so that individuals who have had an offence can restore to the community in some way the balance in terms of their offence and make some amends.

Ms. Pelzer asked about the well-being of the accused and, in particular, how long the waiting time is for a student to have a hearing and a final resolution. She also inquired how long it would take if a case was sent to the Senate Discipline Committee (SDC). Mr. El-Hawary responded that there will be a meeting on October 24, 2006 to discuss the timing for the SDC process. Ms. Neuman added that in terms of the investigation, Student Services try to have an immediate response when there is a complaint. Depending upon the complexity of the complaint and how many people need to be contacted, this will determine how long the investigation will take. When cases are sent to the Senate Discipline Committee the timelines are out of Student Services hands; however, the Code of Student Conduct stipulates that a case must be heard by the SDC within 60 calendar days of referral to the Secretary of Senate. The Code of Student Conduct 2005-2006 Annual Report was received by Senate.

#### **2006:119**

##### Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report: 2004-2006

The Chair invited Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Student Services to present the Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report for 2004-2006. Ms. Neuman gave due acknowledgement and credit to Mr. Fraser in his new role as Chair of the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee and providing support and training to the two student officers. The report covers the functional and transactional details; however, Ms. Neuman commented that the leadership Mr. Fraser has provided in this area has resulted in significant improvements in terms of the quality of service to the students who are advised in this area and ongoing continuity. Mr. Fraser has also ensured that those who are employed in this role have a much more profound practical learning experience and are more affective in that role. In future years, she believes Mr. Fraser will be reporting himself.

Mr. Whyte asked for clarification with regard to the terms of reference (TOR) for the Office of the Ombudsperson. The TOR stipulate that grievances that cannot be addressed by the University's Collective Agreement and complaints, may be initiated by students, staff and faculty, or individuals outside the University. Mr. Whyte said that many members in the Faculty of Medicine are excluded from the Collective Agreement. He wondered if the Office of the Ombudsperson is sufficiently well equipped to deal with such grievances from Faculty who are not part of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) and the Collective Agreement. His concern related to how junior members of the Office of the Ombudsperson are relative to members of faculty who may come to them for assistance in the lodging of grievances such as we had last year from a member of the Faculty of Medicine. Mr. Traves indicated that it was clear in the report that there are instances where complaints come forward to the Ombudsperson and the Ombudsperson's principle duty is to refer the complaint to some other appropriate body. In terms of complaints that would fall outside the jurisdiction of the Collective Agreement this would be covered by the Senate Regulations Concerning Appointments, Tenure, and Promotion and would proceed to Senate for review and disposition. Mr. Traves further clarified that in all cases people are governed by a particular body in the University and those inside the bargaining unit are regulated by the Collective Agreement and represented by the DFA, and those outside the Collective Agreement are regulated by Senate policy and have equivalent access to procedures as determined by Senate.

#### **2006:120**

##### Senate Discipline Working Group Report

Mr. El-Hawary indicated that a Report will be presented at a later meeting of Senate.

#### **2006:121**

##### Chair's Report

Mr. El-Hawary reported that approval had been received from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Council (MPHEC) for the Master of Arts (Health Promotion) and the Health Law Institute Annual Report

had been received and is available for review in the Senate Office. Mr. El-Hawary noted that the recent Expo and Discover Dalhousie went well and was an excellent showcase for Dalhousie University. He extended congratulations on behalf of Senate to all participants, particularly, Ms. Neuman, Mr. Maloney, Ms. Coolen, the Registrar's Office and the various Faculties.

Mr. El-Hawary explained that the Chair of Senate and the Registrar had signed today the final Dalhousie University graduands list for convocations that took place on October 21 and 22. This list is available at the front entrance of University Hall. In total, 878 students graduated during Dalhousie University ceremonies that were conducted last weekend. Mr. Traves added that one of the graduates was the one hundred thousandth graduate, which is a milestone for this University.

**2006:122**

Other Business

There were no other items of business.

**2006:123**

Adjournment

Mr. Slonim **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Binkley:

**THAT** the Senate meeting be adjourned at 5:15pm.

The motion was **CARRIED**.