

Item: Senate Minutes, April 2008

Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

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**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF  
SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, April 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were: Binkley, Bodorik, Breckenridge, Camfield, Campbell, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Croll, El-Hawary, Garduno, Gault, Geldenhuys, Haslam, Helland, Jones, Kroeker, Maes, MacLaren, McConnell, Moukdad, Nowaskowski, Persaud, Plug, Richard, Roberts, Ross, Rutherford, Sadek, Saunders, Schroeder, Shaver, Shepherd, Singleton, Slonim, Smith, J., Spence Wach, Sutow, Thornhill, Tindall, Tipping, Traves, Tschirhart, Voegeli, Watters, Webster.

Regrets: Butler, Cook, El-Masry, Kesselring, Leon, McLarney, Pelzer, Robinson, Schellinck, Smith, B., Taylor, Wheeler.

Absent: Adshade, Barker, Fanning, Frank, Gray, Grundy, Harman, Johnson, Johnston, Pegg, Precious, Scherkoske, Wanzel, Willison, Yeung.

Guests: S. Brousseau, K. Burt, T.S. Cameron, J. Lamb, C. Larkin, A. Power, T. Ross, N. Tremblay.

The Chair called the meeting to order and expressed thanks to retiring student Senators: Michael Tipping, DSU President, Tarah Gault, Vice-President, Education, Jordan Roberts, Christian Tschirhart, Victoria Jones and Tracey Voegeli. Mr. Fraser also acknowledged Ms. Laurette Geldenhuys, in her new role as Secretary of Senate.

**2008:39**

Adoption of Revised Agenda

The revised agenda was **ADOPTED**.

**2008:40**

Draft Minutes of March 10, 2008 Senate Meeting

Approval

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

Matters Arising

The terminology relating to the awarding of the diploma and the certificates, contained in the Master of Information Management, has been clarified. At the two-thirds point through the Master's program the Graduate diploma in Information Management would be awarded as per Senate guidelines as they relate to the awarding of diplomas and the issue of a certificate is a matter for the Faculty to deal with and is not a Senate matter.

Mr. Fraser reminded Senators that the ad hoc Governance Committee is looking for feedback and asked that Senators pass any comments directly to Mr. Butler, Vice-Chair of Senate and Chair of the ad hoc Committee.

**2008:41**

Question Period

Mr. Tindall inquired about a recent announcement in regard to a combined Bachelor of Education program between Dalhousie and Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). He inquired when the program had been approved by Senate. Mr. Shaver responded that this is not a combined program nor is it a Dalhousie program; the graduates will not receive a Dalhousie parchment. Mr. Shaver explained that

the College of Continuing Education is enabling the MUN program in the Bachelor of Education to be offered in Halifax on a contractual basis. The applications and tuition fees go directly to Memorial University. Mr. Shaver noted that the process has been quite transparent with respect to both the Mount and the Department of Education.

**2008:42**

Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC)

Mr. Stan Cameron, Chair of the SAAC, explained that he was present at Senate on a matter that requires just a report. The Senate Academic Appeals Committee has thirteen members and to hear an appeal on academic matters, three members of that committee are selected to form a panel. There are various regulations concerning that panel. First of all, no member may be on the panel who comes from the Faculty from which the appeal arises. The second requirement is that one of the three members should be a member with legal training. All members of the SAAC, who have legal training, are in the Faculty of Law. The SAAC now have an appeal that arises from the Faculty of Law, which is in conflict with the regulations. There is a third regulation that says that the SAAC may create a variance on its recommendations if such a variance is needed in order to strike a panel. The SAAC members have therefore voted to strike a committee that does not contain a member from the Faculty of Law.

**2008:43**

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC)

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

**THAT Senate approve the proposal for the establishment of the Dalhousie Institute for Society and Culture.**

Professor Trevor Ross, Assistant Dean, Research, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) thanked Senate provided a brief summary of the proposal for the Dalhousie Institute for Society and Culture (DISC) and further explained that the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has approximately \$1 million in endowment funds targeted for research related activities and the Institute. It is hoped that the Institute will be a focal point for the next capital campaign for the FASS.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2008:44**

Senate Steering Committee (SSC)

Faculty Nominations for the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability

Mr. Fraser explained that this is a new Committee at the University and the draft terms of reference have been included for Senators review. Senate has been asked to appoint three faculty members representing, one from each of the three campuses.

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

**THAT Professor Deborah Buszard, Acting Director Environmental Programs (Studley Campus), Dr. Judith Guernsey, Interim Head, Community Health and Epidemiology and Director, Atlantic RURAL Centre (Carleton Campus), and Professor Steven Mannell, School of Architecture (Sexton Campus) be elected as the faculty representatives for the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability.**

The motion **CARRIED.**

2008:45

**Faculty Discipline Process:**

**Academic Integrity Officer Ratifications**

Ms. Geldenhuys **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Binkley:

**THAT the Academic Integrity Officer agreed penalties, as listed in the April 7, 2008 memo from the Secretary of Senate, be ratified.**

Mr. Singleton asked if there would be a follow-up of the AIOs at some point to look at consistency of application of penalties. Mr. Fraser indicated that the AIOs have been meeting on a fairly regular basis and there is a meeting scheduled for the May 1 with both the AIOs and the Senate Discipline Committee whereby these issues are discussed.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**Academic Integrity Officer Ratification Process – Preliminary Discussion and Approval**

Mr. Fraser explained that this matter relates to this particular time of year and ensuring that there is no issue for students regarding ratification for AIO agreed penalties when students are pending graduation. The potential difficulty arises if cases come along between now and graduation in which a student would not have received a failing grade and be prevented from graduation; if the case has not yet been ratified. Mr. Fraser indicated that this matter will be discussed with the Senate Steering Committee at their next meeting as well. He outlined in his memo a potential approach to dealing with these situations which could take effect from April 14, 2008 until May 31, 2008 and would be an amendment to procedure 12 of the Faculty Procedures concerning Academic Dishonesty, as approved by Senate on March 26, 2007. The amendment would be as follows:

“Upon being advised of the finding and agreed penalty under paragraph 11, the Secretary of Senate shall ratify the matter on behalf of Senate and shall notify the student and the academic integrity officer of such ratification. The Secretary of Senate shall ensure that the offence is recorded on the senate discipline database and that the Registrar and any others are notified of the finding and penalty for immediate implementation. If the Secretary of Senate has any material concerns about the process followed or the penalty accepted by the student, she SOS shall consult with the AIO to determine whether the concerns can be resolved. If the SOS and AIO are unable to resolve any concerns the case will be referred to the SDC.” In discussion of the amendment the following comments were raised. Senate is an additional check and balance in the process and is a way of keeping this whole process accountable. Students need representation at the AIO meetings and this alternate approval process should not diminish the ability for a student to be represented. Mr. Fraser assured Senators that this point will be explained to all the AIOs and it is ultimately the student’s decision whether they wish to have an advocate with them or not. In regard to a review of the procedures and committees, Mr. Fraser indicated that the ad hoc Governance Committee is looking at the role and mandate of all of our committees as well as a review of the academic appeals committee terms of reference is being conducted by the University Legal Counsel.

In regard to Senate ratifying agreed penalties via email, Mr. Fraser indicated that Senate has tried to avoid them as much as possible and it is something that Senate should address in the Constitution. At this time Senate does not have guidelines for email votes and Robert’s Rules of Order cautions against using them. It was noted that approval at Senate has in fact been *pro forma* and the process that has been suggested will in fact provide the Chair the opportunity to interact about any perceived concerns and is a more cautious approach than we tend to do in Senate on a regular basis.

It was **MOVED** by Ms. Binkley, seconded by Mr. Saunders:

**THAT from now until May 31 Procedure 12 would be amended as follows:  
“Upon being advised of the finding and agreed penalty under paragraph 11 the Secretary of Senate shall ratify the matter on behalf of Senate and shall notify the student and the AIO of such ratification. The SOS shall ensure that the offence is**

**recorded on the Senate Discipline database and that the Registrar and any others are notified of the finding and penalty for immediate implementation. If the SOS has any material concerns about the process followed or the penalty accepted by the student, the SOS shall consult with the academic integrity officer to determine whether the concerns can be resolved. If the SOS and the AIO are unable to resolve any concerns the case will be referred to the Senate Discipline Committee.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2008:46**

**Senate Committee on Academic Administration (SCAA):**

**Faculty of Graduate Studies: Calendar Change re: withdrawal from graduate courses**

Mr. Shaver presented the approved motion regarding the proposal for a grade of “W” (withdrawal) to be used for graduate students using the same dates as specified for undergraduate students. This is presented for Senators information and was approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and SCAA. In discussion of the line “the W would be used in the same manner as an “F”, Ms. Watters, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, explained that the “W” is neutral. Currently, if you are a graduate student and you withdraw, you get an “F”, and that is counted in the GPA.

**Name Change Request: Degree Names (MAsc and MAsc Co-op, MEng, MEng Co-op and PhD) from Mining Engineering to Mineral Resource Engineering**

Mr. Shaver presented the approved name change from the SCAA for information for Senators. In discussion of the name change, clarification for how the name change enhances the program was requested. Mr. El-Hawary explained that Mineral Resources aptly describes the process in which what used to be referred to as Mining, so it covers a broader spectrum, for example, Petroleum Engineering; you don’t have to mine. Mining digs into the ground, whereas petroleum, you have to go through an ocean. It is broader and something that has been approved in response to the trends in North American in describing this particular endeavor.

**2008:47**

**Universities’ Memorandum of Understanding with the Province: Implications for Dalhousie**

Mr. Traves explained that he has provided brief updates to Senate around the discussions with the province on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and finally an agreement has been reached. The MOU is between the provincial government and the Council of Nova Scotia Presidents and several issues need subsequent ratification by each Board of Governors; one such issue will be tuition rates. The key components of the MOU are as follows:

- Dalhousie will freeze tuition fees for all students in all programs at the University, with the exception of full-cost recovery programs.
- The province has provided support to a new trust fund to finance an increasing bursary payment to all Nova Scotia students who are studying at Nova Scotia universities.
- The province will provide Dalhousie University with a grant of \$30 million increase in 2008/09, and this amount will increase an additional \$30 million in each of the two years.
- The way in which funds are allocated to each university by the province has changed significantly to a three-year rolling average. Dalhousie’s operating grant allocation will lead to significant increases in funding to the university and will allow us to thoughtfully review our strategic priorities.
- The province has agreed that they will make best efforts to contribute \$25 million over the life of the MOU to various capital projects at the universities; particularly for deferred maintenance.

Mr. Traves noted that Dalhousie’s success in these MOU negotiations has been as a direct result in growth in enrolments over the last decade and he expressed his appreciation to those who have managed this process. Mr. Traves indicated that capital renewal may direct funds in many areas and he would certainly not rule anything out until a full review has been concluded. As a result of the MOU, a couple of universities will be substantially affected as a result of significant enrolment declines; however,

the full effect of the MOU will unfold over time. Mr. Fraser thanked Mr. Traves for an informative presentation and discussion.

**2008:48**

Campus Facilities Master Plan Presentation

Mr. Jeff Lamb, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management provided a presentation on the Campus Facilities Master Plan, which will unfold over the next two years. Mr. Lamb explained the background of planning on campus to date, why we need a plan at this particular juncture, what the process is going to entail, what the scope of the product plan might look like, talk about the schedule and then there will be time for questions at the end. In discussion of the presentation, Mr. Lamb clarified that all three campuses would be reviewed but there will be many factors considered for the three campuses and this will be determined as the plan moves forward.

**2008:49**

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser reminded Senators about the Call for nominations to various committees which has a deadline of April 25<sup>th</sup> and the Honorary Degrees Committee has a call out for nominations with a deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup>. At this point, the Senate Steering Committee does not anticipate a second meeting in April for Senate. Finally, Mr. Fraser outlined the Senate feedback form and indicated that it could be filled in and left at the meeting or, an email version will go out to all Senators, to complete on line. The Officers would like to get these within the next couple of weeks to assist with the planning going forward.

**2008:50**

President's Report

Mr. Traves had nothing further to report beyond the update on the MOU. Mr. Cochrane inquired if there will be a significant change in the scholarship structure as a consequence of the changes as they relate to enrolment. Mr. Traves felt that this will be one of the items for review over the coming years.

**2008:51**

Adjournment

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