

Item: Senate Minutes, January 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, January 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were: Adshade, Barker, Binkley, Butler, Camfield, Campbell, Cook, Croll, El-Hawary, Fanning, Frank, Gault, Geldenhuys, Haslam, Jones, Leon, Maes, Moukdad, Nowakowski, Pegg, Pelzer, Persaud, Roberts, Robinson, Ross, Saunders, Schellinck, Scherkoske, Schroeder, Shaver, Shepherd, Slonim, Sutow, Tindall, Tipping, Tschirhart, Watters.

Regrets: Bodorik, Breckenridge, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Grundy, Helland, McConnell, Plug, Richard, Singleton, B. Smith, Spence Wach, Taylor, Thornhill, Traves, Voegeli, Wanzel, Wheeler.

Absent: El-Masry, Garduno, Gray, Harman, Johnson, Johnston, Kesselring, Kroeker, MacLaren, McLarney, Precious, Rutherford, J. Smith, Webster, Yeung.

Guests: S. Brousseau, A. Kachan, A. Power, P. Tyedmers

Mr. Fraser and Mr. El-Hawary, former Chair of Senate, presented a plaque to Mr. Bruce Dunphy, former Secretary of Senate, in recognition of his service to Senate.

Mr. Fraser called the meeting to order and invited Senators to provide feedback on the new table and chair configuration, noting that once the setup had been confirmed, consideration will be given to upgrading the audio visual system.

2008:01

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED**.

2008:02

Draft Minutes of November 26, 2007 Senate Meeting

a. Approval

The minutes were **APPROVED** with the following two sentences added at the end of 2007:126 - Mr. Traves asked Mr. Taylor, a member of both teams for confirmation. Mr. Taylor responded that the Dean of Law had not been on the team in the previous round.

b. Matters Arising

The two presentations originally planned for today's meeting, Follow up on the President's Strategic Focus and Student Survey Data, will be made at the Senate meeting on February 11th as the President was unable to attend the Senate meeting today. Mr. Fraser indicated that he had followed up with Legal Counsel and the Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC) regarding the proposed changes to the terms of reference for the SAAC and recommendations will be coming to Senate through the Senate Steering Committee in due course.

2008:03

Question Period

Mr. Tindall noted that in a local magazine there was an assessment of salaries at Dalhousie. Mr. Bryan Mason and Mr. Ken Burt were both listed as Vice-President, Finance and Administration and salaries were reported for each of them. Mr. Tindall inquired if Dalhousie University has two Vice-Presidents,

Finance and Administration and what the duties were for Mr. Mason for the year commencing July 1, 2007. Mr. Fraser responded that Dalhousie does not have two Vice-Presidents, Finance and Administration; however, he would refer Mr. Tindall's second question to the President. Mr. Shaver informed Senators that Mr. Mason's terms as Vice-President, Finance and Administration, terminated on December 31, 2006.

2008:04

Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

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

THAT Mr. Daniel Kelley, Faculty of Science/Oceanography be elected to the Senate Computing & Information Technology Planning Committee for the term January 15, 2008 to June 30, 2010;

THAT Ms. Deborah Buszard, Faculty of Science, Environmental Programs be elected to the Senate Committee on the Environment for the term January 15, 2008 to June 30, 2009;

THAT Mr. Robin Howell, Faculty of Dentistry, be elected to the Senate Committee on Learning & Teaching for the term January 15, 2008 to June 30, 2008; and

THAT Ms. Shirley Tillotson, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, be elected to the Senate Library Committee for the term January 15, 2008 to June 30, 2010.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the nominees were declared elected to their respective Senate Standing Committees. Mr. Shaver abstained.

2008:05

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee: New Program Proposal – Master of Library and Information Studies/Master of Resource and Environmental Management Combined Degree Program

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

THAT the Senate approve the new program proposal for a Master of Library and Information Studies/Master of Resource and Environmental Management (MLIS/MREM).

Mr. Fraser introduced Mr. Peter Tyedmers, academic program coordinator for the School of Resource and Environmental Studies, who spoke to the proposal. Mr. Tyedmers explained that the MLIS degree has been in place for a couple of decades. The MREM program is a younger program and is now in its fourth cohort. Last year a number of students expressed an interest in a combined degree. The purpose of the proposed program is to provide students, who are interested in both Resource and Environmental Management, with the opportunity to take the combined MLIS/MREM degree in a two and a half year timeframe, which would be a reduction from what they would do if they were to take them sequentially (three and a half years). The combined degree would have 16 required courses and 7 elective. The program would include an internship as part of the combined degree which is currently part of the MREM degree by itself. It is also a possibility that, while neither of the MLIS or MREM is a thesis-based degree, within the MLIS/MREM context, students could do a thesis. The combined degree would not be compromised; even though it does represent a reduction in the total number of courses, it does not represent a reduction in the overall quality or rigor required of these students.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2008:06

Senate Committee on Academic Administration

a. Academic Dates for 2008-2009

Mr. Shaver, Chair of SCAA, and Ms. Kachan, Registrar, presented the academic dates for 2008-2009 for approval. Mr. Croll inquired why the teaching days in the winter vary between 61 to 63 days whereas the Fall term is 61 days. Ms. Kachan said that generally the rule is to try and find between 61 and 63 days

and in some cases the teaching days, particularly in the winter, are extended with Munro Day in February. The goal tends to be to have a certain number of occurrences of each day of the week. Ms. Binkley added that the number of days that are taught in each term has been dwindling over the past number of years. In the past, the university taught for 13 full weeks and now teaching often finishes in the 12th week. There are a number of faculty members who find this reduction of the school year every year difficult in terms of trying to cover all the information that they would like to have in their classes and, this gives them little or no flexibility, particularly in the winter term when sometimes there are snow days, et cetera. Ms. Binkley said that she would like to make sure that the number of days of classes is between 61 and 65, perhaps more towards 63 for each term. Mr. Slonim indicated that certain programs are accredited and teaching days are a factor in the accreditation process. The University must therefore be mindful of the number of teaching days in these processes.

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

THAT the academic dates for 2008-2009 as presented be approved.

The motion **CARRIED**.

b. Usage of the word Program vs. Programme – For Information

Mr. Shaver explained that this item had to do with the use of the word “program” in the University, both in terms of the University Calendar and on our website. There was some inconsistency and the SCAA reviewed the use and has determined that, at Dalhousie University, the word ‘program’ will be used rather than ‘programme’. Mr. Fraser thanked Mr. Taylor for raising this issue.

2008:07

Academic Integrity Officers Ratifications

Mr. Butler **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Shaver:

THAT the Academic Integrity Officer agreed penalties, as listed in the Vice-Chair of Senate’s January 7, 2008 memo, be ratified.

Mr. Fraser reminded Senators that two documents were circulated; one dated December 17, 2007, for information, as these agreed penalties were ratified by the SSC (who were delegated the responsibility by Senate) and the second memo dated January 7, 2008, containing AIO agreed penalties for Senate to ratify.

Ms. Watters asked if there will be a process for re-calibration of agreed penalties at some point as she noticed there were a large percentage of plagiarism cases and, in general, there seems to be some consistency, except for one with a final grade of F for the course. Ms. Watters wondered if the AIOs would work together to ensure some consistency in penalties imposed. Mr. Fraser reminded Senators that there is a constitutional provision that the AIOs meet once a year but, in addition to this meeting, the AIOs have been meeting regularly to discuss issues and the next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2008.

Ms. Pelzer inquired if there was confirmation of who monitors student completion of workshops, etc. for AIO agreed penalties. Mr. Fraser stated that the Senate Office does some of the monitoring; however, some AIOs may prefer to monitor the remedy and, there is no issue with this. Ms. Gault said she has a concern through SDC that the penalties recommended by the AIOs are being imposed despite the fact that the student has opted to proceed to the Senate Discipline Committee. Ms. Power confirmed that penalty assignment is monitored by the Senate Office; however, all AIOs will be reminded of this issue at the January 21 meeting.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2008:08

In Camera: Senate Academic Appeal Committee Ratification – November 8, 2007

On behalf of the SAAC, Mr. Sedgwick **MOVED:**

THAT the SAAC Hearing Panel's decision of November 8, 2007 be ratified.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2008:09

In Camera: Honorary Degrees Committee – Nominations for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009

Mr. Fraser reported that Mr. Butler will present the report of the Honorary Degree Committee as the President was unavailable to attend the meeting. A vote of the slate of nominees was conducted and **DEFEATED**. Therefore, the names shall be voted on individually by secret ballot at the next meeting of Senate with a two-thirds majority of members present and voting required for confirmation of each name.

2008:10

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser reported that the revised pages for the Constitutional Provisions Governing the Operations of Senate pg. 19 (Senate Committee on Academic Administration – Sub Committee on Academic Integrity) and 47 (Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching) have been sent out to replace Senators' current pages in the 'Red Book'. On December 18, 2007, Mr. Fraser received notice that the B.A. (20 credit) combined honors in Religious Studies and another subject, and the B.Sc. (20 credit) combined honors, second subject in Religious Studies had both been approved by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

Through the Steering Committee, Mr. Fraser noted that Senate is embarking on a review of Senate committee roles and membership and a number of governance issues. Committees' roles and tasks have evolved over time, (and their terms of reference do not necessarily reflect that) so too has the role of the Secretary of Senate (SOS) and the other Officers. Since the role of the SOS was last discussed, the role has changed tremendously. As well, the Secretariat has been created and certain functions that had been carried out by the Officers in past years are carried out by Secretariat staff. All of this has sparked some discussion by the SSC about whether Senate should re-visit the roles of the various Officers of Senate, or whether we should be doing some re-thinking about what properly belongs with the Officers and what belongs with staff. The SSC is looking at that issue and will report back in due course. This is also the reason why there hasn't been a call for someone to fill the vacancy for Secretary of Senate.

Mr. Fraser noted that he and Mr. El-Hawary had the distinct privilege and pleasure of attending a celebration in honor for Dr. Richard Goldbloom, who is retiring as Dalhousie's Chancellor.

Mr. Fraser advised that the Honorary Degree candidates' biographies will be re-distributed at the next meeting of Senate as well as the terms of reference for the Honorary Degrees Committee, to ensure Senators have the required information prior to the ballot vote.

2008:11

Adjournment

The meeting **ADJOURNED.**