

Item: Senate Minutes, September 2005  
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, 26 September 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

**Present** with Mr. Mohamed El-Hawary in the chair were the following: Barker, Beazley, Ben-Abdallah, Binkley, Bond, Breckenridge, Butler, Camfield, Cercone, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Cook, Coughlan, Dawson, Edelstein, El-Masry, Finbow, Fraser, Geldenhuys, Johnson, Jordan, Klein, Kwak, Leon, Maes, McMullen, McNeil, Morgunov, Murphy, Oppong, Pegg, Pelzer, Phillips, Rosson, Rutherford, Saunders, Schroeder, Scrimger, Scully, Shelkovyy, Slonim, K. E. Smith, Sullivan, Swanston, Thornhill, Traves, Urbanowski, Wallace, Webster, Wien, Whyte, Wright, Yeung, Zuck.

**Regrets:** Cleave, Dasgupta, Dunphy, Hicks, Hubert, Livingston, Precious, Salmon, B. Smith, Stroink, Taylor, Wanzel.

**Absent:** Caron, Gray, Horackova, Stone.

**Guests:** P. Cox, I. Flint, S. Guppy, A. Jost, M. Mercer, B. Neuman, A. Power (*secretary pro tem*).

**2005:070**

Adoption of Agenda

An additional agenda item, New Sub-Committee of SCAA, was inserted under #12, Other Business. With this addition, the agenda was **ADOPTED**.

**2005:071**

Report of Decisions of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee

The Senate session moved *in camera* to hear two Reports of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC) decisions.

When Senate returned to open session, Mr. El-Hawary reported that the Senate, during the *in camera* session, had ratified the decisions identified in the June 15, 2005 and June 30, 2005 Reports of the SAAC Hearing Panels.

**2005:072**

Draft Senate Minutes – June 27, 2005 Meeting

i) Approval

Mr. Fraser noted that the motion found on page 10 of Item 2005:068 Grievance under Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Regulations Concerning Appointments, Tenure and Promotion 1987, as amended should read:

**THAT**, in regard to the grievance of Dr. Gabrielle Horne set out in her letter to the Secretary of the Senate, dated May 31, 2005 (“the Grievance”):

- (a) pursuant to paragraph 7.2.1 of the Regulations Concerning Appointments, Tenure and Promotion 1987, as amended, Senate resort to a special committee of inquiry to:
  - (i) hear the grievance of Dr. Gabrielle Horne set out in her letter to the Secretary of Senate, dated May 31, 2005 ("the Grievance"); and
  - (ii) report its findings to the Senate before October 10, 2005.
  
- (b) the special committee of inquiry shall consist of five members, two named by Dr. Horne, two named by Dean Harold Cook, and a chair agreed upon by the four so named, all five to be drawn from the membership of the Senate, but not to include any Senator who is a senior administrator or from the Faculty of Medicine.

The minutes of the meeting of June 27, 2005 were **ADOPTED** as amended.

The revision in the minutes will be communicated to all parties involved in the grievance hearing.

ii) Matters Arising

As a follow-up to the June 27, 2005 Minutes, Mr. El-Hawary reported that the Senate Special Committee of Inquiry will address Senate under Agenda Item #7.

**2005:073**

Draft Senate Minutes – July 11, 2005 Meeting

i) Approval

Ms. Patricia Manuel’s name was replaced with Ms. Jill Grant’s name on the list of Guests.

The minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2005 were **ADOPTED** as amended.

ii) Matters Arising

The Turnitin.Com Report that was requested earlier in 2005 has been received and was enclosed with the agenda package.

**2005:074**

Senate Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Allan Jost, Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, on behalf of the committee

**MOVED:**

**THAT Mr. Barry D. Lesser, Economics, be nominated to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term August 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008.**

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Barry D. Lesser was declared elected to the Senate Discipline Committee.

**2005:075**

Senate Discipline Committee

- i) Senate Discipline Committee Annual Report 2004-2005

Ms. Marlene Mercer, Co-chair of the Senate Discipline Committee, presented the Senate Discipline Committee Annual Report 2004-2005. The Annual Report was received by Senate.

On behalf of the committee, Ms. Mercer **MOVED**:

**THAT in the *Constitutional Provisions Governing the Operations of Senate for the Senate Discipline Committee*, under Composition, the words “and five representatives of the student body” shall be replaced by “five representatives of the Dalhousie University student body, and two representatives of the University of King’s College student body.”**

The motion was brought forward originally by the student Senators on the Senate Discipline Committee. It is intended to make the committee more inclusive, reflecting the fact that the Senate Discipline Committee hears cases from the University of King’s College. In addition, the increased complement of students would provide the committee with a larger pool to draw upon in establishing Hearing Panels.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

On behalf of the Senate Discipline Committee, Ms. Mercer **MOVED**:

**THAT in the *Constitutional Provisions Governing the Operations of Senate for the Senate Discipline Committee*, under Procedures before the Senate Discipline Committee and Senate Discipline Appeal Board, paragraph (e) shall be replaced by the following:**

**(e) Record of Proceedings: An audio recording of the hearing shall be made. This recording, all correspondence relating to the proceedings and all documentary evidence adduced at the hearing shall be kept on file until such time as the possibility for further appeal or proceedings has elapsed.**

Currently the Senate Discipline Committee Terms of Reference state that there must be minutes for each hearing. The Chair of each hearing has been taking minutes while trying to maintain the process for the hearing as well. The taping of the hearings will ensure a full transcript could be available an appeal was initiated.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

- ii) April 2005 Code of Student Conduct Report

Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President Student Services, presented the April 2005 Code of Student Conduct Report prepared by Mr. Eric McKee, retired Vice-President Student Services. She noted one correction in the printed report: the period of time covered by the report was July 1, 2004 (not 2003) to April 28, 2005. In addition, she noted that the two cases that were in progress at the end of April 2005 were now completed and decisions had been reached in both cases. Senate received the Code of Student Conduct Report.

**2005:076**

Senate Committee of Inquiry

On behalf of the Senate Committee of Inquiry, Ms. Beazley **MOVED:**

**“THAT the Senate Committee of Inquiry report its findings by November 18, 2005.”**

The motion is intended to change the date for reporting of the Senate Special Committee of Inquiry from October 10, 2005 to November 18, 2005. Mr. Whyte requested details regarding the change. Ms. Beazley indicated that the Committee was hesitant to move forward until the Minutes of the June 27, 2005 meeting, containing the motion establishing the Special Committee of Inquiry, were approved by Senate. The Committee has moved forward but did not want to hold the hearing itself until the Minutes were approved. The hearing is now scheduled; two dates are confirmed in early October 2005 and a subsequent date is still required which will be in early November 2005.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**2005:077**

Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed two new Senators, Julia Wright, Department of English and the new Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Joshua Leon, and also thanked Senator John Coxon, Faculty of Science, who retired from the University on July 30, 2005, for his excellent service.

The following reports had been received in the Senate Office: the Annual Report to Senate by the Marine and Environmental Law Institute; the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Center's Annual Report; and the third Annual Report of the Dalhousie Institute for Research in Materials. The Chair indicated that any Senator who would like to review the reports should contact the Senate Office.

On August 8, 2005 the Chair received notice that the Master of Science in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics had been approved by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC).

The Chair noted that the Senate mail-out for the meeting had contained:

- Notification that the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers has approved the program name change in the Faculty of Engineering at Dalhousie University from Metallurgical Engineering to Materials Engineering.
- The Senate Library Committee Terms of Reference with the revised membership composition that was approved at the July 11, 2005 Senate meeting.
- The Turnitin.com update that was requested by Senate in May 2005.
- The Call for Honorary Degree Nominations for Convocations in Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 which has been distributed to the university community. The Chair reminded all Senators that all nominations are to be sent to the Secretary of Senate by December 1, 2005.

The Chair announced that the Senate Website had now been fully converted to the new branding format and is available for viewing at <http://senate.dal.ca/>. Also, the Senate Academic Appeals Decision database is now functional and available to all members of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee.

The Chair was pleased to host the first annual Senate and Senate Standing Committee Reception, to be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

**2005:078**

Question Period

There were no questions.

**2005:079**

President's Report

Mr. Traves reported that enrolment continues to run approximately 300 students below the level achieved last year. The most worrisome aspect of this is that the first year enrolments are down, impacting programs across the university in which students enter directly from high school. This is a serious concern to the university and will require a very vigorous response with respect to all the elements involved in recruiting new students. The Registrar and the new Vice-President Student Services have discussed this at some length and there will be continuing opportunities for discussion of recruitment strategies. There are budget implications as a result of the decline in enrolment which, when coupled with two other significant factors—rising energy costs and the need for increased contributions to the University pension fund—have led the university to look at a budget deficit of approximately \$4 million unless action is taken to control our costs. Mr. Traves noted that in an earlier memo he had reported that the university will take a number of actions including a 1% mid-year budget cut for all budget units within the university with the exception of student assistance and Library collections. If recruitment initiatives over the coming months do not result in increased enrolment in 2006-07, the university will face even greater budget pressures.

On a more positive note, Mr. Traves noted that the University has a substantial record of achievement in a wide range of activities—research, the quality of our student body, campus renewal, fundraising, and budget management. Each one of these elements will be very helpful to us as we seek to explain to prospective students why they should come to Dalhousie. We should take great pride in our accomplishments; these give us a solid base to deal with some of the enrolment challenges that we face.

Mr. Chris Jordan asked if it would not make sense for Dalhousie to start leveraging off some of the activities in which the student societies are engaged within the community in regard to enrolment initiatives. Mr. Traves indicated that he would be happy to receive any suggestions; anyone with specific ideas should speak to him or to Ms. Neuman, Vice-President Student Services.

**2005:080**

Senate Committee on Academic Administration

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

**THAT Senate approve the Draft Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Sub-Committee on Academic Administration, as outlined in Mr. Scully's September 16, 2005 memo to Senate.**

Mr. Slonim questioned if the motion had only been put before Senate at this point. Mr. Scully responded that the motion has only been brought before Senate but the Deans are aware of the

creation of the sub-committee. The entire university will hear from the sub-committee shortly. Mr. El-Hawary stated that the actions today are only intended to update the Terms of Reference for a Senate Standing Committee and the rest of the university community will be made aware of the creation subsequent to the approval.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**2005:081**

Senate Library Committee Annual Report 2004-2005

Mo El-Hawary, on behalf of Susan Guppy, Chair of the Senate Library Committee, presented the Senate Library Committee 2004-2005 Annual Report. The Annual Report was received by Senate.

**2005:082**

Adjournment

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Following adjournment, Mr. El-Hawary presented a brief Senator Orientation and introduced members to the revised Senate website.

The first annual Senate and Senate Standing Committee Reception followed.