

Item: Senate Minutes, September 1989

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
MINUTES
OF
SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 11 September 1989 at 4:00 p.m.

Present with Ms. P. Lane in the chair were the following:

Andrews, Barkow, Bastarache, Berard, Betts, Birdsall, Bissett- Johnson, S. Cameron, Carlson, Casey, R.F. Chandler, Clark, Clarke, Cromwell, Curri, Dykstra, Egan, Fillmore, Forgay, J.K. Fox, E. Frick, Fry, K.G. Greer, Hare, Hart, Hawkins, Johnson, Keast, Kwak, MacAulay, McGuire, McNeil, A. Murphy, J.D. Myers, M.J. Myers, O'Shea, Pross, Retallack, Richards, Ritchie, Schenk, Schroeder, Shannon, Sharma, Shires, Smith, Stairs, Tamlyn, Tindall, Vance, Verabioff, Walker, K.S. Wood, Zakariasen.

Invitees: B.D. Christie, E. McKee

Regrets: Carr, Gratwick, J. Gray, R. Gregor, Heffernan, J.V. Jones, Konok, T.J. Murray, Precious, Smillie, M.H. Tan, Wassersug, C.N. Williams, Writer.

89:121.

Minutes of the Meeting of 14 August 1989

Mr. Andrews asked that the membership and mandate of the ad hoc committee to consider changes in the academic appeals process in the School of Medicine (item 89:114) be set forth clearly in the minutes. Mr. Cromwell indicated that he had several corrections to item 89:113(b). With these revisions, the minutes were approved upon motion (Bastarache/Barkow). The above-mentioned revisions are appended.

89:122.

Question Period

Mr. Kwak asked about demolition work in progress in the Chemistry Building. Specifically,

he asked why work on the project had been interrupted and workers assigned temporarily to another project, and he asked further the costs involved with this temporary interruption. Mr. Mason replied that he did not have an answer but would look into the matter and report at a future meeting.

89:123.

Awarding of Post-Graduate Certificates in Periodontics

It was moved (Hawkins/Zakariasen)

that Senate award the post-graduate Certificates in Periodontics to Dr. Brian Delaney and Dr. Karl Gravitis.

The motion carried unanimously.

89:124.

English Usage

Ms. Lane outlined the background to Senate's continuing consideration of the question of English usage in official Dalhousie documents. The Senate Steering Committee recommended (SC 89:048) that Senate be asked to decide by vote to adopt either the Gage Dictionary of Canadian English or the Concise Oxford English Dictionary as the official dictionary for Dalhousie documents. It had been agreed that a brief presentation on behalf of each dictionary would be made prior to any vote on the matter.

Mr. Betts circulated a sheet which showed the various spellings of several words central to the life of the University (e.g. tire/tyre; curb/kerb; mom/mum; gymnasium/gymnasia; and, presumably in light of the designation of Ocean Studies as an area of special emphasis, aquariums/aquaria) in several dictionaries including those under consideration. In his view, the Concise Oxford English Dictionary more nearly reflected traditional Nova Scotian spelling than did the Gage Dictionary of Canadian English.

Mr. Andrews noted that the Library currently kept copies of the American Webster's Dictionary on its reference tables. He pointed out that a recent report from the office of the Secretary of State -- The Canadian Style -- recommended use of the Gage Dictionary. In his view, of the two dictionaries proposed for adoption, the Gage Dictionary was the better exemplar of current Canadian usage.

It was moved (Betts/Walker)

that Senate advise the President that the Concise Oxford English Dictionary be used in the preparation of official University documents.

The motion was defeated on a voice vote.

Ms. Vance asked that no official language be adopted, expressing her concern that such a course might penalize students who used non-conforming word processing programmes. Mr. Andrews pointed out that any policy adopted would apply only to official University documents, such as the Calendar.

It was moved (Birdsall/Bastarache)

that Senate advise the President that the Gage Dictionary of Canadian English be used in the preparation of official University documents.

Mr. Barkow asked what the definition of official documents might be. It was suggested that the President could interpret the motion and designate those documents to which it would apply, and the President agreed to assume that responsibility.

The motion carried on a voice vote.

89:125.

Report of the President

The President's Report and a table of Comparative Registration Statistics, both dated 11 September 1989, were distributed at the meeting (appended). Mr. Clark noted the likely rise in University enrolment this year and the successful Orientation Programme organized by the Dalhousie Student Union. He reported on current progress of the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities. He called attention to the inauguration of a programme, organized by the Office for Instructional Development and Technology, to provide new faculty members with an introduction to teaching, and he reminded Senators of the first Deans' Forum on Undergraduate Education, scheduled for 26 September.

Mr. Clark informed Senate that the Board of Governors, at its June meeting, had approved new by-laws and that copies of these were available from the President's Office. He introduced the names of the new members of the Board of Governors: Thomas E.G. Lynch, Fred J. Dickson, Madam Justice Jacqueline Matheson, Aubrey Browne, D. Wayne Bell, AnneMarie Macdonald.

Mr. Andrews asked if the administration had any projections as to the number of students who would be enrolled at the end of the class-change period and any interpretation of the enrolment figures. Ms. Curri said that some further increase was expected. Mr. Clark noted that some enrolment increases, such as that in the School of Education, came as a result of policy decisions and that planning had been done. He suggested that future increases in enrolment in the University would likely depend on the willingness of the provincial government to provide financial support for them.

Ms. Curri noted that her current registration figures included students registered at King's. Ms. Fry said that an increase in enrolment in the journalism programme had been planned for as had an increase of twenty students in the Foundation Year Programme, which she indicated had reached its maximum size.

Mr. Andrews asked if Dalhousie was able to meet its commitments to new students in terms of classes being offered. Mr. Stairs replied that new sections had been added to introductory courses in English, French, Latin, and other languages, in response to a growing demand caused by the introduction of a language requirement for students in B.A. programmes.

89:126.

Senate Academic Planning Committee Report on the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities

Mr. Clark reported on the background to the request by MPHEC for a Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities from each of the province's universities. He indicated that he was not certain at this time how the statement would be used either by MPHEC or the provincial government. He suggested that both bodies were interested in the degree to which each institution's statement enjoyed support within the institution. Copies of the draft statement would be circulated to all Senators prior to their being invited to discuss it at a special meeting of 20 September and being asked for their approval of the document at the regular meeting of Senate on 25 September.

Mr. Verabioff and Mr. Andrews noted with some unease the apparent similarity in membership between the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education and the Minister's Advisory Committee on University Financing. It was pointed out that neither the universities nor the faculty associations at the universities were consulted about the establishment or membership of these bodies.

Mr. Pross found the apparent overlap of membership of the Council and the Advisory Committee "interesting". He expressed doubt that the Council or the Advisory Committee would make their policy and funding decisions on purely objective, non-political considerations.

Mr. Andrews said that the original letter from MPHEC requesting the statement indicated that it could be revised after the 30 September submission deadline. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Smith suggested and Mr. Clark agreed that, given the short deadlines, the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities should be exempted from any requirement to adhere to the policy on official language at Dalhousie which had just been recommended.

89:127.

Students from the People's Republic of China

The Secretary reported that Senators had received copies of a letter from Vice-President (Student Affairs) McKee on the activities of his office with respect to students from the People's Republic of China and of a letter from Vice-President (Academic) Stairs to the Minister of External Affairs supporting a proposal by graduate students at the University of British Columbia that suspended funds originally destined for the P.R.C. be used to support Chinese students in Canada. Mr. Stairs informed Senate that he had not yet received a reply to his letter from the Minister.

Mr. McKee indicated that there was little more to report on the matter save the receipt of a letter from the embassy of the P.R.C. in Ottawa asserting its claims to the right to maintain contact with its citizens in Canadian universities and encouraging their return to the P.R.C. on completion of their studies. He also noted that twenty-seven new students had come this term from the P.R.C., bringing the total number to seventy- one.

89:128.

Other Business - Gender Discriminatory Language

Ms. Curri reported that Dalhousie's examination booklets which contained gender-discriminatory language had been stamped with a message of apology and correction. A check for gender- discriminatory language had been conducted on other documents sent out to students from her office, and two minor revisions have been made.

89:129.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. on motion (Bastarache/Clark).

Secretary

Chair

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES

SENATE MEETING

SENATE met in special session in the Senate and Board Room on Wednesday, 20 September 1989 at 4:00 p.m.

Present with Ms. P. Lane in the chair were the following:

Andrews, Bastarache, Berard, Betts, Birdsall, Bissett-Johnson, Boyle, Carlson, R.F. Chandler, Clark, Clarke, Cromwell, deBurger, Dykstra, Easterbrook, Egan, Fillmore, J.K. Fox, Gilroy, Gratwick, K.G. Greer, Hart, Jamieson, Johnson, D.W. Jones, Keast, Klapstein, Leffek, Lutley, Marchant, Mason, McNiven, Meagher, A.W. Murphy, J.D. Myers, O'Brien, O'Halloran, O'Shea, Overton, Pelletier, Pross, Ravindra, Richards, Ritchie, Schroeder, Shannon, Sharma, Simpson, Smith, Stairs, Sullivan, Tindall, Vance, Wainwright, Walker, K.S. Wood, R.J. Wood, Young.

Invitees: B.D. Christie, J. Eastman, M.D. MacDonald, E. McKee.

Regrets: Casey, Forgay, J. Gray, Heffernan, T.J. Murray, Precious, Writer, Zakariasen.

89:130.

Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities

Ms. Lane described the purpose of this special meeting to discuss the current draft of the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities and called on President Clark to provide a progress report. Mr. Clark outlined the background to this Statement, which was to be submitted to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission and, thence, to the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education by the end of September.

He reported on a meeting earlier in the day of all the presidents and heads of institutions of tertiary education in the province with the Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training. The Minister was seeking means to facilitate interinstitutional cooperation in a time of limited funds for universities. He was concerned with the financial impact of large numbers of non-Nova Scotian students enrolled in provincial universities and was seeking assistance through appeals to the federal government and the Council of Ministers of Education. He indicated further that the provincial government was committed generally to the principles outlined in the Adlington Report and that a new funding mechanism for post-secondary education would likely be in place for the next financial year.

Mr. Clark said that the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities would be submitted by the end of the month to the MPHEC, which would, in turn, send them to the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education. The Council would review the statements and hold meetings with officials of each university and

with the presidents collectively. Mr. Clark said that the presidents have expressed a willingness to increase inter-institutional cooperation, in part as a necessary step to counter direct intervention by government, but that each institution was understandably reluctant to take a lead in this regard.

In response to a question, Mr. Clark said that he had no evidence that government officials had yet clearly thought through how it planned to implement the principles of the Adlington Report. A second questioner asked if the President had some concern that at least two of the institutions with whose representatives he was meeting -- the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the Nova Scotia Teachers College -- were operated by the same government which was making higher education policy. He responded that he was less concerned about the anomaly than by the fact that two neighbouring institutions -- Saint Mary's University and Mount Saint University -- were represented on the Nova Scotia Council of Higher Education by their vice-presidents while Dalhousie had no such representation.

Mr. Pross observed that he found the draft too long and discursive, full of puffery and whining, and inappropriate to a readership of politicians and government officials. He urged the creation of a brief summary statement, the elimination of specific references to units, the emphasis of those strengths which related specifically to government interests, and the consolidation of discussion of the University's financial problems in one section. Mr. Stairs pointed out the difficulty of writing a statement which would be read by a variety of persons and groups, while Mr. Birdsall argued that the length of the statement was merely a reflection of the size and complexity of Dalhousie University. Ms. Dykstra thought that mentioning the work of individual units helped to illustrate the breadth and diversity of the University's activities.

Several members asked about missing tables, appendices, and other information, specifically projections of tuition fees. Mr. Stairs replied that the information was not yet available.

Mr. Smith suggested an executive summary, perhaps to be written by one or more persons who had not been involved in the original drafting, which would, in turn, be edited by one or more persons new to the process. Mr. Stairs said that the drafters would consider all suggestions. Mr. Andrews complained that the tone of the document, lacked vigour; the University's complexity should not be cited as a problem but as a strength. Similarly, Mr. Smith suggested that the document should project a much more confident tone, especially in the section dealing with Dalhousie's future roles. Ms. Ritchie argued that the Statement required a more assertive response to how Dalhousie will respond to change, particularly changes in the composition of the student population.

Mr. Betts and others expressed the view that the document neglected somewhat traditional scholarship in arts and in science in favour of work in professional and technical fields. Specifically, Mr. Betts pointed out the number of honours programmes offered at Dalhousie and the relatively high percentage of Dalhousie students -- approximately 20% -- who earn honours degrees. Mr. Gratwick, Mr. Andrews, and others pointed out the need to address the quality of Dalhousie's graduates. Ms. Ritchie suggested that the Statement address more clearly and strongly the costs borne by the institution in supporting research by students and faculty.

Mr. Tindall asked how estimates of costs of the end of mandatory retirement were arrived at; Mr. Christie responded that the projections were made on the basis of comparative data obtained from the University of Manitoba. Mr. Andrews asked if the University had consulted with the Dalhousie Faculty Association prior to its having discussions with government about this question. Mr. Stairs replied that the DFA had not been consulted on the occasion of that meeting, but he asserted that the issue of mandatory retirement had come up in general discussions with government rather than being the subject of a specific submission.

Mr. Cromwell reminded members that the Statement did have to address clearly and forcefully the need for improved financial support for Dalhousie. Maintaining the breadth of programmes offered at Dalhousie and meeting national and international standards of quality required money.

Ms. Lane reminded members that this item would come up for further discussion and a motion for approval at the regular meeting of Senate on 25 September.

89:131.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. upon motion (D. Betts/J. Gratwick).

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
MINUTES
OF
SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 25 September 1989 at 4:00 p.m.

Present with Ms. P. Lane in the chair were the following:

Barkow, Belzer, Berard, Betts, R.J. Boyd, T.S. Cameron, Carlson, R.F. Chandler, Clark, Cromwell, Curri, deBurger, Flint, J.K. Fox, E. Frick, Gilroy, Gratwick, Hart, Hawkins, Leffek, Marchant, McGuire, McNeil, T.J. Murray, J.D. Myers, M.J. Myers, O'Shea, Overton, Ravindra, Retallack, Ritchie, Shannon, Sharma, Silvert, Smillie, Smith, Stairs, Sullivan, Tindall, Vance.

Invitees: B.D. Christie, J. Eastman.

Regrets: Andrews, Archibald, Bastarache, J. Gray, D.W. Jones, J.V. Jones, Konok, A. Murphy, Previous, Tamlyn, Walker, Wassersug, Welch, Williams, Writer.

89:132.

Minutes of Meeting of 11 September 1989

The minutes for the meeting of 11 September 1989 were approved upon motion (R. deBurger/J. Barkow), with the following corrections: Mr. Hawkins was added to the list of members present, and the mover of the motion in item 89:123 was corrected to read "Hawkins" instead of "Precious".

89:133.

Report of the President

Mr. Clark reviewed the content of his report (appended). He drew attention to his plan to provide to Senate in October copies of the Summary and Recommendations of the University Task Force on Access for Black and Native Students as well as his initial response to a number of the recommendations of the Task Force.

Mr. Borwein asked if, in response to the report, the secretarial problems in the office of the Transition Year Programme would be resolved. Mr. Clark indicated that he was not sure where the money would come from to address some of the recommendations of the Task Force. He reported that discussions with government on supplementary funding for the Transition Year Programme were continuing.

89:134.

Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities

Ms. Lane called upon the President to report on the current draft of the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities. Mr. Clark outlined the changes which have been incorporated into the document in response to comments and suggestions made at or since the Senate meeting of 20 September. He mentioned that Mr. Smith had given the document a major editorial overhaul which had improved its tone and style. Among the major changes were the following:

- a) greater emphasis was given in the introduction to the richness and diversity of Dalhousie; b) concerns about the lack of adequate financial support were gathered together in a single section (No. 6) on Funding ; c) comments which were thought to be repetitive were eliminated and appropriate cross-references provided; d) more material was added on the indirect costs of supporting research by students and faculty; e) greater attention was given to measures of student quality, including the number of Rhodes Scholarships won by Dalhousie students; f) greater recognition of the role of the Dalhousie Student Union was given; g) greater balance was achieved in the discussion of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programmes.

It was moved (D. Betts/T. Cromwell)

that Senate approve in principle the current draft of the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities.

Some members suggested that a full endorsement was desirable, while others expressed the view that, as the final text of the document was not before Senate, it would be more appropriate for Senate merely to approve sending the document. The question called, the motion carried without dissent.

Mr. Cromwell asked if Senators would be able to see the final text of what they had approved, and Mr. Clark assured him that copies would be made available. Mr. Clark called for and Senate responded, in the usual manner, with a vote of thanks to Mr. Christie, Ms. Eastman, and others who had laboured under great pressure to produce the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities.

89:135.

Presentation of Senate Portrait

Ms. Lane presented to Senate copies of a portrait photograph of the officers and

senior committee chairs of Senate. It had been decided in 1987 (Senate Minute 87:038) that such a group photograph should be made annually. Ms. Lane indicated that she would report at a future meeting where the photographs were to be displayed.

89:136.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. upon motion (J. Barkow/J. Gratwick).