

Item: Senate Minutes, June 2011

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, June 13, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Amirault, Barkhouse, Bennett, Boran, Bouchard, Brooks, Campbell, Canning, Chen, Cochrane, Cox, Gardner, Garduno, Gassmann, Gilbert, Hewitt, E. Hughes, Karabanow, Lee, Leon, Marche, Marrie, MacLennan, McLarney, Mechoulam, Meynell, Moore, Moukdad, Oomen, Pegg, Pelot, Pinder, Saulnier, Summerby-Murray, Thomas, Thorburn, Tillotson, Traves, Wach, Watters, Webster, Westwood.

Regrets: Barker, Couban, Crago, El-Masry, Gantar, Gorsky, J. Hughes, Macy, Maes, Magill, Mansour, MacLaren, McClure, McConnell, Milson, Noble, Rapaport, Schellinck, Scrimgeour, Singleton.

Absent: Croll, Cunningham, Farina, Ross, Sadek, Shepherd, Shukla, Smith.

The meeting was called to order and Mr. Fraser extended a warm welcome to Ms. Rebekah Oomen, graduate student Senator.

2011:74

Adoption of Agenda

The June 13, 2011 Senate agenda was adopted as circulated.

2011:75

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of May 9, 2011 Senate Meeting

THAT the Senate approve the draft minutes of the May 9, 2011 Senate meeting as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

Senate Steering Committee: Nominations to Senate Nominating Committee

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

THAT Senate appoint Tetjana Ross, Faculty of Science; Ted Cavanagh, Faculty of Architecture and Planning; Richard Devlin, Schulich School of Law; and Jason Gu, Faculty of Engineering to the Senate Nominating Committee for the term July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014.

Approved by Consent.

Senate Committee on Academic Administration: Faculty of Engineering – Draft Co-op Regulations

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

THAT Senate approve the following amendments to the Faculty of Engineering Co-op regulation Calendar revisions, with implementation effective for all students entering their third year of Engineering in 2012-2013.

The Program is open to students who:

1. Are registered in the Bachelor of Engineering Program;

2. Have attained a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.3 (or equivalent) in the Diploma of Engineering program;
3. Have completed all requirements for a Diploma of Engineering or equivalent;
4. Are eligible to work in Canada.

To be eligible to participate in a work term students must:

1. Successfully complete the on-line Co-op Orientation Workshop;
2. Pay the Co-op fees;
3. Register for the work term course(s);
4. Submit Co-op Work Permit applications if they are international students;
5. Receive a passing grade for all previous work terms;
6. Maintain a minimum CGPA of 2.3 (C+);
7. Have met all the academic pre-requisites for the particular co-op term.
8. Submit a signed Co-op Agreement Form.

Students interested in participating in the Co-op Program, should be aware that work terms exist in a variety of public and private settings. To improve the likelihood of a successful job search, students should begin the employment process at least two months prior to the start of the work term. Students will be assisted by the Dalhousie University Engineering Co-op Office, and efforts will be made to find a work placement for each student eligible for the Co-op Program. There are, however, no assurances that each student will receive a Co-op position. Students with high CGPAs, enthusiasm, and professional potential have typically had the greatest success in securing Co-op employment.

Approved by Consent.

Appointment of Ombudsperson and Assistant Ombudsperson

Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the appointment of Ms. Nicole Adams as Ombudsperson for 2011-2012 and Mr. Ernie Chan as Assistant Ombudsperson for 2011-2012.

Approved by Consent.

2011:76

Matters Arising from the Draft Senate Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2011

There were no matters arising.

2011:77

Chair of Senate Report

Mr. Fraser expressed condolences on behalf of Senate to the family of Ken Heard who passed away on May 7, 2011. Dr. Heard was a former Senator and faculty member in the Political Science Department. Mr. Fraser also extended condolences to the family of Wallace McCain who passed away on May 13, 2011. Dr. McCain was a dedicated friend of Dalhousie and had received an honorary degree from the University in 2007.

Mr. Fraser reported that the following items were approved by the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee on behalf of Senate: modifications to three programs offered at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College- Bachelor of Science (Agriculture), Major in Integrated Environmental Management; Bachelor of Technology, Major in Applied Science; and Bachelor of Technology, Major in Environmental Landscape Horticulture;

suspension of admission to the PhD (Nursing) and the Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics) programs; and termination of Dalhousie's participation in the inter-university Master of Arts (Gender and Women's Studies) program. Mr. Fraser also reported on the lifting of the probationary status from the undergraduate medical education program. Mr. Fraser reported that the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre (AHPRC) recently had been reviewed and in response to a recommendation of that review, a working group had been established to explore more fully the potential synergy between the AHPRC and the proposed Health Policy Research Centre. The working group will examine the possibility of developing a research institute or centre in health promotion and policy.

Mr. Fraser extended thanks to all faculty and staff who took part in the 14 convocations from May 24 – June 1, 2011. He noted that the next Senate meeting is scheduled for September 26 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm and there will be an orientation session for Senators and Senate Standing Committees on September 7 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Mr. Fraser noted items attached to the agenda for information: 2011-2012 Schedule of Meetings of Senate and Senate Standing Committees, Dalhousie University and University of King's College Graduands - Spring 2011, Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission Approval of Juris Doctor Combined Programs, the Call for Honorary Degree Nominations for Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 Convocations, a list of non-voting members for Senate Standing Committees, and the revised common items for use in Student Ratings of Instruction.

2011:78

President's Report

Mr. Traves reported on several items related to the proposed merger of Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. He also commented on the final report from the Budget Advisory Committee, which presents recommendations for the 2011-12 University operating budget. The proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval on June 21, 2011.

2011:79

Senate Nominating Committee Nominations: Nominations to Senate Standing Committees and University Committees

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Hubert **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the following nominations to Senate Standing and University Committees for terms as specified.

Senate Planning & Governance Committee (SPGC): Colin Mitchell, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and Ron Pelot, Faculty of Engineering for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012; Eric Rapaport, Faculty of Architecture and Planning for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013; Carl Canning, Faculty of Dentistry, Elizabeth Hughes, Schulich School of Law, Jean Hughes, Faculty of Health Professions, Michael Johnston, Faculty of Medicine, and Ed Leach, Faculty of Management, for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014.

Senate Academic Programs & Research Committee (SAPRC): Zhizhang (David) Chen, Faculty of Engineering, Raphael Garduno, Faculty of Science, Susan Mansour, Faculty of Health Professions, Haidar Moukdad, Faculty of Management, as elected academic unit Senators for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013; Phil Cox, Faculty of Computer Science, Elaine Gibson, Schulich School of Law, Marie Matte, Faculty of Medicine, and Donna Rogers, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as elected academic unit Senators for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014. Dieter Pelzer, Faculty of Graduate Studies, as an elected Faculty Representative for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014.

Senate Learning & Teaching Committee (SLTC): Heather Schellinck, Faculty of Science, Shirley Tillotson, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, David Westwood, Faculty of Health Professions, as elected academic unit

Senators for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013; Mike Pegg, Faculty of Engineering, as an elected academic unit Senator for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014; Fiona Black, Faculty of Management and Ron Bannerman, Faculty of Dentistry as elected Faculty representatives for the Term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014.

Senate Honorary Degrees Committee (SHDC): Jane Thorburn, Faculty of Engineering, as an elected Academic Unit Senator for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012; Martin Gardner, Faculty of Medicine, as an elected academic unit Senator for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013; Carl Canning, Faculty of Dentistry as an elected academic unit Senator for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014; John Barnstead, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Iraj Fooladi, Faculty of Management, Pat Cleave, Faculty of Health Professions and Sunny Marche, Faculty of Graduate Studies as elected Faculty representatives for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014.

Senate Appeals Committee (SAC): Jerry Singleton, Faculty of Health Professions, for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012; Darrel Doman, Faculty of Engineering, Donald Langille, Faculty of Medicine, and Stephane Mechoulan, Faculty of Management, for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014.

Senate Discipline Committee (SDC): Blyth Archibald, Faculty of Management, for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012 and Joseph Sadek, Faculty of Medicine, Anne-Marie Ryan, Faculty of Science, Teresa Cyrus, Faculty of Science, for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014.

Employee Benefits Committee-Senate Representative: Jim Power, Faculty of Management, for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014.

University Hearing Committee-Senate Representatives: Jill Grant, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, and Chris Watts, Faculty of Engineering, for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013.

University Security & Parking Committee-Senate Representative: Kevin Quigley, Faculty of Management, for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012.

Nova Scotia Agricultural College Faculty Council-Senate Representative: Vivian Howard, Faculty of Management for the term July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2014.

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

2011:80

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee: New Program Proposal - Master of Genetic Counselling

Amy Crowley, Professional Practice Chief, Genetic Counselling, IWK Health Centre, introduced the academic program proposal, outlined the program components and summarized the proposal development process.

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

THAT Senate approve the proposed new Master of Genetic Counselling program.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Crowley for her presentation of the proposal for the Master of Genetic Counselling.

2011:81

Senate Committee on Academic Administration: Student Accommodation Policy - Amendment

Dorothy Pedlar, Director, Student Accessibility Services, and William Hart, Acting Executive Director, Student Academic Success Services, provided background on the proposed amendment to section 8 of the Accommodation Policy for Students.

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

THAT Senate approve the proposed amendment to paragraph 8 of the Accommodation Policy for Students [sentence containing the amendment in bold]:

8. Where the request is for academic accommodation, the Student Accommodation Office, in consultation with the class instructor, shall assess the recommendation in light of the factors set out in section 7 above, and the parameters for academic accommodation approved by the Faculty responsible for the delivery of the class, and shall make a decision concerning the accommodation. Where the circumstances are not addressed by the approved parameters, the Student Accommodation Office shall also consult with the Student Accommodation Liaison. The Student Accommodation Office shall inform the student, those who are necessary for the implementation of the decision (such as the course instructor), and the Student Accommodation Liaison of the decision. **Decisions concerning accommodation shall be made and communicated within ten working days of receiving the student's request and all relevant supporting documentation. In certain circumstances, additional time may be required to determine the appropriate accommodation plan for the student.** A request can be expedited at the request of the student if circumstances warrant. In consultation with the Student Accommodation Liaison, and class instructor as required, the Student Accommodation Office may review accommodation plans from time to time to determine whether any adjustments to the accommodation plan are necessary.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Pedlar and Mr. Hart for their presentation of the amendment to section 8 of the Accommodation Policy for Students. The revised Accommodation Policy for Students is available on the Senate website.

2011:82

Senate Steering Committee: Student Ratings of Instruction – Policy and Procedures

Susan Spence Wach, Associate Vice-President, Academic Programs, and Lynn Taylor, Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching, presented the Student Ratings of Instruction – Policy and Procedures. The Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) Policy was developed as part of a broad strategy for continuous improvement in learning and teaching at Dalhousie. In 2009-2010, the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching (SCOLT) conducted an extensive literature review and held over 30 consultation meetings involving Faculties, Senate committees, and others, developing a draft policy—similar to policies currently in place at several other Canadian Universities.

On March 22, 2010 Senate adopted the following policy statement on student ratings of instruction:

Student ratings of instruction are part of a broad strategy for continuous improvement in learning and teaching at Dalhousie University. Student ratings of instruction:

- Are to be undertaken in applicable undergraduate and graduate courses;
- Involve a set of common questions as well as additional customizable questions of value to individual instructors, and to academic units;
- Enable student access to summary results based on the common questions;

and that Senate agrees that the remainder of the draft Policy for Student Ratings of Instruction, presented to Senate on March 22, 2010, serve as a working document for further consultation over the next twelve months.

The *Policy for Student Ratings of Instruction* and the *Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) Procedures for Collecting SRI Data and Reporting SRI Results* have been approved by the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching (May 15, 2011), Senate Steering Committee (May 16, 2011) and Senate Committee on Academic Administration (June 1, 2011). A full discussion followed with a question and answer period. It was noted that it was anticipated that on-line completion of the SRI instrument would be in place by Fall 2012.

The following points on the Student Ratings of Instruction were noted:

- Common questions 1 to 9 in Section A of the SRI instrument (circulated with the meeting package) were intended to reflect, and to communicate to students, the complexity of teaching and learning.
- It was observed that there was ambiguity in items 4.5 to 4.7, and the results of the common questions should be released to students only where the results were from classes with at least 10 responses, and response rates of 40%.
- It was suggested that online courses were not comparable to classes held in person and should be treated differently in the SRI process. It was also suggested that bringing the process online would introduce bias in the responses.
- It was noted that there should be more clarity in what data could be used for tenure and promotion purposes. There was a request for a procedure with which Deans could obtain SRI data from departments. Section A would be made available for the summative nature of its data, while the data in Sections B, C, and D (unsigned comments) were considered formative and thus would not be available for tenure and promotion purposes. This discussion will be explored further in the Fall 2011.

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

THAT Senate approve the *Policy for Student Ratings of Instruction* and the *Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) Procedures for Collecting SRI Data and Reporting SRI Results*.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Spence Wach and Ms. Taylor for their presentation of the SRI Policy and Procedures. The approved documents will be available on the Senate website.

2011:83

Budget Advisory Committee Report XLVI

Carolyn Watters, Vice-President, Academic & Provost, presented the Budget Advisory Committee Report XLVI and outlined the report's recommendations for the 2011-12 operating budget.

2011:84

Question Period

There were no questions.

2011:85

Other Business

Mr. Fraser thanked all Senators who were completing their terms on June 30, 2011: Jure Gantar, Rob McClure and Claire Campbell, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Philip Cox, Faculty of Computer Science (returning); Ezz El-Masry and Michael Pegg (returning), Faculty of Engineering; Jean Hughes (returning) and Jeff Karabanow, Faculty of Health Professions; Elizabeth Hughes (returning) and Moira McConnell, Schulich School of Law; Horand Gassmann, Faculty of Management; Stephen Couban, Michael Lee and Romesh Shukla (returning), Faculty of Medicine; Marina Adshade,

Sharon Barkhouse, Robert Milson, and Helmuth Thomas, Faculty of Science; William Maes, University Librarian; Sunny Marche, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies; and William Barker, President, University of King's College.

There was no further business.

2011:86

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm and Senators were then welcomed to a thank-you reception.