

Item: Senate Minutes, November 1987
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 9 November 1987 at 4:00 P.M.

Present with Mr. F.C. Wien, Vice-Chair of Senate in the chair, were the following: Andrews,

Aspinall, Belzer, Betts, Birdsall, Bissett-Johnson, Black, Brady, T.S. Cameron, D.V. Chaytor (Acting Secretary), Christie, Comeau, Cromwell, Duff, Dykstra, Easterbrook, George, Greenfield, Gwyn, Haley, Kwak, Leffek, D. Lewis, Littler, MacDougall, Maloney, Manning, Mason, Myers, Nestman, D.W.P. O'Brien, Oore, Ozier, Pooley, Pross, Ravindra, Retallack, R. Russell, Stern, Storey, Stuttard, Tamlyn, Tonks, Walker, Welch, Yogis, Zayid.

Invitees: B.D. Christie, M.D. MacDonald.

Regrets: Boyd, A.D. Cohen, Cross, Friedrich, Goldbloom, Gratwick, W.E. Jones, Kemp, Konok, R.C. MacKay, M. Stewart.

87:147.

[IN CAMERA] Report of Hearing Panel on Academic Appeal

Mr. Wien declared the need for an In Camera session to consider the decision of the hearing panel which considered a student appeal. He asked non members of Senate to leave. He then outlined the procedures which had been taken relative to the appeal and received the agreement of Senate to proceed with consideration. The recommendations of the hearing panel were subsequently ratified on motion by Senate.

87:148.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of 28 September 1987

No corrections were suggested.

Motion (Duff/Black):

that the minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 28 September 1987 be approved as

circulated.

Motion carried.

(b) Minutes of 9 October 1987

No corrections were received.

Motion (Belzer/Aspinall)

that the minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 9 October 1987 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

87:149.

Question Period

Referring to a letter dated 2 November 1987 from Mr. Bryan Mason and addressed to the Secretary of Senate, Mr. Leffek noted that Mr. Mason had stated university policy to be that interest earnings or expenses are not calculated on, and therefore are not credited to, the opening balances in endowment funds. Mr. Leffek asked when this policy was introduced. Mr. Mason replied that he understands that this has been operating policy for four or five years. He said that the question that he had been answering was one of current practice and therefore he had not done an historical examination of the policy. Mr. Mason also gave verbal responses to two questions raised in September. He reported that the cost of a new pedestrian path and adjacent landscaping for Howe Hall was \$3,850 and the cost of repainting part of Dalplex was \$7,825.

87:150.

Report of the President

The President made available for Senate a written report dated November 9, 1987. The first section of his report covered the National Forum on Post Secondary Education. He quoted extensively from that section. He emphasized that this represented his personal impressions and he suspected that participants may have been influenced by the particular workshops they attended. He emphasized the unanimous view that there is a need to re-define general education. He also noted the call for equity and accessibility. He noted the expectation of some for post secondary education to be instrumental in bringing about social change. He said he was struck by the attention giving to community colleges. He said it was not clear what the symposium had accomplished.

The President's report touched on the Fall Convocation and the opening of the new women's residence on South Street. He reported that as a result of the ballot of senators, he will be recommending to the Board of Governors the proposed amendment to the Statutes Governing Dalhousie with one change, namely, rather than four faculty members being appointed to the Board, he would be recommending that five appointments be made, one of whom shall be the Chair of Senate.

The President also reported that information had just been received that MPHEC had approved the B.A. in Women's Studies.

The President had earlier noted that Mr. D. Myers and Ms. C. Zayid had also attended the National Forum on Post Secondary Education. At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Myers stated that he felt that somewhat more had been achieved than the President had indicated. He said that he thought that the conference had moved post secondary education up on the political agenda.

87:151.

Committee on Committees -- Nominations to Senate Committees

Nominations for filling several vacancies on Senate committees and Senate representatives to other bodies had been prepared by the Committee on Committees. Nominations were made for each committee individually by Mr. Pross on behalf of the committee. In each instance, with one exception, all nominees were declared elected following three unsuccessful calls for additional nominations.

SENATE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

M.M. Hansell (Anatomy)
P. Monk (English)
C. Stuttard (Microbiology)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

T. Laidlaw (Education)

SENATE PHYSICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

R.L. Comeau (Economics)

OMBUD'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

R.S. Sandhu (Business Administration)

UNIVERSITY PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

D. Vanderzwaag (Law)

When Mr. Pross presented the nominations for representatives on the Alumni Selection Committee for the Award of Excellence in Teaching, Mr. Andrews drew attention to the fact that their academic affiliations were closely allied (Biochemistry and Chemistry). He asked for the reasoning behind the selection and for the composition of the Committee. The Vice-President (Academic) volunteered that the Committee consists of three students, two members of the Alumni, and two representatives of Senate and the Committee is chaired by the Chair of Senate. At this point, Mr. Andrews asked for the affiliation of the Chair. The answer, Chemistry, was well known to most senators. Mr. Pross then explained that when considering the nominations for these positions, the Committee on Committees had followed the criteria that nominees should be previous award winners. In response to a suggestion that the recommendations be sent back to the committee, Mr. Pross asked for criteria by which the nominations should be made. No suggestions were forthcoming.

Motion (Andrews/Greenfield):

that this nomination (for Senate representatives on the Alumni Selection Committee for the Award of Excellence in Teaching) be referred back to the Committee on Committees.

Motion carried.

87:152.

1988-1989 Budget

The President provided Senate with a three-page document entitled "1988-89 Budget". The third page of this document was entitled "Dalhousie University Preliminary 1988-89 Budget Projections (6 November 1987).

The President informed Senate that even though work has been underway for some time, the budget is still in its preliminary stages. He expressed the hope that the Budget Book will be distributed to budget managers by mid-December. The President stressed several parts of the document, especially the fact that the projections are based on assumptions and that these figures are not final. He traced the development of the figures from the projected \$500,000 deficit for 1987-88 through to the need for a budget base reduction of \$4.6 million to maintain a balanced budget. He stressed the expectation to use routine budgetary measures. He said

there is no intention to declare financial constraint, the positions of faculty members continuing at Dalhousie are not in danger and budgetary considerations will not be a factor in tenure decisions. He also pointed out the assumptions based on the expectation of achieving some success in obtaining increased government funding. He said that budget reductions in the non-academic sector will be as great as, or greater than, those in the academic sector. He said that there will have to be a reduction in the total number of faculty. It is expected that this will be achieved through non-replacement of faculty members who leave. He told senators that he will shortly indicate more precisely the size and distribution of- this reduction. He also said that limited term appointments will be reviewed to determine whether renewal is essential.

Mr. Stuttard opened the questioning by stating the assumption that the 20-35 faculty positions is a net figure and asked if this means that there will be no new appointments. The President confirmed that this is a net figure. He noted that it is very difficult to determine in advance the number of vacancies and indicated that consideration would be given when there are very strong academic arguments. Ms. Ozier later restated the question as "Will there be no new positions created?" The President replied that "It is a net figure." In response to a question by Mr. Pross, Mr. Mason said that approximately 50 faculty leave the university every year. Later Mr. Betts offered a comment on the numbers of people who leave. He said that some of them would have been on continuing appointments and others on limited term. He suspects that the number 50 is a combination of these and therefore the number of people leaving continuing positions might be only 30 or so. Mr. Welch asked if the budget had been considered by the Financial Planning Committee and if the FPC plans to comment. Mr. Wien replied that the FPC had reviewed the budget four days previously when it was essentially in the form presented at this meeting. He said the committee did not feel it was in a position to comment. It will meet in late November or early December to review the 1987-88 Budget and the forecast for 1988-89 with the intention of reporting to Senate at its January meeting. Mr. Andrews referred to the entry called Net Non Salary Expenditure Changes and asked for a breakdown of the figures into its indicated components. Mr. Mason responded with figures. Mr. Andrews then posed the question of whether we can afford the redistribution and development funds. He said that he would like to have an opportunity to move the suspension of the redistribution and development funds for one year. He then gave notice of motion to that effect.

Ms. Ozier asked that the President state what kind of enrolment management assumptions go with the faculty reduction. She also asked, "How are we going to maintain academic quality?" The President responded that the assumption is that there will be a small increase in the number of students. He said the quality has to be maintained by constantly reviewing curriculum and how programs are presented. Mr. Welch referred to the base equalization fund and stated that he would like Mr. Mason to elaborate on the criteria for this fund. Mr. Mason responded that there is a difficulty in that the numbers have not been finalized. He said the base adjustment in part is a provision for unforeseen requirements.

Motion (Pross/Zayid):

that the Senate Financial Planning Committee review this report and comment to Senate for the December meeting.

Motion carried.

Before the above motion was voted on, the President pointed out that the budget preparation would have to proceed. He recalled that there have been two consultations with the Financial Planning Committee regarding these figures, but he assumes that it is difficult for the FPC to comment until the figures are refined and the number and distribution of non-replacements is known. He said this information should be ready within one week. It will then go to APC and APC may send it to FPC.

87:153.

Annotation on Student Transcripts -- Report from CAA

Mr. Wien reminded Senate, that at its meeting on 8 September 1986, it had requested the Senate Discipline Committee to look into the question of permanency of annotations of disciplinary decisions on student transcripts. The Committee responded with a report which subsequently had been considered by the Committee on Academic Administration. Senate was now asked to consider the recommendation of the CAA. Mr. Sinclair, who had chaired the sub-committee of CAA which had considered this question and had also chaired the meeting at which the recommendation to Senate was approved, provided information on some of the factors which had led to the recommendation now being placed before Senate.

Motion (Sinclair on behalf of CAA):

Annotations placed on a student's transcript indicating disciplinary findings by the Senate Discipline Committee will be removed five (5) years from the date when the student is officially notified by the Secretary of Senate that the Senate Discipline Committee has found the commission of an academic offence.

Motion carried.

Before the above motion was passed, Mr. Yogis, Chair of the Senate Discipline Committee informed Senate that the recommendation was in keeping with the spirit of the views of the members of the Senate Discipline Committee. He commented on the rationale for this proposal. In response to a question from Mr_ Wien, he indicated that there is no uniformity of policy at other universities which he had checked. Following a question by Mr. Jeffery, it was agreed that it was in the motion that this policy would apply retroactively.

87:154.

New Registrar

Mr. Sinclair noted the presence of the new Registrar, Ms. Gudrun Curri and introduced her to Senate.

87:155.

Recommendation of Senate Public Relations Committee -- Report from CAA

The 1985-86 Annual Report of the Public Relations Committee had recommended the establishment of "awards for faculty excellence". While the CAA had given this matter consideration on previous occasions, Senate, at its meeting on 8 June 1987, had specifically directed CAA to pursue the development and implementation of awards for faculty excellence. Mr. Sinclair outlined the history of the discussions that led to the CAA motion which had been circulated to Senate. This motion passed at the meeting of CAA held 21 October 1987 read: "that the CAA report to Senate that it was of the view that no equitable system could be devised for a comprehensive university-wide system of awards for faculty excellence". Ms. Ozier expressed the view that this was a serious omission or failure in that it should be possible. However, others noted that there had been opposition. Mr. Betts suggested that if awards were to be extended at all, they should be for teaching. No further action was recommended.

87:156.

Reports from Senate Representatives on Various Committees

(a) Board Committee on Student Relations

No comments were forthcoming.

(b) University Parking Committee

Mr. Marriott pointed out that the correct name of this Committee was the University Security and Parking Committee.

Mr. Stuttard, referring to the comments in the report which had indicated that committee recommendations were not accepted by the administration asked if there was any point in the committee continuing. The President stated that he did not completely agree with this report in that some of the recommendations had been made to President MacKay and that more recently, he (President Clark) had accepted some of the suggestions. He said that the problems dealt with by this committee are important and complex. To expect all recommendations to be accepted is unrealistic. Mr. Welch noted that the report indicated that Mr. Renton had retired from the chairmanship. He then asked by whom had Mr. Renton been replaced. [Secretary's note: The current Senate representative on the University Parking and Security Committee is Mr. D.G. Pentz (Dentistry).]

(c) Board of Governors Committee on Relations with Other Institutions

No questions were raised by Senate.

(d) University Employee Benefits Committee

No questions were raised by Senate.

(e) Audit Committee of the Board

No questions were raised by Senate.

(f) Report on 'Six and Six Meeting

No questions were raised by Senate

Mr. Wien informed Senate that additional reports will be made available in December and January.

87:157.

Report on Model to Project University Revenues and Expenditures -- Report from FPC

Mr. Belzer, on behalf of the sub-committee of FPC, which had developed the model for projecting revenues and expenditures, reviewed the history of the request which led to this development. He commended Mr. Brian Christie for his contributions to the project. He then explained how the model is used. For example, he said one might observe the effects of holding all figures constant except government grants. The President informed Senate that the model is being used in the preparation of the budget. Mr. Welch stated his understanding that what Dalhousie gets in grants is related to the overall figures of Nova Scotia. He asked for an explanation of that relationship. Mr. Brian Christie replied that the first call on 'General Funds', i.e. non-targeted funds, is the enrolment grant. It has an historical component, i.e. a three-year moving average of enrolment figures. The balance is awarded in proportion to the previous year's flat grant. Dalhousie annually receives a little less than one-half of the funds available for flat grants. He pointed out that if the decline in enrolment at Dalhousie is slower than at other universities, or even if the enrolment is held constant, the flat grant will be larger. Mr. S. Cameron added that if the enrolment goes up more slowly, Dalhousie receives less. Mr. Christie agreed and said that that has been true for the last several years. Mr. Wien repeated an offer made by Mr. Belzer that FPC is willing to meet with interested parties and discuss this model in more detail. Requests should be directed to the Senate Office.

87:158.

Statute Governing the Operation of Dalhousie University and the Constitution of Senate

The report of the results of the Ballot on the proposed amendments to the Statute Governing the Operation of Dalhousie University and the Constitution of Senate was circulated. The President had earlier indicated that he will be making a recommendation to the Board of Governors.

87:159.

Honorary Degrees

Mr. Wien reminded Senators that the call had been issued for nominations for Honorary Degrees to be awarded in 1988.

87:160.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 P.M.