

Item: Senate Minutes, March 1988

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF SENATE MEETING

SENATE met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 14 March 1988 at 4:00 p.m.

Present with Mr. W.E. Jones in the chair were the following:

Andrews, Angelopoulos, Aspinall, Brady, Brett, Burns, Byham, T.S. Cameron, Christie, Clark, Curri, Duff, Kemp, Kennedy, Maloney, Manning, Mason, Moger, Murray, Oore, Ozier, Pross, Retallack, Richards, Ritchie, Schwenger, Shaw, Smith, Stairs, Stewart, Thiessen, Walker, Wien, Winham, Zayid.

Regrets: Betts, A.D. Cohen, Egan, Forgay, J.V. Jones, Konok, MacDougall, Pooley, Precious, Tan, Writer, Zakariasen.

88:031.

Minutes of meetings of 25 January and 8 February 1988

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 1988 were approved upon motion (Byham/Angelopoulos) with two amendments. Mr. S. Cameron noted that 88:015, line 4 should include his statement to the effect "Mr. W. Jones said that APC has not altered Faculty priorities for Redistribution Funds" and 88:016, page 4, line 8 should read Counsel. The minutes of 8 February 1988 were accepted upon motion (Maloney/Angelopoulos). Mr. Maloney indicated that he was present.

88:032.

Question Period

Mr. Pross asked whether a question he had raised at an earlier Senate meeting had been checked into by authorities: "Mr. Pross reported learning that in some other universities where faculty are taking salary as research grant, it is reported to SSHRC to influence funding." Mr. Mason promised to provide a response by the next meeting.

88:033.

Report of the President

The President distributed a written report (appended) which made reference to five items: Commonwealth universities, changes to Dalhousie Statutes, Symposium on Undergraduate Education, Annual Fund and Government Funding for 1988-89. He elaborated that the draft Bill received from the Legislative Council for Nova Scotia did not seem to incorporate any substantive differences from the Dalhousie Senate proposal for change. On Friday he had received the annual letter on government funding for 1988-89. The charges in funding were close to those assumed earlier. The unrestricted grant would rise by 1.3%. There would be a substantial increase in supplemental funds of 15.9%. There were provisions of approximately \$180,000 supplemental funds for the program in clinical psychology. Lastly, there was an increase in restricted grants of approximately 37%. For Dalhousie, the sum represents a 4.9% increase in overall funding. He commented that the government announcement came earlier than in previous years; that the funding increase represents a modest improvement over past years for Dalhousie; and that the increase in restricted grants represented a substantial improvement.

Mr. S. Cameron wondered whether the changes in the Act (pg 2, subsection a) would make a difference in the way Senate makes decisions about its own constitution. Mr. F. Wien thought that the process would not be affected. In fact, he believed that the changes reaffirmed and strengthened Senate's role in determining its constitution. Mr. Cameron requested that a document be circulated to clarify the resultant changes in the Senate constitution.

Further to an inquiry by Mr. Wien, President Clark indicated that a large number of universities had received an increase of approximately 4-6%. The Minister had given a firm commitment to having a new formula in place by 1989.

In response to Mr. Kennedy's question about the meeting of Commonwealth universities Mr. Clark responded that the British Vice-Chancellor had been preoccupied with the Reform Bill in the House and that the general belief was that the changes would go into effect regardless of their opinion. The change that concerned them most was that the Grants Commission would be replaced by a funding Council which would no longer be able to recommend to government on the universities needs.

Ms. Ozier thought it would be appropriate to express appreciation to the organizers of the Symposium on Undergraduate Education and to Dr. D. Curry for her leadership in organizing the Annual Fund. She was also pleased with the improvement in government grants to Dalhousie. Senate agreed that Dr. Curry should be sent a letter of appreciation.

88:034-

Report on Voting Results -- Honorary Degrees

The President, as Chairperson of the Honorary Degrees Committee reported that seven candidates had been approved by Senate. Mr. Pross wished to be assured that the Faculty of Management Studies would not experience the embarrassment suffered over the past two years of not being able to award honorary degrees. Mr. J. Christie wished to have consideration given to Faculty input and to appropriate speakers. The President commented on the efforts of the Honorary Degrees Committee to produce a well-balanced list. Mr. Pross believed that Faculties should be kept informed early in the proceedings if the name(s) they have submitted have not been approved. Mr. W. Jones wondered if a much longer list should be presented to Senate and approved names held in abeyance for the award of degrees at appropriate convocations. The President reminded Senators of Senate's wish that the number of honorary degrees awarded at each convocation be more conservative. Ms. Zayid indicated that the committee thought that the original list presented to Senate was sufficiently long. Mr. Burns recalled that candidates who may not be considered appropriate for a particular convocation, could give good convocation addresses.

88:035.

Senate Policy on Artistic Embellishment of Buildings (S.C. Minute 88:007)

The Chair reminded Senators that Mr. Andrews had asked the Steering Committee to consider whether the earlier Senate policy regarding artistic embellishment was being implemented. The Committee had reviewed the pertinent documentation including the minutes of the Board of Governors which indicated agreement with the stated policy "within the limitations of financial resources". Mr. Smith, on behalf of the Steering Committee, moved that whereas the minutes of the Board of Governors indicated agreement with the stated policy "within the limitations of financial resources" and whereas the policy had not been applied for several years, and given the current and prospective budget situation, the earlier motion (11/6/65) should be rescinded.

Mr. Andrews viewed with some disappointment the recommendation of the Steering Committee. Senate representatives to the Board Governors had forgotten or been unaware of the decision of Senate. The Committee's motion was lacking in

desirable principles in his view. This had dangerous implications for other policies which are not being followed. He believed that there were relatively few opportunities to pursue the policy of 1% allocation. The matter had been forgotten, which was different than making a deliberate decision not to follow the policy. He was unhappy about the argument put forward by the Steering Committee that because a policy was not being followed in recent years, it should be rescinded. He believed that Senate should have on record its desire to allocate 1% to artistic embellishment of buildings. The original policy of Senate could not do any harm and in fact may do some good.

Mr. W. Jones clarified that the Steering Committee had considered "the current and prospective budget situation" in making the motion.

The motion failed.

88:036.

Terms of Office of Senate Members of the President's Council

The Steering Committee minute excerpt 88:009 had been precirculated. The Steering Committee had been asked by Senate to consider the terms of office of the members of the President's Council. Members were randomly allocated to staggered terms ending in 1988, 1989 and 1990 with the hope that future members would have three year terms. As there was no objection these were taken as the terms of office of current Senate members.

Ms. Ozier asked that the Committee on Committees bring forth two women's names as the next replacements. It was confirmed that student members would be in addition to these six and that they would change as their membership on Senate changed.

88:037.

Redistribution and Development Fund Recommendations

Mr. W. Jones' letter to the Acting President, Mr. Sinclair, dated February 8, 1988, had been distributed with the agenda. The recommendations of the Senate Academic Planning Committee for disbursement of the Redistribution and Development Funds for 1988-89 were attached. The ranking scheme used by the Committee had also been precirculated. The Chair reported that the Committee would be reviewing the process and would be happy to receive comments and recommendations. A report was expected in the early fall. Mr. S. Cameron wanted to know how accountable the Academic Planning Committee was to Senate in terms of giving reasons for its decisions. Mr. W. Jones thought that the people who made requests would not want the reasons aired in public. This year the Committee had encountered difficulty as all requests were deemed to be worthy. Mr. I. Christie was curious whether the Committee had given explicit voice to the notion that Faculties who had been treated well in the past would not receive (as much) funding this time or vice versa. The Chair stated that this was not explicit in the Committee's thinking. He reviewed the extensive discussion by APC and careful process of ranking for the information of Senators. Mr. Christie believed that if this was a factor, that redistribution was not accomplishing its aims. Mr. S. Cameron noted the extraordinary amount of time which went into the preparation of applications. He requested that feedback be provided to those who have prepared submissions. Mr. Cameron then asked that APC also provide reasons why Faculty priorities had been altered if that had indeed happened.

Mr. W. Jones clarified that priorities had been changed in the past; hence he thought it was unlikely that he would have claimed otherwise (See Senate Minute 88:031). He promised that the request for feedback would be taken seriously and that in future an effort would be made to provide clarification regarding decisions.

88:038.

Proposed M.D./Ph.D. Program - Faculty of Medicine

The APC minute excerpt 88:050 along with the M.D./Ph.D. program proposal had been forwarded to Senators. The APC had examined the proposal and recommended approval of Phase One for implementation in September 1989.

Mr. G. Duff moved on behalf of APC

that Senate approve Phase I of the M.D./Ph.D. program in the Faculty of Medicine for implementation in September 1989.

Mr. Dickson elaborated on the rationale and background for the proposal. The program would build on the B.Sc. (Medicine) program approved by Senate last fall. There would be a focus on indepth research training. The program would permit medical students to do Ph.D. and medical degrees simultaneously. There would be some degree of time savings though electives, summer programs and double counting of courses. In response to Mr. Wien's question about the extent of double counting, Mr. Dickson stated that this would depend on the department of registration. Departments had been asked to identify courses which were equivalent to graduate courses. Mr. Kennedy, referring to the sentence, "No additional funding for the program, beyond students stipends, is anticipated", inquired what was to go to MRC for block funding. Mr. Dickson explained that training grants had been established over the past couple of years that were given a high priority. Mr. Richards wondered about the implications of being credited twice for the same course. Mr. Dickson clarified that none of the basic science classes allowed total double counting. Supplemental seminars would be required to bring courses up to Faculty of Graduate Studies standards. Mr. W. Jones added that the Dean of Graduate Studies had not seemed concerned by this component of the proposal.

Mr. S. Cameron asked what portion of funding was expected to go to the program from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Mr. Dickson did not believe that any amount had been intimated. Faculty of Graduate Studies was one potential source as were individual operating grants and MRC. Only one to three of the brightest students in the class were expected each year because of the rigor of the program. These students would compete easily with others for graduate funding. Mr. S. Cameron inquired about the length of time that was anticipated to complete the research component. Mr. Dickson responded that this would be when the thesis was successfully defended. Mr. Murray reiterated that only approximately 2% of the class was expected to enter due to the rigor and difficulty of the program (i.e. only those who had determined a personal career in investigative medicine). There had been some significant experiences in Canada with similar programs. This one could be expected to be more in keeping with that offered by the University of Toronto.

Mr. Dickson clarified for Ms. Ozier that there would be no additional classes in Phase I and that the supplementary seminars were components of graduate classes which were already offered.

The motion carried.

88:039.

Proposed Residency Program in Geriatric Medicine

The relevant APC minute excerpt (88:055), correspondence dated 20 November 1987 from Vice-President Sinclair and a copy of the proposal for a Residency Program in Geriatric Medicine had been predistributed. On behalf of APC, Mr. Wien moved

that Senate approve the Residency Program in Geriatric Medicine for implementation.

Mr. Murray explained that this multidisciplinary program was in the planning process for a number of years. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada had approved the proposal, agreeing that people and other resources were in place. On-site visitation as part of the regular accreditation process, was anticipated in the near future. The proposal had also received enthusiastic support from the Department of Health.

The motion carried.

88:040.

Matters of Information

Documentation regarding a Proposed Program in Liberal Studies for Police Officers, a Part-Time Studies Program in the Faculty of Law, and a Proposed Acquisitions Policy (Recommendation 6.1.3 of the Academic Planning Document "1987 and Beyond") had been precirculated as matters of information.

88:041.

Board Approvals

The Senate Office had been notified that the Board of Governors had granted approval to the Certificate in Liberal Studies for Police Officers, the Recommendations regarding the Structure of the Faculty of Arts and Science, and the Implementation of the B.A. (Major) in Women's Studies.

88:042.

Adjournment

The next meeting of Senate would be held on April 11, 1988. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 P.M.