

Item: Senate Minutes, December 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 December 1989 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Angelopoulos, Bastarache, Berard, Betts, Birdsall, Bishop, Brett, Burns, T.S. Cameron, R.F. Chandler, Clark, Cromwell, Curri, deBurger, J.K. Fox, E. Frick, S. Frick, Gass, Hart, Hawkins, Kimmins, Kwak, Lutley, Mason, McKee, McNeil, A.W. Murphy, Murray, J.D. Myers, O'Halloran, Pross, Richards, Ritchie, Schroeder, Shannon, Smillie, Stairs, Stuttard, Sullivan, Tamlyn, Tindall, Vance, Walker, K.S. Wood, Young, Zakariasen.

Invitees: B.D. Christie, B. Crocker, J. Jones-Darrell, M.D. MacDonald.

Regrets: Breckenridge, A. Cohen, Haley, Heffernan, Konok, O'Shea, Proncyh, M.H. Tan, Wassersug, Writer.

89:161.

Special Memorial

Ms. Lane called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Senators observed a moment of silence in memory of fourteen women who had been killed in Montreal in the week previous.

89:162.

Minutes of the Meeting of 10 November 1989

The minutes of the meeting of 10 November 1989 were approved upon motion (T. Cromwell/A. Murphy).

89:163.

Notice of Motion - Dalhousie Student Union

Ms. Lane called members' attention to a motion regarding tuition increases which had been circulated with the agenda. The motion read as follows:

BE IT ReSOLVED THAT the figures respecting tuition fees, as presented in the final draft of the Role and Planned Capacity Statement, not be accepted by the Senate of Dalhousie University, due to the adverse impact this changed cost to the student body will have on both access to Dalhousie University and the debt burden of its graduates.

Be IT FURTHER ReSOLVED THAT persons and/or groups having received the final draft of the Role and Planned Capacity Statement, be informed of the Senate's acceptance of this motion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Financial Strategy Committee be directed to recommend a tuition fee policy that would set tuition fees at an amount less than has been included in the Role and Planned Capacity Statement, and this policy be written with a view to assisting access to Dalhousie University and debt incurred by students.

Mr. Shannon said that the implementation of tuition fees contained in the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities would impact adversely on accessibility to the University and would create a serious debt burden for students. Senate had approved the Statement in the absence of the fee structure contained in the final document. Mr. Shannon said that adoption of that fee structure would "have a deleterious impact on the academic environment at Dalhousie". He added that proposals to increase scholarship and bursary support savoured of almsgiving and urged that the University raise funds instead through external funding, land sales, and public campaigns.

Mr. Clark said that the figures in the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities were not firm, and that it was clearly stated in the document that the figures represented only "current thinking in the Financial Strategies Committee of the Board of Governors". Mr. Clark pointed out that Senate could not, as the motion proposed, "direct" a committee of the Board of Governors. He argued that the motion was premature, as no firm proposals for a new fee structure had been made. Furthermore, Senate had not yet given adequate study to the meaning of the term "accessibility" or to the purported linkage between accessibility to university and tuition costs. He stated that a new fee policy would be developed over the coming year and that Senate would be consulted in the matter.

Ms. Vance said that the recent MacKay task force report suggested that, at least for some students, the expenses associated with university did limit access to higher education. She pointed out again that Senate had approved the Statement of Institutional Roles and Planned Capacities but had not approved the fee structure which appeared in the final document.

Mr. Cromwell said that the Financial Planning Committee was examining the reports of the Financial Strategies Committee and has proposed a joint APC/FPC Subcommittee to study the matter of tuition fees. It was moved (T. Cromwell/R. deBurger)

that the motion be referred to the Senate Financial Planning Committee.

The motion carried.

89:164.

Report of the President

Mr. Clark presented and commented briefly on his report (appended). He added that Dalhousie's contribution to the 1989 United Way Campaign had exceeded the University's \$100,000 target and congratulated those who had worked on the Campaign. He also reported receipt of a copy of the report of the Royal Commission on Health Care and indicated that it would be discussed widely at the University.

Mr. Brett asked for more information about the issue of copyright, raised in the President's report. Mr. B. Crocker pointed out that the first phase of new legislation on the matter laid down rules and procedures which strictly limited the use of copyright material and that such legislation had been enacted. A second phase of the new legislation, which was to include a definition of educational exemptions, was not yet in place. To avoid illegality, the administration was examining current policies. Mr. Stairs described the possible intrusive impact that the law, in its current state, might have upon teaching at universities. Mr. Clark added that as universities were creators of copyright material as well as users of it, he hoped that government would find an appropriate balance in its final legislation.

Mr. J.D. Myers praised the President's efforts with regard to the now-abandoned proposal for the relocation of the Technical University of Nova Scotia and urged him not to be disheartened.

89:165.

Response of the Chair on Employment Equity Question

Ms. Lane reported that it was her opinion and that of the Secretary, that the Senate minutes of 24 July 1989 were accurate in their reportage of the Senate's action on the matter of the President's Advisory Committee's Report on Affirmative Action and Employment Equity. She called upon the Vice-Chair of Senate to report on the decisions of Senate and the Board of Governors on this matter. Mr. Cromwell presented a copy of a memorandum to the Chair of Senate (appended) which compared those decisions. Mr. Tindall said that it seemed clear to him that Senate had passed a policy statement on this issue which differed from that passed by the Board of Governors.

89:166.

University Environment Committee

Mr. Cromwell outlined the proposed membership and terms of reference for this committee (previously circulated).

It was moved (T. Cromwell/K. Vance)

that a University Committee on the Environment be established on the basis of those terms of reference.

Mr. T.S. Cameron asked why this committee would report every six months instead of following the common practice of annual reporting. Ms. Lane responded that she thought that the importance of the committee's work warranted more frequent reporting. Mr. Birdsall asked why no support staff were represented on the Committee. Ms. Lane said that there were concerns about having too large a committee; she indicated, however, that she was willing to entertain amendments to broaden its membership.

Mr. Betts asked if it was necessary to have a representative of the School of Education on the Committee, given the size of the unit. Mr. Sullivan replied that, while he appreciated Mr. Betts' concern for the burdens that committee responsibilities placed on the faculty in the School of Education, its members did not feel that they were being called upon too often to serve the University.

Mr. Mason asked how a University Committee differed from a Senate Committee. Mr. Clark replied that the former type of committee reported to both President and Senate, while the latter reported to Senate only. Mr. Stuttard asked what sorts of things the Committee would consider. Ms. Lane replied that it would consider all aspects of activity at the University which might have a major impact on the environment.

It was moved (W. Birdsall/D. Betts)

to refer the motion back to the Steering Committee for revision of the composition of the Committee. The motion carried.

89:167.

SCAA Subcommittee on Student Life

Mr. Berard reported that the Senate Committee on Academic Administration (SCAA 89:084) had determined the membership of its new subcommittees on Undergraduate Affairs and Student Life (appended). According to a decision of the Steering Committee (SC 89:054) regarding the creation of subcommittees whose membership included a majority of persons who were not members of the parent committee, the membership of the subcommittee on Student Life was being brought to Senate for approval. It was moved (H. Clark/A. Murphy)

that Senate approve the composition of this subcommittee.

The motion carried.

89:168.

President's 1988-89 Annual Report to Senate on the Policy for Increasing the Proportion of Female Faculty

Mr. Clark briefly described this report (previously circulated) and indicated that he or Vice-President Stairs would respond to questions about it. There were no questions raised.

89:169.

Nominations from Senate Committee on Committees

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Ms. Angelopoulos presented the following nominations.

Senate Library Committee

L. O'Brien (Law) - 1991

Senate Physical Planning Committee

R.F. Chandler (Pharmacy) - 1992

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Messrs. O'Brien and Chandler were declared elected.

89:170.

Matters of Information

Ms. Lane drew members attention to correspondence from the Secretary of State for External Affairs concerning the Canada-China University Fellowship Program and to the terms of reference for the APC/FPC Joint Subcommittee for the Comparative Opportunities Study on Mixes: Ideas and Constraints (previously circulated) and to plans for the first Senate Forum on 12 January 1990, which would consider the report of the Royal Commission on Health Care.

89:171.

Other Business - Student Discipline and Computing

Mr. Cromwell presented a memorandum (appended) outlining problems which have arisen with regard to alleged misconduct by students in relation to computing activities. He pointed out that Senate itself could deal with these cases but noted that, in the past, Senate had, in the interests of natural justice, delegated such responsibility to ad hoc committees. It was moved (T. Cromwell/A. Murphy)

that Senate establish a three-person ad hoc committee to consider the two pending cases of alleged discipline infractions relating to computing; and

that this ad hoc committee shall hold hearings and prepare a report to Senate on the facts and make recommendations for disposition; and

that the Senate Steering Committee be authorized to appoint the members of this ad hoc committee; and

that Senate urge this ad hoc committee to proceed expeditiously.

Ms. Vance expressed concerns about the fairness of putting this matter into the hands of an ad hoc committee. Mr. T.S. Cameron asked why the Senate Discipline Committee did not believe it had jurisdiction in these cases. Mr. Cromwell replied that the Committee did not believe that its mandate included cases of non-academic infractions. Mr. Cameron asked further if the Senate Discipline Committee could be directed to consider the cases. Mr. Cromwell said that while this could be done, he thought it wiser, given the recent response of the Committee, to consult further with them. Mr. Gratwick asked if the proposed ad hoc committee could draw its members from the Senate Discipline Committee. Mr. Cromwell indicated that this could be done.

Ms. Vance asked if Senate had jurisdiction over non-academic infractions of discipline and was assured by Mr. Cromwell that it did have such jurisdiction. Mr. Mason asked if the proposed ad hoc committee would consider further cases if they arose. Mr. Cromwell thought that this would not be appropriate. The question having been called, the motion carried.

89:172.

Other Business - Spring Convocation

Mr. Chandler asked if the dates and arrangement for Spring Convocation were to remain as published. Ms. Curri replied that the dates and arrangements were unchanged. Mr. Chandler claimed that students and faculty in the College of Pharmacy had not been consulted about these arrangements and wished to register their unhappiness with them.

89:173. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. upon motion (T. Cromwell/D. Betts).