

Item: Senate Minutes, April 1990  
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
MINUTES  
OF  
SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 9 April 1990 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Archibald, Bastarache, Berard, Betts, Birdsall, Borwein, Carlson, Cromwell, Cummings, Curri, deBurger, Fingard, Forgay, E. Frick, Hart, Harvey, Kamra, Kerans, Leffek, Lutley, McKee, Mills, Murray, M.J. Myers, Palmer, Pross, Retallack, Richards, Ritchie, Russell, Schenk, Smith, Stairs, Stuttard, Tamlyn, Tindall, Young, Zentilli.

Invitees: M. Hansell, M.D. MacDonald, C. MacLean.

Regrets: Carruthers, Corvin, Fox, Gass, J.Gray, Haley, Hare, Heffernan, Hopkins, Konok, MacIntosh, A.W. Murphy, Pronych, Silvert, Sullivan, M.H. Tan, Vance, Wassersug, Writer, Zakariasen.

90:063.

Minutes of Meeting of 26 March 1990

Ms. Lane called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The minutes of the regular meeting of 26 March 1990 were approved, with the following changes:

90:054, 1. 7: add "(appended)" after "clearing snow", and delete "(appended)" after "classes";

90:059, 1. 3: after "rose to", replace remaining text with "question the procedures employed by the Committee on Honorary Degrees in arriving at their initial recommendations.";

90:062, 1. 1: change "a.m." to "p.m." upon motion (J. Ritchie/R. Bastarache).

90:064.

Report of the President

Mr. Stairs presented and commented briefly on the report of the President (appended). Ms. Forgay

asked if the statement in Section 1, para. 2, 1.6, to the effect that "a new funding arrangement is not in effect" was an accurate reflection of current reality or the result of a typographical error. Mr. Stairs replied that he believed that the report contained such an error and expressed the view that it should read "a new funding arrangement was now in effect". Mr. Borwein asked, in light of the statement in Section 1, para. 3, 1.7 of the report that "the total increase [in funding] will be less than has been assumed in the 1990-91 budget assumptions", what the budget assumptions were. Mr. Stairs replied that he did not know the answer to that question. Ms. Lane said that she thought the difference between the probable increase in funding and the amount contained in the budget assumptions had been estimated at between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

90:065.

#### Question Period

Mr. Stairs noted receipt of a question from Ms. J. Walker on the terms of service for senior administrators. The President's office had prepared a corrected list (appended). Mr. Stairs also explained that a review process was being established for those positions which were held "at the pleasure of the Board".

90:066.

#### Nominations from Senate Committee on Committees

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Mr. Pross presented the following nominations:

##### University Environmental Committee

B. Harsanyi (Dentistry) - 1993

##### Senate Steering Committee

J. Ritchie (Nursing) - 1993

Following three calls for further nominations, the Chair declared the above named persons elected.

90:067.

#### 1988-89 Report of the Ombud

Mr. Colin MacLean, University Ombud, was called upon to present the report, prepared by former Ombud, Joy Noonan-Payne. Mr. MacLean acknowledged with regret several serious flaws in the report pointed out in a letter from the President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association to the Secretary of Senate (appended). Mr. Stuttard said that he thought an explanation and apology at Senate was

inadequate and urged that the report be withdrawn. In response to a question about why the Ombud Advisory Committee had allowed the report to come forward to Senate, Mr. McKee replied that, in his view, the Committee did not have mandate or authority to approve or check the report. He reported that the Committee had only received the report and did not vouch for its contents. Ms. Lane asked if Mr. MacLean would like an opportunity to revise the report. Mr. MacLean and Mr. McKee agreed to take the report back to its author and request that she consider revising it, but both agreed that they could not change the report without the consent of its author. Mr. Betts said that he believed that the letter from the Dalhousie Faculty Association itself contained inaccuracies to which he wished to respond in writing. Ms. Lane said that such a response could be circulated to members of Senate and that Mr. Betts would have an opportunity to address the matter at a future meeting.

90:068.

In Camera Ad Hoc Disciplinary Committee Hearings

Ms. Lane provided background (Senate Minutes 89:171) to the formation of an Ad Hoc Disciplinary Committee to consider two alleged violations of provisions contained in the Guide to Responsible Computing at Dalhousie. Mr. Cromwell expressed the appreciation of Senate to those who served on the Committee and asked Ms. M. Hansell to explain the report (previously circulated) and the decisions which the Committee reached.

It was moved (M. Hansell/T. Cromwell)

**that no disciplinary action be taken against Mr. S.**

The motion carried.

It was moved (M. Hansell/T. Cromwell)

**that Mr. R. be banned from entering and/or using the Personal Computer Purchase Centre.**

Mr. Stuttard asked how long the ban was to be in effect. Mr. Cromwell replied that the Committee felt it inappropriate to set a time limit. If the student wished to use the PCPC again, he would be able to request that Senate lift the ban.

The motion carried.

It was moved (M. Hansell/T. Cromwell)

**that the University implement a policy whereby it can be reasonably certain that every user of University computing facilities receives a copy of the Guide to Responsible Computing, with a clearly stated instruction that the Guide must be read and followed.**

The motion carried.

It was moved (M. Hansell/J. Ritchie)

**that the Senate Advisory Committee on Computing review the Guide to Responsible Computing at Dalhousie, with a view to strengthening the language so as to make it clear to users that violations are a very serious matter, and also, if necessary, to add specific statements concerning responsible behaviour when using the University's computer facilities.**

Ms. Curri suggested that the Committee should also prepare an entry for the Calendar on this topic. The mover and seconder agreed to accept this amendment. The amended motion carried.

It was moved (M. Hansell/J. Walker)

**that the terms of reference of the Senate Discipline Committee be altered so that alleged infractions of the Guide to Responsible Computing at Dalhousie are within the mandate of the Committee.**

Mr. Cromwell explained that he thought that such a change should be discussed first with members of the Senate Discipline Committee.

It was moved (T. Cromwell/R. deBurger)

**to refer this motion to the Senate Steering Committee.**

The motion to refer carried.

90:069. Other Business

Mr. Bastarache said that it was his understanding and that of Ms. Vance that names were not mentioned when discipline cases were dealt with by Senate and asked why names were included in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee which had just been considered. Mr. Cromwell pointed out that some inconsistencies have occurred, noting that most appeals cases do have names mentioned, while most discipline cases have not used names. He suggested that the matter should be referred to the Steering Committee to allow a consistent policy to be developed. It was moved (R. Bastarache/T. Cromwell)

**that Steering Committee be asked to develop a policy on the use of names in the reporting of appeals and discipline decisions.**

The motion carried.

90:070.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. upon motion (A. Murphy/D. Stairs).

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
MINUTES  
OF  
SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 23 April 1990 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Angelopoulos, Barkow, Bastarache, Berard, Belzer, Betts, Borwein, T.S. Cameron, Clark, Clarke, Cromwell, Curri, Fingard, Hawkins, Leffek, McKee, Moriarty, A.W. Murphy, J.D. Myers, O'Shea, Retallack, Richards, Shires, Simpson, Singh, Smith, Stairs, Sullivan, Tindall, Verpoorte, S.D. Wainwright, Walker, Wallace, Wien.

Regrets: Andrews, Archibald, Carruthers, Gray, Gregor, Haley, J.V. Jones, Konok, Pronych, Ritchie, Smillie, M.H. Tan, Wassersug, Young, Zakariasen.

90:071.

Minutes of Meeting of 9 April 1990

The minutes of the regular meeting of 9 April 1990 were approved, with the following changes:

90:067 - title should read 1988-89 Report of the Ombud;

upon motion (T. Cromwell/J. Walker).

Mr. Tindall asked if Mr. Betts has submitted a written response to his letter to the Secretary of Senate of 9 April 1990, as indicated in Senate Minutes 90:067. Mr. Betts replied that he had not done so; rather he referred Senators to the copy of an arbitrator's report (available in the Senate Office) referred to in Dr. Tindall's letter. Mr. Tindall asked if Mr. Betts was withdrawing his allegations of inaccuracies in Mr. Tindall's letter of 9 April. Mr. Betts replied that he did not wish to imply the existence of inaccuracies in the letter. He said he believed that the arbitrator's report would speak for itself.

90:072.

Report of the President

Mr. Clark commented briefly on his report (appended), which included new information on new provincial funding arrangements.

90:073.

Question Period

No questions were raised by Senators during the question period.

90:074.

New Chair for Senate Committee on Committees

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Mr. Berard reported that Mr. P. Pross was stepping down as Chair of the Committee on Committees. The Steering Committee had named Committee member Ms. E. Angelopoulos as the new Chair and would be recommending to Senate shortly a nominee for the vacant seat on the Committee.

90:075.

Academic Policy for the Certificate in Community Health

Mr. Wien reported that the Maritime School of Social Work had developed an academic policy concerning the Certificate in Community Health program (previously circulated). The policy had been reviewed and accepted by both Senate Academic Planning Committee (APC 90:058) and Senate Committee on Academic Administration (CAA 90:019). It was moved (F. Wien/J.D. Myers)

**that Senate accept the proposed academic policy.**

Some members asked for a rationale for granting a "Certificate of Participation" for those students who did not complete all requirements of the program; was it not, in fact, a "certificate of failure"? Mr. Wien replied that some students, who, for a variety of reasons, might not be able to complete all requirements, would still be able to get some recognition for the work they had completed. Mr. Belzer pointed out that the program was designed for a single cohort of students and would not be continuing.

The motion carried.

90:076.

Policy on Recording of Median Grades

Mr. Stairs reported on a series of policy decisions from the Senate Committee on Academic Administration concerning the recording of median grades on transcripts (appended). Mr. J. Borwein objected that the interpretation in section (b) would reinforce students' fears of taking more difficult courses. Mr. Stairs replied that able students would be judged on the whole of their transcripts, rather than by the median grade level in a single course.

90:077.

President's Response to MacKay Task Force on Access to Dalhousie for Black and Native Students

Mr. Berard reported that this matter was discussed by the Senate Academic Planning Committee, which recommended endorsement of the President's response (APC 90:061), and by the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, which did likewise (CAA 90:011). Mr. Cromwell reported that Financial Planning had considered the response and was asking that Senate be kept informed of the financial impact of the response and that Senate be involved on the Advisory Board and the Coordinating Committee for the Transition Year Program. It was moved (R. Berard/H. Clark)

**that Senate approve the response of the President to the recommendations of the MacKay Task Force.**

Mr. Clark said that the immediate implications of his response had been budgeted for and that applications had gone out for external funding. Mr. Clark said that the Coordinating Committee could

report regularly to Senate. The question called, the motion carried.

90:078.

#### Involvement of Dean of Graduate Studies in Tenure and Promotion Cases

Mr. Stairs reported on his draft proposal (previously circulated) for involving the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in tenure and promotion cases. The plan arose from recommendations made in the report of the committee which had recently reviewed the Faculty. Mr. Stairs said that he had had some discussions of his plan with the Dalhousie Faculty Association. He had received a letter from the President of the DFA, however, indicating the Association's desire to maintain current practice. Mr. Stairs noted, however, that Regulation 5.11.1 in the current regulations concerning promotion and tenure (a.k.a. "the Buff Book") seemed to support some involvement in the process for all Deans in whose Faculties a faculty member taught. It was moved (D. Stairs/R. Bastarache) to endorse the plan outlined in Mr. Stairs' draft document.

Mr. Tindall said that past practice has not involved consultation with the Dean of Graduate Studies in tenure and promotion cases; furthermore, the "Buff Book" allows for dean-to-dean consultation, while Mr. Stairs' proposal called for the Dean of Graduate Studies to be consulted by the Faculty-level committee. The proposed plan also called for the Dean of Graduate Studies to be sent the names of all persons seeking promotion or tenure. For these reasons, as well as the inevitable delay of a decision which the plan would involve, the Executive of the Dalhousie Faculty Association had voted to reject it.

Mr. Leffek responded that past practice had been variable; in one case a Faculty level committee had invited comment from the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Mr. Cromwell asked if the motion passed and if the "Buff Book" was to be changed, would this affect those covered by the Collective Agreement. Mr. Tindall said that the Collective Agreement referred to a specific edition of the "Buff Book" and its provisions would have to be followed. Mr. Borwein said that any changes in the "Buff Book" should wait for the next round of bargaining.

Ms. Fingard commented that the proposal assumes that the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies is familiar with the teaching record of the members of that Faculty. She said that no consistent information now exists in the Dean's Office to allow proper judgements. Ms. Stone said that the DFA should consider possible positive aspects of consultation with the Dean of Graduate Studies, e.g. recognition of a candidate's role as graduate coordinator, which might be overlooked otherwise.

Mr. Sullivan asked why the Dean's contribution should be made to the Faculty committee, rather than the departmental committee; Mr. Stairs at first agreed to accept a change as a friendly amendment, but reconsidered after Mr. Tindall argued that it would conflict with the principal that departmental committees conducted peer reviews. Mr. Wien asked if the Dean of Graduate Studies would receive full documentation on each candidate; Mr. Stairs responded that such full documentation would be made available. Some question was raised about the weight of the views of the Dean of Graduate Studies; Mr. Stairs replied that such a decision would be up to each Faculty-level committee. Mr. Betts added that Faculty tenure and promotion committees could seek advice and information from any source. Mr. Borwein said that it was important that candidates have an opportunity to respond to any report from the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The question called, the motion carried by show of hands, 15-11.

90:079.

#### Response to the Review of the Faculty of Graduate Studies

Mr. Leffek commented briefly on his response to the review and the comments of President Clark on his response (previously circulated). He said that 30 of the review committee's 37 recommendations had been accepted and means were being sought to implement them. He repeated his argument that the

University was spending less money on graduate scholarships than in the past and cited a series of figures (previously circulated) to support that claim. He said that, in the light of inflation, graduate students at Dalhousie today were worse off than their counterparts from the mid-1970s and urged a substantial increase in the University's contribution to the fund for graduate scholarships.

90:080.

Other Business - Health Law Institute

Mr. Berard reported that the Board of Governors had given its approval for the establishment of the Health Law Institute.

90:081.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. upon motion (J. Walker/T. Cromwell).