

Item: Senate Minutes, February 2001
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

***APPROVED* MINUTES**

OF

SENATE MEETING

SENATE met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2001, at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Mr. Colin Stuttard in the chair were the following:

Ben-Abdallah, Binkley, Bleasdale, Blunden, Bradfield, Breckenridge, Brett, Cochrane, Coté, Cunningham, Downe-Wamboldt, El-Hawary, Emodi, Fraser, Giacomantonio, Greatrex, Guppy, Gupta, Harvey, Jalilvand, Johnston, Kemp, Kimmins, Lohmann, MacAulay, MacInnis, MacLean, Maes, McGrath, Murphy, Pacey, Roberts, Rutherford, Sastri, Savoy, Scully, Slonim, Tindall, Traves, Ugursal, Watters, Whyte.

Regrets: Caldwell, Caley, Coffin, Cox, Devlin, Ipson, McIntyre, Phillips, Rowe, Russell, Starnes.

2001:23.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2001:24.

Question Period

Ms. MacAulay noted that from April 20th to 22nd, 2001, Quebec City would be hosting two events of particular interest to many students: the Summit of the Americas, a key focus of which would be discussion of the proposed free trade area of the Americas; and the Peoples' Summit, which would include a teach-in and public march. Unfortunately, the overlap between the Summits and Dalhousie's examination period would make it difficult for some students to travel to Quebec. Could Mr. Traves suggest any accommodation which could be made for students who had conflicts between their examination schedules and the events in Quebec City? Mr. Traves agreed to consult with the Registrar concerning procedures for students seeking changes in their individual examination schedules.

Referring to the recently published University policy addressing discrimination, Mr. Whyte asked that all such statements at Dalhousie clarify that they referred to unfair discrimination. This point was particularly important for the Faculty of Medicine, for example, whose members taught the importance of discriminating between individuals on the basis of their liability to have

or develop various diseases. Mr. Traves thought that the use of the term "prohibited discrimination" in the title of the document addressed Mr. Whyte's concern, but he would look into it.

Mr. McGrath remained uncomfortable regarding the point he had raised at a previous Senate meeting about the reporting on the Website of the names of students whose degrees had been rescinded *in camera*. Could Senate give him advice on this matter? Ms. Bleasdale had left the meeting to which Mr. McGrath referred with the impression that she had been instructed by Senate to remove the names from the motion reported out of the *in camera* session. However, Mr. Stuttard believed a formal motion to amend the minutes to that effect was necessary. Mr. Stuttard clarified that the outcome of *in camera* discussions were frequently recorded in the minutes, particularly with respect to action such as the rescinding of a degree. He reminded members that degrees could be rescinded for a variety of reasons, and the reasons had not been included in the minutes. Ms. Binkley noted that since the names of graduates were published in the Convocation materials, we also needed to publish the names of those whose degrees were rescinded.

Mr. McGrath moved:

That the minutes of 16 October, 2000, be amended at item 2000:114 to delete the names of the individuals whose degrees had been rescinded.

Mr. Traves reiterated the points made by Ms. Binkley and Mr. Stuttard. Ms. Bleasdale noted that Senate exercised flexibility in reporting the names of individuals who were the subject of Senate deliberations, for example, the minutes did not include the names of individuals who had been approved for honorary degrees *in camera*, nor did they include the names of those approved for each Convocation. Expressing possible mystification or intimidation by the World Wide Web, she thought the publication of names in Convocation material significantly different from publication of names on the Web. Should the University be as careful to protect students from potential embarrassment as it was to protect faculty members, administrators, staff, and other members of the University community? Mr. Slonim reminded members that the Web was simply another means of publication.

Mr. Whyte moved:

That the motion be postponed to the next meeting of Senate.

The motion was **LOST**.

Returning to the main motion, Mr. Emodi wondered whether the names of those whose degrees were rescinded could be published in a way similar to the publication of those who received degrees -- in some type of parallel public information sheet. Mr. Ugursal considered it the duty of the Senate to publicize the rescinding of a degree as much as possible. Mr. El-Hawary pointed out that when a degree was rescinded the Registrar took the necessary steps to retrieve the parchment, correct the transcript, contact appropriate individuals, and, consequently, to correct the record. Mr. Coté thought the granting and rescinding of degrees should be handled in the same way. He was uncomfortable with the random web-surfer having access to this type of personal student information. Mr. McGrath supported Mr. Emodi's idea that documentation parallel to the Convocation booklet be provided.

The motion was **LOST**.

2001:25.

Proposed Program Modification: M.Sc. (Occupational Therapy)

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the proposal to institute a course-work option in the Master of Science (Occupational Therapy) Program be approved.

In response to a question from Mr. Coté, Mr. Traves clarified that the proposed changes for this program would not be forwarded to MPHEC until they had been approved by Senate and the Board.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2001:26.

Presentation on Enrolment Management

Vice-President Scully spoke to the Enrolment Management Report, dated February 12, 2001, and distributed at the meeting. The Report reviewed Dalhousie enrolments as of December 1, 2000. Mr. Scully also gave a brief presentation and spoke to the administrative work concerning enrolment management. He highlighted Dalhousie's continuing strength in graduate studies, something that distinguished us not just regionally but nationally. Regarding the enormous variation of student origins across Faculties, Mr. Scully noted that the most national Faculty at Dalhousie was the Faculty of Architecture. Despite its ability to attract students from outside the province, the University continued to depend on the Metro area for students.

Mr. Scully observed that the gender distribution of approximately 55% female and 45% male students reflected the national and continental pattern. The Vice-President was most struck by the proportion of female students in the Faculty of Science, which he thought reflected the fact that Psychology was in the Science Faculty, and Biology, a significant component of the Science Faculty's program, had a high proportion of female students.

The continuing growth of cooperative programs reflected both the inclusion of the Faculties of Architecture, Computer Science, and Engineering, and the strength of Dalhousie's cooperative Commerce program. Except for programs in the Faculty of Management, in particular the variations on the MBA program, programs with a cooperative or practicum component continued to have a concentration of full-time students.

Though on the surface very little appeared to have changed over the past fourteen months, closer inspection revealed significant changes. Undergraduate enrolment had dropped slightly, while graduate enrolment had grown approximately 5%. Mr. Scully drew attention to the decline in the number of students who had entered Dalhousie directly from high school this year, in comparison with 1999. The difference was even more noticeable in the narrowly defined Metro area. He saw no reason to believe that the University would be able to make good the decline this coming fall, even with all the best recruitment efforts.

Enrolment Management involved building relationships with students from the point of their first

contact with Dalhousie into their lives after graduation. From that perspective, the process now created, he hoped, would address many of the issues raised by the Report. Mr. Scully drew attention to the committee to look at enrolment planning and management, set out at the bottom of page two and top of page three in the Report. In particular, its role was to formulate enrolment objectives, targets, and plans, and to lead major academic and service units in the realization of these. Page three presented three teams which would assist in meeting the broad objectives of attracting and retaining the type and number of students desired at Dalhousie: a Recruitment Team, a Research and Analysis Team, and a Student Experience and Retention Team. The fundamental issues were how to deal with students and what to offer them in the areas of education and services. Mr. Scully would normally bring Enrolment Management Reports to Senate through SCAA. He anticipated the next and longer Report would come to Senate some time in May.

Mr. Tindall wondered where the missing Metro students were going. Mr. Scully had received a variety of opinions from high school principals. In areas of Metro where families were doing well, it appeared an increasing number of students were leaving the province to attend university. In other areas it seemed increasing numbers were staying closer to home, but were taking jobs instead of pursuing post-secondary education. Perceptions of Dalhousie also appeared to be influencing potential students' decision to go elsewhere.

Mr. Brett spoke to the relationship between enrolment decreases and tuition increases. Dalhousie's cause did not appear to be advanced if the student population was dropping at the rate tuition was increasing. As Mr. Slonim had observed at a previous meeting, it was important to remember the possibility of being priced out of the market. Mr. Brett recalled that this had been a major concern with previous BAC Reports, but no longer seemed to be a priority. He also noted that tuition increases might hit Faculties differentially. The Faculty of Medicine, for example, did not have competitor institutions in the area. In contrast, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, with tuition levels higher than at McGill and the University of Toronto, for example, faced competition in the immediate area. That made it all the more important to ensure that tuition was reported in the same way that other institutions reported theirs. Mr. Scully agreed with the need to be careful in this area. High school principals had referred to costs, but they could not alone explain what had happened with enrolments this year. Mr. Coté hoped that the issues being raised and discussed here were being reported to the BAC. Mr. Scully responded that the BAC was very sensitive to the issue of costs.

Ms. Binkley asked about the demographic projections for the Metro area over the next few years. Was the projected short term decline in the number of high school students eligible and likely to attend university being addressed by the enrolment management team? She understood that Ontario would have larger cohorts of students between the ages of 18 and 22. Also, was the size of classrooms at Dalhousie perceived to be a problem, and was the word being spread about the new high-tec Arts and Social Science building on campus next year? Mr. Scully observed that the demographic information for the Metro area and Nova Scotia was very stable for the next four years, with one exception. The size of classrooms and class sizes did appear to be a significant issue in the local area. Principals and guidance counsellors knew about the changes for the coming year, and in particular that the Cohn Auditorium would no longer be used and a new facility would be available. One of Dalhousie's chief competitors was making use of the difference between the two institutions in this area. Dalhousie needed to emphasize what made it unique in this region.

Mr. Gupta was concerned about the availability and amount of scholarships; these directly affected the quality of the students who came to Dalhousie. Mr. Scully indicated that the Enrolment Management Committee would be considering the whole issue of scholarships in the course of its work. Mr. McGrath agreed with Mr. Scully about the need to evaluate the learning environment offered to a class of 900 students at 8:30 in the morning. He hoped something would also be done about the aesthetics of the campus. The inside of the new FASS building had impressed him, but in general Dalhousie's continuing emphasis on concrete and an unfinished look for building exteriors did not make a favourable impression on students considering enrolling here.

Ms. Savoy had spent considerable time recruiting students, and reminded members of the need to market Dalhousie in a very positive way, emphasizing its strengths, and the reasons why students should choose this University. With increased activity in recruiting, she hoped the importance of a good marketing plan would be remembered. Mr. Slonim believed a much stronger public relations effort was required since Dalhousie was seldom seen in the newspapers. Ms. Guppy noted that it was not simply fees that were a deterrent, but also the uncertainty concerning fees. Was there some way to set fees for the duration of a program so that students could calculate the total cost of their studies when deciding whether to attend Dalhousie? Mr. Scully knew of no institution which made that kind of commitment, but thought the idea worth investigating.

Mr. Jalilvand noted that for the Faculty of Management competition in the Metro area was a serious problem. While Dalhousie was competing well with other national schools, locally it faced competition from institutions which primarily focused on the Metro area and used their graduates in an active recruitment effort. Dalhousie needed to be ready to enlist the alumni in a serious campaign.

Mr. Coté reminded members of the need to look at the decrease in the number of students attending university as a whole, and at the issues which were affecting that trend on a national level. Of those issues, the cost of education was a key factor for Dalhousie. Universities in New Brunswick were exploring budgeting for three-year increases in tuition levels, and maintaining the level of tuition income at a certain percentage of University revenue. The cost of education was crucial.

Mr. Bradfield noted that one of the students' main perceptions of Dalhousie was that it was large, impersonal and faceless. In light of that, he found it ironic that in the list of committee members in the Enrolment Management document various administrative positions were identifiable, but the two students were unnamed, as were "others", probably faculty.

2001:27.

President's Report

Mr. Traves reported that members' concerns about the University's efforts to market itself would be taken up in the forth-coming budget; however, care was needed when talking about marketing. Dalhousie was mentioned in approximately six to eight stories every day in the local newspapers. Mr. Traves also noted that there was not a decrease in student numbers. The number of students going to university had increased across the country this year. This suggested

the relationship between tuition fees and enrolment was complex. Tuition fees had steadily increased over the past twenty years, and enrolments had shown an equally steady increase.

The President informed Senate that of the nineteen recent SSHRC awards in the area of community alliances for health research, three had gone to Dalhousie faculty members. He congratulated Carol Amaratunga, Pat McGrath, and Renee Lyons.

On the provincial budget, Mr. Traves had been led to understand that the government might provide some advance notice in the area of the projected operating grants. University presidents across the province had been pressing the government on the issue of operating grants. They had also been encouraging more generous and predictable provincial support for successful CFI research grants. Dalhousie currently had \$14 mil worth of approved projects for which no matching grant money had yet been identified. Without that matching grant money, the projects would be lost. The presidents were also lobbying the province to take action on deferred maintenance.

On the national level, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada had struck an advisory committee on Liberal Arts and Sciences tasked to create a strategy for promoting the Liberal Arts and Sciences across the country and enhancing the understanding of the value of a liberal education. The goal was stimulate a public debate about the benefits of a broad undergraduate education, and, it was hoped, increase financial support for the core functions of Canadian universities. Mr. Traves was a member of this advisory committee.

2001:28.

Adjournment

Before adjournment, the Chair welcomed the new member of Senate, Mr. Greatrex, representing the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.