

Item: Senate Minutes, November 2003  
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

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**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

***APPROVED MINUTES***

**OF**

**SENATE MEETING**

**(Revised)**

SENATE met in regular session on Monday, November 10, 2003, at 4:00 p.m., in the University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Mr. M. El-Hawary in the chair were the following: Barnes, Ben-Abdullah, Campbell, Cochrane, Corke, Coughlan, Das Gupta, Dunphy, Earl, Elliott, Farrell, Finbow, Fraser, Guy, Hamilton, Horackova, Huebert, Jost, Lahey, Leonard, Livingston, Macrae, McGrath, McIntyre, McMullen, McNeil, Murphy, Neumann, Oppong, Partridge, Pelzer, Phillips, Precious, Pronk, Rajora, Rathwell, Satish, Schroeder, Scrimger, Scully, Sommerfeld (Recording Secretary), Stone, Stroink, Taheri, Taylor, Traves, Wanzel, Wasko, Zalezsak, Zuck.

Regrets: Barker, Beazley, Breckenridge, Caley, Carroll, Cercone, Cook, Finley, Hicks, Jalilvand, Maes, Meagher-Stewart, Richard, Russell.

Absent: Grantmyre, Kwak, Louden, MacDonald, Morgunov, Parpart, Stuttard, Whyte.

Invitees: Ms. R. Murphy, Mr. A. Kaiser

**2003:090**

Adoption of Agenda

Mr El-Hawary called the meeting to order and welcomed New Senators: Farid Taheri, Faculty of Engineering, replacement for Ismet Urgursal; Marty Leonard, Faculty of Science, replacement for Michael Hart; and Kevin Wasko, newly elected President of the Dalhousie Student Union.

Th agenda was ADOPTED as circulated.

**2003:091**

Draft Minutes of Previous Meeting

- i) Approval

The minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2003 were ADOPTED as amended.

- ii) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

**2003:092**

Chair's Remarks

Mr. El-Hawary reported that the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) had approved the Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Engineering) program proposal.

Mr. El-Hawary stated that Ms. Minnie Clements, Senate Office Manager, has decided to take early retirement as of December 1, 2003. He stated that while a replacement was being sought, it would be difficult to replace Ms. Clements who for several years has demonstrated significant knowledge and skill in her position as well as outstanding dedication and respect for the business of Senate.

Mr. Traves moved, seconded by Mr. Jost:

THAT on behalf of Dalhousie University, the Senate express its deepest appreciation to Ms. Minnie Clements for her many years of service to the Senate Office and to Dalhousie University.

The motion was CARRIED unanimously.

**2003:093**

Question Period

Mr. Elliott asked Mr. Traves how the University planned to cover the recently announced shortfall of \$500,000 expected from the Nova Scotia Government. Mr. Traves responded that the intention was to wait until later in the fiscal year to better determine if resources would be available to cover the cut without resorting to significant budget reductions, noting that a small surplus from the previous year's budget was available as well.

Mr. McGrath commented that in the recent provincial election campaign, the current government had promised to pursue multi-year funding to universities to be negotiated through a memorandum of understanding (MOU). He asked President Traves what action the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) had taken to ensure that this would occur. Mr. Traves stated that the University Presidents had met with the Minister of Education recently within the context of the recent cutback. At that meeting there had been substantial discussion of the notion of the memorandum of understanding, Mr. Traves noted that there appeared to be a desire for such an MOU although the terms for such on both sides had yet to be determined. He stated that there was agreement that a working group would be formed with the Minister of Education, some of the university Presidents, and a group of Deputy Ministers from related departments.

Ms. Partridge asked Mr. Traves if the Integrated Brand Marketing project was proceeding in a timely fashion and what the estimated costs would be. Mr. Traves responded that the costs of the project were being paid from resources external to the operating budget, such as from alumni funds. He indicated that the project was proceeding satisfactorily and was in the "fine-tuning"

stage with the planned launch date to be scheduled for early in the new year. He noted that as a result of an organizational analysis and the consultants' recommendations, there had been major changes in the communications and marketing team and organization, with a search about to be implemented for a new Director of Marketing and Communications for the University.

Mr. Huebert asked Mr. El-Hawary if, in his opinion, the MPHEC served any positive function given that matters were referred to it for approval but that he had not heard of any matters not being approved. Mr. El-Hawary stated that MPHEC served a good purpose of informing Universities within the Maritime Provinces of what each institution is doing, and he invited Mr. Scully to comment. Mr. Scully noted that he was currently a member of the Commission so his comments could be seen as a conflict of interest. He described the functions of the Commission as being different for different provinces, for example, recommending on issues related to operating grants to universities by the government of New Brunswick, while in Nova Scotia, the focus was primarily on program approval and quality assurance processes. He stated that in his opinion the MPHEC served valuable purposes both for the short as well as the long term.

Mr. Stroink noted that on the Dalhousie webpage was the promotion of the recent finding that Dalhousie University was the best place for researchers to work external to the United States, and asked if this feature could be publicized more. Mr. Traves responded that there were successful efforts to note this fact in national newspapers, and that it had been highlighted visually as well as in discussion at the recent Annual Dinner. He noted that it would continue to be part of on-going marketing strategies within the Integrated Branding project. Mr Stroink suggested that efforts to publicize more within Nova Scotia, particularly in newspapers, would be helpful to better inform Nova Scotians of the work done at Dalhousie. Mr. Traves agreed noting though that newspaper advertisements were costly.

#### **2003:094**

##### Changes to the Graduation List

Mr. El-Hawary stated that in accordance with Senate procedures, subsequent to the Senate's October 9, 2003, approval of the October Graduate List, the following additions/amendments were made to the Graduation List:

Bachelor of Science with Distinction - Nathalie Gionet [grades received October 9, 2003 from Athabasca University];

Bachelor of Computer Science - Isabel Ghosn, Daniel MacDonald;

Bachelor of Science (Recreation) - Margot Sammurtok;

Diploma in Disability Management - Peter Gabriel.

Change of degree: Degree for Amelia Shephard - changed from a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) to a Bachelor of Arts (Advanced Major).

**2003:095**

Retroactive Approval of Degrees

\_\_\_\_\_I) \_\_\_\_\_ Master of Arts (Philosophy)

Mr. El-Hawary reported that Richard A. S. Hall had completed the course requirements for the MA degree in 1973, had completed his thesis in 1975 which was approved and signed by Dr. Steven Burns (supervisor) and Dr. Robert Martin (second examiner), but through an administrative error, the thesis had never been submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Mr. Hall who subsequently competed a PhD at the University of Toronto, had not been aware that the MA degree had not been awarded until preparing to move to a university in the United States.

Mr. Scully MOVED, seconded by Mr. Campbell:

**THAT the Master of Arts (Philosophy) degree be awarded to Richard A. S. Hall, retroactively to 1975.**

The motion was CARRIED.

ii) Diploma in Disability Management

Mr. El-Hawary reported that Peter Gabriel had completed the program requirements for the Diploma in Disability Management in the summer of 2002 and should have graduated in October 2002, but because of an administrative oversight he was not on the fall 2002 graduation list. This did not come to light until some months later; both Mr. Gabriel and the School had thought that he had graduated. He noted that Dean McIntyre strongly supported the School's request to have the diploma awarded retroactively, but unfortunately the request did not reach Senate in time for the October 9, 2003 meeting of Senate when the lists of candidates were approved for the 2003 Fall Convocation. Mr. El-Hawary stated that on the basis of the standard motion passed at that Senate meeting giving the Dean and Registrar, in consultation with the Chair of Senate, the authority to amend the graduation list, he had approved the awarding of the Diploma in Disability Management to Mr. Gabriel, retroactive to October 2002, and the diploma had been awarded. However, he noted that in retrospect, since this matter involved awarding the diploma retroactively, it would have been more appropriate to have brought it to Senate for approval. He requested that Senate affirm the awarding of the Diploma in Disability Management to Peter Gabriel, retroactive to October 2002.

Mr. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Taylor:

**THAT Senate affirm the awarding of the Diploma of Disability Management to Peter Gabriel, retroactive to October 2002.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**2003:096**

Rescind a Degree

Mr. El-Hawary reported that at the Senate October 9, 2003 meeting, Ms. Raeanne Stevens was incorrectly reported as having satisfied all requirements for the Master of Business Administration (Financial Services) degree and was approved the degree, and subsequently awarded the degree, in absentia, at the October 18, 2003 convocation. Following the convocation, the Faculty of Graduate Studies informed the Senate that Ms. Stevens had in fact not satisfied all requirements for the degree, and that the Master of Business Administration (Financial Services) awarded Ms. Stevens be rescinded.

Mr. Scully MOVED, seconded by Mr. Opping:

**THAT the Master of Business Administration (Financial Services) degree awarded to Raeanne Stevens, in error, at the October 18, 2003, Convocation, be rescinded.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**2003:097**

Annual Report: Senate Committee on Learning on Teaching

Mr. El-Hawary invited Ms. RONALDA MURPHY, Co-Chair of the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching (SCOLT), to comment on the Report. Ms. Murphy began by stating that both she and her Committee Co-chair, Susan Holmes, found working on the SCOLT to be truly a pleasure. She highlighted that during this past year a nation-wide search process under the leadership of Dr. Scully, had been successfully conducted for a new Director of the Office of Instructional Development and Technology (OIDT), with Dr. Lynn Taylor joining Dalhousie in January 2004. Ms. Murphy noted that the work of the SCOLT currently was focussed on a central theme to explore the contemporary understanding within the University and the community of what the University was intended to be, that is, "the idea of the University", with a range of activities planned to generate active public debate about the historical and current roles of the University within society. She added that SCOLT saw such on-going debate of the matter to be a pressing public issue rather than a purely academic one.

Ms. Murphy stated that while there will be a new Director for the OIDT, the burden of addressing teaching and learning and the needs of faculty and students should not be seen as a sole responsibility of the Director, but rather it should be seen as a University-wide responsibility. She stated that SCOLT had identified the need for a survey to assess what actually currently happens in classrooms given the recent increased number of students and the changing nature of student capacities and demands for increased learning technology, so as to identify what learning-teaching gaps may exist and to develop strategies for addressing such needs.

Ms. Stone inquired about an issue identified in the Report regarding the provision of support necessary to deal with increased international enrolment and campus crowding, and asked if there was a coordinated effort at Dalhousie to address issues and to develop services related to international and immigrating students such as credentialing, and assessing prior learning and English language capacities. Ms. Murphy responded that in terms of SCOLT, the issue would be addressed in the coming year in general terms as related to changes in the identity of the University as a whole and if services were needed, OI DT would design those services as related to faculty development. Mr Traves added that he had met recently with the staff of the Office of Student Services to discuss on-going issues and challenges including those related to international students. He noted that with the increase in international student enrollment in recent years, social support services had increased, but there were on-going needs for increased academic support, particularly resources for English-as-a-second language issues. He stated that he would invite Vice-President McKee to send a summary at a future date regarding long-term planning as related to the matter.

Mr. Scully added that in the recent demographic there were now more international undergraduate than graduate students reflecting a need for a different kind of attention than in previous years due to differences in maturity, as well as facility with and preparedness to work in English. Mr. Scully made particular note of the outstanding contributions of the SCOLT co-chairs, Professors Murphy and Susan Holmes, who had provided significant leadership to the SCOLT over a vast number of related matters.

Mr. Scully MOVED, seconded by Mr. MCGrath:

**THAT the Senate adopt the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching's 2002-2003 Annual Report, noting acknowledgment of the significant contribution of the Co-Chairs, Professor Susan Holmes and Professor Ronalda Murphy.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**2003:098**

Senate Nominating Committee

On behalf the Senate Nominating Committee, Ms. Sommerfeld moved:

**THAT the people listed in Faye Woodman's November 3, 2003, memorandum to the Secretary of Senate, distributed with this meeting's agenda, be elected to serve on the designated committees.**

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the motion was CARRIED.

## **2003:099**

### Report of the President

Mr. Traves referred to the decrease in government grants to universities that was recently announced and described issues related to budgeting for 2004-05. He reminded members that in the University's 2003-04 budget, the increase in the government grant was included; that is, an increase to the system from approximately \$201 million to \$207 million, with Dalhousie getting approximately half of the increase. It was given to the University as a lump sum as an end-of-year grant on the last day of the fiscal year of 2002-03 with the expectation that it would be used in 2003-04. He noted that the question to be raised related to whether that amount was included in the base amount of 2002-03 and should the base then be considered to be \$201 million or \$207 million for 2004-05. He noted that the Minister of the day had announced in the Legislature that the increase was given as part of the base budget for 2002-03. Mr. Traves stated that there were still several unknowns, such as whether the \$1 million which had recently been cut from University grants was part of the original \$201 million, or from the increase to the grant of 2002-03. He noted that clarification would continue to be sought in preparation for budget development for 2004-05 and that the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) had begun its deliberations. He added that there was expected to be a significant rise in operating costs for the coming year based on expected substantial employee contract settlements, rising energy costs and so forth. He noted that for the 2003-04 budget, the University had committed to a new pattern of University expenditures in distribution of the money available following the Strategic Directions Report and the work of the BAC over the last year with the increase in revenue being directed in a different pattern of expenditures in keeping with the commitment to academic excellence and the integrity of the University. He indicated that there were a number of uncertainties and challenges to maintaining those desired directions in the coming year.

Mr. Traves commented on the university ranking in a recent issue of McLean's magazine noting what he saw as problems in the nature of the methods used to gather and report on the data presented in that magazine. He noted that in each category reported, there was important comparative data to be considered and examined more carefully within each Faculty, citing for example the reported decrease at Dalhousie in the number of tenured faculty teaching classes versus non-tenured faculty, but that the overall ranking system was flawed in that it presented an inaccurate picture.

Mr. Stroink commented that in the Faculty of Science a number of tenured faculty had retired and were replaced by non-yet tenured faculty although still dedicated. Mr. Traves responded that the issue to be addressed in that particular McLean's category which he understood to include both tenured or tenure-track faculty, was that neither of those groups was doing the majority of the teaching in the classroom. Mr. Farrell noted his concern regarding the lack of media coverage to Dalhousie and inquired if the Brand Marketing project would help improve the situation. Mr. Traves responded that he agreed with an effective media strategy but noted that Dalhousie receives a "daily clipping service" from the regional media and Dalhousie did tend to lead in areas where academic expertise was integral to the stories written. He noted that the areas to be improved were in advertising of teaching-learning accomplishments and resources. Mr. Farrell added that it appeared that the real "caring, nurturing" universities in regards to teaching did not seem to include Dalhousie, and that in recruiting students, knowing about research grants of faculty did not make as strong an impression on prospective student and their parents in terms of



how one was treated in the classroom. Mr. Traves responded that such perceptions of Dalhousie's qualities in that regard may or may not be accurate, but nonetheless, the issue remained as to how resources were in fact spent within the demands of the realities of the academic environment and hence to an extent reflected in images projected.

**2003:100**

Reports of Decisions of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee

The Senate session moved *in camera* to hear Reports of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC) decisions.

When Senate returned to open session, Mr. El-Hawary reported that the Senate, during the *in camera* session, had ratified the decisions identified in the September 2, 2003 Report of the SAAC Hearing Panel of June 27, 2003, and the October 14, 2003 Report of the SAAC Hearing Panel of September 9 and 17, 2003.

**2003:101**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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Mohamed El-Hawary, Chair of Senate

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Denise Sommerfeld, Secretary of Senate

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