

Item: Senate Minutes, May 2006  
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

Additional Notes:

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# DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

## *APPROVED* MINUTES

### OF

## SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, May 8, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Fraser in the chair: Beazley, Breckenridge, Butler, Camfield, Cercone, Chowdhury, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Coughlan, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Edelstein, Hicks, Johnson, Kwak, Livingston, LoRusso, Maes, McMullen, McNeil, Murphy, Oppong, Plug, Rosson, Saunders, Schroeder, Scrimger, Simmonds, K.E. Smith, Stroink, Sullivan, Taylor, Tipping, Traves, Urbanowski, Wallace, Wanzel, Whyte, Wien, Yeung.

Regrets: Barker, Binkley, El-Hawary, El-Masry, Geldenhuys, Gray, Lane, Phillips, Rutherford, Scully, B. Smith, Stone, Swanston, Thornhill, Webster, Wright, Zuck.

Absent: Adshade, Ben-Abdallah, Dawson, Finbow, Horackova, Hubert, Klein, Leon, Morgunov, Pegg, Pelzer, Precious, Slonim.

#### **2006:064**

##### Welcome Dalhousie Student Union Senators

Mr. Fraser called the meeting to order and welcomed returning student Senator, Mr. Ezra Edelstein, President, Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), along with three new DSU representatives: Mr. Mike Tipping, Vice-President (Education), Mr. Justin LoRusso and Mr. Taayo Simmonds.

#### **2006:065**

##### Adoption of Revised Agenda

The revised agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated noting that the *draft* minutes of the April 10, 2006 meeting were not circulated and will be presented for approval at the next meeting of Senate.

#### **2006:066**

##### Question Period

Mr. Whyte stated that at the March 13, 2006 Senate meeting a motion was passed to ask the Premier of Nova Scotia to make a full inquiry into the issues affecting the Capital District Health Authority (CDHA) with respect to faculty members who are having problems with privileges, which are felt to be outside the purview of Senate. He asked if there had been any response from the Premier on that issue. Mr. Traves indicated that the Premier believed that he did not have the authority to intervene and a subcommittee of the CDHA Board had been established to conduct a review. Mr. Traves confirmed that a report had been completed and forwarded to the Board of the CHDA and it is hoped that a response will be received soon.

Mr. Cook indicated that he is a member of the Board of Directors of the CDHA; however, excluded from discussions related to this issue at the moment. He is aware of a meeting this week with eligible Board members to discuss the report hopefully leading to a Board decision by the end of the month.

With respect to Matters Arising from the April 10, 2006 draft minutes of Senate, Mr. Fraser indicated that there were a number of issues raised at the last meeting that would require follow up by the Vice-President, Student Services, Ms. Bonnie Neuman, who will be doing a presentation at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting in order to address those issues. Ms. Neuman will deal with questions presented at the April 10 meeting on financial assistance to international students, support services for international students, and the issue of student retention.

Mr. Stroink requested an update regarding the current status of the Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) and assurance that the SDC is able to fulfill its mandate under current circumstances. Mr. Fraser explained that there were a variety of issues that led to the resignation of the two co-chairs earlier this term and there have been meetings of the previous SDC co-chairs, the SDC, the Chair and the Secretary of Senate, which were facilitated by Karen Crombie, University Legal Counsel. The discussions were held in confidence. He added that the workload of the SDC over the past number of years has become exceedingly heavy and appears to continually increase. The Senate Ad Hoc Committee Report on Plagiarism Report presented in June 2004 contained recommendations that would have moved some of that responsibility onto the faculties; however, it was decided in Senate that was not a route it wished to take at that time. Mr. Fraser believed there may be a need to re-examine the discipline process and make adjustments to the process.

Mr. Fraser noted that the vacancies created by the resignations of the co-chairs on the SDC have been filled, although the positions of co-chairs will remain open until the SDC is back up to full strength on July 1, 2006. In the meantime, hearings are being conducted with current SDC members chairing hearing panels on an interim basis. Mr. Whyte said he is concerned that the process was held in confidence, and usually when chairs of Senate standing committees resign, they should present their resignations to the Senate body as a whole, including an explanation as to why they wish to make that resignation. Senate has waited patiently for a full explanation of what the problems are, which could prove beneficial in examining the discipline process and in particular, if the question of decentralizing the process needs to be re-opened. Mr. Fraser indicated that this matter has been placed on the next agenda of the Senate Steering Committee (SSC) to ensure that things are moving along as quickly as possible and to determine if there are larger issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Dunphy advised that at the conclusion of the facilitated meetings a series of statements had been developed and the Chair and Secretary of Senate will bring them to the June 12 Senate meeting.

#### **2006:067**

##### Senate Nominating Committee Nominations

Mr. Jost explained that the Senate Nominating Committee (SNC) has been busy preparing a complete slate of nominations to fill the end of term memberships; however, because of the current vacancies on the SDC, the SNC has made that committee a top priority. With the following nominations approved the SDC membership will be back up to full strength.

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Allan Jost **MOVED:**

**THAT Mr. Chris Watts (Faculty of Engineering) and Ms. Susan Holmes (College of Continuing Education) be elected to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term May 9, 2006 – June 30, 2006;**

**Mr. Elliott Sutow (Faculty of Dentistry) be re-elected to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term July 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006;**

**Ms. Susan Holmes (College of Continuing Education) and Ms. Patricia Melanson (Faculty of Health Professions) be elected to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009.**

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the candidates were declared elected to the Senate Discipline Committee.

**2006:068**

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee

- a) New Program Proposal – Bachelor of Dental Hygiene: Undergraduate Baccalaureate Degree Completion

On behalf of the Senate Academic Planning & Budget Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

**THAT Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Dental Hygiene: Undergraduate Baccalaureate degree completion program.**

Ms. Butt, Director, School of Dental Hygiene, indicated that the program proposal had seen a very protracted process dating back to 1988. Mr. Edelstein asked if approval of the program would have any affect on available clinic time for teaching students due to limitation of space and if so, are there any plans on how to deal with this issue? Ms. Butt responded that the program will not impact on client or patient supply for this clinic, nor for the diploma program.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

- b) Proposed Name Change: Mining Engineering Program to Mineral Resource Engineering Program

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities & Budget Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

**THAT Senate approve the proposed name change from the Mining Engineering Program to the Mineral Resource Engineering Program.**

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**2006:069**

Nova Scotia Agricultural College Graduation List – Spring 2006

Mr. Fraser, on behalf of the Chair of Senate, **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Hicks:

**THAT Senate approve the awarding of degrees to the candidates of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College as previously approved by the Chair of Senate, on behalf of the Senate, and in consultation with the Registrar and the Dean of Graduate Studies of Dalhousie University, and the President and the Registrar of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and as identified in the correspondence to the Secretary of Senate, dated May 1, 2006.**

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**2006:070**

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser reported that the Policy on Integrity in Scholarly Activity was discussed at the March 15, 2006 Senate Steering Committee (SSC) meeting and also with Mr. Breckenridge and Mr. Scully. The matter will come back to SSC in the Fall of 2006 once Mr. Breckenridge consults with the new Vice-President, Academic and the University Legal Counsel, following the preparation of a discussion paper.

Mr. Fraser reminded Senators that Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Student Services, will be making a presentation at the next Senate meeting on June 12. He noted that Dalhousie's Convocations will be taking place from May 23 – 31, and he would encourage all those who can attend one or more of the 13 convocations to please do so.

Also, on June 12, following the meeting of Senate, there will be a reception to honor retiring Senators and Senate Standing Committee members.

#### **2006:071**

##### **Report of the President**

Mr. Traves reported at the last Senate meeting that the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) report was presented and discussed. This report subsequently went to the Board of Governors, where the principle recommendations concerning tuition fee adjustments were approved. The approved fee levels will now be factored into the final preparation of the University's operating budget for this current fiscal year, and will be presented to the Board at their June meeting.

Recently, a Federal Government budget was presented and the item with the greatest significance for Dalhousie University was the creation of an infrastructure trust fund with some focus on post-secondary education, which is said to contain one billion dollars. No details have been released to date, but it is estimated that Nova Scotia would be entitled to just under \$30,000,000 over two years. In addition, there were modest increases to the granting councils to support indirect research costs at the university, which will have some bearing on Dalhousie's financial capacities over the coming year. In the Nova Scotia Speech from the Throne a significant reference was made to post-secondary education, involving a basic commitment to seeing Nova Scotia's tuition fees adjusted through some mechanism to national average levels.

Mr. Edelstein added that there were two announcements regarding the proposed federal budget, which directly affect students in terms of student loans. There has been a proposed reduction to the parental contribution tables, which means that the amount of money that students' parents are expected to contribute to their education will be less. Secondly, when student loans are due to be repaid, the amount of money that a student is earning after graduation will be taken into account to calculate the loan payments over a set amount of time. However, he indicated that the possibility of these actually happening is distant at the moment.

#### **2006:072**

##### **Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

#### **2006:073**

##### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.