

Item: Senate Minutes, March 1990

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 26 March 1990 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Andrews, Angelopoulos, Berard, Betts, Birdsall, Borwein, T.S. Cameron, Carlson, Clark, Clarke, Corvin, Curri, Furrow, Graham, Gratwick, J. Gray, Hart, Harvey, Klein, Lazier, Leffek, Lutley, McKee, McNeil, C. Mezei, A.W. Murphy, Pross, Retallack, Richards, Ritchie, Schroeder, Silvert, Simpson, Smillie, Smith, Stairs, Sullivan, Tamlyn, Vance, Walker, Wallace, Wien, K.S. Wood, Zayid.

Invitees: B.D. Christie, A. Kaiser

Regrets: Allen, Archibald, Barkow, Carruthers, A. Cohen, Cromwell, Forgay, Gilroy, Gold, Gregor, Haley, Hare, Heffernan, J.V. Jones, Konok, Precious, Pronych, Roald, Wassersug.

90:053.

Minutes of Meeting of 26 February 1990

Ms. Lane called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. The minutes of the regular meeting of 26 February 1990 were approved upon motion (D. Betts/K.S. Wood).

90:054.

Report of the President

Mr. Clark commented briefly on his report (appended) and congratulated Dr. Judith Fingard, who had recently been named Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Mr. Clark also provided answers to a number of questions that had been asked at earlier meetings. In response to a question about the length of terms of senior administrators, Mr. Clark tabled a list of senior administrators and their terms (appended). In response to a question about snow removal, Mr. Clark outlined the University's policies and procedures for clearing snow (appended) and cancelling classes.

In response to a question about the position taken Dalhousie's representatives to the Humanities Federation and the Social Science Federation of Canada on recent changes in SSHRC granting policies, Mr. Stairs reported that he found that Dalhousie had no representative on the Humanities Federation and that the University's representative to the Social Science Federation had been given only a general briefing on the new policies. In July 1988 Mr. Chase of the Research Office had canvassed Deans and holders of SSHRC grants and had received eight replies, which were included in the response of the University to SSHRC. Mr. Andrews said that the University's representatives to such national bodies should try to consult widely with the University community before attending their meetings and should report the results of those meetings. Mr. Stairs agreed to bring that suggestion to the attention of representatives.

Finally, in response to a question about what policies were in place or could be put in place to assist researchers whose maximum needs for research support fell between \$2000, the maximum amount normally available through the Faculty of Graduate Studies Research Development Fund, and \$5000, the minimum amount for grant requests to SSHRC, Mr. Leffek reported that the receipt by the Faculty of a block grant from SSHRC to cover both research projects and international travel might allow the Faculty to award research grants at a level higher than \$2000 in the coming year.

90:055.

Question Period

Ms. Vance asked if the guidebook on student appeals, which had been developed several years ago and was now out of date, could be revised. Mr. McKee replied that a revised guide was now in draft form. It was likely that only a few complete guides would be printed, but Faculty-specific guides would be prepared for more general issue. Mr. Wien asked if the Senate Academic Appeals Committee would be able to recommend changes. Mr. McKee answered that when the draft was developed further he would meet with SAAC.

90:056.

Nominations from Senate Committee on Committees

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

University Environmental Committee

- R. Boardman (FASS) - 1993
- J. Eaton (Education) - 1993
- C. Smillie (Health Professions) - 1993
- J. Benoit (Henson College) - 1993
- D. Van der Zwaag (Law) - 1993
- E. Angelopoulos (Science) - 1993
- R. Cote (Management) - 1993
- R. Marchant (Medicine) - 1993

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

90:057.

Addition of Representative from Administrators' Group to University Environment Committee

Mr. Berard reported that the Steering Committee had recommended (SC 90:009) that a member of the Dalhousie University Administrators' Group be appointed to the University Environment Committee. It was moved (R. Berard/J. Ritchie)

that Senate accept this recommendation and amend the terms of reference of the University Environment Committee accordingly. The motion carried.

90:058. Recommendations from Senate Committee on Academic Administration

Mr. Stairs reported that SCAA had, after consulting with the Faculties, recommended to Senate the approval of the Statement on Undergraduate Education at Dalhousie prepared by the Committee on Undergraduate Education and recommended its inclusion in the Calendar (SCAA 90:002). It was moved (D. Stairs/D. Tamlyn) **that Senate accept this recommendation.**

In response to a suggestion that the Statement required some editorial work before being committed to the Calendar, Mr. Clark said that a committee of one would be appointed to undertake that task. The question called, the motion carried.

Mr. Stairs then reported the decision of SCAA to recommend to Senate (by a vote of seven to four) the adoption for undergraduate Faculties of a modification of the New Brunswick 4.3 numeric scale (SCAA 90:003). He noted that a survey undertaken by the Secretary revealed some division among the Faculties over whether to adopt a 4.0 scale (FASS, Health Professions, Dentistry, Management), a 4.3 scale (Graduate Studies, Science, and Education), or neither (Law, Medicine). It was moved (D. Stairs/J. Borwein)

to accept the recommendation of SCAA and adopt a 4.3 scale for undergraduate Faculties.

Mr. Smith pointed out that four units had expressed support for a 4.0 scale, while only three wanted a 4.3 scale. He said that he believed that adoption of the motion would serve only the administrative convenience of the science departments. Mr. Betts responded that he believed the 4.3 scale would benefit Dalhousie students, particularly those in competitions for NSERC and other national scholarships. Mr. Leffek agreed that the 4.3 scale would be beneficial in scholarship competitions and noted that both Acadia and University of New Brunswick employed such a scale.

Mr. Andrews said that the matter should be returned to the Senate Committee on Academic Administration to allow it to consider the possible impact of a 4.3 scale on non-science students. Ms. Vance agreed that Senate did not have sufficient information to enable it to make a judgement.

It was moved (K. Vance/A. Murphy)

to refer the motion back to SCAA.

Mr. Borwein said that he did not think much further information could be gathered; it was generally agreed that some scale was desirable and no evidence had been presented to suggest that a 4.3 scale put anyone at a disadvantage. Mr. Clark said that he could not see what SCAA was being asked to do with the matter. The question called, the motion to refer was defeated.

Mr. Andrews said that while the motion called for the adoption of a "New Brunswick scale", there were differences between the marking schemes in force at that university and Dalhousie. Mr. Betts replied that the scale adopted by SCAA was modified to fit the Dalhousie system and would include an equivalent for the "C-" grade. The question called, the main motion carried by show of hands.

90:059.

Report on Balloting for Honorary Degree Candidate

Mr. Clark reported that, as a result of the ballot taken at the previous meeting, Dr. Agnes Bishop would be awarded an honorary degree at Spring Convocation. Mr. Pross rose to question the procedures employed by the Committee on Honorary Degrees in arriving at their initial recommendations.

90:060.

Other Business

Ms. Curri presented a brief report on current application statistics (appended).

90:061. **(In Camera)**

Report of Senate Academic Appeals Committee Hearing Panel

After Ms. Lane outlined the procedures by which Senate deals with reports from the Senate Academic Appeals Committee, the Secretary distributed copies of a report on the academic appeal of Dr. Bibi Miraliakbari against a decision by the Faculty of Medicine (available from the Senate Office). Ms. Lane noted that Senate was not able to consider the Committee's fourteenth recommendation, concerning compensation for legal expenses for the appellant, because such a remedy was beyond Senate's power to grant.

Mr. Kaiser, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Appeals, presented the report, noting that it dealt with a protracted and complicated case, which involved over one hundred exhibits and six days of hearings. It was moved (A. Kaiser/K. Vance)

that Senate adopt the report (save for Recommendation #14).

Mr. Corvin and Ms. Angelopoulos objected to the limited time available to review the report. Mr. Kaiser agreed with this concern but argued that further delay was inappropriate. Mr. Borwein suggested that the problem of inadequate opportunity to review reports be addressed on a more general level. The Chair agreed to take the matter under advisement. The question called, the motion carried unanimously; abstaining due to personal involvement with the case were Ms. Gray and Mr. Zayid.

90:062.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m. upon motion (A. Murphy/D. Stairs).