

Item: Senate Minutes, March 1993

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on March 8, 1993 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Dunn in the chair were: M. Banerjee, R.J. Boyd, R.W. Carlson, H.C. Clark, D.B. Clarke, G. Curri, H. Eberhardt, J. Fingard, S. Fullerton, J. Ghiz, J. Gilroy, J.S. Grossert, L. Haley, B.B. Harsanyi, K. Johnstone, P. Lutley, T.L. Maloney (Secretary), B. Mason, J. McNiven, J.D. Myers, J.A. Ritchie, T. Ruggles, A.M. Simpson, R.J. Smith, D.W. Stairs, C. Stuttard, J.E. Sutherland, A.J. Young.

Regrets: B. Bednarski, E. Belzer, S. Burns, S.G. Carruthers, J. Clovis, A.D. Cohen, J. Elliott, G. Fitzgerald, J.D. Gray, D.W. Jones, J.V. Jones, K. MacDonald, L. Makrides, D. Moore, T.J. Murray, J.R. Parker, R.A. Purdy, E.P. Rees, M.H. Tan, R.J. Wassersug, C.N. Williams, K.S. Wood.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Mr. Dunn welcomed Mr. Ghiz to Senate as a new member.

With the permission of the Chair, Ms. Banerjee announced that the official opening of the Women's Center was taking place today from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. and all members of Senate were invited to drop in. She indicated that the Center would be open from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. during the week and thanked all those individuals who had supported its development.

93:045

Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 1993

The minutes of the meeting of February 8, 1993 were approved upon motion (B.B. Harsanyi/B. O'Shea).

93:046

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 1993

There were no matters arising.

93:047

Addition to the February Graduation List

Mr. Maloney informed the meeting that the name of Darren Hirtle (Bachelor of Recreation) had been added to the graduation list with the approval of the Dean of the Faculty of Health Professions, the Chair of Senate and the Registrar. Mr. Hirtle's name was not put forward in the first instance due to an administrative error.

93:048

Nominations from the Senate Committee on Committees

Ms. Angelopoulos tabled the following nominees for membership of the Committee to Review the Executive Director (Instructional Development and Technology):

J. Clovis	Dentistry
W.T. Gordon	FASS
C. Helleiner	Medicine

After calling for further nominations three times and hearing none, the Chair declared the nominees elected by acclamation.

93:049

Approval of Academic Costume - Master of Marine Management

It was moved and seconded (G. Curri/J. Fingard)

that Senate approve the academic costume colors for the Master of Marine Management as recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Administration - Navy Polyester hood lining and Seagreen Polyester border.

The motion was carried.

93:050

GPA Evaluation - B. Comm.Co-op Program

Ms. Curri outlined the special problems faced by the Faculty of Management with regard to the timing of the GPA calculation for students in the B.Comm. Co-op Program. She indicated that the Senate Committee on Academic Administration had considered the matter and was in support of the Faculty's

recommendation.

It was moved and seconded (G. Curri/L. McIntyre)

that Senate approve the addition to Regulation 19.0 as is noted below:

"19.0 Academic Standing

Students' academic standing is normally assessed at the end of the Regular session.

B.Comm Co-op students will be assessed after two consecutive academic terms or after a single academic term which is followed by a work term."

The motion was carried.

By way of a question, Mr. Dunn clarified that that regulation applied to only B.Comm. Co-op students.

93:051

Change in Regulation 18.6 - Correction of Errors in Recorded Grades

Ms. Curri explained that this change was proposed in order to produce consistency in deadline dates.

It was moved and seconded (G. Curri/R. Smith)

that on the understanding that the new regulation would be reviewed in a year's time, Senate approve the replacement of the current Regulation 18.6 with the following:

"Students must request correction in the calculation or recording of final grades by March 1 for first-term grades, July 1 for second-term grades, September 1 for spring session grades and November 1 for summer session grades and grades for the co-op summer session."

In response to a question from Mr. Young, Ms. Curri indicated that the previous deadline for requesting changes was two months after grade submission.

The motion was carried.

93:052

Change in Regulation 18.7 - Reassessment of a Grade

It was moved and seconded (G. Curri/L. McIntyre)

that Senate approve a change in Regulation 18.7 so as to have it read as follows:

18.7 - Re-assessment of a Final grade

Students who have questions about final grades that are assigned are encouraged to discuss them with the class instructor. In addition, students may consult the Chair of the Department, Director of the School/College, Dean of the Faculty, the Student Advocate or the Ombud. If their concerns cannot be resolved, students may also use the formal process that follows for the re-assessment of final grades.

Once a final class grade has been submitted to the Registrar, a student who wishes to have a final grade re-assessed should make a written request to the Registrar and pay the requisite fee of \$25.00. The request must identify the specific component which the student wishes re-assessed and the grounds for the request. Such requests must be made by March 1 for first-term grades, July 1 for second-term grades, September 1 for spring session grades and November 1 for summer session grades and for the co-op summer session. When such a request is received, the Registrar will forward it to the Dean of the Faculty or Director of the School/offering the class. The re-assessment will be conducted according to procedures developed for the purpose by the Faculty or School/College. These should reflect the nature of the academic disciplines and assessment involved, and should provide for a review of the assessment by a qualified person or persons not responsible for the original evaluation. Once the re-assessment is complete, the Dean or Director will advise the Registrar of the outcome and the Registrar will inform the student. If the re-assessment results in the assignment of a grade that is different (higher or lower) from the original one, the new grade will replace the original one.

Students who wish information about grade re-assessment procedures should contact their Faculty or School/College office.

In response to a question from Ms. O'Shea, Ms. Curri indicated that the marks are normally mailed to students by the end of May. Ms. O'Shea expressed concern about students who were required to engage in clinical placements that were a distance from Dalhousie. She suggested that the time frame would make it difficult if not impossible for these students to meet the deadlines imposed by this change. She indicated that some students might have less than one month to respond. Ms. Curri indicated that the her estimate of the end of May for mail-outs is conservative and in all likelihood they would be completed earlier.

Mr. Young suggested the word "normally" could be added. Mr. Smith suggested this was not necessary as the university has always allowed special consideration in cases where extenuating circumstances prevented individuals from meeting deadlines and complying with regulations.

Some concern was expressed with the fact that Deans would now have the authority to decide whether the request from reassessment was a "valid" request. It was suggested that perhaps this opened the door for arbitrary decisions. Ms. Curri indicated that in the past students simply paid the \$10.00 fee and requested reassessment without having to provide a reason. She also indicated that the development of criteria upon which requests would be judged would be a function of the Faculties and Faculty Councils.

Mr. Simpson expressed concern that there was no mention of "screening" applications in the regulation but this clearly implied from the discussion. Ms. Curri confirmed that it was intended that requests for reassessment be screened by the Deans. Ms. Bankier expressed confidence in the process in view of the fact that the development of criteria was the responsibility of Faculties.

The motion was carried.

93:053

GPA Calculation - Grade of "W"

Ms. Curri summarized the background to this issue and suggested the current regulations created some confusion. Specifically, the current regulations provide from three deadlines: 1) a date when a student can withdraw from a class without academic penalty; 2) a date when students can withdraw and a "W" is recorded on the transcript; and 3) a date for withdrawal that results in the actual grade for the class being recorded. Ms. Curri confirmed that current practice demands that the grade of "W" be calculated as "0" grade points in the GPA calculation - the intent of the recommendation from the Senate Committee on Academic Administration is to render the grade of "W" as neutral in terms of GPA calculations.

It was moved and seconded (G. Curri/A.J. Young)

that Senate approve the recommendation that the grade of "W" (assigned for withdrawing after the stated deadline), and the class, be neutral in so far as the calculation of the Grade Point Average is concerned.

Ms. Angelopoulos suggested that whether the grade of "W" is used in the GPA calculation or not, it is always perceived to be an "F" - as a result we should considered using "WP" or "WF" to indicate passing or failing at the time of withdrawal. Mr. Grossert expressed agreement and suggested we are too quickly changing the nature of a grade without sufficient consideration of the complexities and implications. Ms. Johnstone suggested the University might consider allowing students to change their

registration in these cases to AUDIT.

The motion was carried.

93:054

Matter of information

Mr. Maloney drew attention to three matters of interest.

- a) There has been a call for nominations for the Outstanding Alumnus Award. These nominations are expected to be submitted to the Alumni Affairs Office no later than March 31, 1993;
- b) Nominations for the President's Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards are being received by the Office of Instructional Development and Technology. This award recognizes important contributions made by GTA's to university teaching. Nominations must be submitted before March 26, 1993.
- c) March 11, 1993 has been designated as Disability Awareness Day. Faculty and students are invited to drop in to the Green Room between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and they are invited to participate in roundtable session from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. in the same location

93:055

Transfer Credit Policy

On behalf of the Senate Academic Planning Committee, it was moved and seconded (L. Maloney/G. Curri)

that Senate approve the Transfer Credit Policy as proposed to CONSUP by the Committee of Vice-Presidents (ref: letter from D. Stairs to J. Perkins dated December 22, 1993 - outlining three recommendations and six understandings).

Mr. Dunn indicated that the proposal had been discussed with relevant Deans prior to the meetings of Vice-Presidents and had been discussed after the policy had been reviewed by the committee of Vice-Presidents.

Mr. Stairs informed the meeting that the major change that would ensue from the adoption of this policy would be the administration of requests for transfer credit - in the future, this would be

administered centrally by the Registrar's Office. Therefore, the change is administrative more than it is a change in the substance of current practice and policy. He suggested the six understandings ensure the retention of the essence of what currently exists.

In order to give some evidence of the "volume" of requests for transfer credits, Ms. Curri indicated that last year the following requests were processed: Faculty of Science - 63; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - 85; Faculty of Management - 12; and the Faculty of Health Professions - 295.

The motion was carried.

93:056

The Role and Capacity Statement Update

Mr. Clark introduced this item and apologized for the short lead time in distributing the document (copies available at the meeting or after March fourth at specified offices). He indicated that the document was prepared following the guidelines set forth by the Nova Scotia Council of Higher Education (NSCHE) and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC). Following submission of the document, it is expected the Council and the MPHEC will seek clarification of issues.

It is expected there will be a formal meeting between the University and the Council and MPHEC at which time changes to the document may be suggested. Finally, in the fall of 1993, it is expected the Council will submit a statement expanding on its vision of the Nova Scotia university system. Mr. Clark noted that, while the document is a draft, it would be better to submit it to the Council with the formal approval of Dalhousie University's Senate.

It was moved and seconded

that Senate approve the up-dated version of the Role and Capacity Statement as distributed at the Senate Meeting of March 8, 1993.

Mr. Young drew attention to item 4 on page 36 of the document that referred to the reduction of the scope of programs at Dalhousie and asked if the Council or MPHEC had asked for such a statement. Mr. Clark indicated that there was no request for opinion on this matter and that the statement was the view of the authors of the document. Mr. Young suggested this was an inappropriate inclusion in the document.

Ms. Bankier asked the President about the authors of the document and whether they had consulted with the University community in its preparation. Mr. Clark indicated that Julia Eastman had been given primary responsibility for drafting the revision and had faced a difficult task given the time constraints imposed by the Council. He indicated that senior administrators and the Deans had been consulted. Ms. Eastman indicated that the Council and MPHEC had requested 5-year projections which were difficult to provide. She indicated that the process leading up to the publication of the

original Role and Capacity Statement in 1987 had been a very time consuming exercise and the University administration did not want to engage in an exercise of consultation that would over-burden members of the University community who were already asked to carry heavy workloads. As a result, consultation was more limited this time as the document was simply being up-dated.

Mr. Sinclair-Faulkner reminded the meeting that Senate had engaged in two extensive debates last fall regarding the report of the SFPC that had recommended program cuts. He reminded the meeting that the report of the SFPC had been withdrawn and as a result, its recommendations had not been dealt with at the time. He argued that, if Senate endorsed the Role and Capacity Statement at this time, Senate would essentially be accepting the recommendations of the SFPC as both documents supported program cuts and reductions. He drew attention to the fact that on pages 6, 7, 9, 13, and 36 of the revised Role and Capacity Statement, there were clear references to cutting programs for financial reasons. He suggested that the University may come to that point eventually, but it will occur under articles 26 and 27 of the Collective Agreement.

It was moved and seconded (T. Sinclair-Faulkner/J. Bankier)

that the revised Role and Capacity Statement be referred back to the Senate Academic Planning Committee for review and reflective comment.

Mr. Clark reminded the meeting that the time constraints are difficult as J. Halliwell expects a draft to be submitted by March 15, 1993. Mr. Myers asked about the consequences of not meeting the Council's deadline. Mr. Clark was not sure and indicated the Board was to consider the document at its meeting of March 16, 1993. He suggested that if Senate is unable to consider the document within the noted time frame, it will have to be forwarded with a covering statement outlining the circumstances.

Ms. Bankier emphasized that the participation by the University community in decision making is fundamental - however, this is not possible when documents are distributed so late. She noted that the Board of Governors is discussing the document after the Council-imposed deadline so it should be possible to inform Ms. Halliwell about the restraints and constraints of the consultative process at universities and seek a delay in the deadline.

Ms. Banerjee emphasized that the Dalhousie Student Union had not had adequate time to provide feedback to the revisions to the Role and Capacity Statement.

Mr. Pross asked about the measures that were taken to consult with Senate and Faculties while the drafting process was taking place. Mr. Clark again referred to the tight time frame and indicated that a preliminary draft was available to the Deans a little more than a week ago. A revision was presented to the Deans on Friday, March 5, 1993.

Mr. Grossert noted that the document suggested Dalhousie would be a center for graduate studies and research. However, he suggested this was incompatible with the 25% reduction that was to take place in the science journal library collection.

The motion to refer was carried.

In response to a question from Ms. Tamlyn about factual inaccuracies in the document, Mr. Dunn suggested such information should be sent directly to Ms. Eastman with a copy to him.

Mr. B. Clarke noted that the original Role and Capacity Statement predicted stable enrolments. However, the current document refers to a rise in undergraduate enrolment since 1989 and he asked if this was contradictory. Mr. Clark replied by suggesting the statement reflects reality and agreed that if the matter was raised by the Council, Dalhousie would be prepared to discuss the reason for the increase. Ms. Curri noted that since 1987 the quality of students entering Dalhousie has risen and as a result the retention rate had increased - therefore, higher enrolment. She suggested that the unemployment rate had also influenced these statistics.

Ms. Bankier noted that, while she had not read the revised document, when she does she will be looking for reference to areas of special emphasis. She suggested that there has been an over-emphasis on areas of special emphasis at the expense of many of Dalhousie's main-stream strengths for which the University is well known. She hopes these strengths will be emphasized.

Mr. Sinclair-Faulkner again reiterated his concern that the document implies program cuts for financial reasons and this can only take place within articles 26 and 27 of the Collective Agreement. To do otherwise would undermine Senate's authority and credibility.

Mr. Stairs urged members of Senate, that when reading the document, to keep in mind that it is intended that this revised Role and Capacity Statement has been constructed to convey a few simple messages to the Council and MPHEC. Mr. Stairs outlined them as follows:

- a) Dalhousie has an indisputable role in the Nova Scotia university system;**
- b) Dalhousie's role is different from that of other universities in Nova Scotia;**
- c) Dalhousie is playing its role very well; and**
- d) under the serious stress of financial cutbacks that Dalhousie now faces, it will threaten our ability to continue to perform as noted in (a), (b) and (c) above.**

Mr. Dunn indicated that the Senate Academic Planning Committee would be meeting on Monday, March 15, 1993, and the Role and Capacity Statement would be placed first on the agenda.

Furthermore, he indicated a special meeting of Senate would be convened to consider the document.

93:057

Report on Graduate Student Funding

Mr. Pross indicated that he had asked that this item be placed on the agenda as a result of his concern about the implications of item 4, page 1 of the Report of the PAC Subcommittee on Graduate Student Funding which inferred that students in professional programs do not face the same financial need for scholarships because of their employment potential after graduation.

As a notice of motion, it was moved and seconded (P. Pross/D. Tamlyn)

that Senate appoint a committee, equally representative of all Faculties and the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students, to review the present system of graduate scholarship allocation and to recommend a system based on student merit.

Ms. Fingard expressed concern that this item was being considered at Senate. She noted that she had suggested to the Secretary that the item be referred to other more appropriate bodies. She indicated that the statement in the report that Mr. Pross referred to was in error. She took full responsibility for the inaccuracy suggesting that it was based on comments made by some professional school representatives. She suggested that existing Graduate Studies Committees could address the perceived inequalities in scholarship allocation.

93:058

Capital Campaign

Mr. Eberhardt noted that the University has been very successful in annual fund raising and is well on its way to surpassing the goal of 1.4 million dollars for the annual fund. He also indicated that efforts on behalf of the Chair in Black Studies have surpassed the \$1 million mark.

Mr. Eberhardt indicated that planning for the campaign is still progressing. The feasibility study is underway and includes 50 interviews with external agencies and two faculty focus groups. The purpose of this exercise is to "test the waters" and; a) engage volunteers in the process; b) expose top potential donors to the campaign; c) quietly secure 40% of the campaign target; and d) finalize the actual campaign target.

Mr. Eberhardt noted that the current "mood" in fund raising among Canadian universities is conservative.

He indicated that Dalhousie is now in the process of searching for a campaign director to organize and administer the campaign.

93:059

Report of the President

Mr. Clark drew attention to his written report as distributed at the meeting. He emphasized his efforts in the area of funding by making representation to the government of Nova Scotia - he noted that attention had been drawn to the recent allocation to public school teachers and how this contrasts to the zero percent allocation to universities.

He also drew attention to his comments in his regular column in the Dalhousie News that had invited the Senate of Dalhousie to organize a symposium relating to accountability and quality at Dalhousie University.

93:060

Question Period

Mr. Myers noted that he was happy CONSUP was taking up the issue of funding, but asked if it had a strategy with which to approach upcoming and anticipated elections. Mr. Clark indicated the Board is discussing this matter.

Mr. Stuttard, referring to recent news publications, asked if Dalhousie University has a policy on remuneration received by senior academics who are still receiving a full-time salary. Mr. Clark indicated that the Collective Agreement addresses this issue and the opportunities provided therein are available to all. Mr. Pross asked about the policy of the University regarding the release of information concerning employee's earnings through external remuneration to the press - and, does the University ever release retorts to inaccurate press articles. Mr. Clark indicated that the University does not have information on the earnings of employees through external contracts and if it did realize information in the press was inaccurate, it would provide information to correct same.

93:061

IN CAMERA. Report to Senate on SAAC Hearing Panel

It was moved and seconded (P. Thomas/E. McKee)

that Senate accept the report of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee in the case of Mr. R.

The motion was carried.

93:062

IN CAMERA. Voting on Honorary Degree Candidates

It was moved and seconded (H. Clark/L. Haley)

that Senate approve the slate of two nominees for honorary degrees to be awarded at the convocation of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

The motion was carried unanimously.

93:063

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned upon motion (J.S. Grossert) at 5:45 p.m.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in *Special Session* on Wednesday, March 17, 1993 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Dunn in the chair were: L.J. Amey, A. Andrews, B.P. Archibald, M. Arklie, J. Bankier, B. Bednarski, W.F. Birdsall, M. Bradfield, D.M. Cameron, R.W. Carlson, D.B. Clarke, J. Clovis, M. Crowley, G. Curri, K.A. Dunn, K.B. Easterbrook, D.A. Egan, J. Fingard, G. Fitzgerald, E.A. Frick, J. Ghiz, L. Kesebi, E. Klein, C. Kozey, B. Mason, L. McIntyre, E.A. McKee, J.D. Myers, D.H. Poel, C. Putnam, A. Richards, T. Ruggles, P. Ryall, D.A. Schellinck, T.M. Shaw, A.M. Simpson, A.M. Sinclair, T. Sinclair-Faulkner, I. Sketris, K. Smith, R.J. Smith, D.W. Stairs, J.D. Stolzman, C. Stuttard, J.E. Sutherland, E.J. Sutow, D. Tamlyn, G.D. Taylor.

Invitees: M. MacDonald

Regrets: S.G. Carruthers, A.D. Cohen, D.W. Jones, K. MacDonald, T.L. Maloney, L. Osberg, A.P. Pross, E.P. Rees.

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

In the absence of the Secretary of Senate, it was agreed that M. Bradfield would serve as acting secretary.

93:064.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Since this was a Special session of Senate, no minutes of previous meetings were presented.

93:065.

Role and Capacity Statement

The Senate Academic Planning Committee has discussed the updated Role and Capacity

Statement, especially the implied policies that had not been previously approved. However, it was pointed out at the APC meeting that the statement is being presented as a description of what is happening, rather than outlining specific policy decisions for the future. A series of amendments have been proposed to clarify the function of the paper. The APC has endorsed the modified version of the update. The Board of Governors has considered the modified Statement.

It was moved and seconded (R. Carlson, D. Stairs)

that the modified version of the update of the Role and Capacity Statement be endorsed, subject to final approval by the President, the Chair of Senate, and the Chair of the Board of Governors.

The President spoke to the three types of changes made to the update - reflecting comments by the APC, from faculties, and editorial changes. The Board has endorsed the modified version, in principle, subject to further changes made by the Senate. The Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education will provide feed-back to each institution.

The President noted that the document is intended to convey specific messages:

- **Dalhousie is the national university in the region and is therefore unique.**
- **The continued fulfillment of Dalhousie's role is indispensable for education and the health of the province.**
- **Dalhousie continues to make innovations responsibly.**
- **Dalhousie's financial position is precarious and its role is threatened.**

Nova Scotia needs a university system equal to or superior to the rest of Canada, with Dalhousie playing a central role. Dalhousie's case will be strengthened if the document has the full support of the various constituencies at Dalhousie.

Ms. Bankier complimented the APC on the changes made to the original update, but expressed concern about voting without seeing the modified version.

Mr. Sinclair-Faulkner noted that he could recall no other major document which was to be voted on without final copy being available and requested that this should not happen in the future.

The question was called and carried without dissent.

93:066.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned on motion at 4:27 p.m.