

Item: Senate Minutes, April 1998
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, 13 April 1998 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

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

Adams, Apostle, Archibald, Binkley, Bishop, Bleasdale, Boychuk, Bradfield, Camfield, Clements, Coffin, Cunningham, Egan, Farmer, Faulkner, Fooladi, Furrow, Gantar, Guppy, Gupta, Hooper, Kay-Raining Bird, Kimmins, Kipouros, Lacey, Lee, MacInnis, Maloney, McIntyre, Moore, Morrissey, Neumann, Patriquin, C. Powell, H. Powell, Rathwell, Ricketts, Robertson, Ross, Rosson, Ruedy, Ryall, Scassa, Siddiq, Slonim, Tindall, Traves, Ugursal, White.

Regrets: Emodi, Phillips, Russell, Taylor.

Invitees: J. Eastman, R. Klapstein

98:048.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Stuttard drew members' attention to the notice of motion (Faulkner/Tindall):

That the first item of today's business be a 90-minute informal consideration (as if in committee of the whole) of the causes and consequences of the recent strike and lockout.

Mr. Faulkner noted that this was different slightly from his wording which had specified that Senate would sit in committee of the whole, not as if in committee of the whole. That would have allowed someone else to assume the chair and freed the Chair of Senate to join the discussion. Mr. Stuttard clarified that a motion to sit in committee of the whole must include the name of the individual who would assume the chair. Since Mr. Faulkner's notice did not designate another chair, he had interpreted Mr. Faulkner's intent as a call for Senate to meet as if in committee of the whole which also allowed the chair the right to contribute to the debate. Mr. Faulkner nodded his agreement. Speaking to his motion, Mr. Faulkner reminded members that informal consideration precluded specific motions, though anyone could indicate that they wished to move a formal motion when the body ended its meeting as if in committee of the whole. Members could also speak any number of times, and he thought this a valuable method of beginning deliberations over very serious and wide-ranging issues.

Mr. Rosson found himself in a difficult position. While he recognized the importance of item #1, item #3 was time-sensitive. He had expected it to come to Senate March 23rd, the meeting which had been canceled; and he trusted this item could be considered without further delay. Mr. Rosson moved an amendment (seconded by Mr. Fooladi):

That the word "first" be changed to "fourth".

The amendment was **CARRIED**, and the amended motion was **CARRIED**.

The agenda was then adopted as amended.

98:049.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

At item 98:042, page 5, "minimum" was inserted at line 21, after "normal", and again at line 22, before "requirements higher than those set by Graduate Studies"; at line 23, "Bachelor's degree" replaced "BA"; and the minutes of the meeting of 9 March, 1998 were adopted as amended.

98:050.

Proposed Master of Business Administration (Information Technology)

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the proposed MBA (IT) be approved with the following conditions:

- 1) the program to be exempt from ERBA and subject to the usual administrative levy of 5% of tuition revenue.**
- 2) the Faculty of Management to provide, through a permanent base-budget transfer of \$4,000 to the Killam Library, funding for identified library collections requirements.**
- 3) the Faculty of Management to be responsible for the identification or provision of funding to meet identified physical space requirements.**

Mr. Stuttard also drew attention to the proposed amendment on the Agenda (Boychuk/Rosson), which had come after the meeting of SAPBC:

That condition 2 be amended to read: "The School of Business will make an annual transfer to the Killam Library for the life of the program in the amount of \$4,000, increased annually by the same percentage as the library acquisitions budget is adjusted in the University Budget."

The amendment was **CARRIED**.

In response to a question from Mr. Lee, Mr. Rosson clarified that the Master of Library and Information Studies was a long-standing degree in the Faculty of Management which prepared individuals for work in information intensive environments, such as libraries. The MBA(IT) was a business degree which combined the information technology skills students would acquire in the ITI program with the private sector business management skills students would acquire in the MBA program. In response to a question from Mr. Adams, Mr. Klapstein confirmed that students entering this combined program would also take the necessary ITI entrance test, at a nominal fee

of approximately \$50. Mr. Adams found the proposed program a strong and important step into new areas where the University could expand its service to meet student needs and the demands of the market. However, he asked Dalhousie to exercise caution in partnering and lending our name to ventures with private sector firms which had not been around many years.

Ms. Kay-Raining Bird had seen nothing in the documentation which had persuaded her that we wanted to ally ourselves with this particular company. Why ITI? She was also concerned whether we were taking advantage of students by charging \$37,500 for a nine-month program, a price which might be well above actual cost. Could we justify the cost, and where were the profits going? Mr. Klapstein responded that ITI was by far the largest private sector educational institution in Canada offering information technology training and education. Faculty in the School of Business had undertaken a rigorous course and program assessment of the ITI offerings, and were convinced of their worth. The fee structure paralleled that used in the MBA (Financial Services), which allowed for unanticipated expenses. The planned net income from the program would go towards increasing the size of the faculty complement and funding research.

Mr. Patriquin expressed general concerns that the provision for teaching by part-time faculty would set a precedent for Masters level programs, and that the wages offered would not be adequate to attract high-quality faculty. In response to Mr. Patriquin's specific questions, Mr. Klapstein noted that part-time faculty would have to meet the same standards that part-timers met now, including the requirements of the Faculty of Graduate Studies; that full-time faculty would have the same control over this program that they now had over any part-time faculty appointments and programs in which part-timers taught; and that they would receive the same salaries and benefit packages as regular part-time faculty. Finally, from his own difficulties in securing adequate computer facilities for even his fundamental undergraduate teaching, Mr. Patriquin was concerned this proposal might lead to the setting up of a type of elite system outside the mainstream of Dalhousie's commitments, which would have an impact on our abilities to offer essential services to students in mainstream programs. Mr. Neumann asked for assurance that in the area of the necessary computer services, in particular, the program would be run on a cost-recovery basis for the University. Mr. Rosson noted that the proposal stipulated that through their program in ITI students would own their laptops, and their demands on the computing system of Dalhousie would be minimal.

Mr. Ugursal was troubled that half of the program would be offered by ITI, an organization in business to make money; and that we would have no control over the ten classes which would be accepted as credits towards the Dalhousie MBA program. Of the MBA classes, students would take two in a classroom and eight by distance education. The classes themselves appeared to be not so much academic, but training classes, preparing a student, for example, in a particular client-server database program. Mr. Ricketts noted that the Faculty of Graduate Studies had raised concerns similar to those being voiced by Senators, and particularly those raised by Mr. Ugursal, during early discussions with the School of Business when the program was being conceived and through the formal consideration of the proposal. Had members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies obtained everything they had wanted in discussions with the School of Business they might have suggested a slight increase in the number of MBA credits. But the Faculty had concluded that the Committee from the School of Business had done a thorough review of the content of the ITI program and had produced an impressive assessment. The Faculty of Graduate Studies was also satisfied that after three years the program would undergo a thorough graduate program review, including review of the ITI classes.

As the proposal stood, it recommended that the ITI program be considered equal to ten credits within a two-year graduate MBA program. Clearly some ITI classes were about how to use software, and on their own were not equivalent to half-credit graduate classes. But they were not given equivalent weighting. Also, members needed to remember that in other two-year graduate programs, such as a two-year Master of Computer Science, a student would take almost a full year of undergraduate classes as part of that degree. This was an issue to be addressed for each discipline. This MBA(IT) was an MBA program, and a program in IT, which would bring together students from various backgrounds, some without an undergraduate degree in IT, and without an undergraduate degree in Computer Science. But the students would graduate with the equivalent of a bona fide two-year MBA program; and they would be in demand for high-paying jobs in both the United States and Canada. The benefit for Dalhousie was that we would become part of the growing number of partnerships between companies and universities across the country.

Mr. Slonim noted that Dalhousie had insufficient faculty to teach all of Computer Science. He described the proposed program as part of the broader trend towards life-long learning, in which high-tech industries in particular increasingly realised the importance of upgrading the education of their employees to equip them to deal with rapidly-advancing technology. Ontario's CONGESE Program, designed to provide this type of upgrading support in software engineering for companies such as Nortel, IBM, and Bell, was an excellent example of the opportunities for cooperation between universities and industry. Computer Science saw the proposed MBA(IT) as a very positive step towards this new, more focussed type of education. In a similar vein, Computer Science would be bringing to Senate in the near future a proposal for a program involving Computer Science, Software Engineering, and Management. That program would provide individuals conversant with technology with necessary management skills; and, like the proposed MBA(IT), would accept students who were perhaps highly educated in some areas such as mathematics, but were unable to find work. This was the direction in which Dalhousie needed to go in order to tap into the growing market demand. If we did not provide this type of education, students would go elsewhere.

Mr. Ugursal asked what would happen if in six months ITI went bankrupt. Mr. Rosson responded that the program and the degree would cease.

The amended motion was **CARRIED**.

98:051.

Informal Consideration of the Causes and Consequences of the Recent Strike and Lockout

Members agreed to interrupt this item for an order of the day at 5:45 p.m., which was an *in camera* session, and would continue their discussion for the full 90 minutes regardless of the hour beyond 6:00 p.m.

98:052.

Honorary Degree

The meeting moved *in camera* for this item.

98:053.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Tuesday, 28 April 1998 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. C. Stuttard in the chair were the following: Abi Daoud, Apostle, Archibald, Bell, Bleasdale, Boychuk, Bradfield, Camfield, Chiasson, Clements, Coffin, Crocker, Farmer, Faulkner, Furrow, Galley, Gantar, Guppy, Gupta, Hooper, Kay-Raining Bird, Kimmins, Kipouros, Lalji, MacDonald, Moore, Neumann, Patriquin, Phillips, H. Powell, Rathwell, Ricketts, Rosson, Scassa, Shepherd, Slonim, Taylor, Thompson, Tindall, Tomblin Murphy, Traves, Wallace, White.

Regrets: Binkley, Connolly, Cunningham, Hyndman, MacInnis, Maloney, McIntyre, Morrissey, Russell,
Siddiq, Ugursal, Vohra.

Invitees: Ms. Curri, Ms. Lyttle

98:054.

Adoption of Agenda

Members agreed that two items be added to the agenda: item #2, a thank you to the out-going Student Senators and the introduction of the new Student Senators; and a new item #6, the nomination from SAPBC about which members had been emailed. The items were renumbered accordingly, and the agenda was adopted as amended.

98:055.

Thank you to Student Senators and Introduction of New Student Senators

Mr. Stuttard thanked, in their absence, the out-going Student Senators, Chris Adams, Kevin Lacey, Jeff Myers, Gordon Ross, and Adel Iskandar, for their participation in Senate and its Committees. During this year they had gained representation on the Steering Committee, which carried with it membership on the Statutory Joint Committee with the Board of Governors, the Six and Six. In particular Mr. Stuttard noted their tireless work, largely unseen, on the Senate Discipline Committee. In addition the Student Senators had provided strong support for reconstitution of the Senate Committee on the Environment. Mr. Stuttard then introduced the new Student Senators who were assuming their responsibilities at this meeting: Ted Chaisson, DSU President; Kelly MacKenzie, DSU VP (Student Advocacy); Marie Abi Daoud; Aryn Lalji; and Mark Galley. Mr. Stuttard also thanked Robert Moore whose term ended on June 30th, and for whom this was his last meeting.

98:056.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 13 April, 1998 were adopted as circulated.

98:057.

Awarding of Degrees: Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Mr. Stuttard invited Mr. Coffin, the Principal of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, to propose the approval of the B.Sc. in Agriculture. Mr. Coffin moved:

That Senate approve the list of candidates submitted for the degree B.Sc. in Agriculture to be awarded at the NSAC Convocation on 1 May, 1998.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

On behalf of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mr. Ricketts moved:

That Senate approve the list of five candidates submitted for the degree M.Sc. in Agriculture.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Mr. Rosson moved (seconded Ms. Furrow):

That the Principal and the Registrar of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and the Dean of Dalhousie's Faculty of Graduate Studies where appropriate, in consultation with the Chair of Senate, be authorized to add to and remove from the graduation list the names of any students omitted from or included in the list through demonstrable errors on the part of the College, the University or one of its officers, or other reasons, and that any such additions or deletions be reported to Senate.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:058.

Nominations to University Tenure Panel

Ms. Bleasdale moved:

That the following individuals, having secured the requisite approval of the DFA and the President, be elected to the University Tenure Panel: Philip McAleer (Architecture), Michael Poulton (Architecture), Oriel MacLellan (Libraries), and Dianne Pothier (Law).

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:059.

Nomination from SAPBC for Banner Committee

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That Senate approve the nomination of David McNeil as Senate Representative on the BANNER Policy Advisory Committee for the Scheduling and Location Management Team.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:060.

President's 1995/96 Annual Report to Senate on the Policy for Increasing the Proportion of Designated Group Members Holding Academic Appointments

Mr. Stuttard asked members to consider as an item of information the President's 1995/96 Annual Report to Senate on the Policy for Increasing the Proportion of Designated Group Members Holding Academic Appointments. Ms. Kay-Raining Bird asked whether, over the years, Dalhousie had seen an increase in appointments to faculty positions of women and members of the other designated groups; and she wondered whether strategies were in place to increase recruitment from visible minorities. She suggested any such strategies needed to be linked to recruitment to Ph.D. programs within the University. Mr. Traves believed that over the last three or four years there had been improvement in the proportion of female faculty members, and also in the area of hiring of visible minorities. For the other designated groups, the improvement had not been significant, and much work remained to be done, particularly in the categories of aboriginals and the disabled. The University was considering striking a Committee to assess the problems and working environment for disabled employees. This Committee would parallel that in existence for undergraduate students. Though Dalhousie had taken proactive steps at the undergraduate level to reach out to the Nova Scotia African-Canadian and the Mik'maq communities, a more proactive approach to hiring and graduate recruitment was needed.

98:061.

Annual Report of Pension Trust Fund and Retirees' Trust Fund

Mr. Stuttard asked members to consider as an item of information the Annual Report of the Pension Trust Fund and Retirees' Trust Fund.

Members agreed to move to the President's Report, and return to the Motion from SCAA when the Chair of that Committee, Ms. Lyttle, arrived.

98:062.

President's Report

The President informed members that the University would be arranging a formal celebration of the recent publication of Volume II of Professor Emeritus Peter Waite's history of Dalhousie. He encouraged members to read this history, much of which they had themselves created. The President also reported that the BAC was preparing a Report to be circulated to the University community and brought to Senate, before the final budget went to the Board. Members would appreciate that this year the usual problems involved in preparing the budget were compounded by the fact we would not be apprised of the amount of the provincial grant until mid-June. This meant the Committee would need to work out a policy on tuition fees in

ignorance of the government's policy, and accept the consequences, adverse or positive. The University Presidents had been pursuing the need for improved government grants, but would not know the results of their lobbying for roughly six weeks.

Mr. Traves summarized the findings of the recent survey by MPHEC of approximately 5500 alumni who graduated from Universities across the region in 1996, highlighting three key findings. Roughly 90% of graduates had reported their satisfaction with their experience at the Universities in the region. Less positive was the finding that student debt loads continued to grow. For those who had taken out loans -- approximately 50% of the 1996 graduates -- their debt load had risen to \$17,000, an average increase of \$3,000 from 1995. Of total graduates, almost 19% had reported debts exceeding \$25,000. Dalhousie could take some comfort in the fact that it ranked second across Canada in the amount invested in student aid, and in student employment, an indirect form of student aid. Finally, the Report revealed that of the graduates who responded, 87% were still in the region. This appeared to counter the stereotype that graduates had to leave the region to secure employment; however, questions remained as to the extent to which graduates' employment related to their educational preparation.

In the area of externally sponsored research funding, including contracts with the government and the private sector, the President was happy to report a dramatic rise over the past two years. Data which included both Dalhousie and TUNS/DalTech demonstrated an increase from \$41 million in 1995 to just over \$50 million in 1997. In the face of declining national grant resources, Dalhousie's research grants had grown by 22%.

Mr. Traves also alerted members to a story which he understood would be appearing in an upcoming issue of Maclean's concerning Dalhousie's preliminary exploration of a possible educational partnership with Sheridan College, a Community College in Toronto. The joint venture might enable Dalhousie to offer degree programs, on site, in a restricted number of disciplines, thus expanding undergraduate enrolments within the physical and financial constraints of the University. Representatives of Sheridan College had already visited Dalhousie, and two of our Deans were preparing to visit Sheridan to explore the feasibility of cooperation. The President emphasized that discussions were at a preliminary stage, and the University community and Senate would hear more about the venture should it appear worth pursuing.

Finally, Mr. Traves requested advice concerning a matter which had cropped up on a couple of occasions in the Honorary Degrees Committee. The Committee understood the stipulation that honorary degrees not be awarded to employees because of the potential conflict of interest which might arise in discussions and decision-making. However, the Committee questioned the soundness of the regulation, given the increase in recent years of individuals who formally retire, but maintain a part-time teaching or research relationship with the University, sometimes teaching only one half-class. In response to a question from Mr. Traves, Mr. Stuttard explained that the issue should be referred to the Honorary Degrees Committee. This Committee could then bring forward a proposal to change the requirements for the degree, if that were the Committee's wish. Such a recommendation would require a constitutional change. Mr. Traves agreed to proceed along those lines.

98:063.

Motion from SCAA: Exchange of English for Latin Parchments

On behalf of SCAA, Ms. Bleasdale moved:

That those students registered up to and including the Fall of 1997 be entitled to exchange their English language parchments for Latin parchments, at the nominal fee of \$20.00 within 30 days after Convocation.

Ms. Bleasdale clarified that the part of the motion relating to fees would be a recommendation to the Board of Governors, the body with authority to approve fees. Ms. Lyttle, the Chair of SCAA, explained that this issue had raised a lot of emotion. Many students were upset that they were to be deprived of a parchment in Latin, though some students appeared not to mind this change. Those wishing Latin parchments argued that when they had registered at Dalhousie, this had been the tradition, and they would like that tradition upheld for those registered up to and including the fall of 1997, as the motion indicated. The proposed motion had been debated electronically, and had received overwhelming support from SCAA members. Among the many students requesting Latin parchments, the students in the Faculty of Law had been particularly anxious to maintain the Latin tradition.

Ms. Curri explained that this motion was simply giving students the opportunity to exchange their parchments. She reminded members that Dalhousie was one of the very few institutions that did not charge a graduation fee, and she believed such a charge would be most inappropriate, given the amount students already spent for their education. Producing the parchments, however, was not cheap, as the enclosure on the cost of replacement parchments indicated. She trusted this demonstrated that Dalhousie was not attempting to make extra money from students through this exchange.

Ms. Bleasdale thanked Ms. Curri for providing Senators with a cost projection, a difficult exercise given the uncertain demand for this service. She agreed that each parchment might well cost more than \$20. But students from whom the Committee had heard were having difficulty accepting that the cost might be as high as \$50, because of a number of variables, which she wished to clarify. The booklet produced for Convocation 1998, which was the basis on which Committee members had reached their decision, indicated that students could signal in advance that they wished to receive their parchment in Latin, thus eliminating the cost of producing a second parchment. The booklet also indicated that students would be asked to pick up their parchments on a specific day, eliminating the estimated \$20 cost for mailing, though the parchment exchange form, included in the booklet, provided the option of mail delivery. Committee members and students also understood that where a grouping of students in one program or unit, such as the Faculty of Law, wished to receive Latin parchments, those parchments could be run through the automated printing system more cheaply than could isolated and scattered requests for custom-made parchments.

Mr. Coffin received confirmation that the Latin parchments would also be an option for graduates of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:064.

Question Period

Mr. Gantar asked the President if he could be more specific as to the programs which might be

offered in cooperation with Sheridan College. Mr. Traves explained that discussions had progressed along two tracks: what Dalhousie could do for Sheridan College, and what Sheridan College could do for Dalhousie. Sheridan College offered a number of programs, with substantial undergraduate enrolments, under two general headings -- business and information technology. The College was interested in an articulation program which would give students advanced standing, but was looking further down the road to an arrangement which would integrate University credits into their preliminary years. But many questions remained about staffing, administration, costing, and, above all, whether Dalhousie wanted to be part of this undertaking. We could look at on-line delivery of classes; but offering the program on site would make more sense, since Sheridan College would then be providing the necessary physical resources. Sheridan College might also be interested in offering some version of their widely-respected multi-media program in Nova Scotia, in cooperation with Dalhousie. The program was already exported to a number of countries.

Mr. Patriquin appreciated Dalhousie's need to attract students from out-of-province. But he wondered about the genesis of this type of venture, and was concerned that in the area of information technology, in particular, we might be looking for "quick fixes" from outside, rather than carefully developing resources necessary to our existing programs, and then reaching out in new directions. As for the concern with enrolment, he thought we needed to look carefully at the general well-being of the existing student body and the quality of education we were able to offer on campus. Finally, he wondered why Sheridan College was not partnering with an Ontario institution?

Mr. Traves responded that Sheridan College had approached us, partly because of his personal relationship with its President. It had not approached York, for example, because of the recurring problems Community Colleges have experienced in their articulation arrangements with Ontario Universities. The question of diverting resources from struggling areas within Dalhousie could be approached from a different perspective. A cooperative venture such as this would not be explored unless it could generate revenue for the University. That surplus revenue could be directed into programs requiring assistance. At the same time, cooperation would increase our expertise and perhaps expand personnel available to other areas. Also, Sheridan's multi-media program would develop Dalhousie's overall capacity to use multi-media in the classroom.

Mr. Slonim shared Mr. Patriquin's concerns. Dalhousie could not build a program on a weak base. We needed considerably more study and planning of ways to expand the potential within the existing Faculties, to pull together a solid foundation from which to build our expertise in information technology. Identifying and focussing on our strengths would keep us from running in too many directions at once, and involving ourselves in areas in which we lacked expertise and facilities. His priority was to provide for students here the highest quality classes possible. He had just finished registering 80 and 90 students into third and fourth year summer school classes, and unfortunately he did not have the resources to divide the classes in half and provide the standard of instruction he considered desirable. Mr. Slonim also warned that in the type of cooperative undertaking the President was proposing Dalhousie could lose its money and its reputation.

Mr. Traves clarified that Sheridan College was looking to round out their programs in the area of business, not information technology. Our information technology resources would not be jeopardized. He agreed we could only enter these programs after careful study, and that study

would be on-going and intensive. He had raised the matter so that Senators would not find out about University programs through the newspaper. We had established processes for assessing new programs which worked very well, and proposals would go through them.

Mr. Bradfield was concerned that during the strike/lockout some Senior Administrators had made statements to the effect that tuition could go up as much as 24% next year. As a member of the Operations Committee of the Board, he knew that the tuition increases being considered there were much smaller. Had any Senior Administrator given the students any assurance that the 24.6% figure quoted during the strike was not in the realm of possibility now. If not, we might be in danger of frightening away students.

Mr. Traves reminded Senators that during the strike/lockout he had indicated that at a certain settlement level the University would have only three options for funding the operations of the University: additional government grants, which seemed unlikely; budgets cuts to units within Dalhousie; or increased tuition. Were Dalhousie to adopt the one variable solution, increased tuition, the impact on students would be crushing. But the ultimate solution would likely be multi-variable, keeping tuition increases as low as possible. What was presently being discussed was a percentage increase which would be at the lower end of the trend across the country. Preliminary figures suggested a slight increase in applications to the University across the undergraduate faculties. Mr. Bradfield remained concerned that we might be blindsided by students who would not return. On another matter, he asked that in revisiting its terms of reference the Honorary Degrees Committee consider a recommendation to remove the rule that Senate needed to approve a slate, rather than voting on nominees individually. The slate had proved cumbersome in a number of instances.

Mr. Bradfield was also troubled by comments the President had been quoted as having made to the effect that the agreement on complement that he had signed as part of the tentative agreement was not worth the paper it was written on. Was the administration prepared to provide a schedule of replacements which indicated how quickly the University would replace the 46 people taking early retirement this year? Mr. Traves denied making the alleged comment, and had indicated in writing to the DFA that he guaranteed the University would fulfil the obligations set out in the contract. His general understanding was that the University would meet specified hiring targets over the lifetime of the contract. Specific application of that commitment would depend on the budget. Personally, he would like to make the appointments as quickly as possible, and was optimistic that we would be able to exceed the targets in the agreement. He noted that the decisions were based ultimately at the level of the Faculty. The Faculties were assigned budgets, and the Faculties made decisions about whether to use the money to appoint faculty members.

Ms. Furrow was concerned with allegations that the new Arts and Social Sciences Building was significantly under-funded, and wished to know when we would get a Report on the progress of the building. The Chair of SPPC, Mr. Bradfield, indicated that the Committee's Annual Report would be submitted to the Senate Office in June. Regarding the Arts and Social Sciences Building, his recollection was that it was a \$16 million building, of which we had \$12 million from a \$6 million provincial grant and \$6 million from the capital fund. The remaining \$4 million had been approved by the Board, despite their 1990 resolution that no buildings be undertaken without total funding. The missing \$4 million would be taken from revenues generated by the parking in the basement of the building and revenues from the buildings to be abandoned and rented out as housing. Those revenues would be considered

payments towards the capital costs of the building, and would not go towards the general operating costs of the University. Some hope remained that the Provincial Government would provide additional funding.

Mr. Traves added that the University was searching for additional funding, and had requested that the Provincial Government increase their portion of the cost of the building to 50% of the new cost. Obviously, the University's fund-raising efforts would continue, and any external support for the building from donors would enable the University to free up for the operating budget any other revenues of the type Mr. Bradfield indicated. He stressed that we would be building the structure presented to the University community earlier in the year. Ms. Furrow was grateful that the SPPC had not agreed to a project which would increase the University's debt load. On that point, Mr. Bradfield reminded Ms. Furrow that last year SPPC had presented a Special Report to Senate about the Computer Science Building, alerting members to the fact that the \$7 million worth of funding said to be available for the building was out by about \$3 million, because the Government's contributions were unlikely to come as a lump sum next year, and would need to be discounted by the cost of borrowing. Also, the new building's operating costs had to be included. He had raised these issues several times at the SPPC and the Operating Committee of the Board. He had presented them to the Board again last Tuesday, but the Board had proceeded to approve a \$10.7 million building plan which, all variables considered, appeared to fall \$3 million short in funding. Further, two components of the projected funding, totaling \$4 million, had not yet been approved. One of those was the CFI funding. Despite the warning, the Board had approved a construction program that could be \$7 million under funded.

Having filled out numerous forms as part of the application process for CFI funding, Mr. Slonim despaired of ever seeing any of the money promised by the government to help in the creation of proposals. The deadline was in five days, and still there was no money, only more paper work. Mr. Traves sympathized with the frustration of filling out ever more government forms. He trusted the reward would be worth the effort. If it was any consolation, no CFI contributions had been approved to date. But in the meantime he regretted the need to pass along to Mr. Slonim yet another form, this one a template being distributed to Universities by the Executive Director of NSCHE.

Ms. Kay-Raining Bird asked whether enrolments for Graduate Studies had gone down. Her own Department had seen a decrease in applications, and was concerned about the impact on the quality of students. In her Department the decline might well be a reflection of their high tuition rate relative to similar programs at other universities; however, she was worried this might be a pattern across the University. Mr. Traves confirmed that applications for Graduate Studies were down substantially this year, part of a troubling national trend in many programs. Mr. Ricketts added that a recent meeting of Graduate Deans from across Canada had revealed that applications at some Universities were slightly up, and at others slightly down. At Dalhousie applications were down roughly 10%, though he had not seen any data since early March and the prospects may have improved. The combination of high fees and high application fees meant students were applying more selectively, and as a result we would probably see many late applications, a major portion of those from candidates rejected by other institutions. Probably the high debt load incurred in undergraduate programs was acting as a deterrent to graduate studies. Also, Dalhousie's geographic location put us at a disadvantage. These issues would need to be addressed seriously should enrolments not pick up.

Ms. Guppy indicated her Department was also experiencing low application rates, in part she believed as a result of confusion over the publicity resulting from Amalgamation. Mr. Kimmins observed that a multi-year rolling base for the Faculty of Science showed that increases and decreases were so large from year to year, at this stage in the process, that it was premature to worry about the current data. He cautioned against leaping to conclusions.

98:065.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.