

Item: Senate Minutes, September 2008

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, September 22, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were: Adshade, Barkhouse, Binkley, Boran, Butler, Camfield, Campbell, Cochrane, Coffin, Couban, Crago, Croll, El-Masry, Farina, Frank, Fraser, K., Gantar, Gassmann, Geldenhuys, Harman, Hughes, Jean; Hughes, Jon, Johnston, Karabanow, Larkin, Leon, Leonard, Macy, McClure, Milson, Moukdad, Nowakowski, Pegg, Ross, Rutherford, Saunders, Schellinck, Shaver, Shepherd, Shukla, Singleton, Snow, Tindall, Traves, Tremblay, Ugursal, Watters, Webster, Wheeler.

Regrets: Cook, Cox, Haslam, Helland, Maes, MacLaren, Robinson.

Absent: El-Hawary, Fanning, Garduno, Kroeker, McConnell, McLarney, Persaud, Plug, Sadek, Scherkoske, Scrimger, Smith, Thornhill.

Guests: M-J Adams, S. Brousseau, A. Power, L. Sherman.

The Chair called the meeting to order and thanked the Senators who had attended the orientation session held prior to today's meeting. He welcomed all new and returning Senators to the meeting.

2008:77

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** with one addition: the appointment of the 2008-2009 Ombudsperson and Assistant Ombudsperson, which was placed as the new #11 following the Senate Nominating Committee report.

2008:78

Draft Minutes of May 12, 2008 Meeting of Senate

2.1 Approval

The minutes of the May 12, 2008 meeting were approved as circulated.

2.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2008:79

Draft Minutes of June 9, 2008 Meeting of Senate

3.1 Approval

The minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting were approved as circulated.

3.2 Matters Arising

The termination and suspension of the joint MBA programs are working their way through to Senate.

2008:80

Question Period

There were no questions.

2008:81

Campus Master Plan Presentation

Mr. Larry Sherman of the IBI Group is the Lead Project Manager for the Dalhousie University Campus Master Plan. He provided a brief background on the Master Plan process and explained that there would be limited time for discussion at the meeting today but he will be back to the October meeting for further comments and feedback on some of the questions that will be raised today.

Mr. Sherman expressed his thanks to the Senate for giving him the opportunity to introduce himself because he wants everyone to feel comfortable to give feedback throughout the process, which will be about a year long. The Master Plan process is a strategic look at the future of the campus and of the University in a physical sense as it develops over time. The consulting team has been organized into five working committees and he would like to invite people, through their departments, to participate in the consultations for each group. The five working committees are, Student Experience and Residences, Academic and Research Planning, Physical Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Recreation and Wellness. The plan will include a website, which is expected to be up in approximately two weeks.

There was a Master Plan produced in 1991 and a lot of changes have happened since then. The University is in a very good position to put new emphasis and new energies into its development and its future. There will be three phases to our work: the first phase being the consultation; then, through the rest of this year, a conceptual campus planning phases in which the planning team will feed back what it has heard and what that seems to be suggesting about the future structure of the campus; and following that round of consultation, the submission of a final report. There are a lot of new issues since Dalhousie last produced a campus plan, such as:

- The environment is a much more serious issue as well as sustainability;
- The cost of simply running the institution;
- The demands for a variety of spaces: academic, teaching, research spaces, residences, new athletic needs to compensate for older athletic facilities; and
- The whole area of student services and student life and bringing more intense around the clock and around the year activity to the campus.

The floor was then opened for discussion and a few questions. The discussion included:

- Dalhousie, as a leading institution in the country and in the province, should encourage the use of sustainable energy and development in all planning activities.
- Since Dalhousie is an urban university with three campuses, the consultants should consider how best to intensify the life on all three campuses with special reference to Sexton.
- One aspect that should be considered is to try to make the University a welcoming part of the community.
- Consideration will need to be given to the health care community as the Capital Health District Authority (CDHA) is also undergoing a master plan, and consideration should be given to the double opportunity of interacting with them.
- People with disabilities should be considered as the plan is structured.
- Enhanced transit, a wellness program, and parking are all considerations.
- Creation of an integrated knowledge community that is deeply linked to the community.
- The idea of mixed use buildings is a trend found in other universities and could be incorporated into the plan. They might have teaching and research facilities in the middle, with the potential to have student and staff services on the ground level where it is accessible to pedestrians and, in some cases, it might even be appropriate to have housing on top.
- Enhanced athletic facilities have become a special sector within the terms of reference for the Master Plan.

The Chair thanked Mr. Sherman for his presentation and thanked all those who commented and asked questions. He reminded Senators that there will be further discussion at the October meeting.

2008:82

Senate Library Committee (SLC) 2007-2008 Annual Report

Mr. Fraser advised that an annual report had been received from the Senate Library Committee for 2007-2008. He called upon Dr. Ian Folkins, former SLC Chair to present the report. Mr. Folkins explained that the SLC is a way for faculty, students, and library administration to talk with each other, to discuss such issues as collections policies and new library initiatives. One important initiative currently engaging the library is the institutional repository where theses and scholarly publications will be deposited. It is not online yet, but will be online in the future. There is also a Senate review of the Library ongoing at the moment, so the Library discussed its self-study with the SLC in advance of that review. One important piece of work for the Library Committee in the upcoming year will be to monitor the Review and the Library's response. Mr. Fraser thanked Mr. Folkins on behalf of Senate for work over the past year and for bringing the report to Senate.

2008:83

Senate Computing and Information Technology Planning Committee (SCITPC) 2007-2008 Annual Report

Mr. Fraser introduced Mr. Michael O'Sullivan, SCITPC 2007- 2008 Chair and the incoming 2008 – 2009 Chair, Mr. Pemberton Cyrus, and invited them to present the SCITPC 2007 – 2008 Annual Report. Mr. Cyrus said that SCITPC is a way for the University community to get some feedback back to University Computing and Information Services (UCIS). The committee also does some oversight of UCIS operations and they have had input into the way spam was handled. Other issues for SCITPC were registration difficulties at BANNER, audio-visual support on the Sexton campus, online course management systems, and the Ethernet charge back policy. The major initiative for next year relates to wireless on campus and the potential to have this as a limitless resource within the University. Senate further discussed wireless in the classroom and on campus.

The annual report has made specific reference to encouraging UCIS to begin a strategic planning process to make wireless available throughout the campus and this recommendation will be discussed by the Senate Steering Committee with a report back to Senate on the next steps. Mr. Fraser thanked Messrs. Pemberton and O'Sullivan for presenting the report and thanked the committee for their work over the year.

2008:84

In Camera – Senate Academic Appeal Hearing Ratification

The Senate meeting went in camera and Mr. Fraser asked all non-senators to leave the meeting. Following the in camera session, Mr. Fraser announced that the SAAC panel decision of July 11, 2008 had been ratified.

2008:85

Senate Nominating Committee: University Tenure and Promotions Panel Nominations

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, and as approved by the President of the University and the President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT the following be nominated for re-election to the University Tenure and Promotions Panel for the term September 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010: Mr. Horand Gassman, Faculty of Management; Ms. Jill Grant, Faculty of Architecture & Planning; Mr. Duane Guernsey, Faculty of Medicine; Ms. Rebecca Jamieson, Faculty of Science; Mr. William Phillips, Faculty of Engineering; Ms. Dianne Pothier, Faculty of Law; and Ms. Kathleen Russell, Faculty of Dentistry

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the nominees were declared elected.

2008:86

Senate Steering Committee: Nomination to the Senate Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Ms. Dawn Russell, Faculty of Law, be re-appointed to the Senate Nominating Committee for the term September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2011.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Ms. Russell was declared re-elected to the Senate Nominating Committee.

2008: 87

Appointment of the 2008-2009 Ombudsperson and Assistant Ombudsperson

On behalf of the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee, Ms. Geldenhuis **MOVED**:

THAT Ms. Lianne Locke be appointed Ombudsperson and Mr. Nathaniel Smith be appointed Assistant Ombudsperson for 2008 - 2009.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2008:88

Academic Integrity Officer Ratifications – For Approval

For the benefit of new senators, Mr. Fraser explained that this is a process which was instituted a year ago by which many of the allegations of violation of academic regulations are dealt with at a Faculty level by the Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who may be the Dean or the Dean's appointee. If the student and the AIO agree on an offence being committed and agree on the appropriate consequences of that offence, it then comes forward to Senate to ratify to become official. In so doing, it bypasses the more formal and lengthy process of going through the Senate Discipline Committee.

Ms. Geldenhuys **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Binkley:

THAT the Academic Integrity Officer agreed penalties, as listed in the Secretary of Senate's September 15, 2008 memo, be ratified.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Fraser informed Senators that, at the November 24 Senate meeting, the annual report from the Senate Discipline Committee and the report on the past year's activities of the AIOs will be presented with an opportunity for discussion.

2008:89

President's Report

The President spoke first to *The President's Message*, which was distributed early in the term. Among the highlights was the enrolment increase, by almost two-hundred students. When this is taken in the context of the budget that was approved last spring, where we assumed an enrolment decrease of 155 students, this nets out at 350+ students, and leaves us in a very good position, both with respect to enrolments and financially.

In addition, the provincial government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all of the universities in the province to fund our operations for the next three years, in return for which the universities agreed to freeze tuitions in all programs for all students, with the province extending a bursary program so that Nova Scotia students at all provincial universities would receive a bursary rising over the next two years to almost \$1300. (In 2008 – 2009 the bursary would be \$761) The immediate consequence is that we have full funding for the University's operation. Finally, a significant further component of the MOU is that there was a change in the formula by which the province determines the grant to each university in the province. The result is to move us towards an enrolment-driven funding system. This has had significant consequences for Dalhousie because over the last decade or so, during which we had a different system in place, Dalhousie was growing, but without any recognition of this growth in the government grant. The new funding environment will begin to recognize our past enrolment increases and partially compensate Dalhousie for that growth. We received this current year a small down payment on that extra funding, but the bulk of it will come during the next two fiscal years.

The consequence of this financial situation, in combination with our practice of budgeting annually for strategic initiatives, is that we expect to have something in the order of \$15 - \$17 million over the next two years, which can be allocated to new purposes. We will look to the University's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) to provide advice on how best to invest those resources. Through discussions in the wider university community, we need to advise BAC about some of the considerations that they should take into account as they think their way through these welcome problems. The Board of Governors recently had a conversation about this at its opening retreat; we would like to bring this conversation to Senate, as well, for discussion and feedback.

Mr. Traves informed Senators that he has asked the Human Resources Department to begin work on a survey of faculty and staff engagement, which is less about satisfaction than it is about the ways in which people engage with their work, and engage with the institution. We hope to create the possibility of learning more about ourselves, identifying issues that need to be addressed in our institutional environment.

Finally, the university has been working toward the implementation of a new fund-raising campaign; this will be a major initiative for Dalhousie. We have already done some leadership canvassing around some of the campaign themes and we have attracted a substantial amount of initial financial support.

Mr. Fraser invited questions for the President. Ms. Hughes wondered where the 200 extra students were coming from, considering that many universities are experiencing decreased enrolments, particularly in Atlantic Canada. How many of the students are due to strategic planning on our part and how many are due to initiatives, as in Health Professions, where there has been a provincial government allocation of increased seats in certain health programs? Mr. Traves responded that enrolments are spread relatively evenly across all of our Faculties; 9 of our 10 Faculties have enjoyed a modest enrolment increase.

2008:90

Report of the Chair

Mr. Fraser reported that he had prepared a Dalhousie University Senate Annual Report of the Chair 2007 – 2008 and he spoke to it briefly. The Report has been posted on the Senate website at: http://senate.dal.ca/Files/reports/Annual_Report_-_Chair_of_Senate_-_Sept_16_2008.pdf The Report highlights what Senate has done, where we are and where we are going. The Report comes at a time when the University is in a much better financial position than we have been for some time. Mr. Traves has invited Senate to engage actively in the discussion of potential new initiatives. One way in which Senate can participate in this discussion is through a Senate Forum, which would focus on this particular issue.

Mr. Fraser also reported that:

- Congratulations were due to Mr. Andrew Cochrane, Dean of the College of Continuing Education, upon being elected to the position of President of the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) for 2008-09.
- A Senate email vote had been conducted in July about the process for dealing with some of the academic integrity officer ratifications over the summer period. The three motions were all approved unanimously.
- Procedures were underway to modify the Senate website so that a portion of it can be made available only to Senators on a password-protected basis. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) has approved the following:
 - Modified Program for the Combined Master of Library Information Studies with the Master of Resource and Environmental Management;
 - Name change for the Master of Applied Science, Master of Engineering, and Ph.D. programs which had been in Mining Engineering, now changed to Mineral Resource Engineering;
 - Modifications to the Bachelor of Management program which introduced several new majors within that program.
- Senate has received annual reports from a large number of Centres and Institutes across the University and they are available for perusal in the Senate Office.
- Items for information included with the Senate materials included a listing of the academic integrity officers' agreed penalties ratified over the summer, and the Call for Honorary Degree nominations for 2009 - 2010.

Mr. Fraser announced that the next Senate meeting will be on October 27th.

2008:91

Other Business

There was no other business. The Chair invited everyone to stay for the reception and reminded Senators to turn in for shredding all materials that were circulated by the SAAC.

2008:92

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.