

Item: Senate Minutes, November 2009

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, November 23, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barker, Barkhouse, Bennett, Blake, Camfield, Campbell, Couban, Croll, Evans, Frank, Gantar, Garduno, Gilbert, Harman, Hughes, Hymers, Karabanow, Lee, LeForte, Maes, Marrie, MacLaren, MacLennan, McLarney, Moore, Pegg, Pelot, Pinder, Ross, Ryan, Saunders, Schellinck, Shaver, Singleton, Thomas, Thorburn, Zimmerman.

Regrets: Boran, Canning, Cochrane, Cox, Crago, El-Hawary, El-Masry, Gassmann, Ibrahim, Kroeker, Leon, Macy, Milson, Mitchell, Robinson, Rutherford, Shukla, Simms, Sorge-English, Thornhill, Traves, Watters, Wheeler.

Absent: Ciabattoni, Fanning, Farina, McClure, McConnell, Mechoulan, Sadek, Shepherd, Smith, Webster.

2009: 115

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated

2009: 116

Draft October 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Approval

The October 26, 2009 minutes were **APPROVED**.

Matters Arising

As a follow-up to Senate's approval of the new Student Accommodation Policy on October 26, 2009, Mr. Fraser reported that the target date for implementation of the Policy is the beginning of the 2010 fall term.

2009: 117

Chair's Report: 2008 – 2009 Senate Annual Report

Mr. Fraser extended condolences to family, friends and colleagues of Mr. Peter McLardie, Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Health Sciences, who passed away on October 13, 2009.

There was a call for honorary degree nominations for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 convocations, requested by the end of November, 2009.

Mr. Fraser referred Senators to the 2008-09 Report of the Chair, which summarizes Senate's activities over the past year and highlights the Chair's major priorities for 2009-10. These priorities include continuing to

define and strengthen Senate's role in University governance, enhancing Senate's role in ensuring academic quality, and identifying Senate's priorities in assisting the University to achieve the vision outlined in the University's Strategic Plan (anticipated in the New Year). Mr. Fraser invited Senators to propose additional priorities for 2009-10 and beyond, and thanked all those who have already participated in discussion groups. The full report is available on the Senate website.

Mr. Fraser invited members of Senate to the annual holiday reception held at the President's residence on December 8, 2009. The next scheduled meetings will be held on December 14, 2009 and January 11, 2010.

2009: 118

DSU President's Report

Mr. Fraser welcomed Ms. Zimmerman to present the report from the Dalhousie Student Union. A national survey has been undertaken in partnership with other student associations across the country to gauge financial barriers to university education and the effects of student employment. In addition, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations met last week to create and finalize policy priorities for advocacy and lobbying goals that will be taken to Ottawa in March. Internally, the DSU is working on a leadership conference that will be held on January 23-24, 2010, the focus of which is on leadership within the Dalhousie University community. There is information available about this conference on the DSU website, and further questions should be directed to Mr. Marc Hobbs, Vice President Internal.

2009: 119

Senate Steering Committee: Academic Continuity Planning Group recommendation to extend the current modification of Academic Regulation of 16.8 (Suspension of Requirement for Medical Certificate) through the Winter Term of 2010 – For Decision

Mr. Fraser welcomed Ms. Spence Wach, Chair of the Academic Continuity Planning Group, to update Senate on this issue. Since the suspension of the medical certificate for students, the department of Human Resources has modified the policy for faculty and staff as well. The Academic Continuity Working Group and the Communicable Diseases Planning group each has unanimous support that this regulation be continued. The medical community confirms that the H1N1 threat has not ceased, and are still strongly discouraging the issuing of medical certificates to ill students. The number of students reporting absences due to influenza-like symptoms has been monitored and it is currently running at a level of 6%, which is in line with other years. If absenteeism levels rise to 15-20%, the University will need to look into other measures. It was noted that to prevent mixed messages, it would be most beneficial to make this decision now rather than in January as faculty are currently in the process of preparing course syllabi for next term, in which continuity regulations need to be included.

During Senate discussion, the following was noted:

- This policy is most problematic for faculty members with large classes, who are significantly burdened in accommodating the numerous students reporting illness. It was noted that the suspension of the academic regulation in no way reduces student academic responsibility.
- Better guidelines are needed for reasonable extension lengths for assignments. The Academic Continuity Working Group is currently working to support faculty-specific academic contingency plans.
- The medical community has been overwhelmed with requests for medical certificates, but the number of hospital admissions has decreased. There is a potential for a third wave of illness from the

virus, which will be apparent by mid-December. The H1N1 vaccine clinics held at the end of November are intended to prevent this third wave from occurring.

- Students should be continuously reminded about and referred to the flu.dal.ca website, and it was suggested that characteristics of H1N1 could also be listed in course syllabi.

Mr. Fraser **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Marrie:

THAT the current suspension of section 16.8 of the University's Academic Regulations, which requires a medical certificate due to illness, be continued for those individuals experiencing influenza-like symptoms until March 8, 2010 of the winter 2010 academic term. In all cases, students are required to immediately advise their instructors of an absence due to influenza-like symptoms as this will assist in monitoring the extent of the illness across the University. Students will continue to be encouraged to follow the decision chart guidelines located on the flu.dal.ca website to assist in making care decisions in the event of flu-like symptoms. Communications on prevention especially in relation to the vaccination program will likewise continue. Senate will make a determination no later than March 8, 2010 on whether to further extend this modified regulation.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2009: 120

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee

Name Change: Nova Scotia CAD/CAM Centre to the Centre for Innovation in Infrastructure – For Approval

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. John Newhook, Director of the Nova Scotia CAD/CAM Centre, to report to Senate on the name change. Since its inception in 1983, the CAD/CAM Centre has evolved to meet the needs of industry in areas outside of CAD/CAM. After a change of leadership in July 2008, the vision of the Centre has explicitly changed to focus on research, development, and technological transfer in Civil Infrastructure. The Centre for Innovation in Infrastructure (CII) was chosen as the most appropriate name to reflect current research.

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

THAT the name of the Nova Scotia CAD/CAM Centre to the Centre for Innovation in Infrastructure (CII).

The motion **CARRIED**.

Working Group on Program Approval Process – Recommendation #4 – Differentiate Levels of Approval – For Approval

The Working Group on Program Approval Process has developed a Concept Paper that will be required for all new programs and program modifications. This was developed with the intention of providing feedback to program proposals earlier in the development process. It was recommended that SAPBC be delegated to approve tier 2 proposals on behalf of Senate, which include program modifications and terminations.

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate adopt a three-tiered process for Senate approval of academic programs, as follows:

a) Tier 1 – Senate Review and Approval: New Programs

Approval by Senate is required, following a recommendation from the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC). Tier 1 would include:

- New degrees and diplomas,
- New majors and honours programs within existing degrees, and
- Any program modification or program termination deemed by SAPBC to warrant review by Senate

b) Tier 2 – SAPBC Review and Approval: Program Modifications and Terminations

Senate approval is delegated to the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee. Tier 2 would include:

- New Minors, Streams, or Areas of Concentration within existing programs;
- New combined degrees or other combinations of existing programs;
- Termination of a degree or diploma;
- Termination of a major or honours program within an existing degree;
- For course-based programs, changes that affect 25% or more of the program credit-hours;
- For research-based graduate programs, changes that in the determination of the Faculty of Graduate studies affects 25% or more of the program requirements; and
- Any other program modification that requires external approval by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC).

c) Tier 3 – Faculty Review and Approval: Minor Program Changes

Senate approval of other program changes (i.e. falling below the thresholds for Tier 1 and Tier 2 review) is delegated to the Faculty Council(s) of the Faculty or Faculties offering the program. In all such cases, notification of the approved changes is to be forwarded to the Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) and to the Registrar for information and monitoring.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2009: 121

2008 – 2009 Senate Library Committee Annual Report – For Information

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Zitner, Chair of the Senate Library Committee, to present the Annual Report, which was distributed to Senate. The report outlined issues of governance, resources, knowledge transfer, and ethical issues. The 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Senate Library Committee was received by Senate.

2009: 122

Corporate Residency Master in Business Administration – Update

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Scott Comber, Director of Full-Time MBA programs, to present an update on the Corporate Residency MBA. The curriculum includes social development, team skills, systems thinking, skill development and integration, as well as a corporate residency. There are currently 41 students enrolled in this program and next year the target enrolment is 55, all of whom would be able to be placed in one of three types of corporate residencies.

2009: 123

Dalhousie University Website – Update

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Fischer, Assistant Vice-President and Chief Information Officer, to update Senate on the Dalhousie University Website. The entire website will be reorganized in terms of how people seek information. It will be launched in summer 2010 or early in the fall for the next recruiting class. A significant portion of current information on the current website will be stored in archives. Any suggestions and concerns can be directed to Mr. Fischer.

2009: 124

Presentation: Enrolment Statistics

Mr. Fraser welcomed Ms. Kachan, Assistant Vice-President, Enrolment Management and Registrar, to present enrolment statistics. Both undergraduate and graduate enrolments are up from the same period last year. The undergraduate increase came from an increased number of students directly from high school, a substantial increase in transfer students, and increased retention. Early indicators are that retention is up over last year. Students are more likely to stay in school in periods of economic hardship, and enrolment is up across the Maritime provinces. Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Kachan for her report.

2009: 125

Other Business

There was no other business.

2009: 126

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.