

Item: Senate Minutes, December 2004
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

SENATE met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Fraser in the Chair were the following: Barker, Barkow, Beazley, Ben-Abdullah, Bond, Breckenridge, Butler, Caley, Camfield, Cleave, Cochrane, Coughlan, Coxon, Dauphinee, Evans, Finley, Hamilton, Hicks, Houlihan, Jalilvand, Jost, Klein, Kwak, MacDonald, Maes, McGrath, McIntyre, McNeil, Morgunov, Murphy, Oppong, Pelzer, Pronk, Richard, Rutherford, Satish, Scrimger, Scully, Sommerfeld (Recording Secretary), Stone, Sullivan, Swanston, Traves, Whyte, Zuck.

Regrets: Binkley, Corke, Das Gupta, Earl, El-Hawary, Farrell, Finbow, Livingston, McMullen, Meagher-Stewart, O'Brien, Precious, Russell, Stuttard, Taheri, Taylor, Wallace,

Absent: Cercone, Cook, Dunphy, Horackova, Phillips, Rajora, Scott, Stroink, Wanzel

Invitees in attendance: P. Cox, A. Power, K. Sibley, .

2004:100

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Fraser stated that the document circulated at the meeting, entitled the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Response to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Report XXX would be discussed under Item #4 on the agenda, that is the Budget Advisory Committee Report XXX. An item deferred from the previous Senate meeting regarding a motion from the Senate Discipline Committee would be discussed under "Matters Arising" with decision to be deferred until the January 2005 meeting. The agenda was **ADOPTED** as revised.

2004:101

Draft Minutes of Previous Meeting

i) Approval

The minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2004 were **ADOPTED** as corrected.

ii) Matters Arising

Mr. Fraser referred to **2004.096: Chair's Report** where it was indicated as regards the memorandum from the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, requesting formal re-affirmation of Senate's existing policy regarding the Submission of Final Grades and that the Chair had stated that "...formal motions would be on the agenda for the next meeting of Senate". In regards to that intent, Mr. Fraser

advised that Roberts Rules of Order stipulated that motions to re-affirm positions previously taken by adopting a resolution to that effect was redundant and not in order. Mr. Fraser stated that instead, he would request that the Chair of Senate write to the Vice President Academic and Provost to communicate with the Deans to encourage adherence to the policy regarding the Submission of Final Grades.

Mr. Fraser advised that, further information as promised by Mr. Traves on the McLean's Survey Report which had been discussed at the previous meeting, had been circulated with the agenda.

In the matter of item # **2004:092** and the motion from the Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) regarding "open hearings", a memorandum dated November 29, 2004 from Karen Crombie, University Legal Counsel, to Mr. El-Hawary had been circulated with the agenda. In that memorandum, Ms. Crombie provided context and legal advice with a recommendation in support of the motion as presented by the SDC and in addition, the insertion into the Constitutional Provisions Governing the Operations of Senate as follows (from Ms. Crombie's memorandum):

"Inserting an additional sentence in the Senate Constitution, Part X, Senate Discipline Committee, Procedures before the Senate Discipline Committee and Senate Discipline Appeal Board", under subsection a), so that the subsection would read as follows (with the proposed amendment in italics):

A) Hearing. A student against whom an allegation has been made is entitled to an oral hearing which allows interested parties to present evidence and to question witnesses. *At the Discretion of the panel chair, other members of the university may be permitted to attend the hearing as observers.* A student may opt to waive the right to an oral hearing and to proceed instead by written submissions...."

Mr. Fraser stated that he would invite further discussion on the matter, noting that a Co-Chair of the Senate Discipline Committee, Mr. Cox, was in attendance, but that a vote on the matter would best be held at the next meeting of Senate.

Mr. Cox commented that the recommended statement for inclusion from Ms. Crombie was essentially current practice. Both students and faculty involved in an allegation were asked to let the Senate Office know ahead of time who would be attending the hearing with them and in what capacity. He stated that if the word "open" were to remain however, the procedures would need to be developed for mechanisms for specifically excluding people from attending, such as happens with a judge in a court of law in instances where disruptive behavior was problematic, for instance.

Mr. Coughlan disagreed that leaving the word "open" in the statement would require a change of current actual practice and that the principle of "openness" was important to visibly retain despite the fact that no one who was not directly involved attended hearings at the present time. He stated that the hearings should be presumptively open and that there be an ability to exceptionally close them rather than hearings be presumptively closed and exceptionally open as reflected in Ms. Crombie's suggestion of the policy to follow. In terms of the implication of "open" hearings as regards possible violation of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act, Mr. Coughlan pointed out that the basis for objection on that grounds was not included in Ms. Crombie's memorandum and he could not discern any basis for the matter being seen as in violation of that Act. He concluded that a decision regarding open hearings was essentially being seen what was best versus what was required.

Ms. McIntyre requested that Ms. Crombie be asked for a full legal opinion as Ms. McIntyre's interpretation of FOIPOP was that, in evaluations of personnel and such issues for example, individuals

have the right to privacy protection. If there was any confusion in the minds of Senators regarding FOIPOP, than a full written statement on the matter should be available before deciding on the matter.

Ms. Bond pointed out that the concept of being seen as “guilty until proven innocent” was implicit in terms of hearings being open, with dispersions of dishonesty being cast on students and their reputations from the time of the allegation being filed until proven innocent or guilty and perhaps longer.

Mr. Fraser stated that the matter would be on the next Senate agenda if the information requested from Ms. Crombie was available by then.

On another matter arising , Mr. Scully stated that the Senate Committee on Academic Administration (SCAA) had completed its work on the recommendations that had been referred to it from the Report of the Senate *ad hoc* Committee on Plagiarism. A summary report from the SCAA would be ready for the next meeting of Senate. As well, a summary of the responses of the Deans to the Report’s recommendations which were referred to them, would be ready for that Senate meeting.

2004:102

Senate Academic and Priorities and Budget Committee

- i) Bachelor of Technology - Major of Applied Science (Nova Scotia Agricultural College)

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC), Mr. Fraser moved:

THAT Senate approve the program proposal for a Bachelor of Technology with a Major in Applied Science to be offered by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College with a review of the program to take place immediately following the conferring of degrees to the first graduating class.

Mr. Kevin Sibley, Head of the Department of Engineering of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) presented a concise summary of the program proposal highlights, noting that extensive consultation had occurred with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and with other universities, particularly with Acadia University. As noted in a Memorandum of Understanding between the NSAC and Acadia University, graduates of this program would be prepared to proceed directly to the Bachelor of Education (Technology Education) program at Acadia University. From that program, graduates would be prepared to become technology education teachers in the public school system at the middle, junior and high school levels.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

- ii) Faculty of Graduate Studies: Marine Affairs Program

On Behalf of the SAPBC, Mr. Fraser moved:

THAT Senate approve the proposed transfer of administrative responsibility for the

Marine Affairs Program from the Faculty of Graduate Studies to the Faculty of Management.

Mr. Kwak, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), noted that proposal was a result of recommendations of the Review of the Marine Affairs Program (1997), of the Senate Review of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (1999-2000), and of a more recent *ad hoc* review of the program by the FGS which included extensive consultation with other Faculties involved. Mr. Jalilvand, Dean of the Faculty of Management, stated strong support for the proposal noting that in terms of teaching and research, there would be significant and mutually beneficial advantages to the transfer, noting that there had been several joint ventures identified for the future such as in the area of risk management, and environment and marine management. Mr. Scully added that there were no significant financial encumbrances anticipated for the proposed transfer. Mr. Jalilvand stated his thanks to Dr. Scully for his assistance in enabling assurance of financial support in order for the proposal to move forward..

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2004:103

Budget Advisory Committee Report XXXX: A Discussion Paper on International Student Fees

Mr. Scully noted that the Report had been in circulation for about one month and that several comments on it had been received, primarily regarding the differential fee to be charged to international graduate students in thesis-based programs, primarily in the Faculties of Science, Computer Science and Engineering. He stated that the BAC recognized that in the graduate research culture in those Faculties and others, there was crucial engagement of graduate students in the education and research programs of the University. He added that within BAC discussions, there was definite of the fundamental role that undergraduate and graduate international students play in the social, intellectual and cultural lives of the institution and of the community. Other comments received on the Report related to the present adequacy of support services provided to international students, both at undergraduate and graduate levels, with recognition within BAC that more needed to be done in that regard. He noted that the differential fees had been exempted in recent agreements with government in relation to the setting of tuition fees. The final thread of commentary within BAC focused on the larger objectives of Dalhousie relating to the engagement of international students in regards to the immigration agenda emerging as public policy issues for the city, province and country. He noted that while Dalhousie had been a receiver of international students to date, perhaps what was needed was a more informed planning process of recruitment of international students at all levels.

Ms Houlihan introduced the document entitled A Response Paper to the Dalhousie University Budget Advisory Committee Report XXX, prepared by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) and circulated prior to the meeting. She noted that the DSU was not oppose to charging a differential fee to international students nor to increases in those fees. She stated however, that the DSU believed that there were principles to which any increases in fees should adhere to assure that the University was acting in the best interests of all concerned, adding that the DSU believed that the

scenarios presented in the BAC Report XXX would hurt international students already in the system as well as the University as a whole over time. The following issues were elaborated on by DSU senators:

- *Issues for ESL students:* Ms. Bond commented on issues of English as a second language for international students, noting that raising fees for international students should be complimented by increased supports for English as a second-language (ESL) training when they arrived.
- *Problems for Full-Cost Recovery Model:* Mr. McGrath commented that given the range of costs of implementing any given program at Dalhousie, that the use of a full cost recovery model as suggested in one scenario in the Report, would seem unfair.
- *Dubious Measure of Canadian Market Price:* Mr. McGrath noted that comparisons to the University of British Columbia (UBC) ignored contextual factors that advantaged UBC over Dalhousie.
- *Comparisons Made to Other Institutions Incomplete:* Ms. Bond pointed out that fees were only a partial indicator of the financial situation for international students with other factors being, for, example, grants, loan, and ability to find part-time employment off-campus. She pointed out that all factors should be carefully considered in making comparisons to other institutions either nationally or internationally, and such factors were missing from the BAC Report XXX.
- *Enrollment Implications:* Mr. Dauphinee commented that currently Dalhousie had a competitive advantage in that overall fees for international students were lower than some comparable universities but should the fees be raised, that advantage would likely be lost.
- *Special Consideration for Graduate Students:* Mr. Dauphinee noted that professors may be inhibited from taking on international graduate students as the differential fees may result in a greater drain on the professor's research funds while enabling adequate support for that graduate student, particularly in thesis- or research-based programs.

Ms. Houlihan concluded the DSU presentation by urging consideration of a more gradual and extended implementation process that would lessen effects on students currently in the system, and provide opportunity for the University to monitor implications of any increases on enrollment and retention of students over time. She urged that with any fee increase strategy that was to be implemented, strategies for improving services, financial aid and education quality should be simultaneously implemented.

Mr. Scully commented that he had met with the DSU regarding the issues as presented, and the BAC was supportive in the notion of a more extended timeline for implementation, for example from three to five years, as well as for an increase in student support.

Ms. Stone complimented the DSU on its Report, endorsing its recommendations, and as Co-Director of the Atlantic Metropolis Centre had participated in several discussions with various groups regarding immigration issues both locally and nationally. She commented that some of the assumptions of the BAC Report XXX were based on unreliable, incomplete, or inaccurate data. She pointed out that Halifax was not a primary magnet for international students as larger urban centres, such as Vancouver or Toronto for example, which would be given their very large

immigrant populations. She noted that the provincial government in its effort to identify ways to address immigration issues, had identified universities as a likely means for attracting immigrants; however, with an increase in fees for international students seemed to contradict support for that approach. Ms. Stone concluded by endorsing the DSU points regarding the need for a significant increase in ESL support services as well as other support services including cultural support. She suggested that a task force on the immigration issues involved might be timely, particularly if exploration of avenues for participation with other universities and with provincial and national bodies were included in its mandate.

Mr. Finley commented that he had not heard a great deal about having international students recruited from developing or low- and middle- income countries, noting that in Appendix A of the BAC Report XXX, the majority of current international students were from countries with resources to support substantial fees as well as with their own well-developed academic programs. He wondered if a goal of recruiting international students was to encourage those who do come to return and be leaders in their home countries.

Mr. Jalilvand suggested that in regards to immigration and recruitment of international students, we should be reminded that the demographics of local students did not support the growth of the University for the years ahead, and that as a responsible university, we could not claim to be developing students who can function in a global world with an understanding of other cultures, if there was not a reasonable population of foreign students learning with them in the University. He noted that the demand for international education was coming from the emerging markets of the world rather than from continental Europe for instance. He suggested that Dalhousie's policy as regards international students should be to establish the demand first and then on that basis to determine whether Dalhousie could supply the facilities and resources that could sustain the education of an international student population in the long term. Mr. Jalilvand endorsed the suggestion of a task force to examine the issues from a comprehensive perspective for the short and long term for the University.

Mr. Klein commented that for graduate students to be able to spend full-time on their studies, some departments, 'top up' scholarship amounts provided by the University with professors' research funds. Should international fees increase, that increment would need to be incorporated into the extra amount provided from research funds and would essentially limit the number of graduate students able to be accommodated by a department. He added that in relation to 'market price' as described in the Report, it generally was not the highest price that attracted consumers but rather the opposite.

Mr. Milios of the Faculty of Computer Science spoke from the perspective of having been an international student at an American university, and stated that unless a differential fee was fully covered, international students would not be attracted to Dalhousie. He suggested that there was significant competition for international students not just from within Canada and the United States but from European countries as well. He stated that the differential fee suggested was seen simply as a tax on professors' research grants. He indicated support for Ms. Stone's comments that viewing the recruitment of international students within the larger picture of the immigration

agenda of the provincial and national governments would be a wise strategy.

Mr. Satish suggested further analysis before implementing across-the-board increases to both undergraduate and graduate international student fees. He commented on Appendix H of the Report noting that most of the universities listed had lower fees for graduate international students over undergraduate. He suggested that the majority of international students in the Faculty of Engineering were self-funded, and on graduation, returned to their home country. He added that for most potential international students making application to study abroad, that consideration of resources provided once they enroll at a university was not upper most in deciding which university to attend but rather the actual costs involved, such as tuition fees.

Mr. Barkow stated support for a task force as raised in the discussion, suggesting that cost and benefits of more than financial concerns should be included in its mandate. Ms. White commented on the matter of increases to fees for international students, noting that in the Department of Chemistry, the fee increases would have to be absorbed by research grants. She suggested that any fee increase should be included in scholarship funding given to international graduate students as happens at the University of Western Ontario, for example.

Mr. Scully noted that he had requested information from the University of Western Ontario but it had arrived after the BAC Report XXX had been distributed. He advised that it would be included in on-going BAC discussions as would any comments that senators or other university member wished to forward to him.

Mr. Fraser thanked members for their participation in the discussion.

2004:104

Learning Connections Initiative: E. McKee, Vice President Student Services

Mr. Fraser invited Mr. McKee to present on the Learning Connection project.

Using a slide presentation with paper copies distributed, Mr. McKee began by noting that in 1997, the President had established a “Transition-to-Work Task Force”, the purpose of which was to examine the career preparation that the University offered to undergraduate students in the Faculties of Arts and Science. A result of that Task Force was the Career Portfolio Project, funded by Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC) in the amount of \$300,000, followed by a grant from the McConnell Family Foundation for \$1.2 million to expand the project. The themes of that project were 1) career portfolio development; 2) opportunities for transferable skill development in the classroom as well as extra-curricular experiences; and 3) experiential learning. From that project, the Learning Connections project evolved which built and expanded on the prior project, and was supported by a \$ 2 million donation from an alumnus, David Bissett and his wife, Leslie Bissett. The project was designed to provide support to students to improve the experience of their undergraduate education at Dalhousie, particularly in their first year.

Mr. McKee summarized the key features of the Project in terms of :

- Description of the **Chapters** module concept involving on-line delivery of linkages of information and opportunities in a seamless and comprehensive manner, and developed with input from a student advisory group;
- Content of the eight **Chapters** developed to date including information on areas such as: Halifax area and housing; course advising; mechanics of registration and part-time employment; student societies; adding/dropping classes; checking on progress to date, libraries, intellectual honesty, writing assistance, study skills; ‘feeling overwhelmed’, health services; planning for the winter term and evaluating progress.
- Proposals for future Chapters being developed by various Teams involved in the project including those for:
 - Academic Advising enhancement noting that a full-time Director of Advising, Professor Pat de Meo of the Department of French, had been appointed to start July 1, 2005, and whose mandate would be to develop strategies to rationalize and enhance advising services for undergraduate students and support for advisors;
 - Coordination of support for students in academic difficulty including use of the Learning and Study Skills Inventory (LASSI), with pilot projects for the FASS and the residences;
 - Curriculum initiatives in the domains of information literacy and class for writing tutors to train undergraduates in good writing methods to become tutors for other undergraduates students;
 - “Re-thinking Residence Life”, that is to develop means to emphasize the academic dimension to living in residence that would complement the social life dimension, for example, in terms of learning communities;
 - ‘Transition to University’ proposal to consider changes to the Fall orientation program, timing and length, and revisions to the registration process;
 - E-Portfolio that would include personal, career and learning components, and that would be available on-line to all students in September 2005.
- Use of Bissett funding to enhanced services to which students were referred through the Project, and enhanced support for the Centre for Learning and Teaching.

Mr. Dauphinee congratulated Mr. McKee on the excellent progress made in the Project. He asked about the issue of stream-lining the advising and registration process such that students would not need to go to various locations for parts of the process. Mr. McKee responded that while a single contact might not be possible, a better integrated network amongst advising services would be the goal. Ms. Stone asked if any funds had been designated to date for international student resource support. McKee replied that it had not but that it could be, given for example, the issues raised in discussion at this meeting.

Mr. Fraser thanked Mr. McKee for his presentation.

2004:105

Senate Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Jost **MOVED:**

THAT Godfrey Heathcote of the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pathology, be elected to serve on the Senate Library Committee for the Term December 2004 to June 30, 2007;

THAT David Scott of the Faculty of Science, Department Of Earth Sciences, be elected to serve on the Senate Physical Planning Committee for the term December 2004 to June 30, 2006; and

THAT Robert Guy, Faculty of Science, Department of Chemistry, be elected to serve on the Senate Committee on the Environment for the term April 2005 to March 31, 2006 (as leave replacement for Tarah Wright).

Following three requisite calls for further nominations, the nominees were declared elected to their respective Committees.

2004:106

Chair's Report

Mr Fraser reported that the 2004 Statutory Joint Meeting of the Senate and the Board fo Governors was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, and indicated that items discussed included the McLean's rankings, means of enhancing the student experience at Dalhousie as well as a number of other issues of joint concern.

Mr. Fraser reported that the Chair had received notification that the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Theatre (Costume Studies) and the Bachelor of Arts (Major) in Theatre Studies had been approved bythe Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

Mr. McGrath asked Mr. Scully, if in regards to the BAC Report XXX the anticipated expenditures for the coming year were currently known and if the scenarios described in the Report were described within that context. Mr. Scully responded that the BAC anticipated that by the end of February, it would issue a budget proposal for the President that would include consideration of all fee issues and proposals for strategic expenditures for 2005-06. Mr. Dauphinee, in regards to the member composition of the BAC, if the student membership on BAC could be designated as a member of the DSU. Mr. Traves responded that the student member on BAC was in fact a member of the DSU although not an officer of the DSU, and that while it was expected that the student member solicits input from students, the student member's responsibility as a member of BAC was to the University as a whole, as it was for any other member of the BAC.

2004:107

President's Report

Mr. Traves reported on the three-year funding agreement between the universities of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia government by which \$35 million would be transferred to the universities including with about half that amount coming to Dalhousie, and in return it was agreed that a ceiling of 3.9% would be placed on any tuition increases in each of the three years, with exemptions for tuition fees for international students, tuition fees Medicine, Dentistry and Law, and full-cost programs. This arrangement had been negotiated on the basis of evidence provided to government by the universities of estimates of rising costs for universities, reflecting a new and welcomed approach to funding negotiations with government. He added that having this agreement known before the University establishes its budget should enable more accurate predictions and timely planning. He noted that details of the agreement were

available on the Dalhousie website at www.dal.ca/inspire/news/index.html.

Mr. Evans asked about the mechanisms that were built into the BAC deliberations regarding input into the process by specific groups. Mr. Traves responded that any individual or group within the University should make representation on issues to the BAC but there were no assurances about what might be eventually recommended. Mr. Klein thanked Mr. Traves and the other presidents of universities in Nova Scotia for the success in negotiating with government for increases to funding on the basis of costs to universities and he hoped the practice would continue.

Mr. Traves indicated his best wishes for the holiday season.

2004:108

Adjournment

After Mr. Fraser stated his best wishes for the holiday season, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.