

Item: Senate Minutes, December 2006  
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, December 11, 2006, at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Senator Peter M. Butler, Vice-Chair of Senate, in the chair for the meeting were the following: Adshade, Breckenridge, Camfield, Chowdhury, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Croll, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Edelstein, Fraser, Geldenhuys, Haslam, Hicks, Johnson, Kesselring, Khimji, Klein, Leon, LoRusso, Maes, McConnell, McLarney, Moukdad, Mukhida, Nowakowski, Persaud, Saunders, Schroeder, Scrimger, Shaver, Sheng, Singleton, Slonim, Smith, Spence Wach, Sullivan, Sutow, Swanston, Tindall, Tipping, Traves, Watters, Whyte, Yeung.

Regrets: Allen, Binkley, Bodorik, El-Hawary, El-Masry, Grundy, Helland, Jones, Lane, Plug, Poulton, Scherkoske, Sidler, Simmonds, Taylor, Wallace, Webster, Wheeler.

Absent: Barker, Gray, Hubert, Pegg, Pelzer, Precious, Rutherford, Urbanowski, Wanzel.

Invitees: R. Anderson, I. Flint A. Power, J. Sherwood, M. Sterns

**2006:135**

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

**2006:136**

Draft Minutes of November 27, 2006 Meeting

- a) Approval  
The minutes were **APPROVED** as circulated.
- b) Matters Arising

Senator Butler was to provide an update on the review of the Senate Discipline Committee and its current caseload; however, he explained that things are proceeding but he was not able to provide any details at this time. Every effort is being made to move the process forward in a timely manner and he anticipates that it will be possible to bring a proposal/for review and consideration regarding the discipline process in the near future.

Senator Traves indicated that the matter regarding financial donations and the issues surrounding anonymity required no further action as per a discussion with the Vice-President, External. It was determined that no purpose would be served in changing the pattern in which donors, whether internal or external, elect to make their donations and there is therefore no reason to change

current policy.

Senator Butler informed Senators that the Report of the Long Term Financial Planning Committee will be discussed at the first meeting of Senate in February 2007.

**2006:137**

Question Period

Senator Whyte inquired if the Chair of Senate had receiving questions and/or suggestions from Senators directly by way of letters or proposals and if these formed the basis of input to Senate agendas. Senator Butler indicated the ordinary business of Senate is received through Senate Standing Committees. Senator Whyte then inquired what the actual function of Question Period was and if the responsibility for questions rested with Senators. In the past there have been very active Question Periods in Senate. Senator Whyte feels that Senate is a place for proposals and debate among Senators and perhaps the Chair is too ready to refer questions from the floor to the President and this is altering the impression of what Senate is here for. Senator Butler thanked Senator Whyte for reminding Senators to ask questions. Senator Butler added that Senate meets quite regularly, sometimes as often as two weeks apart, which may result in dealing with issues quickly and in turn lead to the reduced need for questions from the floor.

**2006:138**

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC): New Program Proposal – Pediatric General Practice Dental Residency

Mr. Ross Anderson, Head, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, outlined the proposed program for a Pediatric General Practice Dental Residency. The program is similar to a one-year rotating internship in Medicine whereby students who have graduated with their undergraduate in Dentistry are given a fifth year in a hospital setting to enhance their clinical skills in Pediatric Dentistry. There is a specific problem in North America and the world in the form of a disease called Early Childhood Caries, which is increasing among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. These children may have twenty teeth for which 15 to 20 of them are rotten and abscessed and it is affecting their quality of life. These are not children that are easily treated in the clinical environment in a dentist's office. Moreover, our undergraduate curriculum does not train people well to deal with the intensity of this disease. By giving this program in a hospital environment we can train these post-graduate trainees in areas of sedation for children and how to become proficient in providing care for this disease under general anesthesia. Hopefully, they can then go out into the community in a primary care area and provide some service to children with this disease.

A university affiliation is required as a component of approval of the program by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. There are presently only three other programs like this in Canada, one at the children's hospital at the University of British Columbia, the Children's Hospital at the University of Manitoba, and the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. The Isaac Walton Killam Hospital (IWK) has embraced the program as well as the Department of Health who has offered some money for a stipend for residents.

On behalf of SAPBC, Senator Butler **MOVED:**

**That Senate approve the new proposed Pediatric General Practice Dental Residency Program.**

Senator Camfield explained that within her work at the Division of Child Neurology, Department of

Pediatrics, there are a lot of mentally handicapped children who have terrific dental problems. She expressed strong support for the training of people in Pediatric Dentistry, to have the internship available to them and to have these people in the community, not just in Nova Scotia but throughout the Maritimes.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2006:139**

Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Senator Geldenhuys, SNC Chair, **MOVED:**

**THAT for the term December 11, 2006 – June 30, 2008, Mr. Peter Duinker,  
Faculty of Management be nominated to the Senate Committee on the Environment.**

**THAT for the term December 11, 2006 – June 30, 2008, Ms. Corinne MacDonald,  
Faculty of Engineering be nominated to the Senate Library Committee.**

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

**2006:140**

Senate Academic Appeal Committee Annual Report 2005-06

Mr. Ian Flint, Chair, Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC), informed Senate that the SAAC had a successful year dealing with a number of issues and that after a number of difficult years he thinks that the appeal process appears to be working quite well. However, he would like to encourage the Faculty of Law to nominate several members to the Committee. Senator Butler expressed concern over the number of members who will complete their terms on June 2007 and in particular those individuals who will not be eligible for re-appointment. The turnover on the SAAC is quite significant and he would like to stress the importance of the committee's ability to do their work properly with a full slate of members. The Senate Academic Appeal Committee Annual Report 2005-06 was received.

**2006:141**

Unit Review – University Computing and Information Services (UCIS)

Senators Tom Traves, Senator Bruce Smith, Mr. John Sherwood, Executive Director, UCIS, and Ms. Margaret Sterns, Internal Auditor and Administrator, were present for discussion of this item. Senator Traves reported there was an administrative decision that regular, periodic reviews would be conducted of administrative units in the University. Periodic reviews of academic units are conducted regularly and it was felt that the administrative operation would benefit from the same kind of process. The review of the unit by outside experts would lead to a document presented, ultimately to the President through the Vice-President responsible for the administrative unit and then the recommendations would be disposed of. This review obviously touches very closely to the heart of the academic enterprise, as well as the administrative enterprise and, therefore, before final disposition on a number of recommendations, Senator Traves thought it would be appropriate to first circulate the document to the wider community for a response. Senator Traves emphasized that comments will be taken under advisement with respect to the various recommendations that have been put forward.

Senator Klein noted that UCIS is a very important part of the administrative structure of the University and thanked the President for starting a program of evaluating administrative units. Senator Klein inquired about UCIS funding which the response from Senate Committee on Information Technology and Planning Committee (SCITPC) identified. The practice of charging operating budgets and research grants is controversial and he would like to encourage the administration to discontinue charging operating grants for access to the internet. SCITPC has had numerous complaints from many people on this particular issue and in corresponding with colleagues over Canada many do not pay anything for access to the internet.

Senator Slonim inquired if consideration had been given to outsourcing this function to an external service organization, which could result in savings for the University. This does not appear to have been considered in the document.

Senator Whyte noted that the Faculty of Medicine represents a considerable portion of the University and many members of faculty sit behind other institutions' firewalls (CDHA and IWK). This provides major problems for access to some Dalhousie resources as sometimes the hospitals security measures exceed those required by Dalhousie University. The net result is that we tend to look to and use the resources provided by the institutions, limited as they are, and struggle with the limited access to Dalhousie resources. Senator Whyte inquired why there were no recommendations for collaboration, consultation, or ongoing dialogue with the IT resources of these large institutions and would like to see some included.

Senator Maes noted that the external reviewers pointed out that they would not have sufficient knowledge or time to do a thorough examination of all the issues within Computing Services and how it could be a more effective service for the University. Senator Maes asked if there would be consideration of further analysis and how it would take place.

Senator Traves responded to the issues raised. UCIS is producing a report about network charging that will examine the current situation, including all costs and sources of funding, and comparisons to other universities. In regard to technical issues over the use of portal technologies, the relocation of the Help Desk, services to the learning commons, the development of a five-year strategic plan, the development of standardized classroom technologies, and so on. There are a number of reactions and follow-ups. On the issue about sourcing the University had not set it as a formal question for the review process.

Mr. Sherwood addressed the query in regard to the hospital's firewalls, which appears to be a real problem for clinicians working in the hospital who are trying to make use of University facilities. The hospitals have their own challenges in maintaining the security of their networks and would very much like to have some way to provide their access to clinicians that are in the hospitals. However, it is up to the hospitals to set those policies. Dalhousie works closely with the hospitals on the technical level. The other big issue is network charging which we have heard about for many years. The current model has its genesis back to 1980 when telephones went from being centrally funded to being a full charge back. When networking came along in the mid-1980s there was no central funding for networking so it picked up the same model. Whether that is appropriate today or not is a bigger issue and we are preparing a report that details exactly what we do with networking, what it costs, what the sources of funding are, what other universities are doing, and laying out some alternatives.

Senator Traves closed the discussion inviting Senators to send any further comments directly to him. Mr. Sherwood noted that the Director of Academic Computing, Mr. Randy Barkhouse, is retiring at the end of December and he would like to offer personal thanks for all of Mr. Barkhouse's work at UCIS and the

support he has provided. Senator Butler formally thanked Mr. Barkhouse on behalf of Senate and further thanked Senator Traves, the SCITPC, and those who were here to discuss the Unit Review for UCIS.

#### **2006:142**

##### Chair's Report

Senator Butler thanked the President for hosting the joint Board of Governors and Senate Holiday reception and also thanked the Senators who attended the reception.

On the 29 November 2006, the Senate Office received the Eco-Efficiency Centre year-end report to Senate for July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 and it is available for review in the Senate Office. At the last meeting of Senate there was a Constitutional change related to the membership section. Attached to the agenda was a new complete copy of the Constitution. Senator Butler asked Senators to replace the new copy for their old copy currently in their 'Red Book'.

The Senate Steering Committee has cancelled the January 8, 2007 meeting of Senate; therefore, the next meeting of Senate will be January 22, 2007. Senator Butler wished a Merry Christmas to all who celebrate Christmas, and to those do not, a happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.

#### **2006:143**

##### President's Report

Senator Traves added his best wishes for the season to all members of Senate and thanked Senators for their tremendous contributions, not only to the governance of the University but through their academic functions which have contributed to the tremendous academic success that we continue to enjoy at Dalhousie University.

Senator Traves announced an initiative that will come forward after the start of the next academic term; related to a student referendum that will be held in early March 2007 in cooperation with the Dalhousie Student Union. The referendum will ask if students will make a modest contribution to an annual fund to provide a fairly substantial capital investment at the University for a number of new facilities and for an upgrading of existing facilities, all of which are seen as important enhancements to the learning and social space that is available on campus. Once the plan has been expanded Senator Traves will come back to Senate with a more detailed presentation.

One major project is a significant expansion of the Dalhousie Student Union building, which is an expansion of that space through the area currently occupied by the graduate student house and the area of space behind it. The purpose of this space would be to create learning environments for students, not classroom environments, but out of classroom study space and social space. As the project goes forward there will be a need for an extended dialogue with the Student Union on the management of this space and the way it operates. A second component of the project will be to significantly modify the existing streetscape that now separates the Student Union Building from the McCain Building with a view to narrowing the roadway from its existing two lanes down to one in each direction, eliminating the boulevard, and making a two-lane street.

A second site of activity will relate to the Life Sciences Building where there is a need for both study space and social space. It is thought that a modest link building or linkage that ties the Hicks Building to the Life Sciences Building would significantly enhance the quality of the space available to students, not only in the Life Sciences Building, but also for students in the Chase and Dunn Buildings.

A third major project will be on the Sexton campus where there is a need to significantly improve the existing Alumni Lounge in the Engineering Building. It is dated and needs a major overhaul and, with a fairly modest investment, make it much more attractive and enhance the food services in that area. We will be creating, a learning commons type environment in available space underneath the gymnasium. Also, there is a need for a space where students can work on hands-on physical construction types of projects. The Architectural students engage in physical construction projects as well and require what could be called 'garage spaces' which could serve Architectural and Engineering students, and could involve a small second story on top which would create some study space, particularly for graduate students in the Engineering Faculty.

In addition, there will be learning and social space for students in Health Professions. They currently have some space available to them in the Dentistry Building. The Dentistry students have their own lounge, but there is some space in that building that is available to students who principally use the Forrest Building and we will look to do a combined learning and social space reform.

A recent on-line survey of students across the campus was conducted of approximately 13,000 students (5,000+ responded) to inquire into their use of on campus athletic and recreational facilities. A large amount of information was obtained about behaviors, the limitations of our existing facilities, students' desires for reforms and where they would like to see money spent and not spent. One major item that students identified is the inadequacy of our existing fitness facilities on campus. We have a lot of resources that are devoted to competitive sports. Increasingly, day students are more into individual personal fitness activities that require treadmills and bikes and all the other things that you see commonly in commercial fitness centers. Again, depending on the cost of the project, we could look at the possibility of including these in the overall proposal that will be presented to students.

It is proposed that this would be a \$25 million expenditure and we would propose to our students if they voluntarily, through a referendum, spend \$10 per course while they were at the University that this would generate a cash flow which would allow the University to borrow the \$25 million and pay it back over a 35 year period. This plan is doable if students make this commitment. We will commit to our students that we will not start collecting fees until the projects are actually realized. There is an education process to explain all of this and it is anticipated that we will roll this out probably towards the end of January. There is an event that the DSU will be hosting on January 31<sup>st</sup> and we will probably participate actively in that, which may be the official launch of the campaign leading towards a referendum a month later.

Senator Tindall asked if the University had discussions with the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) regarding improving the area. Mr. Traves responded that the University had developed a plan a couple of years ago for a long-term improvement in terms of landscaping, such as walkways and greenery and one component of that involved some changes to University Avenue. HRM welcomes the initiative and we have kept our neighbors informed through the University Community Council about the proposed changes and people seem to be pleased.

Senator Traves noted the projects proposed present fund-raising opportunities and one of the questions typically posed is what kind of support we are getting on campus. It is important for us to state that faculty, staff and students have given to the campaign. In closing Senator Traves noted that in the University's last campaign we enjoyed very substantial support from faculty and staff and we would look forward as we plan our capital campaign for that, both in the level of dollars and the symbolism of faculty and staff commitment to the future of the University. This resonates very well with external donors. This student project will be an important component and we are looking forward to a much larger campaign

than our last major campaign.

**2006:144**

Other Business

Senator Butler announced that the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) is meeting on Monday, December 18, 2006. The University community is represented by former Senator Sam Scully, and the agenda is lengthy. One of the things MPHEC will be talking about is approval for on-line universities, which could have implications for programs that are offered at Dalhousie University.

**2006:145**

Adjournment

Senator Slonim **MOVED**, seconded by Senator LoRusso:

**THAT** the Senate meeting be adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED**.