

Item: Senate Minutes, April 2007  
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, April 9, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Mo El-Hawary in the chair were the following: Adshade, Binkley, Bodorik, Butler, Camfield, Cochrane, Cook, Croll, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Edelstein, Fraser, Helland, Johnson, Jones, Kesselring, Khimji, Maes, McNeil, Moukdad, Pegg, Pelzer, Persaud, Plug, Rutherford, Saunders, Schroeder, Scrimger, Shaver, Slonim, Smith, Sullivan, Sutow, Swanston, Taylor, Tipping, Traves, Wallace, Wanzel, Wheeler, Whyte.

Regrets: Breckenridge, Chowdhury, Cleave, El-Masry, Geldenhuys, Grundy, Haslam, McConnell, Mukhida, Nowakowski, Sheng, Singleton, Watters, Webster.

Absent: Allen, Barker, Gray, Hicks, Hubert, Klein, Lane, Leon, LoRusso, McLarney, Poulton, Precious, Scherkoske, Simmonds, Spence Wach, Tindall, Yeung.

Invitees: K. Crombie, A. Power

### **2007:46**

#### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

### **2007:47**

#### Draft Guidelines for Evaluators regarding Violations of Academic Regulations by Students

Mr. El-Hawary explained that the resolution will be to give effect to the Faculty Discipline Procedures concerning Academic Integrity.

Mr. Dunphy **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Shaver:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Guidelines for Academic Evaluators regarding violations of academic regulations by students as amended April 14, 1997 be further amended as follows:**

1. By deleting the second full paragraph and replacing it with the following:

The Senate has delegated its authority to adjudicate **all** cases of alleged violations of academic standards by students to the Senate Discipline Committee, and in limited circumstances, to Academic Integrity Officers, as defined by the Faculty Discipline Procedures Concerning Academic Dishonesty. Students who are eligible to have their case initially addressed by Academic Integrity Officers, will have the option to have their case heard by the Senate Discipline Committee. From the decisions of this Committee, an appeal lies to the Senate on such grounds as it determines are appropriate. No one else, including individual members of faculty or other academic evaluators of student performance (hereafter, "evaluator"), has any authority to create new offences or to adjudicate upon them. Thus, it is inappropriate for an evaluator to undertake personal, unilateral action in relation to alleged violations of any academic regulations. Any attempt by anyone or any body other than the Senate, its Discipline Committee, or the Academic Integrity Officers to deal with an offence is null and void and leaves the student still liable to discipline for that offence.

2. By deleting paragraph 1 under *Procedures*, and replacing it with the following:

1. Where an allegation of a breach of academic standards has been made or is pending, the evaluator should not reveal the mark or grade to anyone until the Secretary of Senate has confirmed the disposition of the matter by the Senate Discipline Committee or the Academic Integrity Officer.

3. By deleting paragraph 2 under *Procedures*, and replacing it with the following:

2. An alleged first or later breach of any academic standard by a student should **never** be dealt with by an evaluator, but in all instances, should be referred with the advice and assistance of a “Discipline Advisor” (see 3 below) to the Academic Integrity Officer.

Mr. Wheeler asked for confirmation that if a professor suspects that a student may have referenced an article incorrectly, a simple ‘ticking off’ is not acceptable, and if so, wondered if this was realistic. Mr. Shaver explained that the policy allows for Academic Integrity Officers (AIO) to start the discussion with instructors in this manner. It is intended to bring into the discussion all of the community so that these kinds of issues can be raised and discussed. We have colleagues who may be doing that now and they are acting outside the process. Who is to say they are right or wrong? By having an AIO policy and by having at least yearly meetings with the Senate Discipline Committee, we should be able to make some progress on achieving some kind of community understanding.

Mr. Whyte raised concerns regarding certain words within the motion and inquired if they were appropriate. Mr. Shaver stated that it would be appropriate to address these within the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee.

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **2007:48**

### Question Period

Mr. Slonim asked if the educational aspects of Academic Integrity could be emphasized. Mr. Shaver explained that the SCAA sub committee on Academic Integrity is dealing with three aspects of academic integrity: Education, Detection, and Discipline. That sub-committee is actively considering the issue of education and most recently there has been a substantial revision of the Academic Integrity website. There is also a long agenda for that committee and one area to be discussed is support for instructors in their education, so that they can then educate their students about dishonesty. He also reminded Senators of Academic Integrity Week, which is something put on by the Centre for Learning and Teaching which encourages involvement from both staff members and students. On behalf of the SCAA and the sub-committee, Mr. Shaver added that they are also open to suggestions of any way we can increase the level of education in academic integrity.

Ms. Binkley noted a proliferation of Senate meetings. Senate meetings used to be held once a month and lately there have been meetings twice every month. Having a second meeting was a rare occurrence and many of the second meetings have had little or no agenda items and urged Senate to go back to the large meeting once a month, rather than two small meetings twice a month. Mr. El-Hawary agreed that the second meeting in the month is held only if there are items that are important and assured that this provision will be maintained.

**2007:49**

Senate Steering Committee

a. Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) – Composition of Membership

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT the composition of the Senate Discipline Committee be increased so that there are thirteen representatives of the Faculty.***

The motion was **CARRIED**.

b. Senate Ratification of Appointments to SDC

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

***THAT the Senate appoint Mr. Lloyd Fraser, College of Continuing Education, and Mr. Ian Flint, Faculty of Engineering, to the Senate Discipline Committee for the period April 12, 2007 to June 30, 2007.***

The Chair explained that the rationale for these terms was to assist in the backlog of the pending Senate Discipline cases.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

c. Senate Minutes

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

***THAT Senate approve that the Senate minutes be shortened from the present format to summarize the discussion so that the reader can easily grasp the issues and this will be done on a trial basis until June 30, 2007.***

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**2007:50**

Senate Nominating Committee: Nomination

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

***THAT Mr. Kevin Grundy, Faculty of Science, be appointed to the Employee Benefits Committee for the term April 10, 2007 to June 30, 2009.***

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Mr. Grundy was elected.

**2007:51**

Senate Discipline Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

Ms. Gudrun Curri, Interim Chair, SDC was invited to present this item and noted that she was very pleased that the Guidelines for Evaluators regarding Violations of Academic Regulations by Students had been approved. This will certainly help the SDC become more effective. Ms. Curri advised that 33 hearings were still outstanding which involve 59 students and the 2005 - 2006 work is not finished.

Ms. Kesselring inquired about what was happening in the Faculty of Management and the percentage of cases that were found not guilty. Ms. Curri explained that in particular Faculties and that is, in the Faculty of Management, the notion of teamwork is emphasized, and hence, it is a different approach, and this has certainly been brought to the attention of Senate. Mr. Schroeder stated that he was curious about the discrepancy in the numbers on the second page under Graduate Studies. It gives “0”, but then by level of course for graduate, it gives “11”. Ms. Curri explained that with some, for instance, the MBA program would be at the graduate level, but in terms of course numbers, it would be dealt with through the Faculty at the initial stage rather than through the graduate faculties. The 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Senate Discipline Committee was received.

**2007:52**

In Camera -Honorary Degrees Committee: Voting on Honorary Degree Candidates, Fall 2007 and Spring 2008

The assembly went in camera to consider and vote on the slate of honorary degree candidates following which the assembly returned to open session. The Chair reported that all three candidates nominated had received approval.

**2007:53**

Chair’s Report

Mr. El-Hawary reported that he had received notice from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission that the following program proposals had been approved: Combined Honours in Environmental Science and International Development Studies; Combined Honours in Mathematics and Oceanography; Combined Honours in Statistics and Oceanography; Combined Honours in Physics and Oceanography; and Paediatric General Practice Dental Registry Program.

Mr. El-Hawary reported that enclosed with the agenda package for the March 26, 2007 Senate meeting there were two items for information: March 12, 2007 memo from Dr. J. Spatz, Chair, Board of Governors Long Term Financial Planning Committee re: Long Term Financial Planning Committee (LTFPC) Report; and the Senate Nominating Committee Call for Nominations: Senate Standing Committees, Senate Representatives on Board of Governors & University Committees, July 2007. Mr. El-Hawary further noted that the Joint meeting of the Senate and the Board of Governors took place on Monday, April 2. At the end of each Senate year Senate traditionally hosts a short reception at the end of the meeting to honor and thank all members of Senate who have completed their terms. The reception this year will be held at the June 25, 2007 Senate meeting.

The Chair congratulated Mr. Peter M. Butler, Vice-Chair of Senate, who has recently written a book titled Polling and Public Opinion, a Canadian Perspective. The book will be available May 2007.

Mr. El-Hawary noted the results of the elections of the Dalhousie Student Union and congratulated Mr. Mike Tipping, DSU President; Ms. Tara Gault, Vice-President, Education; and Senate representatives Ms. Victoria Jones, Mr. Jordon Roberts, Mr. Christian Tschirhart, and Ms. Tracy Voegeli, graduate student representative.

**2007:54**

President’s Report

Mr. Traves added his congratulations to Mr. Tipping and the balance of the newly elected Dalhousie Student Union members and he noted there has been strong student leadership in recent years and very good representation on Senate and the Board of Governors and he looks forward to continued positive relationships with our students.

Mr. Traves reported that the student referendum failed for a lack of majority and the projects have been cancelled. Mr. Traves spoke about a number of developments, both at the provincial and federal government level which have implications for the University. Both governments have submitted budgets for 2007-08 and they have substantial implications for Dalhousie University. One of the key items in the federal budget was the continuation of funding for various research activities sponsored primarily through the granting counsels. There was a moderate increase in this budget item. A significant allocation in the provincial budget will come into effect for 2008-09 for post secondary education and the effect for the Nova Scotia budget is yet to be determined. Mr. Traves then spoke about the relative silence on the question of student aid in the federal budget. The Federal government will review all student aid matters in the coming year and this will lead them in a direction for the Millennium Foundation. Dalhousie University students receive more than \$5 million/year from the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

At the provincial level, the government introduced its budget a short while ago and they are now nearing the final stages of the legislative process and there are a number of important developments. This is the third and final year of the Memorandum of Understanding and there was an anticipated increase in the base funding combined with an anticipated increase in tuition fees. The province has instead increased the amount for the operating grant which would mean that we would not initiate the 3.9% increase in tuition. The Budget Advisory Committee process is stalled waiting for this information.

The final element of the provincial allocation is that the province announced a plan to provide \$10.2 million which would facilitate a roll-back of tuition fees for all of Nova Scotia students at our universities by approximately \$500/year. Final details are pending; however, Mr. Traves is of the opinion that we will have a very good year from the student perspective of little or no tuition increases and, virtually for all of our students and for a significant number, a rollback of tuition fees. This will help with our recruitment efforts in the coming years. The application rates for 2007-08 are up strongly but the final numbers are yet to be determined.

Mr. Traves spoke with respect to the research agenda; one item of business was of great significance. The federal government indicated a series of funding announcements of support for various Centres of Excellence around the province. Seven specific projects were singled out for funding and one of which is of great interest to Dalhousie, namely the Life Sciences Research Institute Building project. We expect to receive a grant of \$15 million dollars subject to an ongoing review and the project will go forward in the near future and more information will follow.

Mr. Traves commented on the current legislative session regarding mandatory retirement in the province in private workplaces. What this will mean for the University is yet to be seen and this will be a point of discussion in the next round of negotiations with the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

Mr. Cook emphasized to the President and Senators that when negotiating for funds the issue of operating cost for research need to be an integral component. The current increases in the budget are still insignificant for the current research projects. Mr. Traves noted that targeted funding needs to be considered.

Finally, Mr. Traves noted that he is pleased that the province has finally decided to deal with a problem and an embarrassment that Nova Scotia had the highest tuition fees in the country. This is good news that they are finally doing something about that; however, the province must be mindful of a long term funding strategy for post secondary education both for the students and the institution.

## **2007:55**

### Other Business

There were no items of other business.

**2007:56**

Adjournment

Mr. Slonim **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Binkley:

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**OF**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

SENATE met in Special Session on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at 4:00 P.M. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Peter M. Butler, Vice-Chair of Senate, in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barker, Breckenridge, Camfield, Chowdhury, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Croll, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), El-Masry, Fraser, Gray, Haslam, Hicks, Johnson, Jones, Kesselring, Khimji, Klein, Leon, Maes, McConnell, McLarney, McNeil, Moukdad, Pegg, Persaud, Plug, Saunders, Schroeder, Scrimger, Shaver, Slonim, Smith, Spence Wach, Sullivan, Sutow, Taylor, Tindall, Traves, Wanzel, Watters, Webster, Wheeler, Whyte

Regrets: Bodorik, Edelstein, El-Hawary, Geldenhuys, Grundy, Helland, Hubert, LoRusso, Nowakowski, Pelzer, Poulton, Precious, Rutherford, Sheng, Simmonds, Swanston, Yeung

Absent: Allen, Binkley, Lane, Mukhida, Scherkoske, Singleton, Tipping, Wallace

Guests: K. Crombie, D. Moorhouse, B. Neuman, A. Power

**2007:57**

Call to Order

Mr. Butler called the meeting to order.

**2007:58**

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

**2007:59**

Motion – Permission for Invited Guests during the *In Camera* Session

Mr. Shaver **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Dunphy:

**THAT** Mr. Jim Vibert, Assistant Vice-President, Communications and Marketing, Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Student Services, Ms. Karen Crombie, University Legal Counsel and Mr. David Moorhouse, Hill Law, on behalf of the Dalhousie Student Union, be permitted to be present and speak during the Special Senate Discipline Procedure.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**2007:60**

*In Camera – Draft Process for Allegations of Academic Offences in a First Year Science Course*

The assembly went in camera to consider and vote on the Draft Process for allegations of academic offences in a first year science course following which the assembly returned to open session. The Chair reported that the process had been approved.

**2007:61**

Other Business

There were no other items of business.

**2007:62**

Adjournment

The meeting **ADJOURNED**.