

Item: Senate Minutes, October 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, October 29, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with the Chair of Senate, Mr. Lloyd Fraser, were the following: Barker, Binkley, Butler, Camfield, Campbell, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Fanning, Frank, Garduno, Gault, Grundy, Harman, Haslam, Helland, Johnson, Jones, Kesselring, McConnell, McLaren, Nowakowski, Richard, Roberts, Robinson, Ross, Saunders, Schellinck, Schroeder, Scrimger, Shaver, Slonim, Spence Wach, Sutow, Thornhill, Tindall, Tipping, Traves, Tschirhart, Voegeli, Wanzel, Watters, Webster, Wheeler, Yeung.

Regrets: Bodorik, Breckenridge, Croll, El-Hawary, El-Masry, Geldenhuys, Johnston, Leon, Maes, Moukdad, Pegg, Singleton, B. Smith, Taylor.

Absent: Adshade, Cook, Gray, Kroeker, Pelzer, Persaud, Plug, Precious, Rutherford, Scherkoske, J. Smith

Guests: S. Brousseau, J. MacInnis, A. Power

2007:108

Call to Order

Mr. Fraser called the meeting to order and informed Senators that the arrangement of the tables and chairs is due to the different format for the meeting and is a temporary set up. The meeting will largely be devoted to an examination and discussion of the President's Strategic Focus document. Senate will break out into smaller groups and the setup will be used accordingly for small group discussions.

2007:109

Adoption of Agenda

The October 29, 2007 agenda was **ADOPTED**.

2007:110

Draft Minutes of September 20, 2007 Meeting

a) Approval

The minutes of September 10, 2007 were **APPROVED**.

b) Matters Arising

There was a question from Mr. Tipping at the last meeting that was responded to by Ms. Susan Brousseau, Director, University Secretariat. Ms. Brousseau's response was available in a memo at the entrance to University Hall. At the last meeting Ms. McConnell asked about the microphones and if something could be done to enhance them. Mr. Fraser stated again that the current setup is temporary and a range of different options for a better setup for the room are being examined with Facilities Management; which would include the sound system. There were no further matters arising from the minutes.

2007:111

Senate Presentation: Making an Impact: The President's Strategic Focus, 2007-2010

Mr. Fraser explained that future directions for the University are obviously of considerable interest and a major issue for Senate. It is a key responsibility of Senate to be looking not only to the details of how we are operating today, but also the longer term issues in terms of where we are going with our academic programs, with our teaching and learning initiatives and experience with research initiatives, with the contribution to the community at large, both locally and globally. The President has laid out some plans and initiatives in this regard and Senate has an opportunity to give feedback on the plan through group discussion and individual feedback.

Ms. Janice McInnes from Organization and Employee Development (formerly Human Resources), Personnel Services was present to facilitate the Senate deliberations. Mr. Traves presented The President's Strategic Focus, 2007-2010 then Senate broke out into focus groups. Each group had an opportunity to present a short response and then the group and individual response sheets were collected. Mr. Traves thanked everyone for their very active engagement with the issues.

2007:112

Senate Nominating Committee: Nominee for Senate Steering Committee (SSC)

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

THAT Susan Spence Wach, Medicine, be elected to the Senate Steering Committee for the term November 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Ms. Susan Spence Wach was declared elected to the Senate Steering Committee.

2007:113

Senate Steering Committee: Slate of Nominees for Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

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

THAT Mr. Bruce Smith, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science, be appointed to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee, for the term October 2007 to June 30, 2008;

THAT Mr. Mark Johnston, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science be appointed to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee, for the term July 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009;

THAT Ms. Laurette Geldenhuys, Department of Anatomical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine be re-appointed to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee, for the term October 2007 to August 31, 2010; and

THAT Ms. Krista Kesselring, Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences be appointed to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee, for the term January 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the nominees were declared elected to the Senate Nominating Committee.

2007:114

Academic Integrity Officer Ratification

Mr. Dunphy presented the list of Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) agreed penalties for four students who had penalties agreed between themselves and the AIOs. The student penalties must be ratified by Senate as per the procedures and this is the first time that Senate has done this. In terms of volume of activity, Mr. Dunphy indicated that he had received two more AIO decisions which will come forward for ratification at the next Senate meeting. In addition, there have been four cases referred forward by the AIOs to go to the Senate Discipline Committee. Overall, Mr. Dunphy felt that this was not a high volume of cases in terms of agreed penalties or referrals to SDC; however, there has been considerable activity in terms of AIOs engaging students.

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

THAT the Academic Integrity Officer agreed penalties, as listed in the Secretary of Senate's memo of October 22nd, 2007 be ratified.

Mr. Tipping asked if the students who appeared before an AIO were represented by an advocate. Mr. Dunphy responded that recently there was a meeting of all the AIOs and SDC members and at this meeting it was explained that approximately half of the students did have advocates and all were aware of the service. All AIOs ensure that students are well aware of the service if they wish to avail themselves of that or some other support mechanism.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2007:118

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser reported that he had received notice that the following program proposals had been approved by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC): Name change from Biochemistry to Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Name change from Comparative Religion to Religious Studies. Mr. Fraser also reported that he has received the Health Law 2007 Annual Report, which is available both in the Senate Office and the Health Law Institute.

2007:119

President's Report

Mr. Traves expressed appreciation to all of the faculty members who participated in the recent Convocation ceremonies and noted that the faculty turnout was one of the best. Mr. Traves thanked and congratulated those who participated in the University's Open House held recently. Approximately a thousand or more students visited the campus and about 150 parents participated in the parents section. This number exceeded the expected numbers. The weather was excellent and the event was well organized. Mr. Traves anticipates that this will translate into enrolments for next year.

Mr. Traves recently participated in the work of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, which is essentially the Presidents' lobby group. Mr. Traves is now the Chair of the Association for the next two years. Mr. Traves indicated that over the last year and a half, the Association has made substantial gains in deepening the government's understanding and commitment to higher education issues and there was strong feedback from the different Ministers. The federal government acknowledges its responsibility for economic development; and research and development are part of the economic development agenda. Graduate students are part of the research and development agenda; hence, the federal government is entitled to spend money in those areas.

Mr. Traves spoke to the issue of support in the form of student aid for undergraduate students in particular, but all students who are eligible for the various forms of government assistance. The most important here is the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation, which spends about \$350 million a

year on direct grants to students in need. The program is coming to an end in terms of the government's commitment. Mr. Traves is not sure what the federal government will do in this regard and Dalhousie University will watch this file very carefully and will be pushing very hard on the issue of maintaining and indeed expanding that level of support for student aid.

2007:120

Other Business

Mr. Fraser drew members' attention to the list of students who received degrees at the 2007 Fall Convocation which was appended to the Senate agenda. Over one half of the fall graduates were graduate students.

There was no other business.

2007:121

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.