

Item: Senate Minutes, January 1996

Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5 Accession 2007-039 Box 6

Additional Notes:

This document is a compilation of Senate minutes, staff matters and miscellaneous documents for January 1996. The documents have been ordered chronologically and made OCR for ease of searching. The original documents and additional documents for this year which have not yet been digitized can be found in the Dalhousie University Senate fonds (UA-5) at the Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections.

The original materials and additional materials which have not been digitized can be found in the Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections using the call number referenced above.

In most cases, copyright is held by Dalhousie University. Some materials may be in the public domain or have copyright held by another party. It is your responsibility to ensure that you use all library materials in accordance with the Copyright Act of Canada. Please contact the Copyright Office if you have questions about copyright, fair dealing, and the public domain.

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**SENATE MEETING**

SENATE met in regular session on Monday, 8 January 1996 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. C. Stuttard in the chair were the following:

Andrews, Archibald, Binkley (Secretary), Birdsall, Bleasdale, Brett, Cameron, Camfield, Campbell, Conrod, Cross, Crowell, Cummings, Dickson, Egan, Farmer, Fraser, Haley, Hobson, Hooper, Kenny, Kiang, Kimmins, Klein, Lovely, Lydon, MacDonald, Maloney, McIntyre, Pacey, Pereira, Ricketts, Rosson, Russell, Ruedy, Sherwin, Siddiq, Sutherland, Tatton, Taylor, Thomas, Traves, Wrixon.

Regrets: Cox, Lee, Ruddick, Starnes.

Invitees: M. MacGillivray (Associate Registrar), F. Gregor, S. McIntyre

**96:001**

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Stuttard added a third item -- Faculty of Management Academic Appeals Procedures -- under Matters Arising. Senate approved a motion (Cameron/Klein) to adopt the amended agenda.

**96:002**

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion (Farmer/Siddiq), the Minutes of the December 11, 1995, meeting were approved as circulated.

**96:003**

Complement Reductions for 1996/97

Mr. Stuttard stated that the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC) will discuss the 1996/97 proposed complement reductions at their next meeting, Monday January 15. The chart concerning complement reduction which was circulated at the last Senate meeting, excluded the BACIII complement reductions. Total complements for 1996-97 represent a 5.3% decrease from the 1995-96 target figures. Mr. Stuttard encouraged Senators to send their comments regarding complement reductions to SAPBC in time for their next meeting.

**96:004**

Report Concerning a Proposal for Clinical Appointments with Periodic Review in the Faculty of Medicine

Mr. Stuttard reported that the Steering Committee's *ad hoc* Committee concerning a proposal for clinical appointments with periodic review had submitted their final report on December 14. The report has been forwarded to the Faculty of Medicine for their consideration.

**96:005**

## Faculty of Management Academic Appeals Procedures

Ms. Binkley reported that the Academic Appeals Procedures for the Faculty of Management would be presented at the next Senate meeting. She noted that all Faculty Academic Appeals Procedures were being reviewed for consistency and for conformity with Senate's own procedures. Mr. Rosson stated that the procedures to be presented apply only to undergraduates; procedures for graduate students have been approved and are already in place in the Faculty of Management.

### **96:006**

#### 1996/97 Academic Dates

On behalf of SCAA, Ms. Binkley moved:

**that Senate adopt the 1996/97 academic dates as approved by the Senate Committee on Academic Administration.**

A lively discussion ensued. The primary reason for the change was to synchronize the opening day of Dalhousie's classes with those of Mount St. Vincent University and TUNS -- a first step in keeping with enhanced co-operation among metro universities. All metro universities --except St. Mary's University which would open on the Wednesday after Labour Day, and possibly NSCAD -- would then start on the Thursday after Labour Day. This would help Dalhousie University students who wish to take classes at either of the other universities. It would also result in a two-day break between the end of classes and the beginning of the official exam period, as now occurs at the end of the winter term. Mr. Cameron regretted an apparent trend away from having final exams outside the lecture term; he supported having a two-day break before the formal exam period, and encouraged more faculty to schedule exams in the exam period.

Although sympathetic to the proposal, some senators were also skeptical about the benefits for Dalhousie University. Senators who opposed the motion argued that Frosh Week, on which the DSU spends about \$150,000 for some 1,200 students, would be truncated. The primary goal for this week is to introduce new students to the Dalhousie student culture, to the university's learning environment, to other students, and to Halifax. Students also raise money for Cystic Fibrosis research through Shinerama. Student senators wanted to be assured that if the motion did pass, the residences would be open to students on the Saturday and Sunday of Labour day weekend rather than the Monday as is the current practice. Mr. Traves stated that this was being looked into.

Ms. Bleasdale argued that, given the increasing cost of tuition, returning students should have as much vacation time as possible to earn money for their education. Other Senators argued that the proposed schedule would result in chaos in the first week; class attendance would be down and students who skipped the first class would miss important information.

Mr. Pacey argued that twenty years of past practice should not be replaced by annual setting of academic terms. He also noted that he normally attended a conference during that week.

Mr. Andrews wanted to be assured that weekly labs and in-services would be accommodated by the proposed schedule. Ms. Binkley and Ms. MacGillivray gave that assurance, and reminded Senators that this schedule only applied to undergraduate classes.

Mr. Lydon asked for a roll-call vote. The Chair declined.

On a show of hands, the motion was CARRIED (29/10).

**96:007**

Procedures Regarding Students with Learning Disabilities

Ms. Binkley, on behalf of SCAA, moved:

**that Senate adopt "Procedures Regarding Students with Learning Disabilities," dated December 1, 1995.**

Ms. Susan McIntyre was available to answer questions concerning the report; there were none and the Motion carried.

**96:008**

Senate Library Committee -- 1994/95 Annual Report

With Ms. Frances Gregor available to respond to any questions, the following resolution (Sutherland/Hobson) was moved:

**that Senate receive the Senate Library Committee's 1994-95 Annual Report.**

The Motion carried.

**96:009**

President's Report

Mr. Traves circulated a short written report concerning the new Dalhousie University NSERC/Atlantic Industrial Research Chair in Ocean Acoustic Technology, and the status of the Metro Halifax University Consortium Business plan. Mr. Traves reported that contrary to press releases, neither the Minister of Education or any other government minister had conveyed any decision to the metro university presidents concerning the plan.

**96:010**

Question Period

Mr. Andrews stated that while the Federal government was preparing its annual budget, there was an opportunity for universities to encourage the Liberals to re-think their funding of post-secondary education. He noted that CAUT was encouraging Faculty Associations to lobby MP's and asked what action Mr. Traves, other Maritime university presidents, and AUCC were taking on behalf of universities. Mr. Traves stated that AUCC was meeting in Ottawa in March, but agreed with Mr. Andrews that this would be too late to influence the Federal budget; he did not know what lobbying AUCC was doing between now and March, but he would find out. He added that the Atlantic university presidents will meet with the Atlantic Liberal caucus and he was personally to meet with Mr. Dingwall next week. He promised to report back to the next Senate meeting concerning these meetings.

Ms. Bleasdale asked why we have so few questions during question period. She encouraged Senators to engage in debate. Mr. Traves agreed with her that debate was a essential to a university's health and encouraged senate to ask questions. Mr. Pacey noted that the Consortium business plan had been discussed in Senate (Nov. 27, 1995).

Mr. Pacey wanted to know whether Senators' comments, given through SAPBC or Senate itself, had been incorporated in the revised Metro Universities Consortium Business Plan which was presented to the Minister of Education. Mr. Stuttard observed that a number of changes that he (and possibly others) had suggested were incorporated in the plan. Mr. Traves said that although he could not remember all of the modifications, a number of changes were included and all of the profiles of the universities had been re-written. Mr. Brett wanted to know if the statement

concerning Dalhousie “narrowing it’s focus” had been removed. Mr. Traves and others assured him that it was not in the rewritten description of Dalhousie.

Mr. Taylor stated that although in general he had enjoyed the *Globe and Mail’s* series on universities, he had been disappointed in the article on the Halifax universities. He asked if there was any discussion with the journalist or the paper prior to the printing of that article. Mr. Traves also expressed disappointment over the article. When the series was announced, enquiries had been made and the editor had said that the article had already been written, that it drew upon press sources and the “Business Plan,” and that no interviews were necessary. Other Presidents in the metro area called the paper and got the same response. Mr. Andrews observed that Howard Tennant, President of the University of Lethbridge and (he thought) Chair of AUCC, had written to the paper to praise the fine series the paper had produced. He urged the President to write to the Chair of AUCC to express Dalhousie’s disappointment with the Halifax article.

**96:01**

Honorary Degree Committee

The meeting moved in camera to consider a nomination from the Honorary Degrees Committee.

**96:012**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:15.

Minutes approved:

---

Secretary

---

Chair

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**SENATE MEETING**

SENATE met in regular session on Monday, 22 January 1996 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. C. Stuttard in the chair were the following:

Andrews, Archibald, Binkley, Kay-Raining Bird, Brett, Cameron, Camfield, Campbell, Cox, Cross, Crowell, Cummings, Dickson, Doolittle, Egan, Fraser, Hartzman, Hobson, Hooper, Kenny, Kiang, Kimmins, Lee, Lovely, Lydon, MacInnis, Maloney, Marble, McIntyre, Moore, Pacey, Ricketts, Rosson, Russell, Ruedy, Sherwin, Starnes, Sutherland, Taylor, Thomas, Traves, Wrixon.

Invitee: M. MacGillivray, Associate Registrar

Regrets: Birdsall, Bleasdale, Conrod, Klein, MacDonald, Pereira, Siddiq, Tatton.

**96:013**

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Stuttard reported that Mr. Rosson asked that item 5 --Faculty of Management Undergraduate Academic Appeals Procedures -- be deferred until another meeting. Mr. Lydon asked that a discussion "as if in the committee of the whole" on the consortium be added under "Other Business." The agenda was adopted as amended.

**96:014**

Approval of the Minutes

Under 96:010, Mr. Andrews stated that the AUCC had a "chair" and not a "president."

Under 96:0006, Mr. Lydon stated he wanted his request for a roll call vote on the motion to be noted and the chair's refusal to be indicated.

Upon motion (Andrews/Ruedy), the minutes were adopted as amended.

**96:015**

Matters Arising

Mr. Traves was invited to report on AUCC lobbying and any local lobbying efforts of which he was aware. Mr. Traves reported that he hoped to contact the Chair of AUCC soon. On the local level, Mr. Traves reported that he had met with a number of members of the cabinet. Mr. Andrews asked specifically about Mr. Traves' meeting with Mr. Dingwall. Mr. Traves reported that they had a very productive meeting although Mr. Dingwall didn't give any hints about the Federal Government's treatment of post-secondary education. However, he did report that they had talked about Dalhousie's special needs. One of the potentially important areas was possible funding for technology transfer and related areas. A follow-up proposal was being drafted.

**96:016**

Awarding of Degree -- Faculty of Dentistry

Mr. MacInnis, seconded by Mr. Ruedy, moved:

**that Marcia Urdang be awarded the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery.**

The motion CARRIED.

**96:017**

Advanced Major and Honours Certificate Proposal

On behalf of Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Ms. Binkley moved:

**that Senate adopt the Advanced Major and Honours Certificate Proposal as approved by the SCAA.**

Mr. Kimmins regretted his absence from SCAA when this proposal was discussed but noted that both the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Science were trying to encourage students to take the 20 credit rather than the 15 credit degree program. It is the fourth year that offers students more skill-based learning classes. As a result, he would like to make two amendments to the proposal. First, students should be admitted either into Advanced Major or Honours programs and not into the special student category. Mr. Kimmins said he would like to be able to track students to see if the attempt to get more to switch from the 15 credit to 20 credit Bachelor's degree was working. If all these students were embedded in the "Special Student" category, it would be difficult to identify them. Second, that students should have the option to receive their parchment at Convocation or to have it conferred *in absentia*.

It was moved (Kimmins/Cameron):

**that in section 2, the words "special student" be replaced by "advanced major or honours;" and in section 6, the current wording be replaced with "students retain the option to attend graduation or to receive their parchment *in absentia*.**

Ms. Hobson believed that it was important that the four year program become the default. Ms. MacGillivray pointed out that these students already have a BA and their degree was being upgraded to the equivalent of the Bachelor's degree with Advanced Major or Honours. Mr. Cameron agreed that technically that was correct, but if the Bachelor's and the Honours Bachelor's are separate degrees, why shouldn't students get the advanced degree if they earned it? Mr. Doolittle concurred.

Mr. Ruedy wanted to know why we had to make the change. Ms. MacGillivray pointed out that the term "certificate" now only referred to non-credit programs and these upgrades were credit programs. Mr. Ricketts cautioned the meeting against giving out two degrees and said this was more correctly described as an upgrade. Mr. Dickson wanted upgrade signified by a new parchment. Ms. McIntyre reiterated the difference between certificates and diplomas versus the proposed upgrade. She also mentioned that a student had written to the Registrar to complain that she felt that the current system of giving a bachelor's degree with an honours certificate devalued her work as a straight honours student, since upgraded students received two parchments and graduations and she got only one parchment and graduation. Ms. McIntyre felt we should send the message that the 20 credit degree was more prestigious than an up-graded 15-credit Bachelor's degree.

The motion (Ricketts/McIntyre):

**that the amendment of the motion be split to consider section 2 and section 6 separately.**

was CARRIED.

The first amendment:

**that in section 2 the words “special student” be replaced by “advanced major or honours”**

was CARRIED.

The second amendment:

**that in section 6, the current wording be replaced with “students retain the option to attend graduation or to receive their parchment *in absentia*”**

was CARRIED.

Discussion now turned to the main motion. It was suggested that students who qualified for upgraded degrees be given that degree with additional information indicating how it was achieved. Mr. Lee found it difficult to understand why this cannot be done since Masters and Doctoral degrees were both given out as separate degrees. A number of Senators tried to explain the difference reiterating that the upgrade was not a separate degree.

Mr. Cameron wondered if we should not suspend discussion and get an expert opinion on whether this was one degree with variations or a separate degree. Ms. Hobson asked what do other institutions do? Mr. Starnes asked if students had to be re-admitted to the program? Do we vote on conferring these degrees?

The assembly agreed that the motion be TABLED.

#### **96:018**

##### Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee: Report

Mr. Stuttard reported that at the last Senate meeting he had asked Senators to send him their views on the President's proposal for complement reductions and their distribution for 1996-97. He had received none. The SAPBC had discussed the issue at their last meeting and, in the absence of contrary views, agreed that the proposed distribution was appropriate.

Mr. Stuttard also reported that contrary to its original intent, complement reductions were no longer directly linked to Faculty budgets. In previous years (exact dates were not at hand), each complement reduction resulted in a reduction of \$50,000 in the Faculty budget. This was no longer the case.

Mr. Andrews said that as an individual senator he did not feel it was appropriate for him to speak to complement reduction and that there had been no joint discussion or response made by all the senate representatives from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Mr. Ruedy, one of the drafters of the new membership rules for the reformed Senate, responded that he hoped Senators saw themselves not as representatives of their Faculty but representatives of the University drawn from the Faculties based on the “populations” of the different units.

Mr. Andrews also stated that the uncoupling of complement reduction from the budget does not seem consistent with the current DFA-BOG collective agreement. Mr. Traves agreed with him. Mr. Stuttard added that this was one example of a clause in the collective agreement that might have been amended in the past three years if government interference had not blocked negotiations between the parties.

#### **96:019**



### Distance Delivery of Diploma Program in Health Services Administration

Mr. Stuttard reported for information only that the School of Health Services Administration had introduced a distance delivery option for its diploma program. The financial implications of this expansion had been reviewed and found satisfactory; and part-time instructors were appropriately qualified. As a minor change in program, this development had Faculty Council approval and did not need Senate approval.

### **96:020**

#### Report of the President

Mr. Traves circulated his report. He has separated Public Relations from The Office of the Vice-President (external), and reporting will now be directly to the President's Office. The Public Relations Department has been asked to develop a strategic plan for presenting Dalhousie's views more effectively. A search for a new Director of Public Relations will commence soon.

The Vice-President (external) will now be responsible for alumni affairs, annual fund campaign and other ongoing fundraising operations, and the Capital Campaign. The search for a Vice-President (external) will commence shortly.

Mr. Traves also said that there are no further developments to report in the government's review of the Consortium proposal. He has been meeting with a number of cabinet ministers lately to ensure that they understand Dalhousie's views on the importance of decisive action on university issues.

### **96:021**

#### Question Period

Mr. Cox asked why did Dalhousie University have to start their classes on the Thursday after Labour Day when SMU and NSCAD did not? He would like the Senate to re-think the start of classes for next year. Referring to *Robert's Rules of Order*, Mr. Lydon asked the Chair of Senate why he did not follow the accepted procedure for a roll-call vote. Mr. Lydon went on to explain that he believed that students had a right to know who voted for or against the motion for the new dates for starting classes. Mr. Stuttard replied that when any member believes that the Chair has made an erroneous ruling, the proper procedure is to challenge the Chair's ruling at that time; it cannot be challenged later.

### **96:022**

#### Consortium

In adopting the agenda, members had agreed that for this item, discussion would be "as if in the committee of the whole."

The meeting returned to normal procedure when there was a call from Mr. Lydon and Mr. Cox that the Chair apologize for not allowing a roll-call vote at the previous meeting on a motion to change academic dates for 1996-97.

In response, the Chair disclaimed expert status regarding Robert's rules, but reiterated the rule that an appeal can be made only at the time of the decision of the Chair. Following a suggestion from Mr. Cameron, the Chair agreed that if, on further examination of Robert's rules, he found that he had indeed erred in their application regarding a roll-call vote, then he would certainly be happy to apologize to the assembly.

### **96:023**

#### Honorary Degrees

The meeting moved in camera to consider nominations from the Honorary Degrees Committee.

**96:024**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 17:45.

Minutes approved.

---

Secretary

---

Chair