

Item: Senate Minutes, March 1997

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 March 1997. 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
APPROVED MINUTES
OF
SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, 10 March 1997 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

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

Adams, Andrews, Apostle, Archibald, Bleasdale, Bradfield, Brett, Cameron, Camfield, Carroll, Cherry, Clark, Coffin, Dickson, Doolittle, Farmer, Fraser, Hobson, Hooper, Kay-Raining Bird, Kiang, Kimmins, Klein, Lydon, MacInnis, MacKay, Maloney, McIntyre, Moore, Oore, Patriquin, Pereira, Rosson, Scassa, Sutherland, Taylor, Tomblin Murphy, White, Wrixon.

Regrets: Birdsall, Egan, Hartzman, Lovely, Morrissey, Ricketts, Russell, Siddiq.

97:039.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Lydon requested that item 4 be considered before item 3. The items were renumbered accordingly, and the agenda was adopted as amended.

97:040.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 24 February, 1997 were adopted as circulated.

97:041.

Matters Arising

Mr. Stuttard drew members' attention to two items: the e-mail communication of the 25th February conveying SAPBC's response to the President concerning the distribution of complement reduction; and the tables concerning the Faculty complements and proposed appointments for 1997/98, distributed with the agenda. In response to a question from Mr. Brett concerning the table on proposed appointments, Ms. Hobson clarified that the table included searches on-going or proposed as of the date indicated; it did not

include all vacancies.

97:042.

Motion from SCAA

On behalf of SCAA, Ms. Bleasdale moved:

That the name of the School of Recreation, Physical and Health Education be changed to the School of Health and Human Performance.

Mr. MacKay spoke on behalf of the students of this School who at present did not feel its title accurately reflected their studies. For example, the present title excluded the 228 Kinesiology students who constituted close to half the School. The new name would more accurately represent what the School did. Mr. Maloney highlighted the fact that the School had involved students throughout the process of considering a name change for the School, and, like the Faculty of Health Professions, the students were very supportive. The change had been considered over a long period of time, particularly in the context of the adoption of a new mission for the School and significant changes in the curricula. The Department of Education's refusal to fund the Physical Education Program had further necessitated the change in what has been a misleading name. Since its formation in 1966 the School had attempted to emphasize and focus on the link between health and human performance. The School was not suggesting a broadening of the scope of programs and degrees offered. Members were in the process of preparing advertising which would highlight and accurately reflect the School's mission. He asked Senate to understand that a myriad of names had been considered by the School and the Faculty. The proposed name seemed most appropriate.

The motion **CARRIED**.

97:043.

Motions from the Senate Steering Committee

Mr. Stuttard noted there would be a joint meeting of the Senate and Board on April 1st to create the Dalhousie University Polytechnic and to ratify the motions which emerged from Senate's deliberations today.

Mr. Stuttard reminded members of the e-mail communication concerning the proposed change in the wording of the first motion. He would ask members to consider the motions in order, and indicated that the words "Dalhousie University Polytechnic" would be inserted in each motion where appropriate.

Mr. Stuttard asked members to consider the first motion concerning the establishment of a Faculty of Computer Science:

- "(1) that a Faculty of Computer Science shall be established, effective April 1, 1997, and shall be part of the Polytechnic to be established by the amalgamated University;

and that effective April 1, 1997, the Faculty of Computer Science shall assume responsibility for the academic programs and courses (classes) currently offered by the School of Computer Science at TUNS and the Division of Computing Science of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science of Dalhousie University (i.e., Bachelor of Computer Science; Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts with (i) Major in Computing Science; (ii) Advanced Major in Computing Science (co-op/non-co-op); (iii) Honours in Computing Science (co-op/non-co-op); Master of Computer Science; Master of Science or Master of Arts in Computing Science; Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science);

and that students currently enrolled in these programs or who enrol in 1997/98 shall be entitled to complete their programs under the existing degree and program regulations of the Division/School, subject to a time limit established by Senate;

and that the Faculty of Computer Science shall report its rules and procedures to the Senate by October 1, 1997."

On behalf of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, Mr. Gupta read a statement into the minutes: "The Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science supports a separate unit of Computing Science at Dalhousie University. However this unit should have been a Department of Computing Science within the Faculty

of Science as is the case in 80% of Canadian and U.S. Universities. The faculty positions in Computing Science which are being transferred from Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science to the newly created Faculty of Computer Science at Sexton Campus, were created at the cost of Mathematics and Statistics. These positions have been taken away without compensating our truncated Department of Mathematics and Statistics and this has created several weaknesses in our department. Furthermore, moving these faculty members from

Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science to Sexton Campus is a hindrance to development of new areas in Mathematics, for example Computational Mathematics. This will have a devastating effect on the programmes in Mathematics and Statistics."

Mr. Thompson (MSCS) directed members' attention to another aspect of the motion, that which added "courses (classes)". The seriousness of this issue was indicated by the attendance of a significant number of members of the Department of Mathematics,

Statistics and Computing Science. The issue revolved around the future development of the Department. As a discipline which borders on a number of subjects, sharp divisions could not be made between the various divisions within the discipline, and the division between Mathematics and Computing Science was particularly fuzzy, to a large extent because both areas of study were rapidly developing. The result is a large number of cross-listed classes. It would be a disservice to students in the Faculty of Science if all of those cross-listed classes were controlled by a separate Faculty of Computer Science on the Sexton Campus. There were compelling reasons for many of those classes to be taught to Science students here, and equally compelling reasons for them to be classified as Mathematics, rather than Computer Science, classes. In general, they believed they had not been adequately consulted throughout the process, and were concerned that Senate think carefully before adopting the type of blanket policy suggested here. They would like to see the phrase "and course (classes)" deleted. He underlined the importance of moving carefully in determining which classes should be taught where.

Mr. Shepherd, speaking for Mr. Hartzman who sent his regrets, agreed that this was a very sensitive issue within the Department. Most of members in the Computing/Computer Science division agreed with the Mathematicians and Statisticians that they were coming out on the short end of the stick. He thanked them for their support. He recognized that the Computer Science Faculty would be responsible for Computer Science education on campus. Concerning cross-listed classes, these courses had been shared over the years, and he wished to avoid an open conflict with his colleagues over this. But for Computer Science to assume responsibility for Computer Science education at Dalhousie they would need to have responsibility for the courses (classes) to go along with the programs. They had no problem with cross-listing; however, we needed to ensure that Computer Science maintained some control over these courses.

Mr. Kimmins indicated that when the concerns over the amendment to the Steering Committee motions had been brought to him his understanding had been that this was not an exclusionary amendment. Having now heard again the concerns of Mr. Thompson and Mr. Gupta he thought the amendment needed to be reconsidered. At present, ten classes were cross-listed between Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science, primarily in the area of computation. Computation had long been an area of overlap between the two disciplines, and it would be inappropriate for one discipline to "own" computation. Of the cross-listed classes specifically in question, six were at present taught by professors in Mathematics and Statistics, and four by those in Computing Science. To protect the interests of the new Faculty and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, it appears we cannot rely on a collegial interpretation of the amendment added by Senate Steering Committee. Mr. Kimmins (Brett) moved:

That the words "and courses (classes)" be deleted.

Mr. Keast (MSCS) strongly supported the motion. As an individual whose field was Computational Mathematics he was troubled by the fact that no distinction was being made between courses which could not possibly be removed from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and other courses which might fall into a middle ground. This sweeping provision in the motion would only damage further a Department which was being gutted by this merger.

The amendment **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion, Ms. Hobson expressed concern that graduate programs were included as coming under the purview of the School of Computer Science. She would not wish to see any ambiguity on this issue.

Mr. Archibald moved (Apostle):

That the words "and in conjunction with the Faculty of Graduate Studies" be inserted before "Master of Computer Science".

In the interests of consistency, Mr. Andrews suggested the appropriate procedure would be to delete these Graduate degrees from the motion.

Mr. Klein, having quickly consulting with Mr. Kimmins, suggested that the amendment would not be acceptable to the Faculty of Science, in which case simply striking the reference to graduate degrees made most sense. Mr. Kimmins agreed, and indicated that should the amendment on the floor fail he would move a further amendment which clarified that

the Faculty of Computer Science shall offer Graduate Programs through the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Ms. Hobson explained that the status of Graduate Studies and the relationship between the Dalhousie Faculty of Graduate Studies and the one at TUNS had not yet been resolved. She considered it particularly important not to prejudice the outcome of the on-going deliberations by the wording of this motion. The current motion implied a

relationship within the University which would be unusual. Mr. Maloney assumed that if Graduate Programs were deleted we would be affirming the status quo, and he would support a motion to delete Graduate Programs. Ms. Hobson and the Associate Dean of Graduate

Studies agreed with Mr. Maloney's and Mr. Andrews' approach, and suggested that the meeting defeat the amendment on the floor. Rather than prejudge the outcome of the continuing discussions with TUNS, we could leave open the opportunity for a motion at a future date.

The amendment **FAILED**.

On the main motion, Mr. Clark drew attention to concerns expressed by students in Computer Science over their future and the future of their program of study. To raise only one matter, was the time frame of 2002 too restrictive? Would this give students

sufficient flexibility

to pursue part time studies, for example. Mr. Kimmins was a little troubled by Ms. Hobson's advice because although administrative arrangements for Graduate Programs in the Dalhousie University Polytechnic were not yet agreed, he trusted any forthcoming agreement would not be setting a precedent.

Mr. Kimmins moved (Maloney):

That the semicolon following the second"(non co-op)" become a period, and the subsequent words to the end of that paragraph be deleted.

Mr. Andrews was in sympathy with the amendment, but if the motion was considered as a whole there was reference to students currently enrolled. Would what we were doing have an impact on graduate students currently in TUNS? Mr. Stuttard indicated this would be dealt with in a future motion concerning Graduate Studies.

The amendment **CARRIED**.

Ms. Sutherland believed Mr. Clark's point was legitimate particularly in light of the co-op programs which extended a program of study to five years instead of four. That would mean there would be no flexibility for someone entering such a program in the fall of 1997.

Mr. Stuttard explained that the year 2002 had been requested by the Co-ordinator of the amalgamation, Ms. Eastman. Ms. Curri further explained that 2002 had been chosen because students usually do not choose their program when they enter. Consequently, those

entering in 1997/98 will have a year to choose. Ending in 2002 gives the current students six years. Five years is regarded as an acceptable sunset period.

Mr. Andrews wondered whether the Dalhousie University Polytechnic had been the wisest choice of name for TUNS successor. The Oxford English Dictionary indicates that Polytechnics differ from Universities in significant respects. The Gage Canadian Dictionary defined a Polytechnic as an institution which "gives instruction in technical arts and applied sciences". Mr. Stuttard reminded members that the name had been approved by the TUNS Board and the Officers of the Dalhousie Board. Speaking as a Greek scholar, Ms. Hobson noted that the term meant "many skills". Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Carroll, and Mr. Stuttard all spoke to the issue that "Polytechnic" has a different meaning in different countries.

The question was then called on the amended motion, that is:

- (1) that a Faculty of Computer Science shall be established, effective April 1, 1997, and shall be part of the Polytechnic to be established by the amalgamated University;

and that effective April 1, 1997, the Faculty of Computer Science shall assume responsibility for the academic programs currently offered by the School of Computer Science at TUNS and the Division of Computing Science of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science of Dalhousie University (i.e., Bachelor of Computer Science; Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts with (i) Major in Computing Science; (ii) Advanced Major in Computing Science (co-op/non-co-op); (iii) Honours in Computing Science (co-op/non-co-op); and that students currently enrolled in these programs or who enrol in 1997/98 shall be entitled to complete their programs under the existing degree and program regulations of the Division/School, subject to a time limit established by Senate;

and that the Faculty of Computer Science shall report its rules and procedures to the Senate by October 1, 1997.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Stuttard asked members to consider the second motion, indicating the minor changes which would be made in the final version of the motion:

- (2) that the terms of reference of the Academic Council of the Dalhousie University Polytechnic shall include, but not be limited to, provision for enquiry into all academic and research matters at the Polytechnic for the purpose of developing Polytechnic regulations and making recommendations to the Polytechnic Board and the University Senate as needed; responsibility for setting policy on academic matters rests with the Dalhousie University Senate; the Polytechnic Academic Council is responsible and accountable to Senate; and subject to the policies of the University and authority of Senate, the Polytechnic Academic Council has the responsibility to:
 1. coordinate, plan and approve recommendations on academic and research activities of the Polytechnic, including research centres primarily based in the Polytechnic;
 2. conduct quality assurance activities pertaining to academic programs;
 3. provide liaison with relevant professional accreditation bodies;
 4. establish academic priorities to assist in the allocation of the Polytechnic budget by the Polytechnic Board;
 5. participate in the planning process for the physical development of the Sexton campus to meet the needs of the academic programs and research centres;
 6. conduct relations with other universities and external agencies that

relate to the academic programs and research activities of the Polytechnic;

7. establish and promote international programs related to the academic programs and research activities of the Polytechnic;
8. make recommendations to the Principal on the administration of Cooperative Education across the Polytechnic;
9. recommend admission standards;
10. make confidential recommendations on the awarding of honorary degrees and election of honorary fellows;
11. provide guidelines and approval for credit-bearing Continuing Education courses and programs;
12. provide advice and recommendations for the Polytechnic library;
13. recommend the establishment of Polytechnic scholarships;
14. provide advice and recommendations on the establishment, elimination or reorganization of academic program and departments.

It is noted that terms of reference for the Academic Council in student discipline and academic appeals will be brought forward following consideration of these matters by an ad hoc committee established by the Steering Committees of the two Universities.

Mr. Maloney asked how item 10 fitted with Dalhousie's current Honorary Degrees approval process. Mr. Stuttard explained that it would introduce an extra step into the nominating process, but his interpretation was that approval of Honorary Degree nominees by the Academic Council would not be mandatory. Individual members of the Dalhousie University Polytechnic would be able to make individual nominations. Mr. Cameron sought clarification that item 10 suggested that the Dalhousie University Polytechnic would continue the TUNS tradition of electing fellows. Mr. Stuttard agreed with Mr. Cameron's interpretation.

Mr. Bradfield indicated that the tenor of these points was that they would be recommending actions to the Senate. But items 7 and 11 looked like matters which the Council would do themselves, without reference to Senate. He believed both functions would need to go through Senate. Mr. Stuttard explained that if any stage in a process at Dalhousie required Senate approval, then the corresponding process conducted by the Academic Council would also require Senate approval. The preamble covered this, though he asked members to keep in mind that it was the Board which gave final approval for most

matters.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Stuttard asked members to consider the third motion:

- (3) that as of April 1, 1997, membership of those Standing Committees of Senate that include elected representatives from each Faculty be amended to include one representative of each of the three new Faculties of the amalgamated University (Architecture, Computer Science, and Engineering), and corresponding ex-officio members where appropriate. The affected Senate committees are: the Academic Appeals Committee (increasing to 13 members from 10), Library Committee (22 from 18, including the Polytechnic Librarian), Nominating Committee (11 from 8), University Committee on the Environment (26 from 23), Committee on Academic Administration (38 from 30; new members to include the Principal of the Polytechnic, one student and three elected faculty in addition to three new Deans).

Mr. Clark raised concerns over academic appeals being dealt with on the Sexton Campus. Mr. Stuttard explained that Senate would remain the last level of appeal. Mr. Maloney was concerned about the growing size of SCAA. Mr. Stuttard assured him that this had been considered by Steering and was now being considered by SCAA.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Stuttard asked members to consider the fourth motion:

- (4) that the Nominating Committee shall seek nominees from the Polytechnic to fill at least one vacancy as of July 1, 1997, on each of: the Steering Committee; the Academic Priorities and Budget Committee; and the Computing and Information Technology Planning Committee (on which the Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science shall replace the Director of the Computing Science Division of the Department of Math, Stats, and Computing Science); and that new committee members elected under this provision shall have observer status (voice without vote) before July 1, 1997.

Mr. Kimmins queried the composition of the Computing and Information Technology Planning Committee. Ms. Hobson wished clarification that seeking members from the Polytechnic for these vacancies did not mean the Polytechnic had those memberships for the future. Mr. Stuttard explained that this was a courtesy for the immediate future.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Stuttard asked members to consider the fifth motion:

- (5) that representatives of the Polytechnic be elected by Senate to temporarily

increase by one the membership of the Committee on Instructional Development and, if necessary, the Physical Planning Committee for the period April 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998.

He explained that this was a temporary measure to give some representation on these two important Committees to the members of the Dalhousie University Polytechnic.

The motion **CARRIED**.

97:044.

Policy for Examination Interruptions

Ms. Bleasdale explained that this item had originated in the Registrar's Office, had been approved by SCAA, and was submitted to Senate for information.

Mr. Cameron asked for a definition of what constitutes an emergency, and Mr. Andrews asked a related question as to who had the authority to implement the policy. Ms. Bleasdale explained the nature of the circumstances which might give rise to the need to terminate an

examination prematurely. Mr. Kimmins thought there had been additional background information circulated at SCAA which had helped that Committee come to agreement on this recommendation; that information would have been of assistance to Senators also. Ms.

Bleasdale was unaware of background information circulated, other than that which had been part of the original motion submitted to SCAA, and had been deleted to produce the version of the motion before Senators.

Mr. Clark was concerned about the setting of a precise time in a examination at which the policy could kick in, since, for example, the value of the first hour varied depending on the nature of the examination. Item 2 was open to possible abuse. Ms. McIntyre explained that SCAA had spent considerable time addressing this issue. Most of the members of SCAA had focussed on ensuring a reasonable and fair way of proceeding, while maintaining a balance

with what was practicable. SCAA had been assured that the University had policies in place for dealing with such emergencies should they arise. The meeting had been well attended, students had had considerable input into the deliberations, and the policy here resulted from careful deliberations. Mr. Cherry reiterated other members concerns, and asked whether students would make their decisions before or after the examination had been graded. There was no response from SCAA members.

Mr. Cameron remained troubled by the uncertainty in important areas, and moved:

"That the Policy on Examination Interruptions be referred back to SCAA."

Mr. Clark asked whether we had any policy on examination interruptions at present, and wondered whether Senate could decide to let this policy stand for this examination period, with the understanding that it would be reviewed subsequently. Mr. Stuttard responded that Senate was all powerful. Ms. Tomblin-Murphy was troubled by the discrepancy between Mr. Kimmins' and Ms. Bleasdale's descriptions of existing background material. Rather than send the motion back to SCAA who had done their job, she preferred to have the background material brought to the next Senate meeting and have the decision made then. Mr. Kimmins summarized the points raised at the meeting, but was uncomfortable with the fact that at present the University had no policy in this area. That left professors to make unilateral decisions concerning interruptions, and that was not sufficient protection for the students and the standards of the University.

The motion **CARRIED**.

97:045.

Question Period

Mr. Bradfield asked that Senate be assured procedures were in place to prevent a repeat of the process by which an employee had defrauded the University of \$144,000.

Mr. Clark conveyed the concerns of students in the Faculty of Science that their three-year degree was on the way out in the near future. Mr. Kimmins responded that the Faculty Council and the Faculty of Science as a whole had approved a motion to rename the existing degree the B.Sc. General Degree. That motion would also be considered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, and if the two Faculties were in agreement, it would go to the College. Mr. Clark noted the difficulty some candidates had experienced in communicating with their fellow students during the just ended DSU election period. He wondered whether we had ever

considered the idea of establishing mailboxes for students within all Faculties. Finally, Mr. Clark asked why the University had not been closed in the very dangerous conditions of last Thursday. Ms. Hobson understood that there was a long-standing tradition that the University never closes, but she trusted individual faculty members would give students some latitude if they missed a test due to the weather. Mr. Stuttard indicated that the Steering Committee would consider this matter.

97:046.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

