

Item: Senate Minutes, December 1998

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 December 1998. 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, 14 December 1998, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

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

Apostle, Bell, Binkley, Bishop, Bleasdale, Bradfield, Carlson, Coffin, Connolly, Crocker, Cunningham, El-Hawary, Emodi, Faulkner, Fooladi, Furrow, Galley, Girard, Guppy, Ipson, Johnston, Lee, MacDonald, MacInnis, Maes, McIntyre, McNiven, Neumann, C. Powell, H. Powell, Rathwell, Rosson, Russell, Rutherford, Sastri, Scully, Shafai, Shepherd, Slonim, Starnes, Thiessen, Traves, Ugursal, Vohra, Wallace, White, Woolf.

Regrets: Abi Daoud, Barnes, Clements, Giacomantonio, Kipouros, McConnell, Pacey, Tindall.

98:146.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Stuttard requested that item 6 initially be considered informally as if in Committee of the Whole; this was agreed and the Agenda was adopted as circulated.

98:147.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of 23 November, 1998, were adopted as circulated.

98:148.

Nomination to Senate Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That Senate approve the nomination of Ms. Susan Holmes to serve as the Henson College representative on the Senate Committee on Instructional Development for the term December 1998 to June 2000.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:149.

Redesignation of Areas of Special Emphasis

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard presented the motion:

That Health Studies and Ocean Studies be redesignated as Areas of Special Emphasis at Dalhousie.

Mr. Powell supported the motion, but wished to draw attention to the item in the document which stipulated that during the first year the theme would be quality and inter-professional education. He wondered whether currently there was any formal inter-professional education between the medical students and nursing students, for example; and asked that at the end of the first year the Deans bring to Senate examples of this type of cooperation at the pre-licensing level. Ms. McIntyre noted that the Faculty of Health Professions had had three years of inter-professional learning and had completed a three-year review of that work. Every student in every year of the undergraduate program, and graduate students, were exposed to multiple modules of inter-professional learning: as many as 400 students engaged in a series of three-hour modules covering a wide range of relevant issues through problem-based learning, with tutors and facilitators from the three Faculties and from the community. The proposal for this year was to create a blueprint for a pro-active rather than reactive response. This type of teaching was time-intensive, but very creative and successful, and was being written up in the literature. Mr. MacInnis indicated that the Faculty of Dentistry supported this initiative and were happy to have participated. He would be happy to share results at the end of the year.

Mr. McNiven noted that when these areas of special emphasis had first been proposed there had been discussion of a modest tilting of funds in hard times towards these particular activities, and that somehow the designation itself would increase the research funding and activity in these areas. Had anything meaningful resulted from these designations? Mr. Traves observed that these designations built on an inventory of existing programs and capacities, which meant they were already areas of special emphasis in light of the numbers of individuals researching, teaching, and studying in them. The purpose was to be able to point to this type of inventory when commenting on our areas of emphasis. Our budgeting process worked largely through the budget envelopes, and the decisions made concerning allocation of additional resources were fundamentally made in each Faculty. The designation alerted the relevant Faculties to their strengths, which then helped guide their budgeting decisions. In effect, the Faculties themselves had slowly and creatively adopted funding positions and activities in these areas. Adding to the President's comments, Ms. Russell noted that another inter-Faculty initiative, the Health Law Institute, started in 1991, had attracted external funding and had helped to bring teaching services into Dentistry, Medicine, and Health Professions, from the legal and bio-ethics perspective.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:150.

Names of Undergraduate Degrees in the Faculty of Health Professions

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Stuttard presented the motion:

That Senate approve the name modifications to the following Health Professions programs:

Bachelor of Science in Health Education to Bachelor of Science (Health Education), and Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy to Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy).

Mr. Stuttard explained that these proposals were intended to regularize the designations of degrees in the

Faculty of Health Professions. Since the Faculty of Science had decided to designate the BSc three-year degree as having no major attached to it, Mr. Bradfield asked whether the Faculty of Health Professions degrees were three-year or four-year programs. If these were three-year degrees, there could be some confusion with BSc four-year honours or major degrees. Ms. McIntyre responded that the BSc (Health Education) was a four-year degree, while the BSc. (Pharmacy) required one year of university then four more years.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:151.

Academic Costume for MITE

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Stuttard presented the motion

That Senate approve that the academic costume colours for the Master of Information Technology Education (MITE) be teal green satin with white border and gold satin piping.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:152.

Name Change for Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computing Science

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Stuttard presented the motion:

That the name of the "Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computing Science" be changed to the "Department of Mathematics and Statistics".

The motion was **CARRIED**.

98:153.

Report from SCITPC: A Strategy for the use of information technology in teaching and learning at Dalhousie

This item was considered as if in Committee of the Whole. At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair noted that the SCITPC looked forward to the Faculties' responses to its report.

98:154.

Report of the President

The President began his Report by congratulating members of the University community, particularly those in the Counselling Centre whose efforts at improving the quality of counselling had been rewarded with a grant of \$365,000 from the Counselling Foundation Canada. Spread over three years, the grant would allow for a Career-Counsellor Information Specialist full time to develop the resources of the Frank G. Lawson Career Information Centre. It would also allow for development of an interactive website; a Career Speakers Series; associated and possibly marketable career tapes; and up-dating of facilities.

Mr. Traves informed Senators that a proposal for the creation of a School to house a new program in Biomedical Engineering had gone forward to the Faculty of Engineering and Medicine, and together with the program proposal would be working its way to Senate in the new year. He was also pleased to report

that the Government of Nova Scotia had passed the Health Research Foundation Act which would create a Health Research Foundation in Nova Scotia, funded in the first instance by an annual grant of \$5 mil and intended to promote health research, much of which would be done by Dalhousie faculty and students. In other research-related news, the President had agreed to serve as representative of the provincial Universities on a new forum sponsored by the Nova Scotia Government to promote research development and innovation in Nova Scotia. He trusted this forum would identify a few key strategic areas in which additional public investment in research and development activities were warranted.

The President was also delighted to report that the 1998/99 mid-year Operating Budget Review projected that, barring unforeseen circumstances, the University would have a surplus of over \$800,000 in this fiscal year. Before the President recommended to the Board how these funds should finally be allocated, he wished to have some feedback from Senators. This surplus resulted from a larger than expected enrolment growth this year. These funds would be folded into our base budget allocations for next year; however, at this time we had the opportunity to address a small number of strategic and pressing needs with one time only expenditures. In the past, these unexpected strokes of good fortune had largely gone to reduce our accumulated debt, but as a result of strong financial management over the past few years that need not be our sole concern. The President had considered divergent expressions of opinion from the BAC, the Board's Operations Committee, the DFA Executive, the Senate Computing and Information Technology Planning Committee, as well as noting the numerous issues raised by the campus community during the recent round of consultations by Vice-President Scully and himself. The President had also intended by now to have solicited input from the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, but had only recently managed to convey that message to the Committee. He would delay a final decision until he received SAPBC feedback, provided they could respond in a timely manner. He would also appreciate Senators' feedback on a tentative proposal to allocate these funds to four areas which deserved attention at this time.

The President summarized his reasons for recommending division of the surplus among the following high-priority areas of the University's operations: \$225,000 to Library collections; \$250,000 for Academic Information Technology infrastructure; \$225,000 for the Faculty of Computer Science; and \$120,000 held in reserve to offset any unexpected downturns between now and the end of the budget year. Any sums remaining in the last category would be applied to debt reduction at the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Bleasdale offered an alternative use for some of the \$120,000. At the request of the Student Senators, she circulated a letter from the DSU VP Community Services, Mr. Dean Naugler, and spoke to its contents. The student representatives were concerned about a proposal to be considered at the upcoming meeting of SCAA, December 16th. That proposal was for approval of an Academic Calendar for 1999/2000 which would have the effect of cutting another day from Fall Orientation. One of the casualties of this cutback to Orientation would most likely be the time students could devote to raising funds to fight Cystic Fibrosis through their Shinerama campaign. This involvement in community service had traditionally been important to students' Orientation, and to the University's relations with the larger Halifax community. Should SCAA recommend to Senate this change to Orientation, and should that change be subsequently approved by Senate, Ms. Bleasdale suggested that we immediately set aside a sum of money which would compensate for any loss to the fund-raising efforts of our students. In so doing the University would also demonstrate its appreciation of the energies which students had devoted to this public service.

Mr. Bradfield regretted that the memorandum sent to the Board's Operations Committee had not been sent to Senators in advance of this meeting so they could consider their advice to the President. He personally wished to see a larger share of the funds shifted to Library collections. Mr. Bradfield also noted that

before the revelation of this \$800,000 surplus, the budget had been showing a surplus of several million dollars as a result of the pension holiday. That did not show up as a surplus because it was already channelled to pay off the debt. An email of the previous Friday had indicated that the pension holiday would be extended, suggesting there was in excess of \$1 mil of additional surplus from the pension holiday. Mr. Traves' understanding was that we had a negotiated arrangement with employee groups on the distribution of the surplus, and that the agreement called for periodic actuarial appraisals of the state of the surplus. Mr. Roughneen's recent memorandum had indicated that we appeared to have sufficient funds to move forward into the next stage of distribution. Mr. Bradfield explained he was simply noting that a large fraction of the savings from the pension holiday went to paying down the debt. This bolstered the case for allocating more of the \$800,000 to the Libraries rather than the debt.

Mr. Woolf had no quarrel with the general categories suggested by Mr. Traves, but supported the idea of shifting a larger share of the surplus to the Libraries. He asked the University Librarian, Mr. Maes, if he could indicate how the funds would be used. Mr. Maes responded that the proposed \$225,000 would allow the University Libraries to remain where they had been in the last fiscal year. As many members would appreciate, the devaluation of the dollar had increased the strain on the budget for both books and periodicals, already under serious pressure in most disciplines. The proposed allocation would probably go towards journals.

Speaking on behalf of SCITPC, Mr. Christie welcomed the proposed additional funding. When the Committee had attempted to arrive at a figure representing the funding needed for the next year it had known that \$1.75 mil was a very conservative estimate, but that even that amount would be difficult to find. Mr. Ugursal suggested that one way of approaching the allocation of this money would be to disburse it on the basis of last out, first in. The last items cut from the budget could be put back in.

On another matter, Mr. Sastri noted that in reading the speech given by Sir Graham Day to the Commonwealth Universities, which had generated controversy at previous meetings, he had been surprised by the numerous solecisms, and found it strange that a speech on the future of universities should be so poorly written.

98:155.

Question Period

Ms. Binkley wondered why Orientation could not start on the Saturday rather than the Sunday before the commencement of classes? Mr. Naugler noted that he had suggested this, but been informed that the University rented out the Student Residences over the summer and required the Saturday before Labour Day to clean and prepare the rooms for students. Mr. Crocker asked how much of the money raised through Shinerama stayed in the Maritimes for research funding. Mr. Naugler responded that all money went directly to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Head Office in Toronto, but was used strictly for research.

Mr. Galley added that starting Orientation on Saturday would create considerable inconvenience for the large number of Dalhousie students and their parents who came from outside the province, many of them travelling 17 or 18 hours by car. He reminded Senators that as recently as three years ago Orientation had commenced on the Monday before classes which began one week later. Mr. Traves indicated that Mr. McKee would engage in further discussions with the students concerning how to accommodate the time lost from Orientation activities. He suggested the University might eliminate the half-day Orientation Convocation ceremony. He did not know whether this would address the issue of Shinerama, but it would free up another half day. The President considered Orientation an important part of our welcome to new students as they adjusted to University life and the city, and made important social connections.

New students need to feel attached to the University and settled before beginning classes.

Given the differences of opinion as to how to implement IT at Dalhousie, Mr. Connolly asked how funds allocated to IT would be spent. Mr. Traves responded that he would consult with the Chair of SCITPC, the Director of Academic Computing, and the Director of the Office of Instructional Development and Technology. His current understanding was that there was a strong need for classroom renovations to accommodate a variety of media now available. Mr. Stuttard pointed out that SAPBC would be considering the suggested allocation of funds on December 21st.

Mr. Bradfield asked whether the University could still expect to receive the full amount of the Whittaker Foundation grant for Biomedical Engineering, in light of the delay in reaching agreement on important aspects of the new program. Mr. Traves believed we would receive the original sum.

Mr. Coffin announced that Mr. Burnside, Vice-President (Academic) for the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, had been seconded for genetics research in Quebec, and would be leaving the College as of December 31st. Dr. Bruce Gray would be Acting Vice-President (Academic).

98:156.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary

Chair