

Item: Senate Minutes, May 1999
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, May 3, 1999, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

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

Barnes, Belanger, Bell, Binkley, Bishop, Bradfield, Brett, Carlson, Coffin, Connolly, Cunningham, El-Hawary, Emodi, Faulkner, Flagel, Flood, Fooladi, Furrow, Galley, Giacomantonio, Girard, Guppy, Ipson, Johnston, Kimmins, Kipouros, Lee, MacInnis, MacKenzie, Maes, McIntyre, McNiven, Pacey, H. Powell, Rathwell, Ricketts, Rutherford, Scully, Shepherd, Tindall, Traves, Vohra, White.

Regrets: Apostle, Bleasdale, Clements, Hyndman, MacAulay, MacDonald, Maloney, McConnell, Phillips, Rosson, Russell, Shafai, Starnes, Wainwright, Whyte.

99:047.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Stuttard noted that item 4 was from the Steering Committee; also there would not be a second question period (listed as item 9), nor a President's Report. The amended agenda was then adopted.

99:048.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of March 22 and April 12, 1999, were approved as circulated.

99:049.

Question Period

Mr. Bradfield expressed surprise that there was to be no President's report, given the extensive travelling recently done by the President; he then posed a question arising from the annual report of the DFA's representation on the Association-Board Committee: does Dalhousie have a policy regarding the retention of salary by a senior administrator returning to the DFA's bargaining unit, and does that salary include the administrative stipend?

With respect to the lack of a President's report, Mr. Traves explained that he and Mr. Fournier had travelled extensively for about one week in South America, a part of the world from which Dalhousie could greatly benefit, given that region's educational needs; indeed, in September this year, Argentina would be hosting an international education fair. They had met with 98 people and had explored a number of options, including the great opportunities regarding recruitment of students, both undergraduate and graduate, and in the formation of research partnerships. He would be checking with

Deans regarding their follow-up on the contacts made by himself and Mr. Fournier. As to the question of administrative salaries, anyone taking a position outside the bargaining unit could negotiate salary changes for themselves. On return to the bargaining unit the only part of the salary which was not retainable was the stipend specifically associated with the duties of the administrative position.

99:050.

Senate Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the following people be appointed to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee:

Ingrid Sketris, College of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health Professions, for the term May 1, 1999–August 31, 2000, and Paul Amyotte, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, for the term September 1, 1999–August 31, 2002; and

that Faye Woodman, Faculty of Law and James Holloway, Department of Spanish, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences be reappointed, each for the term September 1, 1999–August 31, 2002.

The motion was CARRIED.

99:051.

Approval of Degrees: NSAC

Mr. Stuttard invited Mr. Coffin, the Principal of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, to propose the approval of the awarding of degrees. Mr. Coffin moved:

That Senate approve the list of 117 candidates submitted for the degree of B.Sc. in Agriculture, and 2 candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Technology in Landscape Horticulture to be awarded at the NSAC Convocation on May 7, 1999.

The motion was CARRIED.

On behalf of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mr. Ricketts moved:

That Senate approve the list of 9 candidates submitted for the degree M.Sc. in Agriculture.

The motion was CARRIED.

Mr. Rutherford moved:

That the Principal and the Registrar of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and the Dean of Dalhousie's Faculty of Graduate Studies where appropriate, in consultation with the Chair of Senate, be authorized to amend the graduation list to correct any errors or omissions discovered before the Convocation; and and that each amendment and its explanation be reported to the Senate.

The motion was CARRIED.

99:052.

Motion re Naming of B.A. and B.Sc. Degrees (SCAA)

Mr. Stuttard presented the following motion from SCAA regarding the names of the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees:

That the name of the three-year B.Sc. Major be changed to B.Sc. (fifteen credits) and the name of the four-year B.Sc. Advanced Major degree be changed to B.Sc. (twenty credits) with a Major in XXXX; and that on the official transcripts these degrees be described as B.Sc. (15 credits, 90 credit hours) and B.Sc. Major (20 credits, 120 credit hours); and

That the name of the three-year B.A. Major be changed to B.A. (Fifteen credits) and the name of the four-year B.A. Advanced Major be changed to B.A. (Twenty credits) with a Major in XXXX; and that on the official transcripts these degrees be described as B.A. (15 credits, 90 credit hours) and B.A. Major (20 credits, 120 credit hours); and

That the parchment for the fifteen-credit B.Sc. degree read "Bachelor of Science", and the parchment for the twenty-credit B.Sc. degree read "Bachelor of Science, Major in XXXX; and

That the parchment for the fifteen-credit B.A. degree read, "Bachelor of Arts", and the parchment for the twenty-credit B.A. degree read "Bachelor of Arts, Major in XXXX; and

That implementation of these changes shall be effective September 1, 2000.

Mr. Bradfield asked whether the changes would apply only to students newly registering at Dalhousie in September 1, 2000. Mr. Stuttard responded that the usual principle would be followed; namely, that when an academic rule was changed, it applied only to students entering the affected program(s) after the implementation of the rule. Mr. Bradfield nevertheless felt that a "grandfather" clause should be added to the motion. Mr. Kimmins agreed and proposed an amendment to add the words "**for newly registered students**" after "September 1, 2000."

The amendment was CARRIED.

Mr. Lee asked whether the Departments would still will have authority to specify credits required for the

degree. Mr. Kimmins replied that only the names of the degrees were being changed, not the rules for those degrees. Thus, at the end of their first year, students pursuing a three-year degree would still be asked to designate an area of concentration in which they would need to fulfil the minimum credit requirements over the next two years, but this concentration would simply no longer be called a “major”.

The amended motion was then CARRIED.

99:053.

Ombudsperson’s Report (SCAA)

On behalf of the SCAA, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the 1997/98 Ombudsperson's Annual Report be accepted.

With reference to page 3 of the Report regarding student awareness, Mr. Bradfield asked whether the Ombudsperson’s office was linked to Dalhousie’s home page on the World Wide Web. The outgoing Ombudsperson, Ms. Hamblin, believed that some directional information about the Ombudsperson’s Office was included, but not a detailed description of the operation of the office. She would raise this with the keepers of Dal’s web page. Mr. Kimmins recalled a question he had raised at SCAA regarding the presentation of data to permit the identification of each unit involved. He recognized that the numbers were small, but any access to data that would allow an analysis regarding statistical trends would be beneficial to individual Faculties. Ms. Hamblin confirmed that the data now included Faculty affiliation of students seeking assistance, and that access to data for previous years would be available. On behalf of the Senate and the 96 students who had used the service in the past year, Mr. Traves thanked the Ombudsperson for helping to make Dalhousie a better and more open place in which to work and learn. In return, Ms. Hamblin announced that she had greatly enjoyed her service in the Office, but was now graduating and would be stepping down from the position of Ombudsperson. She introduced her successor, Ms. Fatina Elkurdi.

99:054.

Joint Dal-King’s Combined Honours B.A./B.Sc. (History of Science & Technology & another subject from FASS or Faculty of Science (SAPBC)

On behalf of the SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the proposed program, a joint Dalhousie-King’s College combined honours B.A./B.Sc. in the History of Science and Technology and another Arts and Social Sciences or Science honours subject be approved with the following conditions:

- 1. The payment by King’s to Dalhousie of a per-student annual administration fee, indexed to the Consumer Price Index, for all King’s students in the History of Science and Technology program;**
- 2. The inclusion of King’s History of Science and Technology program students in the formula for calculating the compensation for teaching provided by Dalhousie to King’s, with appropriate credit for teaching**

of Dalhousie students in King's History of Science and Technology program classes; and

3. An assurance that Dalhousie will not suffer a loss of revenue as a result of the History of Science and Technology program enrolments and class registrations.

The motion was CARRIED.

99:055.

B.A. (Honours in Philosophy with emphasis on Cognitive Science)

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Stuttard moved:

That the proposed program, B.A. (Honours in Philosophy with emphasis on Cognitive Science) be approved.

Mr. Shepherd pointed to some errors in class numbers listed in the proposal and asked whether they should be corrected now or submitted later to the Senate Office. Mr. Brett believed that the errors would not materially affect the program and could be corrected after this meeting. The Chair undertook to ensure the corrections were in place before the proposal went to the Board and MPHEC.

The motion was then CARRIED.

99:056.

M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Medical Science

The Chair read the following motion from the SAPBC:

That the proposals for M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree programs in Medical Sciences be approved on condition that the Faculty of Medicine shall make a base budget transfer of \$2,000 to the Library budget in 1999/2000 to cover the estimated costs of document deliveries; and base budget transfer to the Faculty of Graduate Studies in 2001/2002 to cover the anticipated costs of Ph.D. external examiners.

Ms. McIntyre noted a comment in the draft SAPBC minutes that Medical Residents would pay thesis-only fees, but for ERBA purposes they would be treated as regular students, resulting in revenue to the Faculty of Medicine in excess of actual tuition fees paid. In her view, it was unacceptable for other Faculties to subsidize the Faculty of Medicine in this way to the extent of some \$45,000. Mr. Scully agreed this was an anomaly which needed to be corrected through a review of the ERBA structure. Mr. El-Hawary asked whether the figure of \$2,550 for the cost of each external examiner for Ph.D. candidates would include an honorarium. Mr. Ricketts confirmed it would.

Mr. Pacey proposed an amendment to the motion:

That the transfer of ERBA funds to the Faculty of Medicine shall not exceed

the tuition fee income.

Mr. Traves was prepared to agree with the amendment, as was Mr. Scully who proposed that if the amendment was carried, the same provision ought to be extended to the Master of Applied Science in Biomedical Engineering, approved by Senate at its last meeting. However, Mr. Stuttard pointed out that another motion would be required if the Senate wished to make that extension.

Mr. McNiven expressed concern that the ERBA had been formula-driven for the past ten years and should not be amended in one Senate meeting for one particular program without proper debate on the subject, unless any proposed change would be easy to do. Mr. Traves believed that the ERBA formula could be changed, but he and Mr. Scully would consult with Mr. Christie (Office of Institutional Affairs) and if any problems appeared they would return to Senate for a reconsideration. Mr. Ricketts was opposed to the amendment and called for it to be defeated. He believed it would put financial restrictions on this particular program while several other programs continued to generate ERBA income. This anomaly should be treated separately in a more general motion, such as one requesting a review of the ERBA process. To make the suggested restriction now would be unfair. At this point, the Chair recognized that one of the proponents of the proposal, Mr. Tim Lee, had arrived for the discussion. Mr. Lee agreed with Mr. Ricketts' contention that a revision of ERBA be done later and not be applied to programs retroactively. The present program proposal should not be penalized for raising the issue. To do so could well jeopardize an important opportunity for the Faculty of Medicine to catch up with other Canadian Medical Schools in the provision of research training for Residents. Mr. Traves reconsidered the amendment and proposed that it should be defeated. He undertook to report to the next meeting of Senate on a review of the ERBA.

Mr. Kimmins suggested that the proposed amendment be withdrawn. Hearing no opposition, the Chair declared the proposed amendment withdrawn.

The unamended motion was then CARRIED.

99:057.

Pension Trust Fund and Retiree's Fund Report

This report was presented to the Senate for information. Mr. Traves commented that the reported rates of return on investments in both funds had been substantial and were most welcome. However, he noted that investment values could also fall, sometimes dramatically, as seen last September, but he was pleased to note that Dalhousie's funds had now recovered from their earlier drop.

99:058.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.