

Item: Senate Minutes, May 2000

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

SENATE met in regular session on Thursday, May 18, 2000, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

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

Barnes, Benoit, Binkley, Bleasdale, Bradfield, Carlson, Cote, Crocker, Cunningham, Eaton, Emodi, Farrell, Furrow, Girard, Ipson, Jalilvand, Kay-Raining Bird, Kimmins, Kipouros, Lee, Lohmann, MacAulay, N. MacDonald, R. MacDonald, MacInnis, Maloney, McConnell, Pacey, Palermo, H. Powell, Ricketts, Russell, Sastri, Slonim, Tindall, Traves, Wallace, White, Whyte.

Regrets: Bell, Giacomantonio, Johnston, B. MacDonald, McAlister, McIntyre, C. Powell, Rathwell, Ugursal.

Invitees: Gudrun Curri, Registrar

2000:45.

Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as circulated.

2000:46.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings of April 17, 2000 and May 1, 2000 were approved as circulated.

2000:47.

Matters Arising: Median Grades

Ms. Binkley moved:

That during the academic year 1999/2000 median grades will not be produced.

Ms. Binkley regretted the necessity of moving this motion, given the importance of median grades to many students, but her investigation of the possibility of providing medians through Faculty offices had concluded that the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences lacked the resources to do so efficiently, accurately and quickly. Since medians would not be provided centrally, through the Registrar's Office, she had little choice but to move this motion. Ms. MacAulay asked whether there would be any means by which those students requiring median grades in connection with applications for further study or employment could secure them. The Deans of Law, Computer Science and Architecture reported that they would be able to

make median grades available to students. Dean Ricketts reminded members that the Faculty of Graduate Studies saw many transcripts and that many institutions across Canada and the United States did not produce median grades. Dean Kimmins reported that the Faculty of Science would post a notice on its web site indicating how students could receive median grades for classes taken this year, but not in previous years. Ms. Raining-Bird believed that Senate had already devoted more than sufficient time to this item and urged the discussions cease. She noted that the appropriate individuals had made a commitment to solving the problem, and members could be confident it would be solved.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2000:48.

Question Period

Ms. MacAulay received Ms. Curri's assurance that the median grade issue would not be forgotten.

Mr. Bradfield noted that those in attendance at the May 17, 2000 meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Science had been informed that staff in the Registrar's Office, together with those in a number of Deans' offices, had been required to spend considerable overtime manually determining which students were eligible to graduate. Was this unusual, a function of Banner, or both? Ms. Curri responded that over the past ten years the Registrar's Office had used a software package to assist in assessing eligibility for graduation. The switch to Banner had necessitated the purchase of an auxiliary package, but that package failed to work despite numerous attempts. Addressing this problem was a high priority. Although Ms. Curri would not be Registrar as of June 1, 2000, she cautioned Senators that the Registrar's Office would not be able to go through the same type of manual calculations for the next Convocation. Ms. Curri wished to thank Ms. Douglas in particular for her efforts in this area.

Ms. Bleasdale asked whether Dalhousie would be buying back the DARS software system previously used for the necessary computer calculations of students' academic standing. That would be costly, but it might be the most straight forward method of proceeding. Ms. Curri indicated that the Banner Steering Committee was considering this option, but had not made a final decision.

2000:49.

Awarding of Degrees – All Faculties

Ms. Bleasdale suggested that someone move a formal vote of thanks to the staff in the Registrar's Office and a number of Faculty offices for the enormous amount of overtime they had put in, under very difficult circumstances, to ensure that all eligible students were included on this year's graduation list in time for Convocation. Given that staff had been required to calculate graduation eligibility manually in a very short period of time, and given the possibility that they would not have time in the next few days to confirm those calculations, Ms. Bleasdale was concerned about the potential for an unusually high number of errors. Before approving degrees and diplomas for students from the various Faculties, should Senators consider what steps might be taken to avoid embarrassment to students and Dalhousie arising from possible errors to the graduation lists. Was a special motion addressing this necessary? Mr. Traves suggested this might be dealt with under the general enabling motion which gave the Registrar and appropriate Dean, in consultation with the Chair of Senate, the authority to add or subtract names from the Convocation lists. Mr. Stuttard pointed out that the motion to which Mr. Traves referred only applied to errors or omissions discovered prior to the relevant Convocation. At the appropriate time, Senators might wish to pass a special motion covering students who graduated but were subsequently discovered not to

have fulfilled all the requirements for the degree or diploma awarded.

Mr. Stuttard then called on the Deans or their representatives to present the numbers of individuals approved for degrees and diplomas within each Faculties.

College of Arts and Science

Ms. Binkley, Provost of the College of Arts and Science, recommended the following degrees and diplomas:

Bachelor of Arts	389
(Distinction 12; Honours 46; First Class Honours 47; Adv. Major 88)	
Bachelor of Arts Advanced Major Conversion	6
(Distinction 1)	
Bachelor of Arts Honours Conversion.....	8
(Honours 5; First Class Honours 3)	
Diploma in Costume Studies	15
Bachelor of Education	1
Bachelor of Music.....	7
Bachelor of Science	357
(Distinction 22; Honours 59; First Class Honours 40; Adv. Major 127)	
Bachelor of Science Advanced Major Conversion.....	15
Bachelor of Science Honours Conversion	2
(Honours 1; First Class Honours 1)	
Diploma in Meteorology.....	8
	TOTAL 808

Faculty of Architecture

Mr. Emodi reported that there were no BEDS for the Spring 2000 Convocation.

Faculty of Computer Science

On behalf of the Faculty of Computer Science, Dean Slonim recommended degrees be awarded as follows:

Bachelor of Computer Science	53
Bachelor of Science	32
	TOTAL 85

Faculty of Dentistry

On behalf of the Faculty of Dentistry, Mr. MacInnis recommended degrees and diplomas be awarded as follows:

Doctor of Dental Surgery.....	34
(Distinction 3)	
Diploma in Dental Hygiene	38
	TOTAL 72

Faculty of Engineering

On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering, Mr. G. Kipouros recommended degrees and diplomas be awarded as follows:

Bachelor of Engineering	235
(Distinction 5)	
Diploma in Engineering.....	2
	Total 237

Faculty of Health Professions

On behalf of the Faculty of Health Professions and Dean McIntyre, Mr. L. Maloney recommended degrees and diplomas be awarded as follows:

Bachelor of Science (Nursing)	
Basic (Distinction 4)	90
Post RN	12
Bachelor of Physical Education.....	1
Bachelor of Physical Education/Bachelor of Education.....	1
Bachelor of Recreation	23
(Distinction 2)	
Bachelor of Science in Health Education	17
(Distinction 3; University Medal 1)	
Bachelor of Science (Kinesiology).....	54
(Distinction 2)	
Bachelor of Science (Kinesiology) - Honours.....	17
(Distinction 4)	
Diploma in Health Services Administration.....	15
Bachelor of Science (Physiotherapy).....	45
(Distinction 2; University Medal 1)	
Bachelor of Social Work.....	39
(Distinction 9)	
Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy	65
(Distinction 12; University Medal 1)	
Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy).....	49
(Distinction 9; Honours 2; First Class Honours 8; University Medal 1)	
	TOTAL 428

Faculty of Law

On behalf of the Faculty of Law, Dean Russell recommended degrees be awarded as follows:

Bachelor of Laws	149
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Faculty of Management

On behalf of the Faculty of Management, Dean Jalilvand recommended degrees and diplomas be awarded

as follows:

Bachelor of Commerce	144
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Faculty of Medicine

On behalf of the Faculty of Medicine, Ms. MacDonald recommended the following degrees:

Doctor of Medicine	87
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Faculty of Graduate Studies

Mr. Ricketts advised Senate that at present it was necessary to withhold the name of one student who had completed all the requirements for the M.Sc.

On behalf of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mr. Ricketts then recommended degrees be awarded as follows:

Doctor of Philosophy	28
Master of Laws	5
Bachelor of Laws and Master of Business Administration	5
Bachelor of Laws/Master of Library and Information Studies	2
Bachelor of Laws and Master of Health Services Administration	1
Master of Arts	19
Master of Business Administration.....	57
Master of Development Economics.....	2
Master of Environmental Studies	7
Master of Electronic Commerce	1
Master of Education.....	1
Master of Health Services Administration.....	9
Master of Science.....	64
Master of Nursing	12
Master of Social Work.....	20
Master of Marine Management.....	1
Master of Information Technology Education.....	16
Master of Library and Information Studies	17
Master of Public Administration.....	28
Graduate Diploma of Public Administration	2
Master of Science (NSAC)	4

DalTech - Graduate Degrees

Master of Urban/Rural Planning (MURP).....	2
Master of Architecture (First Professional)	13

Master of Applied Science.....	14
Master of Engineering	12
Master of Computer Science.....	12

TOTAL 354

Ms. Binkley moved:

That the appropriate Dean or the Provost of the College of Arts and Science, and the Registrar, in consultation with the Chair of Senate, be authorized to amend the graduation list to correct any errors or omissions discovered before the relevant Convocations; and that each amendment and its explanation be reported to Senate.

In light of the earlier discussion concerning the difficulty of checking all lists in time for the Convocations, Mr. Traves moved an amendment:

That "and after" be added after "before".

Ms. Bleasdale asked whether it would be advisable to specify a time limit for the deletion of names under the mechanism set out in this motion. Once the time limit had expired, Senate could revert to the normal provisions for rescinding of a degree. Mr. Traves did not consider a time limit necessary. This was a general enabling motion and administrators would act with discretion. Mr. Tindall did not believe the amendment addressed the problem. The conferring of a degree was a serious matter, and the taking back of a degree equally so, requiring a formal action which reflected that seriousness. Senate should deal with any problems through the normal mechanism of rescinding. Ms. MacAulay thought that the motion should specify a time limit, and welcomed any suggestions as to what would be appropriate. Mr. Jalilvand thought a time limit inappropriate since any errors would need to be acted upon as and whenever they arose. Based on previous Convocations, Ms. Curri was confident that errors would be minimal. She agreed that taking back a degree was a very serious matter, and she favoured rescinding rather than the proposed amendment.

Mr. Wallace agreed with the Registrar, and asked whether anyone would be looking for errors; he would oppose the amendment. Mr. Whyte was also concerned that the appropriate individuals take whatever extraordinary steps were necessary to ensure that potential errors were identified in time for each Convocation. Mr. Maloney also agreed with Ms. Curri and spoke against the amendment. With unanimous consent, Mr. Traves withdrew his amendment.

The question was then called on the unamended motion and the motion was **CARRIED**.

2000:50.

Appointment of Ombud and Assistant Ombud - 2000/2001

Mr. Stuttard noted that the Board of Governors had approved the appointment of the Ombud subject to Senate approval. He moved:

That Senate approve the re-appointment of Ms. Fatina Elkurdi as Ombud and Ms. Ellaree Metz as Assistant Ombud for 2000/2001.

The motion was **CARRIED** without dissent.

2000:51.

Report of the President

Mr. Traves reported that Dalhousie had been allocated 43 Research Chairs to be awarded over a five-year period. The allocation was based on the University's record of grants received from the MRC, NSERC and SSHRC. If Dalhousie's share of the national granting council awards were to increase or decline significantly, the number of Chairs would be adjusted. Current plans called for the University to receive 11 Chairs in each of the first three years, beginning in September 2000, and 5 in each of the last two years. Each award would cover the costs of salary, benefits, research activity, and infrastructure costs for administering the research program of each appointee. In addition, the University would receive a one-time grant of \$125,000 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation for each chair, under the same provisions as those governing the CRF grants: the grants would total 40% of the award and the University would be required to find matching funds to cover the remaining 60%. Once the Chairs had been filled they would represent an addition to our base budget of approximately \$6.5 mil. Assuming the University could secure the necessary matching funds, the value of the CFI grants would be approximately \$12.5 mil on a one-time basis. This amounted to a very large infusion of funds to support faculty complement, research, and infrastructure.

The regulations for these awards required the University to provide a detailed research plan which identified areas of priority for research within the University. Appointments would then be made in those areas. Work was already underway on the plan so that Dalhousie could meet the September 1, 2000 deadline. The plan could be updated and amended annually. Mr. Traves assumed that once the research plan had been accepted, the University could proceed to recommend appointments. Each appointment would have to be approved by a body created by the three granting councils which meant that individuals and the individual research plans would require approval. Responsibility for developing the plan rested with the Vice-President Academic & Provost, the Vice-President Research, and the Deans, who were in the process of defining a limited number of clustered areas encompassing most research areas within the University. Since the Chairs would be divided between the three councils, it would be necessary to indicate the Council to which each research proposal was directed. The allocations were 5 under SSHRC, 18 under NSERC and 15 under the MRC-CIHR heading. The whole process would require substantial University-wide discussion of a number of important issues.

Finally, Mr. Traves formally invited members to attend one or more of the Convocation ceremonies in the following week. This was a wonderful opportunity to remember and celebrate why we were here. He believed the accomplishments of our students were in part attributable to the efforts of our excellent faculty and staff, and their commitment to quality programming.

Ms. Barnes asked how Dalhousie's allocation of Chairs ranked in comparison to the other Universities across the country. At present, Mr. Traves could only offer anecdotal information for the region and the country. He would provide detailed information once he had received it. He knew that when the Chairs were classified according to granting Council, Dalhousie had received 0.3% of the SSHRC Chairs, 2.2% of the MRC-CHIR Chairs, and 2.7% of the NSERC Chairs. Ms. Raining-Bird asked the President to elaborate on the decision process for the University. In addition to Vice-Presidents and Deans, would University-wide researchers be included in some type of forum where this could be discussed? Or would there be some other means of involving the researchers directly in the process? Mr. Traves intended to circulate the research plan and an accompanying explanation for comment throughout the University

before the categories were established. The plan would need to be approved by the Board of Governors, and consequently would need to go through a variety of processes. Information would be circulated by email to accommodate those researching at a distance, but the time constraints would need to be respected. Ms. Raining-Bird understood the problems posed by the time lines, but urged that a mechanism for consultation be put in place before circulation of the research plan, because once the plan had been circulated modification would become more difficult. Time lines should not negate prior discussion of the plan. Considerable important knowledge could be injected into the process quickly by those doing the research. Mr. Traves appreciated the concern raised, but assured senators that the plan was being prepared in light of knowledge of the University's existing activities and research strengths. The Deans and the Vice Presidents had a good understanding of what was happening at Dalhousie, and of the new research areas that individuals and groups had been exploring. He anticipated the most valuable input from researchers would come during discussions of broadening the proposed clusters of research projects to make them more inclusive.

Mr. Crocker cautioned about the frequency with which the government changed its mind on such matters. He cited the example of the cancellation of money by the Alberta Foundation at the University of Calgary. Policy changes could be devastating. We would need to ensure that the Faculties had protective mechanisms built into the research plans. We should also be careful to balance the hiring of tier-one and tier-two Chairs. Mr. Traves recognized that this federal funding would be vulnerable to the type of funding fluctuations we experienced at the provincial level. He assumed that contractual obligations for each Chair would have to be honored. In approving these appointments with the Deans, he anticipated that the Deans would need to provide a staffing plan which committed the Faculty to future funding of tenured Chairs once the initial funding had come to an end.

Mr. Bradfield received confirmation that Research Chairs could be offered to internal candidates. Mr. Traves indicated that the Vice-President was already discussing this with the Deans. He doubted that many universities would follow the approach of McGill University which had declared that all appointments would go to external candidates.

2000:52.

Other Business

Ms. Binkley moved:

That Senate thank the staff in the Registrar's Office and Deans' Offices for their extraordinary efforts in generating the lists of graduates for this year's Convocations, with particular thanks to the Registrar for her service to the University in that capacity over the years.

The motion was **CARRIED** without dissent.

2000:53.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

