

Item: Senate Minutes, July 2002
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

SENATE met in regular session on Monday, July 8, 2002, at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Mr M. El-Hawary in the chair were the following:

M. Binkley, C. Breckenridge, R. Campbell, A. Cochrane, S.-J. Corke, S. Coughlan, B. Downe-Wamboldt, M. Earl, T. Emodi, L. Fraser, J. Galarneau, R. Guy, D. Hamilton, W. Hankey, A. Jost, P. Keast, J. Kwak, W. Lahey, N. MacDonald, W. MacInnis, J. Macrae, W. Maes, C. McGrath, L. McIntyre, J. McNiven, D. Mitchell, C. Moore, P. Neumann, W. J. Phillips, T. Rathwell, R. Rowe, S. Scully, J. Slonim, D. Sommerfeld (Recording Secretary), G. Stroink, T. Traves, I. Ugursal, C. Watters, S. Workman.

Regrets: N. Ben-Abdallah, R. Blunden, W. Caley, G. Coffin, J. Connolly, D. Cunningham,

S. DasGupta, S. Guppy, M. Hart, F. Harvey, R. Huebert, A. Jalilvand, K. Loudon, B. MacDonald, R. MacGregor, D. Meagher-Stewart, P. Murphy, K. Neves, J. Parpart, B. Rheault, D. Russell, D. Schroeder, D. Scott, R. Whyte.

2002:067.

Welcome New Senators

Mr. El-Hawary welcomed the new members of Senate who then introduced themselves, and also Ms. Sommerfeld who begins a term as Secretary of Senate.

2002:068.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2002:069.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Corrections:

- a) Mr. El-Hawary noted that the list of attendees should include "N. MacDonald".
- b) Item 2002:060: On page 3, line 10, "Manual" should be spelled "Manuel".

The minutes of the meeting of June 24, 2002, were adopted as CORRECTED.

2002:070.

Matters Arising

A) Item 2002:059 : Regarding an update on the question asked by Mr. Bradfield, Mr Traves replied that there is no update at this time.

B) Item 2002:060: Mr. El-Hawary advised that nominations for the Senate Nominating Committee would be discussed under Agenda Item #7.

C) Item 2002:061 : Mr. El-Hawary advised that Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* Senate Committee on Plagiarism would be drawn up by the Secretary of Senate in consultation with the Senate Discipline Committee, then be brought to the Senate Steering Committee and then to Senate. This process will begin in the Fall.

Mr. Scully advised that regarding a service such as Turnitin.com, he and Mr. Traves have agreed that funding would be forthcoming for new software to assist with the University's efforts regarding plagiarism detection/prevention. Discussion about which software would be appropriate will begin between the Offices of Senate, the President and Vice-President, Academic and Provost.

2002:071.

Chair's Remarks

Mr. El-Hawary thanked Mr. Fraser for chairing the previous meeting on his behalf, and stated he looks forward to this new session of Senate.

Mr. El-Hawary noted that Jacob Slonim is completing his term as founding Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science, and on behalf of Senate, extended thanks and best wishes to Mr. Slonim for his upcoming sabbatical leave.

2002:072.

Question period

There were no questions.

2002:073.

Review Committee for the Vice-President Academic & Provost [Mr. Scully and Mr. MacInnis absented themselves for this item]

Mr. El-Hawary noted that as the term of the Vice-President Academic & Provost comes due for renewal or re-consideration on June 30, 2003, in accordance with the *Appointments Procedure for Vice-President Academic & Provost* (2001), a Review Committee will be struck. The Committee will consist of the President as ex-officio Chair of the committee, and "not fewer than five other members including at least three members appointed by the Senate, one of whom shall be a Dean; one member of the Board of Governors; and one undergraduate or graduate student".

Mr. Scully has indicated that he wishes to be considered for a re-appointment. On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. El-Hawary moved:

THAT Senate approve M. E. El-Hawary, Lloyd Fraser and William A. MacInnis, Dean of Dentistry, as Senate Representatives on the Review Committee for the Vice-President Academic & Provost.

Mr. Traves commented that under University Regulations, if the Review Committee finds in favor of the incumbent, there will be a recommendation for re-appointment to the Board of Governors. If the review is negative, the Review Committee will become a Search Committee.

The motion was CARRIED.

2002:074.

Enrolment Management Report #2

Mr. El-Hawary invited Mr. Scully to speak to the Report. Mr. Scully provided a description of this two year old initiative and the work of committees comprised of members from across Faculties. He commented on the catalysts for the Report including the stability of enrolments, particularly for the direct entry from high school; recruitment objectives allotted to increasing student numbers; and evidence of a growing dissatisfaction among enrolled students regarding their academic and non-academic activities at Dalhousie, that needed to be addressed.

Enrolment management is meant to include a broadly based initiative in terms of the quality of student life from various perspectives as well as pure number counts, from first inquiry to Dalhousie to convocation. Through *Powerpoint* presentation, Mr. Scully summarized the points and data presented in the Report (refer to *Enrolment Management Report - May 29, 2002* as previously circulated), including:

- Enrolment Changes
- Profile of Dalhousie University (entry point, gender and age, demography and environment, including regional and national factors)
- Enrolment Management Initiative 2001-2002 (summarizing survey data of student experiences and retention patterns; advising needs; recruitment tracking from first inquiry to residence application to final acceptance; and on-going evaluation strategies)
- Challenges for Dalhousie over the next four years (managing an increased enrolment pool from Ontario, differences amongst Faculties in terms of recruitment targets; faculty recruitment, staffing, and space allocation to meet expected demand; requisite support unit growth; and issues surrounding graduate student enrolment relative to funding limitations and supervisory capacity).

Mr. Scully commented that effects of the faculty strike of last March on enrolment for this Fall are unknown but on-going data gathering and analysis will enable more accurate prediction.

Mr. El-Hawary thanked Mr. Scully for the presentation and invited members' comments and questions.

Mr. Hankey reported that in King's Foundation Year there has been an increased shift from numbers of students from Nova Scotia to those from Ontario, due perhaps to the manner of admitting students, that is, from a first-come first-served basis to pooling applicants on March 15th with academic average cut-off at 85. He questioned if we are prepared to admit a class at Dalhousie servicing more students from Ontario than from Nova Scotia. Mr. Hankey also referred to page 10 of the Report regarding limitations of funding and faculty supervisors for graduate students and commented that fewer graduate students means fewer resources for teaching increased numbers of undergraduate students.

Mr. Scully responded that he does not anticipate broad differences at Dalhousie in quality of students coming from Nova Scotia versus Ontario. The previous enrolled class of 306 students from Nova Scotia and 104 from Ontario, showed that students from Nova Scotia out-performed the other. He advised that policy issues regarding graduate student enrolments and reliance on them for a large part of undergraduate teaching will be part of on-going discussions, pointing out that these students are employed to teach rather used to teach. Mr. Scully also indicated that he is aware of the problems surrounding faculty recruitment.

Mr. McGrath commented that the onus is on all members of Senate to ensure that projected enrolments are matched by appropriate quantity and quality of student services so that students are enabled to be successful. He also made the point that we must not be naive to think that the recent 4-week strike by Faculty and an eight percent increase in student tuition are not factors that may be harmful to Dalhousie's image and how they may influence enrolment numbers in the end. He pointed out that these issues need to be addressed at both the macro and micro levels at Dalhousie.

Ms. Binkley stated that in FASS, the anticipated enrolment numbers for the coming year will only just match the 1998 year levels. She explained that subsequent to the strike by faculty in 1998, a significant decrease in enrolments in first through third years was noted. Since that time, enrolments have gradually increased to those of the 1998 year. Ms. Binkley also pointed out the need for student advising on informal basis as well as the formal academic system.

Mr. Scully responded that there is no evidence to suggest that there will be a significant decline in retention, although there has been a significant increase in requests to the Registrar's Office for transcripts.

Mr. Campbell, referring to the issue of graduate student enrolments, questioned if we are reaching a limit for graduate students at Dalhousie and alluded to its impact on the critical need for graduate students as TA's in the undergraduate programs. He suggested that there would not be sufficient graduate teaching assistants to assist in teaching the increased number of undergraduate students and that this would be a problem even if, as remarked on page 9, there were funds to hire more professors, clerks, and even teaching assistants.

Mr. Scully pointed out that factors to be considered in relation to graduate student numbers are distinguishing between thesis-based and non-thesis-based programs, availability of supervisors, scholarship monies, and related policy issues.

Mr. Kwak commented on the survey being done by the Faculty of Graduate Studies which shows

an increase in numbers of and support for graduate students, acknowledging that there are limits to be recognized.

Mr. El-Hawary welcomed Mr. Mitchell, the new graduate student representative to Senate. Mr. Mitchell is also President of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students. Mr Mitchell pointed out that the initiative for the Report was the growing dissatisfaction of undergraduate students at Dalhousie. In the measures being taken to increase enrolment, what is being done to track the dissatisfaction and what efforts will be taken to address the issues as they are identified.

Mr. Scully replied that the documented dissatisfaction that identified the concerns has resulted in actions that have produced higher levels of reported satisfaction in subsequent surveys. Nevertheless, concerns continue to be expressed in what can be seen as being a part of a very large institution by some entering students. Increasing academic advising systems and student counselling services have been instituted in response to these issues, and such efforts must be strengthened.

2002:075.

Nominations to the Senate nominating Committee

On behalf of Senate Steering Committee, Mr. El-Hawary moved:

THAT the following nominees be elected to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee: Jim Stolzman (FASS), September 2002 - August 31, 2005; Paul Amyotte (Engineering), September 2002 - August 31, 2005; and Faye Woodman (Law), September 2002 - August 31, 2005.

The motion was CARRIED.

It was noted that in the list of on-going members of the Senate Nominating Committee, that Frank Palermo is from the Faculty of Architecture and Planning.

2002:076.

Nomination to the Panel of Student-Discipline Officers

As Chair of Senate, Mr. El-Hawary moved:

THAT on the recommendation of the Acting Dean of Law, William Lahey be elected to serve on the Panel of Student-Discipline Officers for a second term, September 2002 to August 31, 2005.

The motion was CARRIED.

2002:077.

Approval of Degrees in Medicine

Mr. El-Hawary invited Ms. N. MacDonald to address this item.

Ms. MacDonald moved:

THAT, having met the requirements and on the approval and recommendation of the Faculty of Medicine, the following students be awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine: Kurt Kimpinski and Judy Marilyn Price.

Mr. El-Hawary clarified that these students are being awarded their degrees at this time rather than at the usual convocation period, as to do so enables them to receive their respective parchment and proceed with licensor required for enrolling in residency programs.

The motion was CARRIED.

Mr. El-Hawary indicated that this kind of extraordinary situation has been considered by Senate Steering Committee. Mr. Fraser then described a strategy that has been developed at Senate Steering Committee for addressing the awarding of degrees between convocations. The intent is to provide a mechanism with appropriate safeguards, to be used only in exceptional circumstances. On behalf of Senate Steering Committee, Mr. Fraser moved:

THAT where it has been deemed essential to do so, the Chair of Senate, on the recommendation of the appropriate Dean and in consultation with the Registrar, be authorized to award a degree to a student who, between convocations, has completed the requirements for the degree. Each such degree awarded is to be reported with its explanation to the next meeting of Senate.

Ms. Binkley commented that the motion is out of order as it has not been circulated prior to the meeting. Ms Binkley moved:

THAT this motion be tabled to a future meeting of Senate to enable time for further thought and deliberation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Ms. N. MacDonald stated that there is one more student who has not yet completed, but soon will be completing requirements for the Doctor of Medicine degree. She expressed concern that the student could be seen as being penalized if not able to proceed with her residency due to lack of mechanism for the awarding of degrees between convocations.

Ms. McIntyre stated that, while recognizing the concerns expressed by the Dean of Medicine, it is important to educate professional licencing bodies about the need to recognize the equivalency of completing the requirements for a degree and the conferring of a degree at graduation so that such exceptions need not be necessary. She stated support for a recommendation for the further isolated case at hand.

Mr Scully moved:

THAT the Chair of Senate be authorized, between now and the next meeting of Senate, to approve the granting of the Doctor of Medicine on any student in the Faculty of Medicine who, on the recommendation of the Dean of Medicine, has met the requirements for the degree.

The motion was CARRIED.

Mr. El-Hawary stated that, regarding the tabled motion, he would be pleased to receive comments about the nature of that motion from members via e-mail. These comments would be discussed at the next meeting of Steering Committee.

2002:078.

President's Report

Mr. Traves had no Report but did extend best wishes for a good summer.

2002:079.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Secretary

Chair