

Item: Senate Minutes, December 2005
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

Additional Notes:

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

SENATE met in regular session on Monday, December 12, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. El-Hawary in the chair were the following: Binkley, Bond, Breckenridge, Butler, Camfield, Cercone, Chowdhury, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Coughlan, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Fraser, Geldenhuys, Hicks, Hubert, Johnson, Jordan, Kwak, Maes, McMullen, McNeil, Oppong, Pelzer, Rosson, Rutherford, Schroeder, Scrimger, Scully, Shelkovyy, Smith, B., Smith, K.E., Stroink, Taylor, Thornhill, Traves, Urbanowski, Wallace, Webster, Wien, Whyte, Wright, Zuck

Regrets: Barker, Beazley, DasGupta, Edelstein, El-Masry, Finbow, Klein, Lane, Livingston, Murphy, Pegg, Phillips, Plug, Precious, Salmon, Saunders, Stone.

Absent: Ben-Abdallah, Caron, Dawson, Gray, Horackova, Leon, Morgunov, Slonim, Sullivan, Swanston, Wanzel, Yeung.

Invitees/Guests in attendance:

The Chair of Senate wished all Senators the best of the season and a Happy New Year.

2005:108

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

2005:109

Draft Minutes of November 28, 2005 Meeting

a) Approval

The minutes of the meeting of November 28, 2005 were **ADOPTED** as circulated.

b) Matters Arising

The Terms of Reference for the Senate Discipline Committee will be reviewed to determine if the process applies to Faculty as well as students at the December 21, 2005 Senate Steering Committee meeting.

2005:110

Honorary Degrees Committee

In Camera - Voting on Honorary Degree Candidate, Spring 2006

The assembly moved *in camera* to consider and vote on an honorary degree candidate for Spring 2006. On return to open session, the Chair reported that the honorary degree candidate had been approved.

2005:111

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposed Respiratory Therapy Diploma program to be offered jointly by the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences and Dalhousie University.

Mr. Hubert, Director, School of Health Sciences, introduced the proposal and indicated that Dalhousie University offers a fully integrated four year degree in Respiratory Therapy which also provides students with the option of stopping after completing the three-year diploma program. The proposal is to offer a joint three-year diploma program with the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences in Toronto. The Michener Institute is the leading non-degree granting educational institution in Canada for the training of Respiratory Therapists. Michener has had articulation agreements with the University of Waterloo and Queen's University; these will come to an end in 2005. Michener approached Dalhousie because we offer the only fully integrated degree program for respiratory therapy in Canada. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on June 7, 2005. The MOU is expected to be executed by February 15, 2006.

Students would register at Michener for the three year diploma program. With the exception of HSCE 1010, Inter-professional Clinical Practice Preparation, the Dalhousie courses offered in the first two years of the program would be offered via WebCT, with the third year being completely clinical. Upon graduation with the certificate, students would have the option of continuing with Dalhousie for a fourth year, in order to complete the degree program. It is anticipated that approximately 20-30 students each year would take advantage of this option.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2005:112

Report of the Chair

The Joint Meeting of the Board of Governors and Senate will take place on Monday, December 19, 2005. Also, the Senate Officers have been examining the distribution of Senate material via email and have a plan to ease this process for Senators. One of the ideas would be to have an electronic display of documents at the Senate meeting; posting documents on a secure server that each senator would have access to, instead of the Web; and of course Senators who wish to have hard copies sent to them can do so.

2005:113President's Report

The President and Vice-Chancellor wished all Senators the compliments of the season and a thank you for contributions to both Senate and to the success of the university.

2005:114University Library Presentation

Mr. William Maes, University Librarian, presented a report titled [Here Today, Goggle Tomorrow](#) which can be found at:

http://senate.dal.ca//Files/presentations/Library_Presentation_to_Senate_December_2005.ppt

The library continually evaluates whether it is heading in the appropriate direction, based upon many issues such as current technology and the learning climate. It is a very different world that we operate in as many of the technological advances did not exist 10 years ago. The changes have had a large impact on the scholarly environment. The changes have resulted in convenience; often with convenience over quality. 84% of all searches begin with a search engine and 1% begin with a library website. What is the library doing to combat this phenomenon? The library has been constantly trying to build the content of online library resources. The big push over the last 4-5 years is to increase the content. The purchase of this technology has been possible through our association with the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, CRKN, which tries to negotiate the licenses for all of the universities and colleges to ensure that Dalhousie University gets the best deal possible from the publishers. The Universities commitment to the library budget has ensured the continued growth of resources combined with the strength of the Canadian dollar. The investment in electronic resources has increased exponentially; 80% over the last three years. The investment in electronic resources now supersedes the investment in print resources. This is no different than other university libraries.

The recent revisions to the Copyright Act has prevented the East Coast consortium of Atlantic universities from creating an inter library digital loan system. Hopefully this digital transmission will be enabled soon. Novanet's new integrated library system, "Aleph", from Ex Libris, will replace our existing system on January 9, 2006. The new system will enhance our services to faculty and students. The library continues to provide more services to distance students because of this new technology. These changes have to be reflected in the physical set up of the library as well. The most visible example of this is the Learning Commons; which continues to grow. The Geographic Information Center is one of the newest areas in the Learning Commons. The library also tries to create student friendly policies in response to student needs – Food and Drink Policy, Study Space Policy, and Cell Phone Policy. The gate count at the Killam has increased over the last few years from 600,000 to 1.2M. The university is an area that is changing but in the direction that is being asked for. Google can be seen as a competitor for the library which is a new concept for a library to deal with. The library must hold the confidence of the university as well as being accountable for the money that is spent. Expectations change daily and therefore the library must be mindful of these expectations.

In the future Dalhousie University libraries need to improve their environments. Each library, with the exception of the Weldon Law library, was built to handle print documents. The digital side must be accommodated and is becoming increasingly important. It will be important for the library to make the process simple in order to be around in future years.

Mr. El-Hawary thanked Mr. Maes for an informative presentation and opened the floor for questions.

Ms. Binkley noted that she is a strong supporter of the library and indicated that we still buy, read, and write books and as of yet not all books are electronic. Some of the collections that need to be built up for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences have been accommodated through start up grants. Mr. Maes noted that we are still new in this electronic process and we are only starting to see what can be done.

Mr. Cook asked about the gate count for the library as the growth in numbers was impressive. Mr. Maes indicated that the count primarily has increased because of the learning commons. The world is focused on the digital world; however, we must remember that only 5% of print is in electronic format.

Mr. Jordan asked about the efforts toward collaboration within the university and in particular with respect to who is accessing information on particular research topics and if this information can be shared. Mr. Maes indicated that this information is not readily available as it generally is specific to an IP address and not to an individual and the libraries could quickly run into privacy issues.

Mr. Urbanowski noted that what the library has done over the past number of years is admirable but has some concerns when it comes to student information literacy skills. Students come to Dalhousie University with different levels of skill and we must be mindful of this fact. What are we doing proactively to ensure that students are maximizing their skills in regard to information literacy? Mr. Maes indicated that the library has hired an information literacy coordinator who is putting together various programs. The coordinator is working with the various faculties and engineering now has an entire course in this area. However, Mr. Maes informed Senators that when students graduate electronic information literacy drops off considerably.

Ms. Bond stressed the importance of ensuring students know how to use information literacy tools. It is key for students to know how to research items on the web and how to use the library effectively and it is not something that students automatically learn in High School. Proper research also goes hand in hand with plagiarism and learning skills to ensure students do not plagiarize. Mr. Traves indicated that Mr. Scully recently submitted a discussion paper to the Deans about improving the quality of undergraduate education and one of the topics speaks to literacy – in terms of writing and communication skills and on-line literacy. Mr. Traves commended the leadership shown by Mr. Maes during the challenging times for the university library.

Mr. Jordan asked if alumni would have access to the university library services in the near future or in a long term perspective. Mr. Maes noted that there is a lot of negotiation to take place before alumni will have access to online library material.

2005:115

Question Period

Mr. Coughlan commented about the size of the university and how often the size of the university can make it appear impersonal and how this can effect the recruitment and retention within the university. Mr. Coughlan would like to ask the Registrar's Office if there is some way to possibly notify the people who are teaching the courses of students who win certain awards (Rhodes, Board of Governors, or other distinctions). The faculty member would then have the

opportunity to recognize the student; if they choose. Mr. Scully noted that this is an excellent suggestion but also a challenge. One of the fundamental challenges of an institution of our size is acquiring information and then sharing this information. Mr. Scully indicated that he would carry this suggestion forward to the Enrolment Committee.

Mr. Scully identified the other Atlantic Canadian Rhodes scholarship winner – a science student from Mount Allison University. Also, Mr. Scully informed Senators that Dalhousie University is a Shad Valley campus. The Shad Valley program has been in existence for over 20 years and during this time this program has had over 17 Rhodes scholarship winners; which speaks to the quality of the Shad Valley camps.

2005:116

Other Business

There was no other business.

2005:117

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.