

Item: Senate Minutes, May 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, May 9, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. El-Hawary in the Chair were the following: Barker, Bond, Camfield, Cercone, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Coughlan, Earl, Evans, Edelstein, Fraser, Hicks, Jalilvand, Jordan, Klein, Kwak, Maes, McIntyre, McMullen, McNeil, Murphy, Oppong, Pelzer, Russell, Rutherford, Scrimger, Scully, Smith, Sommerfeld (Recording Secretary), Stroink, Sullivan, Swanston, Traves, Wanzel, Whyte, Zuck.

Regrets: Barkow, Beazley, Breckenridge, Butler, Corke, Das Gupta, Finbow, Finley, Hamilton, Jost, Livingston, MacDonald, Phillips, Precious, Pronk, Richard, Salmon, Shelkovyy.

Absent: Ben-Abdullah, Binkley, Caley, Caron, Coxon, Dunphy, Horackova, Meagher-Stewart, Morgunov, Satish, Stone, Stuttard, Taheri, Taylor, Wallace.

Invitees/Guests in attendance: F. Black, A. Power, F. Wien.

2005:048

Adoption of the Agenda

Item #4 on the Agenda, Approval of Degrees: Nova Scotia Agricultural College Graduands List -2005, was moved to follow Agenda Item #2. The agenda was **ADOPTED** as amended.

2005:049

Draft Minutes of the Previous Meeting

i) Approval

The minutes of the meeting of April 11, 2005 were **ADOPTED** as circulated.

ii) Matters Arising

Mr. El-Hawary stated that as reflected in the minutes under Item #2005.045, senators were asked to send any information in regard to informal peer tutoring to Mr. Whyte with a copy to the Senate Office.

Mr. Scully, as promised at the February 28, 2005 meeting of Senate in discussion of the Enrolment Planning and Management Report #7, presented information on Nova Scotia's Education Export Alliance, known as EduNova. He described the purposes of EduNova as follows:

1. To build linkages and networks among members;

2. To position Nova Scotia as a destination of choice for international students and market member organizations abroad;
3. To pursue opportunities to secure international contracts and projects that directly involve the members; and
4. To raise the profile of Nova Scotia's role in educational education by communicating economic and social benefits to government partners and local communities across the province.

Mr. Scully noted that EduNova had a Board consisting of representatives of fifteen member organizations including Nova Scotia universities, community colleges, international high school programs and private language schools. Dalhousie was represented on the board by the Registrar, Åsa Kachan. The first annual meeting of EduNova was held on March 22, 2005. EduNova has been provided space by the Office of Economic Development, and funding to support its activities was being sought through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) to enable the hiring of three staff members for central support of initiatives. Mr. Scully stated that he would assure that Senate received a report annually on EduNova.

At this point, Mr. El-Hawary expressed thanks to the following representatives from the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) who had completed their terms on Senate on April 30, 2005:

- Curtis McGrath (DSU President);
- Jill Houlihan (DSU Vice-President Education),
- Nicholas Dauphinee, and
- Ashley O'Brien.

Mr. El-Hawary welcomed the DSU senators for 2005-2006:

- Ezra Edelstein (DSU President)
- Jen Bond (DSU Vice-President Education and continuing member of Senate)
- Chris Jordan (Graduate Representative)
- Zoe Caron
- Candace Salmon, and
- Yuri Shelkovvy

2005:050

Approval of Degrees: Nova Scotia Agricultural College Graduand List - 2005

Mr. El-Hawary reported that the Chair of Senate, on behalf of the Senate and in consultation with the Registrar and the Dean of Graduate Studies of Dalhousie University, and the President and the Registrar of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and as identified in the correspondence to the Secretary of Senate, dated April 28, 2005, had approved the list of graduands of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College as follows:

Bachelor of Technology.....6

Bachelor of Science (Agriculture).....67

Master of Science.....12

Mr. Hicks **MOVED:**

THAT Senate approve the awarding of degrees to the candidates of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College as previously approved by the Chair of Senate, on behalf of the Senate, and in consultation with the Registrar and the Dean of Graduate Studies of Dalhousie University, and the President and the Registrar of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and as identified in the correspondence to the Secretary of Senate, dated April 28, 2005.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2005:051

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee

i) Proposed Name Change: School of Library and Information Studies

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

THAT the Senate approve the change in name of the School of Library and Information Studies to the School of Information Management.

Mr. Jalilvand noted that he had received a letter from the President of the Canadian Library Association , via Ms. Fiona Black , Director of the School of Library and Information Studies and present at the meeting, The President had expressed firm support for the name change and the School's intents by it, both conceptually and in practice.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Mr. El-Hawary noted that the name change would be effective immediately in preparation of logistical details for the move of the School to the new Faculty of Management building.

ii) Modified Program Proposal: Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Bachelor of Social Work

On behalf of the SAPBC, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED:**

THAT the Senate approve the proposed Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Bachelor of Social Work program with the requirement that the School of Social Work transfer \$300 to the Library budget each year during the life of the program.

Mr. Fred Wien was present to respond to questions. Ms. McIntyre commented on the innovative nature of this multi-lateral cooperation in developing the program with St. Thomas University, noting that the federal government was on the verge of designating several millions of dollars to such initiatives for education for aboriginal populations. Mr. Cochrane echoed support for the innovative program design and its delivery alternatives.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

iii) New Program Proposal: Master of Science in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

On behalf of the SAPBC, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED:**

THAT the Senate approve the Master of Science in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics program with a start date of January 1, 2006, and that the Faculties of Computer Science, Medicine, and Science jointly transfer \$1700 in start-up and \$1700 in annual recurring costs to the Library during the life of the program.

Mr. Kwak, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies spoke in support of the proposal, noting that the program would be a joint and equal offering of the Faculties of Computer Science, Medicine and Science, thus combining the strengths of each. He added that it would be administered through the Faculty of Computer Science. Students would be based in the Department and Faculty of their supervisors but very enabled to integrate knowledge and skills of the partner Faculties in their programs of study. Mr. Cercone voiced strong support for the program and predicted that it would likely be in the forefront of such programs nationally, very quickly.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2005:051

Report of the Chair

Mr. El-Hawary announced that Ms. Nancy Martin-Dempsey, Administrative Assistant within the Senate Office had received notice on May 5, 2005 that she would be the recipient of the prestigious Rosemary Gill Award, to be awarded in June 2005. On behalf of Senate Mr. El-Hawary had extended congratulations to Ms. Martin-Dempsey.

Mr. El-Hawary informed the Senate that the Senate Office had received notice that the following programs had been approved by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC):

- the Bachelor of Arts, Gender and Women's Studies
- the Master of Health Services Administration (International)
- Bachelor of Technology, Major in Applied Science - offered jointly as per the agreement between the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Dalhousie University; and for the graduates of the program, as per the Memorandum of Understanding with Acadia University.

Mr. El-Hawary announced that the Senate Office had secured funding from Student Services to hire a student for the summer months to update the content of the Senate website including upgrading its design to fit with the University brand, and to construct a limited-access database for Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC) decisions for use by SAAC members and those directly involved in appeals matters.

Mr. Scully commented that recently, program proposals were proceeding through the MPHEC approval process relatively quickly and smoothly. He noted that as discussed at the SAPBC meeting of May 2, 2005, timeliness of submission and review continued to be a concern. He stated a primary issue was the requirement by MPHEC that all health-related program proposals must first proceed through review by the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR), and experience with that process had shown the time factor was far less predictable and straight-forward. He noted that currently there was a proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry for the elevation of the Diploma in Dental Hygiene to a baccalaureate program, which had been submitted to the AACHHR before Christmas 2004 and for which there has been no response to date. Mr. El-Hawary stated that the deadline for submission of

proposals to Senate had been December 31 of the year preceding implementation for the following and that any proposal not meeting the deadline would be held over to the following year for review. Mr. Scully clarified that he understood that program proposals could be submitted and considered at any time in the year. However, if the program was expected to be able to be approved through MPHEC and for the internal requirements to be met, such as those required through the Registrar's Office, the December deadline was needed. He added that as no student registered in a program not approved by MPHEC was eligible for a student loan, students often enrolled in other approved programs until the new program was approved a few months later and then transferred into the new program.

Mr. Kwak stated that for the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), the starting date of new programs is often flexible and being able to send new program proposals to Senate through the year enabled the various internal and external reviews to be completed by the FGS before proceeding to Senate review. Should a submission not meet the December deadline and need to wait another year for review would be very discouraging to program proposers in particular. He stated appreciation for the fact that the review and approval process of proposals through SAPBC and Senate had become more efficient in the past two years.

Ms. McIntyre stated that the review process for the AACHHR was not required for Senate review nor was Senate review and approval required for review by the AACHHR, and thus delays through the Dalhousie process were not connected to the delays experienced in the AACHRR process. She understood that the December deadline for SAPBC to be the target date whereby reviews could be completed in time to allow review by Senate and MPHEC, and recruitment of students to the program before the following September, particularly for undergraduate programs.

Mr. Cercone noted that program proposal development occurs over several months and having administrative restrictions through deadlines on approval processes, for example, did not encourage creativity and relevance in program development.

Ms. Sommerfeld clarified that health-related programs were expected to proceed through review by the AACHHR before review by SAPBC and Senate, although AACHHR approval was not specifically required for Senate approval though it was for MPHEC approval. She added that the deadline for submission of new or modified programs to Senate had been changed at the SAPBC meeting of May 2, 2005, to December 1 of the year preceding the expected date of implementation. This enabled reviews to be accommodated in the following months within the meeting framework of the SAPBC and for expeditious processing to the Senate, then to the Board and finally to the MPHEC if required. She noted though that proposals could in fact be submitted to Senate at any time through the year. Ms. Sommerfeld added that the Senate proposal forms had been revised two years previously to include information required for MPHEC approval. Delays in the Senate process often were the result of proposal submissions being less than specific and/or incomplete in the information required. She added that the proposal forms were currently being revised to place emphasis on the documentation required but which was often missing or inadequate in proposal submissions.

2005:052

Question Period

Mr. Jordan inquired if the call for applications for the student summer position in the Senate Office had been placed. Ms. Power replied that it had not yet been placed.

2005:053**Report of the President**

Mr. Traves gave commendation to the developers of the program proposals approved at the meeting. He noted that such innovative initiatives that reflect social responsiveness to evolving community needs also enhance the University's intended mission. He noted that often members of the Board of Governors wondered why programs were not deleted but rather always added, often with no associated costs identified.

Mr. Traves commented on the Board's response to discussions regarding tuition increases. From those discussions and with the decrease in enrollment growth being experienced, the Board had begun to question the underlying financial assumptions of the University's budget. He stated that the Board would be establishing an *ad-hoc* long-term financial planning committee, composed of Board members to review and critique systematically the financial planning process of the University and to explore viable options for a coherent plan for moving forward. He added that there would be opportunity for SAPBC to comment during the review process which would occur over the coming year and as matter of course, the Senate's and the DSU's members on the Board would be involved.

Mr. Traves noted that, as it was the end of the academic year for most on campus, there were many successes to celebrate. He stated that Professor Brian Hall, a renowned developmental biologist at Dalhousie, had been awarded a 2005 Killam prize for 'eminent Canadian scholars' at a gal dinner in Montreal on April 25, 2005. Students also excelled, including three who received Rhode Scholarships: Matthew Knox from Halifax, Anna Robinson from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, and Graham Reynolds from Winnipeg. He noted that these three students, coming from three different regions of the country, reflected the diverse character of the student body and also the 'tip of the iceberg' in terms of student accomplishments at Dalhousie. In addition to student accomplishments, annual teaching awards would soon be announced through the Dalhousie News.

Mr. Traves commented on a recent article in the Dalhousie News regarding the extensive progress made in the University's libraries through the leadership and innovative efforts of the University Librarian, Mr. Maes and his colleagues. He noted in particular the significant enhancement of journal collections through electronic access.

Mr. Traves reminded senators of the up-coming 13 convocation ceremonies with a total of approximately 3000 graduands, and urged senators to attend and to urge their colleagues to attend these ceremonies to provide visible support to graduands and their families at this time of celebration of accomplishment.

Mr. Kwak noted that in regards to the Mr. Traves comments about new programs, that the external community often required more differentiation in degrees and thus "new programs" were often a re-configuration of what already existed. He suggested this explanation be shared with the Board. Mr. Traves agreed, stating that such an explanation was often given but that at the same time, as programs accumulated there were increases to administrative demands and periodic reviews of programs was appropriate.

2005:053**Other Business**

There was no other business.

2005:054

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m..

Mo El-Hawary, Chair of Senate

Denise Sommerfeld, Secretary of Senate