

Item: Senate Minutes, September 2007  
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, September 10, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barker, Breckenridge, Butler, Campbell, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Cook, Croll, El-Masry, Fanning, Frank, Garduno, Gault, Geldenhuys, Grundy, Harman, Haslam, Helland, Johnson, Johnston, Jones, Kesselring, Kroeker, Leon, Maes, MacLaren, McConnell, McLarney, Nowakowski, Pegg, Pelzer, Persaud, Richard, Roberts, Robinson, Ross, Rutherford, Saunders, Schellinck, Scherkoske, Scrimger, Shaver, Singleton, Slonim, B. Smith, Spence Wach, Sutow, Taylor, Thornhill, Tipping, Traves, Tschirhart, Boegeli, Wanzel, Watters, Wheeler, Yeung.

Regrets: Binkley, Camfield, Dunphy, El-Hawary, Plug, Moukdad, Schroeder, J. Smith.

Absent: Bodorik, Gray, Precious, Tindall, Webster.

Guests: S. Brousseau, S. Cameron, S. Fry, A. Power (Recording Secretary)

### **2007:095**

#### Call to Order

Mr. Fraser called the meeting to order and welcomed all new and returning Senators to the meeting. He thanked the President for the new tables and chairs in University Hall. He pointed out that Mr. Butler, Vice-Chair of Senate, had raised a concern last year over the seating situation, which he then took to the Senate Steering Committee (SSC) and with the efforts of the President and the SSC, Senate now has a better arrangement. In addition, University Hall has had wireless technology installed which will enable review of online Senate material during a meeting. Mr. Fraser encouraged Senators to pass any additional comments and/or suggestions related to Senate meetings directly to him.

Mr. Fraser welcomed the following new Senators: Ms. Brenda Richard, Faculty of Health Professions; Ms. Lucia Fanning, Faculty of Management; Ms. Esmeralda Thornhill, Faculty of Law and Ms. Leslie MacLaren, Acting President, Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Mr. Fraser thanked the following Senators who have completed a term: Mr. Mohamed Khimji, Faculty of Law; Mr. Philip Hicks, Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Mr. John Hubert, Faculty of Health Professions.

### **2007:096**

#### Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Fraser sought the permission of Senate for Ms. Susan Brousseau, Director, University Secretariat, to remain during all in camera sessions as she participates in the preparation of the in camera materials. Senate agreed. The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

**2007:097**

Draft Minutes of July 9, 2007 Meeting

a) Approval

The minutes of July 9, 2007 were **APPROVED**.

b) Matters Arising

Mr. Fraser reported that the process involved with establishing the Special Committee of Inquiry to hear a Grievance filed with Senate in May 2007 was moving slowly. Mr. Fraser had indicated to both parties of the grievance that he would contact their nominees once all names were provided to him and to date he had only received two names from the President and none from the grievor. The grievor has raised some concerns about the grievance process and has requested additional background information. The process of responding to the request for information is on-going. Mr. Fraser stated that he would keep Senate updated.

Mr. Fraser responded to an earlier question regarding Turnitin.com and reported that Mr. John Robertson, Director, Academic Computing Services, informed him that the contract for Turnitin.com had been renewed on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for three years.

The recommendations from the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching (SCOLT) 2006-07 Annual Report have been placed on the September 19<sup>th</sup> agenda of the SSC for review and consideration.

At the last meeting of Senate there was a request to review the approval process for graduands to determine if there could be changes in the process which would make it more meaningful for Senators. The Officers have been reviewing this item and will also be discussing it with the Registrar.

**2007:098**

*In Camera* – Ratification of Discipline Decision received by the Secretary of Senate on August 3, 2007, as per the Procedure approved by Senate on April 25, 2007, Minute #2007:60

Mr. Fraser reported that the discipline decision was ratified.

**2007:099**

*In Camera* – Senate Academic Appeals Committee:

a. Ratification of July 23, 2007 Academic Appeal Panel Decision

Mr. Fraser reported that the July 23, 2007 Senate Academic appeal panel decision was ratified.

b. Temporary Suspension of SAAC Procedures Section 2(b)(i)

Mr. Fraser reported that the SAAC procedure section 2(b)(i) was temporarily suspended for a pending academic appeal.

**2007:100**

Question Period

Mr. Slonim expressed concern that the academic appeal panel decision documentation was not distributed prior to the meeting and asked that materials of this nature be distributed in advance. Mr. Fraser indicated that he appreciated Mr. Slonim's concern; however, the main concern had been to protect the identity and confidentiality of the appellant.

Mr. Tipping asked the Chair of Senate or the University Secretary whether an academic appeal, if it had not been heard by a Faculty's appeal committee within a specified time, would go directly to the Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC). If so, he wished to have clarification concerning the period of time an appeal might remain at the Faculty level before automatically being passed on to the SAAC for a decision. Mr. Fraser stated that he could not answer the question immediately and indicated that a response would be available at the next meeting of Senate.

**2007:101**

Senate Nominating Committee: Slate of Nominees for Senate Standing Committees

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee (SNC), Ms. Geldenhuys **MOVED**:

**THAT**

**Mr. Dean Irvine, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, be elected to the Senate Computing and Information Technology Planning Committee for the term of September 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008;**

**Ms. Joan Harbison, Faculty of Health Professions, be elected to the panel of Discipline Advisors for the term of September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2007;**

**Mr. Michael Baird, Faculty of Management, be elected to the Honorary Degrees Committee for the term of September 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008;**

**Mr. David Zitner, Faculty of Medicine, be elected to the Senate Library Committee for the term of September 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010; and**

**Ms. Joan Evans, Faculty of Medicine, be elected to the Senate Academic Appeals Committee for the term of September 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.**

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the nominees were declared elected to their respective committees.

**2007:102**

Senate Committee on the Environment (SCE):

a. 2006 Senate Environment Award Presentation to Professor Richard Kroeker

Mr. Fraser and Mr. Stephen Fry, former SCE Co-Chair, presented the 2006 Senate Environment Award to Mr. Richard Kroeker from the Faculty of Architecture and Planning. Mr. Fraser noted that when the award was to have been presented in 2006, Mr. Kroeker was not available as he was on sabbatical. Mr. Fry informed Senators that the Senate Environment Award recognizes individuals or groups at Dalhousie who have undertaken innovative projects or activities on campus that have: resulted in a reduced environmental impact on the Dalhousie campus; developed interdisciplinary curricula for an environmentally sustainable future; helped Dalhousie to become a model of environmental sustainability; increased environmental literacy within Dalhousie; or engaged in research contributing to local, regional, or global sustainability.

Mr. Fry introduced Mr. Kroeker and informed Senators that since joining Dalhousie in 1991, Mr. Kroeker's work and teaching have been exemplary in their focus on sustainability. He has made significant contributions to the conceptualization and practice of sustainable architecture in Canada in his award-winning design practice, his innovative research, and his inspirational teaching. Mr. Kroeker has fostered an integrated approach to sustainability in which communities, sites and

building materials are equally valued in developing appropriate design solutions. His work in sustainable design has been internationally recognized.

b. 2006-2007 SCE Annual Report

Mr. Fry presented the 2006-2007 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Environment.

**2007:103**

2006-2007 Annual Report of the Senate Computing and Information Technology Planning Committee (SCITPC)

The SCITPC Annual Report for 2006-07 was received. Mr. Tipping stated that he thinks Dalhousie on iTunes is a great idea; unfortunately, although the university has been online for six months, there has been only one lecture from a Dalhousie professor posted.

Mr. Slonim inquired about the research networking fee which has been under review. Mr. Fraser said that this is anticipated to be addressed in the next budget year.

**2007:104**

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser reported that he had received notice from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) that the Master of International Health Services Administration program proposal had been approved. The following 2006-2007 Centres and Institutes Annual Reports had been received in the Senate Office: Marine & Environmental Law Institute, Institute for Research in Materials, Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre, Centre for African Studies, Trace Analysis Research Centre, Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, and the Centre for International Business Studies.

The Chair noted that an amended May 2007 Graduands list was appended to the Senate meeting package as there were two degrees, as a result of decisions by the Senate Discipline Committee, that were rescinded. On September 1, 2007 the Faculty Discipline Procedures Concerning Academic Dishonesty, which were approved on March 26, 2007 by Senate, came into effect. Much work has gone into the implementation of the new procedures over the past months. Mr. Fraser also noted that there have been many new initiatives this Fall, including several in Student Services. The ASK ME campaign has been evident in addition to new materials which have been distributed to students.

**2007:105**

President's Report

The President reported that he had produced a substantial report outlining a number of major issues, including enrolment levels, finances, and campus renewal. Mr. Traves indicated that Dalhousie is off to a strong start this Fall. Although enrolment is down about 289 overall, there has been a significant increase in the size of the first year class, as compared with last year. The President's Strategic Focus, which is to be discussed at the October meeting of Senate, will examine these issues in greater detail.

**2007:106**

Orientation

Mr. Fraser provided a comprehensive orientation for new and returning Senators.

**2007:107**

Adjournment

The meeting **ADJOURNED**.