

Item: Senate Minutes, October 2009
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

Additional Notes:

This document is a compilation of Senate minutes, staff matters and miscellaneous documents for October 2009. The documents have been ordered chronologically and made OCR for ease of searching. The original documents and additional documents for this year which have not yet been digitized can be found in the Dalhousie University Senate fonds (UA-5) at the Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections.

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

**APPROVED MINUTES
OF
SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, October 26, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barker, Barkhouse, Bennett, Camfield, Campbell, Canning, Ciabattoni, Cochrane, Cox, Croll, El-Hawary, Evans, Fanning, Frank, Gantar, Gilbert, Harman, Ibrahim, Karabanow, Kroeker, Lee, LeForte, Leon, Macy, Maes, MacLaren, McLarney, Milson, Mitchell, Moore, Pegg, Pinder, Ross, Rutherford, Ryan, Saunders, Schellinck, Shaver, Shukla, Singleton, Sorge-English, Traves, Zimmerman.

Regrets: Blake, Boran, Gassmann, Hymers, MacLennan, Pegg, Pelot, Robinson, Thorburn, Thornhill, Webster.

Absent: Couban, Crago, El-Masry, Farina, Garduno, Hughes, Marrie, McClure, McConnell, Mechoulam, Sadek, Shepherd, Simms, Smith, Thomas, Watters, Wheeler.

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Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

2009: 105

Draft September 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Approval

The September 28, 2009 minutes were **APPROVED**.

2009: 106

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser extended congratulations to the 800 graduates in the three ceremonies held on the 17th and 18th of October, 2009. Honorary degrees were extended to Dr. Alexa Ann McDonough, Dr. Bernhard Gueller, and Dr. James S. Cowan.

It was noted that Annual Reports have been received from both The Centre for Comparative Genomics and Evolutionary Bioinformatics (CGEB) and the Canadian Institute of Fisheries Technologies.

It was also noted that new procedures for proposing changes to admission requirements and degree regulations have been included with the meeting package.

The Senate Forum on Dalhousie's Strategic Focus, 2010 – 2013 will be held on the 9th of November. Regular Senate meetings will be held on the 23rd of November and on the 14th of December.

2006: 107

President's Report

Faculty of Medicine Accreditation

Mr. Traves provided an update on the Faculty of Medicine accreditation process. Deficiencies had been noted by both the Canadian and the American accrediting teams, and the Faculty was placed on probationary status. Despite the appeal, on the American reports findings, which reduced the number of failed standards from 17 to 10, the probationary status of the Faculty still stands. Mr. Marrie has launched the review process and deficiencies will be addressed immediately with the plan of being back to positive status within 18 to 24 months. It was noted that students from Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine ranked 3rd in Canada on qualifying exams and that students graduating from the Faculty still face excellent prospects for post-graduate residencies.

Dalhousie's Strategic Focus, 2010-2013: Making Choices

Mr. Traves noted that a draft discussion paper on strategic planning has been distributed to the campus community and the University is now following up with a series of roundtable discussions. Senators were encouraged to take part in these discussion groups taking place across the University. From these roundtable discussions, Mr. Traves will draft a strategic plan and present it to the Dalhousie community early in the New Year. Input on which Strategic Focus question(s) Senate should focus on for the November forum were then discussed. There was general consensus that the questions posed were interrelated and, in particular, it was noted that Dalhousie should focus on becoming a "world-class" institution.

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Senate Nominating Committee: Standing Committee Nominations

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Mr. Alex Brodsky, Computer Science, be appointed to the Senate Academic Appeal Committee (SAAC) for the term October 26, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

THAT Ms. Jill Grant, Architecture and Planning, be appointed to the Continuing University Hearing Committee for the term October 23, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations and hearing none, the two candidates were declared elected to their respective committees. It was noted that there are still five available positions on the Senate Discipline Committee and one available position on the Senate Academic Appeal Committee.

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Senate Committee on Academic Administration

Student Accommodation Policy

Mr. Fraser welcomed the members of the Student Accommodation Committee who were present for the discussion - Ms. Patricia Sullivan, Student Accommodation Committee Chair, and Director for the School of Nursing; Ms. Åsa Kachan, Assistant Vice President Enrolment Management & Registrar; Ms. Bonnie Best-Fleming, Human Rights & Equity Advisor; Ms. Patricia De Méo, Executive Director, Student Academic Success Services; and Ms. Karen Crombie, University Legal Counsel. Ms. De Méo presented the report on behalf of the Committee

and she provided an overview of the context and guiding principles behind the new policy. Dalhousie's current policy only addresses students with disabilities, and as such, is not in accordance with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Student Accessibility Services only deals with academic issues, and there is no policy in place for faculty to address non-academic concerns. A key component of the policy is the development of a centralized administration to review documentation and ensure consistency. This administration would consult and collaborate proactively across Faculties. Students would be able to come to the one office for both academic and non-academic issues, and the office would act as the liaison across other departments. An appeals process is also included in the new policy.

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

THAT the Senate approve the Dalhousie University Student Accommodation Policy.

In discussion of the motion, the following was noted:

- Concern was raised that the current criteria for acceptable medical reports may not be as precise as necessary. In response, it was noted that parameters are already in place as to what documentation would be required in each case.
- Training for individuals and faculty would be needed to implement this policy and an Accommodation Officer is currently being hired. The Accommodation Officer would also meet with Faculties to discuss approved parameters.
- It was suggested that Faculty-by-Faculty accommodation would be more appropriate, and that the Student Accommodation Office should not have the ability to override Faculty decisions. In response, it was noted that Faculties would be consulted and would need to approve any implemented policies.
- A question was raised as to whether the University's policy in regards to diversity would be made explicit in the application process. Other than noting the existence of the Student Accommodation Office, this is not addressed in the application process. It was agreed that more work should be done in this area.
- It was emphasized that due to variation across the University, the Nova Scotia Human Rights legislation is not currently being followed in a systematic manner. The model outlined in the new policy also protects student privacy more so than the Faculty by Faculty approach.
- That the proposed Student Accommodation Policy does not apply to non-accredited programs at Dalhousie. Adoption of this policy by the College of Continuing Education was encouraged.

The motion **CARRIED**.

It was noted that the Student Accommodation Policy would be reviewed one year after implementation.

[A copy of the Student Accommodation Policy is attached to the official minutes of this meeting of Senate as Appendix A.]

Admission Changes: School of Health Administration

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

THAT the Senate approve a maximum of 10% of the entering class can be admitted to the Master of Health Administration Program through a formal Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).

The motion **CARRIED**.

It was noted that the majority of Prior Learning Assessments are used in the Faculty of Management.

Supplemental Exam Eligibility in Bachelor of Commerce Program

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

THAT the Senate approve the following changes to the Proposed Calendar (2010/2011) description of supplemental exams for the Bachelor of Commerce Program:

Item b) the minimum grade for the class must be 45% to be eligible to write a supplementary exam.

Item f) Students may write only one supplementary exam at the 2000 level, one at the 3000 level and one at the 4000 level

The motion **CARRIED**.

Commentary on Penalties

Mr. Shaver presented an overview of discussions that have been undertaken in consultation with the Academic Integrity Officers, the Senate Discipline Committee, Deans' Council, and the Senate Committee on Academic Administration. The following text was approved by the Senate Committee on Academic Administration as commentary to be included in the calendar as a prelude to the section on penalties:

Proactive Measures

Dalhousie University emphasizes education and proactive engagement, therefore a Proactive Measure, which is a form of recommendation, may be prescribed as an educational aid in addition to a Penalty. It may include but not necessarily be restricted to suggesting that the student seek some form of professional help from the Academic Advising Office or Counseling Services or elsewhere which, for example may be time management or stress management, etc., and/or an apology for the infraction. The main purpose of a Proactive Measure is to help the student learn how to reduce the likelihood of future violations of academic integrity. It is important to note that it is the student's responsibility to decide whether or not to follow the Proactive Measure since it is not formal Penalty but rather a recommendation. Therefore, there is normally no oversight by the University (AIO or SDC) to ensure that a Proactive Measure is followed.

Consequence

A Consequence is an outcome of the application of a Penalty. A Consequence is not imposed by the University's academic integrity policies but arises from the University's academic policies. For example the consequences of the Penalty of a failing grade may include but not necessary limited to: failure in a program, delay of graduation, loss of full-time student status, change in visa status (for a visa student), loss eligibility for student aid, removal from the Dean's list. Similarly a notation on a transcript may have serious unforeseen consequences for future opportunities, etc. This list is not intended to be exhaustive. Therefore, while the University's academic integrity procedures (AIO or SDC) may foresee some consequences, ultimately the student bears the responsibility for any consequences of a Penalty.

Mr. Shaver noted that there is an important distinction to be made between a penalty and a consequence. The remedial actions in a penalty are intended to emphasize learning. A situation in which a student would not be able to graduate is a consequence of a penalty.

2009: 110

2008 – 2009 Annual Reports

Faculty Discipline Process Annual Report

Mr. Fraser presented the 2008 – 2009 Faculty Discipline Process Annual Report. Allegations made in the previous academic year were up from the year before; however, only 6 of these referrals were repeat offenses, suggesting that the Faculty Discipline Process has been helpful for student learning. Education is confirmed to be warranted in most cases where there is no intent to deceive.

Senate Discipline Committee Annual Report

Mr. Canning presented the 2008 – 2009 Annual Report of the Senate Discipline Committee. He reiterated that the statistics there have seen a consistent decrease since 2007 in the number of allegations heard. Most academic offenses have been resolved through the Faculty Discipline Process.

Code of Student Conduct Annual Report

Mr. Marc Braithwaite, Executive Director of Student Wellness Services, presented the 2008 – 2009 Annual Report of the Code of Student Conduct. This report dealt with student conduct issues outside of the classroom and teaching realm. Student Wellness Services has established a quick response team that is able to assemble within an hour of a serious complaint to address instances and begin investigations. The Code of Student Conduct is available online and has been recognized by faculty and staff as a constructive tool.

2009: 111

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee

Senate Review of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Mr. Fraser welcomed Ms. Leslie MacLaren, Co-President, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, to present the Senate review. The Nova Scotia Agricultural College, located in Truro, is unique in that it is structured like

a single Faculty University, offering programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The B.Sc. (Agriculture) and M.Sc. Degree Programs at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College were the focus of the 2007 Dalhousie University Senate Review. There were 27 recommendations, most of which were about renewal of academic programming. Overall, there has been difficulty in attracting students to core agricultural programs, making it necessary for the College to offer innovative programs. Recent developments have included the College deciding against an honours stream and the decision to accommodate graduate work for up to 30 months to encompass two field seasons. The Nova Scotia Agricultural College will continue to follow up with Senate in regards to the renewal of programs. It is also working on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the institutions, which is anticipated to be completed within the next year.

2009: 112

Presentation: October 2009 Dalhousie University Enrolment Statistics

The presentation of October 2009 Dalhousie University Enrolment Statistics was deferred due to time constraints.

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Other Business

There was no other business.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.