

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

Additional Notes:

This document is a compilation of Senate minutes, staff matters and miscellaneous documents for September 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.

The original materials and additional materials which have not been digitized can be found in the Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections using the call number referenced above.

In most cases, copyright is held by Dalhousie University. Some materials may be in the public domain or have copyright held by another party. It is your responsibility to ensure that you use all library materials in accordance with the Copyright Act of Canada. Please contact the Copyright Office if you have questions about copyright, fair dealing, and the public domain.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

***Approved* MINUTES
OF
SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Barkhouse, Bennett, Blake, Boran, Campbell, Canning, Ciabattoni, Cochrane, Croll, El-Hawary, El-Masry, Evans, Farina, Frank, Gantar, Garduno, Gilbert, Harman, Hughes, Hymers, Ibrahim, Lee, LeFote, Leon, Macy, MacLennan, McLarney, Milson, Mitchell, Moore, Pegg, Pelot, Pinder, Robinson, Ross, Ryan, Sadek, Schellinck, Shaver, Shepherd, Simms, Singleton, Sorge-English, Thorburn, Thornhill, Traves, Watters, Zimmerman

Regrets: Barker, Camfield, Couban, Cox, Crago, Gassmann, Karabanow, Kroeker, Maes, Marrie, MacLaren, McConnell, Mechoulan, Rutherford, Saunders, Shukla, Smith, Thomas, Webster

Absent: Adshade, McClure, Wheeler

2009: 91

Call to Order

Mr. Fraser called the meeting to order and welcomed all new and returning Senators to the meeting. He welcomed the following new Senators from the Faculty of Arts and Social Science: Lyn Bennett, Francesco Ciabattoni, Colin Mitchell, Lynn Sorge-English, Michael Hymers; Jane Thorburn and Ron Pelot from the Faculty of Engineering; Robert Gilbert from the Faculty of Health Professions; Oriel MacLennan from University Libraries; Stéphane Mechoulan from the Faculty of Management; Michael Lee from the Faculty of Medicine; Alan Pinder from the Faculty of Science; Jure Gantar, Tom Marrie, and Chris Moore as Academic Administrators.

2009:92

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

2009: 93

Draft June 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Approval – The June 8, 2009 minutes were **APPROVED** as circulated

Matters Arising

A potential change regarding the Code of Student Conduct Annual Report was disregarded, as the presenter was unexpectedly called out of town.

Mr. Fraser directed attention to Mr. Jim Vibert's PowerPoint presentation on recruitment, marketing and the nature of applicants to Dalhousie University, available on the member's section of the Senate website.

2009: 94

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser extended sincere sympathy and condolences to family, friends, and colleagues of the several members of the Dalhousie community who have died since the last meeting in June, including: Dr. James McDiarmid Corston, Dr. Erwin Klein, Dr. Helena (Heli) Munroe, Samantha Li, Dr. Michael Klug, Paul Martell, and Michael Pronk.

Congratulations were extended to Ms. Martha Crago, Vice-President (Research), who was honoured by the Government of France for her contribution to Franco-Québécois relations, and to Ms. Jennifer Smith, who was awarded the Eric Dennis Memorial Chair of Government and Political Science earlier this summer.

Thanks were extended for the thoughtful comments provided on the May 2009 Senate Feedback forms. Mr. Fraser also encouraged serious consideration within faculty units for honorary degree nominations, noting that the Senate approves these nominations based on the quality of nominations submitted. It was also noted that there need be a process for awarding parchment degrees to individuals between convocations due to licensing requirements and the potential for fraud within certain jurisdictions.

It was noted that the next Senate meeting would take place on the 26th of October. In addition, Senators were encouraged to take advantage of the reception following the meeting.

2009: 95

Senate Nominating Committee Nominations

Mr. Fraser introduced Mr. Hubert, chair of the Senate Nominating Committee.

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

THAT Mr. Carl Canning, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, be appointed as Vice-Chair of Senate, Academic Administration, for the term September 28, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

THAT Ms. Carolan McLarney, School of Business Administration, Faculty of Management, be appointed as Vice-Chair of Senate, Academic Programs, for the term September 28, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations and hearing none, the candidates were declared elected as Vice-Chairs of Senate. Congratulations were extended to both Mr. Canning and Ms. McLarney.

Additional appointments were then introduced by Mr. Hubert, who **MOVED**:

THAT Mr. Michael Lee, Faculty of Medicine and Ms. Susan Molesky, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, be appointed to the Senate Academic Appeals Committee for the term September 28, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

THAT Ms. Pam Williams, College of Continuing Education, be appointed to the Honorary Degrees Committee for the term September 28, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

THAT Mr. Matthew Schnurr, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, be appointed to the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching for the term September 28, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

THAT Mr. Mark Knechtel, Faculty of Dentistry and Mr. Emmanuel Jannasch, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, be appointed to the Senate Library Committee for the term September 28, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

THAT Mr. Michael Pegg, Faculty of Engineering and Ms. Lyn Bennett, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, be appointed to the Senate Committee on Academic Administration for the term September 28, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

THAT Mr. William Baldrige, Faculty of Medicine; Stephen Bearne, Faculty of Medicine; Lindsay DuBois, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Ann Morrison, University Library; Christopher Murphy, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences be appointed to the University Tenure and Promotions Panel for the term September 28, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations and hearing none, the candidates were declared elected to their respective committees. Congratulations were extended to all new appointees to Senate Standing and University Committees.

2009: 96

Senate Steering Committee

Academic Continuity: Suspension of Requirement for Medical Certificate – Academic Regulation 16.8 (paragraph 2)

Mr. Fraser welcomed Ms. Susan Spence-Wach to provided background on this proposal on behalf of the Senate Steering Committee. After the presentation and discussion, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT the Senate approve of the following provision, with a review by Senate Steering Committee in December 2009:

For the 2009 fall academic term, Section 16.8 of the University's Academic Regulations which requires a medical certificate due to illness, **be suspended for individuals experiencing influenza-like symptoms* who are absent for up to ten calendar days**. Students who are absent with influenza-like symptoms for more than ten days will require a medical certificate. This certificate should indicate the dates and duration of the illness, when possible, should

describe the impact it had on the student's ability to fulfill academic requirements, and should include any other information the physician considers relevant and appropriate. To obtain a medical certificate, students who miss examinations, tests or the completion of other assignments should contact the University Health Services or their physician at the time they are ill and should submit a medical certificate to their instructor as soon thereafter as possible. When a certificate is required, it will not normally be accepted after a lapse of more than one week from the examination or assignment completion date. **In all cases, students are required to immediately advise their instructors of any absence due to influenza-like symptoms.**

It was further discussed that the ten-day parameter still presented a conflicting situation to students. Senators were then asked to vote on an amended version. Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT for the 2009 fall academic term, section 16.8 of the University's Academic Regulations, which require a medical certificate due to illness, be suspended for those individuals experiencing influenza-like symptoms. In all cases, students are required to immediately advise their instructors of an absence due to influenza-like symptoms as this will assist in monitoring the extent of illness across the University. Students are encouraged to follow the decision chart guidelines located on the flu.dal.ca website to assist in making care decisions in the event of flu-like symptoms. A Senate determination will be made by December 2009 on whether to extend this modified regulation into the 2009/2010 winter term.

The amended motion **CARRIED**.

Senate discussion raised the following questions:

Q. Why has the ten-day parameter been removed?

A. The ten-days was an arbitrary length of time, and is still contrary to medical advice.

Q. Why isn't there a contingency clause that says if there isn't a pandemic, the University shall continue as normal?

A. The medical system is already responding to students who are ill by telling them not to come into Health Services. As a potential pandemic is a serious situation, we need to have a contingency plan in place.

Q. By what mechanism will Senate decide to renew this motion for the winter term?

A. Steering Committee will monitor the situation and give whatever advice is necessary. The numbers of students affected are being recorded, and this will influence the decision in December.

Q. In the name of fairness, how are faculty members to maintain academic quality when students are being given the ability to undermine the system?

A. There is already a provision in place that addresses abuse in the student Code of Conduct. In light of the potential severity of the pandemic, student health is a priority. While it will be change to Dalhousie's policy, some universities do not require medical certificates at all.

Q. If there really is a pandemic, by what mechanism will we make decisions?

A. If something needs to be dramatically changed (i.e. length of term), that would be the decision of the President or Vice-President, Academic. The University's contingency plan will need to be a layered response, with faculties and instructors having to work on a case-by-case basis.

Q. What rights do professors have to modify a course syllabus?

A. They are working on contingency checklists for professors to look towards if things progress. An example is IT solutions that could assist faculty members to work with students.

It was suggested that the Academic Continuity Planning Group be the target for further questions on this issue, and that Ms. Spence Wach's email address be used to get questions before this group.

Senate Email Voting in Extraordinary Circumstances (September 29, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

Mr. Fraser provided background on behalf of the Senate Steering Committee on proposed voting procedure for the period of September 29, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

The provisions of this recommendation were not spelled out due to the difficulty in anticipating exactly what the situation will be. However, given that full consultation of the Steering Committee may be difficult to achieve, it is necessary that there be a mechanism for email discussion of any issue put forward.

He then **MOVED**:

THAT

- 1) In the event that Senate is prevented from meeting or from attaining quorum as a result of extraordinary circumstances arising during the period from September 29, 2009 to June 30, 2010, as determined by the Chair of Senate or his/her designate, and if items of an urgent nature must be considered by Senate during this period, then the Chair or the Chair's designate may call for an electronic vote on the matter.
- 2) The motion to be considered must be conveyed to the University Secretary or her/his designate. On the direction of the Chair or designate, the University Secretariat will circulate the motion by electronic mail to all members of Senate with supporting documentation attached and/or posted on the web with a link provided to the relevant site.
- 3) Once the motion and supporting materials have been distributed and/or posted, members of Senate will have 3 working days to vote on the motion by electronic ballot. Instructions for voting, along with the date and time on which voting will close, will be announced when the vote opens.
- 4) For the purposes of quorum, one-third of the members of Senate must register a vote. Abstentions will be included in determining quorum.

- 5) Members of Senate will be given the options of registering a vote in favour of the motion, or in opposition to the motion, or of abstaining from the vote. The motion may not be amended or deferred; it must pass or fail as it stands.
- 6) If at the time announced for the closing of the vote, quorum has not been achieved, then the University Secretary, in consultation with the Chair of Senate or the Chair's designate, may declare an extension of voting for a further period, normally not to exceed three days.
- 7) The motion must be carried by a simple majority of those registering a vote in order to pass. If the motion is defeated, an amended motion may be placed before Senate using the procedure described above.
- 8) The outcome of the vote will be reported at the next meeting of Senate and a record contained in the minutes of that meeting.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Following discussion, Mr. Fraser then **MOVED**:

THAT the voting period be changed from three days to three business days.

The amended motion **CARRIED**.

Nominations to Senate Nominating Committee

Mr. Fraser then spoke on behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee for nominations to the Senate Nominating Committee. Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Alan Pinder, Faculty of Science; John Hubert, Faculty of Health Professions; James Creighton, Faculty of Dentistry; and Austin Parsons, Faculty of Architecture & Planning be elected to the Senate Nominating Committee for the term September 28, 2009 to August 31, 2012.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations and hearing none, the candidates were declared elected to their respective committees.

2009: 97

Senate Committee on Academic Administration

Awarding a Degree Posthumously

Mr. Fraser invited Alan Shaver, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, to present this draft policy on posthumous degrees. Following discussion, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT a posthumous degree may be awarded to deceased student under the following circumstances:

The student must have:

- a. Died while a student, or within 12 months of the last registration;
- b. Been in good academic standing of a high enough standard that eventual graduation was expected;
- c. For undergraduates in programs requiring 20 or more credits, completed at least 15.0 credits;
- d. For undergraduates in program requiring 15 credits, completed at least 12 credits.
- e. For graduate students in course-based Master's programs, completion of 75% of the course work.
- f. For graduate students in thesis-based Master's programs, completion of all course work and submission of a draft of the thesis deemed satisfactory by the supervisor and one other committee member.
- g. For graduate students in Ph.D. programs, completion of all course work, comprehensive examinations, and thesis proposal, and submission of a draft of the thesis approved by the committee and an external examiner.

Students who were in an Honours or 20 credit undergraduate program at the time of death but are not eligible for a posthumous Honours or 20 credit degree, may be recommended for the corresponding 15 credit degree, if the criteria for that degree are met.

Procedures:

- a. On receiving notice of the death of a student, the Registrar, in consultation with the department or school and the Dean(s), determines if the student would be eligible for a posthumous degree and communicates this information to the Chair of Senate, the Provost and the President.
- b. Upon agreement from all the parties, the Registrar will communicate with the next of kin, to confirm whether the family wishes to have a posthumous degree conferred and to discuss possible arrangements for the awarding of the degree.
- c. The posthumous degree will be noted, as such in the list of graduands approved by Senate and in the Convocation program, but not on the parchment or the transcript.
- d. If the family wishes, a representative of the family may cross the stage during Convocation in place of the deceased student to receive the degree parchment.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Matters Arising

Concern arose in the case of advanced students in the sciences who may not have a complete draft of a thesis, even after seventy-five percent completion of degree requirements. The Dean of Graduate Studies responded that the word "complete" may be removed, and that a draft thesis is still a reasonable requirement. Mr. Shaver pointed out that the aim of this policy was to provide some structure to a very awkward/emotional situation, and that there is some flexibility and that faculties can assist in the completion of a degree.

Mr. Fraser then **MOVED**:

THAT the word “complete” be removed.

The amended motion **CARRIED**.

2009: 98

Ombudsperson Advisory Committee

Appointment of the 2009-2010 Assistant Ombudsperson

On behalf of the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**

THAT Ms. Moira Clancey, a second year MPA student, be appointed as 2009/2010 Assistant Ombudsperson.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2009: 99

Report on Ratification of Faculty Discipline Process Matters – Quarterly Report

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Robert LeForte, DSU Vice-President, Education. Mr. LeForte presented the Quarterly Report, covering the period from April 27, 2009 to September 28, 2009. It was assessed that the procedures have been followed. The Annual Report for the Faculty Discipline Process will be presented at the October meeting.

2009: 100

College of Sustainability – Update

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Stephen Mannell, Director of the College of Sustainability. Mr. Mannell reviewed the accomplishments of the college as it stands eighteen months after initial approval. Successes have included the launching of the Major in Environment, Sustainability and Society, whose enrollment was double what was expected. The College was also recognized by UNESCO as one of the world’s twenty-five best practices in sustainability.

2009: 101

Dalhousie Student Union President’s Report

Mr. Fraser welcomed Ms. Shannon Zimmerman, President of the Dalhousie Student Union. Ms. Zimmerman’s presentation highlighted the successes of Orientation week, Dalfest, and current fundraising efforts.

2009: 102

President's Report

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Tom Traves, President and Vice-Chancellor of Dalhousie University. Mr. Traves congratulated the University on its recruitment efforts this year – as of Friday, the University is up approximately seven hundred students over last year, putting the total student body at over sixteen thousand. He noted that the provincial government has confirmed that it will be providing the full operating grant for 2010/2011 on the last day of this fiscal year. This puts the University in a good position while moving into a strategic planning phase. He put out the message that strategic questions will be put out via online dialogues, and hosted by V.P. colleagues.

2009: 103

Question Period

Ms. Harman asked a question about the campus master plan, and it was responded that it is moving towards completion and would be ready within a month or two, at most.

2009: 104

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.