

Item: Senate Minutes, April 2010  
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, April 12, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Barkhouse, Barrett, Blake, Boran, Campbell, Canning, Cochrane, Couban, Cox, Gantar, Garduno, Gassmann, Harman, Hymers, Karabanow, Lee, LeForte, Leon, Marrie, McClure, McLarney, Mechoulam, Mitchell, Moore, Pegg, Pelot, Pinder, Rutherford, Ryan, Sadek, Saunders, Shaver, Shepherd, Shukla, Simms, Sorge-English, Watters, Zimmerman.

Regrets: Adshade, Barker, Bennett, Camfield, Ciabattoni, Crago, Croll, Cunningham, El-Hawary, El-Masry, Evans, Fanning, Farina, Frank, Gilbert, Hewitt, Hughes, MacLaren, MacLennan, Robinson, Ross, Thomas, Thorburn, Thornhill, Traves.

Sabbatical: McConnell, Milson, Singleton.

Absent: Kroeker, Macy, Maes, Smith, Webster.

Mr. Fraser opened the Senate meeting by thanking the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) executive members, Ms. Shannon Zimmerman, DSU President, Mr. Rob LeForte, DSU Vice President Education, and Student Senators Ms. Meredith Evans, Mr. Shane Simms and Mr. Randy Ibrahim, for their work with the Dalhousie Senate and Senate Standing Committees during the 2009-2010 Academic Year. Mr. Fraser also congratulated Mr. LeForte for his re-election as DSU Vice President Education.

**2010:041**

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Approval**

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

**2010:042**

**Draft Minutes of March 22, 2010 Senate Meeting**

The Draft Minutes of March 22, 2010 Senate Meeting were **APPROVED** with the following correction: pg. 4, third bullet should read: "It was noted that the Faculty Council of the Schulich School of Law had sent a letter to the Chair of Senate outlining their concerns regarding the proposed SRI policy and requesting that the School be entitled to maintain its current method of course evaluations."

**Matters Arising**

Mr. Fraser noted that work has already begun regarding the plans for further consultation meetings regarding the Student Rating of Instruction Policy that will take place over the next 12 months.

**2010:043**

**Chair's Report**

Mr. Fraser noted that later in the afternoon all Senators would receive an email invitation to respond to the first on-line Senate Feedback Survey. The survey would only take approximately ten minutes to complete and all responses would be forwarded anonymously to the Senate Steering Committee. Mr. Fraser also drew attention to the memo dated April 5, 2010 from Mr. Carl Canning that accompanied the agenda regarding a Call for Honorary Degree Nominations for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011, with nominations closing June 30, 2010.

Mr. Fraser indicated there will likely be a number of important decisions being made at the next few meetings including proposals for new committee structures and issues regarding governance restructuring. There will be recommendations for changes proposed in May with decisions following in June. Given that the current constitution was developed in 1980 it was deemed necessary to review the structure and governance of the Senate. Through this review, changes will be proposed and Legal Counsel will work to prepare a draft new constitution for approval. There will also be a few student appeals to be ratified and new terms of reference for these reviews and Senate Reviews of Faculties will be addressed at the upcoming meetings.

Mr. Fraser also reminded the Senate about the University Convocations that will be taking place in May. Mr. Fraser urged Senators to review the schedule of convocations and select the ones that would be most appropriate to attend. Mr. Fraser noted that these ceremonies are important for Senators to attend as they allow us to show support for students, congratulate them on the hard work they have completed, as well as wish them luck in their future endeavors.

**2010:044**

**DSU President's Report**

Ms. Shannon Zimmerman, DSU President, announced that this would likely be her last Report as DSU President as her term was coming to a close. She then announced the new DSU Executive and Senators for the 2010-2011 Academic Year as follows: Mr. Chris Sauliner, President; Ms. Kayla Kurin, Vice President Internal; Mr. Rob LeForte, Vice President Education; Ms. Hannah Dahn, Vice President Student Life and Senate Representatives: Ms. Maggie Lovett, Mr. Ben Wedge and Ms. Carly Nicholson. Ms. Zimmerman noted that Mr. Sauliner is the first Engineering student to be elected as DSU President since the amalgamation with Technical University of Nova Scotia.

Ms. Zimmerman noted that members of the DSU Executive have met with the Budget Advisory Committee to discuss the proposed 2% increase in student fees. This proposed increase was not deemed favorable by the Student Union given that it may make University access more difficult for some individuals. Ms. Zimmerman also highlighted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Residence Charity hockey game, which raised over \$20,000 for the IWK Hospital. Ms. Zimmerman discussed the CASA Lobby Conference that she had attended in Ottawa from March 6 – 12. During these meetings, she was able to talk to many MPs, the Prime Minister, and several other Committee and Policy officials regarding the current state of post-secondary education. Ms. Zimmerman highlighted the discussions surrounding new policies on access to post-secondary education for Aboriginal persons.

Ms. Zimmerman discussed that there will be a Board of Governors vote to determine if there will be an increase in students fees for improving the Athletic Facilities. Given that this is proposed to be a permanent fee there would need to be some consultations made regarding where students would like to see this money spent. Ms. Zimmerman closed by thanking the Senate for the time she has been DSU President and noted

that the last Senate meeting discussion of the Student Rating of Instruction Policy was the highlight of her experience while sitting on Senate. Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Zimmerman for her President's Report.

**2010:045**

**Senate Academic Priorities and Budgeting Committee: Master of Periodontics Program**

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Tom Boran, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry and Mr. Edmond Ghiabi, Faculty, Dental Clinical Sciences, to the Senate meeting to present the Master of Periodontics Program. He discussed the need for the program, structure and the sustainability of the proposed program. He also noted that periodontal disease affects a significant percentage of the population and that periodontal disease can lead to many more severe health crises. Currently, there are only four programs in Periodontics in Canada, as well, there is already a shortage of Periodontics in Canada and furthermore in the Atlantic Provinces. This shortage is only anticipated to increase with an aging population and the retirements of existing practitioners.

Mr. Ghiabi explained that once students had completed the program they would be eligible for fellowships and to become dental faculty. The current full time faculty at the dental school meets the requirements for this graduate program and accreditation. The new graduate program would not compromise the undergraduate program. As well, the faculty at Dalhousie dental school and the other Universities offering periodontal programs fully support the new proposed program.

On behalf of the SAPBC, Mr. Fraser **MOVED:**

**THAT** the Senate approve the Master of Periodontics Program.

The motion **CARRIED.**

Mr. Fraser thanked Mr. Boran and Mr. Ghiabi. Mr. Ghiabi then left the Senate meeting.

**2010:046**

**Budget Advisory Committee Report XLII: Discussion Paper on the Operating Budget Plan for 2010 -2011**

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Alan Shaver, Vice President Academic & Provost, to the Senate meeting to present the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Report XLII Discussion Paper on the Operating Budget Plan for 2010 – 2011. Mr. Shaver noted that this is the first budget model that projects two years of budgets instead of just one. In highlighting the summary of the budget, Mr. Shaver discussed that there is good news in that the Provincial Government honored the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2010-2011 year. Furthermore, tuition has been frozen and as well now students from outside of Nova Scotia (NS) who attend Dalhousie will also be eligible for tuition bursaries. Further good news was that the current tuition revenues were up from the previous financial year due to increased enrolment.

Mr. Shaver noted that the proposed increase in Pension contribution has been discussed with representatives from the Nova Scotia Government and he is hopeful that a response will come through soon. If Dalhousie does not receive assistance from the province, a preliminary allocation of \$10.3 million has been made to account for necessary Pension contributions. A further \$10 million has been allocated for Strategic Initiatives. The preliminary budget presents a \$10 million dollar deficit. It is typical to project an initial deficit given that potential budget cuts or allocations that can balance the budget or create a surplus, have not yet been calculated.

Mr. Shaver discussed some concerns affecting the financial security of the University including the existing NS demographics and what these numbers may mean for University enrolment in an increasingly competitive environment. A further concern regarding financial sustainability was the end of mandatory retirement. As well, another positive financial projection is that a small budget cut of only one percent would generate \$2 million and two percent would create \$4 million. The BAC will be looking at areas for potential budget cuts in the coming weeks and the budget model will be finalized in June.

During the discussion of the BAC Report XLII Discussion Paper on the Operating Budget Plan for 2010 – 2011, the following point was noted:

- Strategic initiatives include such things as resources for recruitment, retention, student experience, facility improvements and so on. These matters change and evolve each year and are determined by the University President.

Mr. Fraser thanked Mr. Shaver for the BAC Report.

#### **2010:047**

##### **Quarterly Report – Faculty Discipline Procedures**

Mr. Fraser welcomed Mr. Carl Canning, Vice Chair Academic Administration and Mr. Rob LeForte, DSU Vice President Education, to the Senate meeting to discuss the Quarterly Report of the Faculty Discipline Procedures for the period of December 23, 2009 to March 31, 2010. During this time, there were 5 meetings held with 46 recommendations, 46 ratifications, 46 offences and 96 penalties assigned.

During the discussion of the Quarterly Report of the Faculty Discipline Procedures, the following points were noted:

- Last year's numbers were not available at the time of the meeting, however, it was estimated that in comparison, the numbers this year were slightly higher.
- There was no breakdown of undergraduate to graduate offences available at the time. It was noted, however, that graduate student offences are only dealt with at this committee level when the offence is committed in a class. The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) deals with all other offences regarding graduate theses and other graduate work.

Mr. Fraser thanked Mr. Canning and Mr. LeForte for the Report.

#### **2010:048**

##### **Student Services Strategy Update: Student Co-Curricular Record Project**

Mr. Fraser welcomed Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice President Student Services and Mr. Rob LeForte, DSU Vice President Education, to the Senate meeting to discuss the Student Services Strategy Update on the Student Co-Curricular Record Project. Ms. Neuman discussed that this project is key to the work done at Student Services which focuses on improving student experience and quality of life while at Dalhousie. Student Services seeks to provide students with academic support through programs such as the accessibility and writing centers, and through academic advising. Furthermore, Student Services helps provide links between students and the greater community.

The current Co-Curricular Report Project is focused on providing students with a successful launch into the world post-Dalhousie. The Project may assist undergraduate students in making successful career connections and help them identify the leadership skills they have gained during their education. Essentially, the goal of the Project is to develop a parallel transcript to the academic transcript that students build during their University education. Co-Curricular Reports have been popular in the US and are now becoming more widespread in Canada.

Mr. LeForte added that this is an important initiative that acts as an incentive for students to get involved in the University community. By participating in community activities, students obtain experiential learning skills, which can assist students post graduation. The Co-Curricular Report will improve the reputation of Dalhousie and provides a formal support for students' resumes.

Ms. Neuman noted that the Co-Curricular Report would have four main components:

1. Volunteerism and employment on campus;
2. Recognition and awards on campus;
3. Student skill development, via training programs and employment on campus; and
4. Academic community involvement, i.e. classes that require field placements, international exchanges etc.

The support system to create this Co-Curricular Record will be part of new software installed at the Student Services. In order to access and maintain the system some additional staff will be required, however, the management of the information will be done staff in the Student Services. Students will have the chance to fill in their information in the Report and then there will be a verification process. This Report is valuable for students as well as for the Alumni Records.

During the discussion of the Student Services Strategy Update on the Student Co-Curricular Record Project, the following points were noted:

- Concern was raised regarding whether this would be deemed on par with the academic transcript, whether it would be deemed complimentary, and whether the name Co-Curricular implies an equitable status. The term Co-Curricular has been selected because it is the most commonly used name for these Reports.
- Given that students are at the University usually for 4 years, this Report will help capture more holistically the student experience aside from just the academic perspective.
- Student leaders and administrators will have preliminary discussions regarding what is deemed appropriate to include on these Reports and once the practice is instituted there will still be verification processes that can discriminate what is or is not appropriate.
- This is a tool to encourage students to get involved with each other and with the campus in ways that support student experiences and the community.
- Academic departments will be able to determine whether extra academic work that is not recognized on the academic transcript should be recognized on the Co-Curricular Report.
- Ethically, advisors might be conflicted on whether to advise students to work on improving their grades or to get involved in more non-academic activities.
- A financial donor has already funded the first five years of this program.
- It will take a great deal of work to certify a student did anything more than just participate in certain activities that appear on the Report.

**2010:049**

**Student Services Strategy Update: Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal**

Mr. Fraser welcomed Ms. Neuman and Mr. LeForte to present their second agenda item regarding the Student Services Strategy Update on the Fitness and Recreation Facility Renewal. Ms. Neuman discussed that traditionally in surveys that ask students to rate their satisfaction with aspects of student experience outside the academic experience, Dalhousie has not fared well in terms of Fitness and Recreational Facilities. The Dalplex Facility was originally built to service only 8500 students. Now with a student population over double that and increasing community use, the Dalplex needs serious renovations and updates. In order to perform these upgrades and improvements a proposed \$180 fee will be added onto student fees. It is intended that this fee would be implemented in the year in which the South Street Fitness Centre is open for use.

The Plans for renovation include a two-phase project starting with improving the Sexton campus Facilities and then moving onto a larger project at the Dalplex which would include tearing down the Eliza Ritchie residence to build a new Fitness Facility. The remaining funds would then be allocated to improving the existing field house. Many consultations will be encouraged to understand what improvements students would like to see. As well, community members who have Facility memberships will also pay an increased fee to cost share the renovations. In the future, periodic reviews of the Fitness and Recreational Facilities will be conducted to ensure they Facilities do not need such serious renovations again.

During the discussion of the Student Services Strategy Update on the Fitness and Recreational Facilities, the following points were noted:

- The Fitness and Recreational fee is mandatory for all full-time Dalhousie students, but is not included in part-time fees. Thus, part-time students do not have a membership included in their tuition costs.
- Part of the commitment to improving these Facilities for students will include not requiring students to pay an extra fee to use the cardio room.

Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Neuman and Mr. LeForte for their Reports.

**2010:050**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2010:051**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.