

Item: Senate Minutes, April 2011

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 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Barkhouse, Bennett, Cochrane, Cox, El-Masry, Gantar, Gassmann, Gilbert, Gorsky, Hughes, E., Karabanow, LeForte, Lovett, Marche, Marrie, MacLaren, MacLennan, McClure, McConnell, Mechoulan, Meynell, Moore, Moukdad, Pinder, Ross, Saulnier, Shukla, Singleton, Smith, Summerby-Murray, Wedge, Westwood.

Regrets: Adshade, Amirault, Barker, Boran, Brooks, Campbell, Canning, Crago, Croll, Gardner, Hughes, J., Lee, Macy, Maes, Mansour, Milson, Pegg, Pelot, Rapaport, Schellinck, Shepherd, Szumilas, Thorburn, Tillotson, Traves, Wach.

Absent: Chen, Couban, Cunningham, Farina, Garduno, Hewitt, Leon, McLarney, Nicholson, Noble, Sadek, Thomas, Watters, Webster.

**2011:51**

**Adoption of Agenda**

Quorum was not attained at the beginning of the meeting and it was decided that an informal meeting would proceed.

**2011:52**

**Consent Agenda**

**Quarterly Report on Ratification under the Faculty Discipline Process - Reporting period January 1 to March 31, 2011**

The quarterly report on ratification under the Faculty Discipline Process was presented for information.

**2011:53**

**Matters Arising from the Draft Senate Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2011**

- Approvals of the Constitution at the Board level:
  - On March 30, 2011 the Governance and Nominating Committee of the Board of Governors had recommended to the Board the adoption of the Constitution.
  - The Constitution would go to the full Board of Governors on April 19.
- The Jurisdiction and Terms of Reference for the Senate Discipline Committee had been reviewed last week by the Senate Steering Committee and would come forward to the May 9 Senate meeting for approval.

**2011:54**

**Chair of Senate Report**

Mr. Fraser extended condolences to family and friends on the death of Dr. C. William "Bill" McCormick and Dr. W. R. Carl Tupper.

Mr. Fraser thanked the following DSU Senate representatives for their service as they completed their terms: Chris Saulnier, President (re-elected as President for 2011-2012); Rob LeForte, Vice President, Academic and External; Maggie Lovett, DSU Representative; Carly Nicholson, DSU Representative; Ben Wedge, DSU Representative; and Alexander Szumilas, Graduate Student Representative.

Mr. Fraser reminded Senators that Dalhousie degrees would be awarded to graduands at the Nova Scotia Agricultural

College Convocation on May 6, the University of King's College Encaenia on May 19, and fourteen Dalhousie Convocations from May 24 to June 1. He encouraged members of Senate to plan their schedules so they could attend convocations, particularly those involving students from their own Faculty.

Mr. Fraser reported that the Senate Steering Committee had determined that a second Senate meeting in April was not required, and therefore, the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting would take place on May 9 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

**2011:55**

**DSU President's Report**

Mr. Saulnier commented on the University budgeting process and outlined DSU initiatives to encourage student participation in the upcoming federal election.

**2011:56**

**Senate Steering Committee: Student Ratings of Instruction – Update**

Mr. Fraser noted that since Senate adopted the policy statement on student ratings of instruction on March 22, 2010, the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching had been actively working on the initiative, and providing regular reports to the Senate Steering Committee. In addition, a variety of working groups had been active examining particular aspects of the policy and proposed implementation procedures.

Mr. Fraser presented the following schedule:

- Today: Brief report on process and timelines
- May 9th Senate Meeting: Full report and discussion on the policy, procedures and proposed Implementation plan
- June 13th Senate Meeting: Approval/ Decisions on the policy, procedures and proposed Implementation plan

**2011:57**

**Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee: Senate Review of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

On behalf of the Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Bertrum MacDonald, Committee member and Professor, School of Information Management provided a brief overview of the report. Robert Summerby-Murray, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences responded to the findings of the Review Committee, and presented the Faculty's action plan. Mr. Fraser noted that, in keeping with the Terms of Reference for Faculty Reviews, the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee had asked the Faculty to report in one year, outlining its progress in implementing the action plan.

**2011:58**

**Budget Advisory Committee: Discussion Paper on the Operating Budget Plan for 2011-2012 (Report #2 for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year)**

Carolyn Watters, Chair, Budget Advisory Committee presented the second report of 2010-11, concerning the University's budgeting process. During discussion, the following points were noted:

- In some cases, unit restructuring might provide Faculties with an opportunity for longer-term cost savings.
- Resources allocated to strategic initiatives are not protected. Nevertheless, to gain access to funding allocated to strategic initiatives, Faculties and other units have been asked to submit proposals indicating how such funding would enable them to more effectively meet the strategic goals of the University.

**2011:59**

**Information Technology Services Presentation**

Dwight Fischer, Assistant Vice-President and Chief Information Officer, presented options the University was considering with respect to a move to “cloud-based” tools for email, communication and collaboration. During discussion the following points were raised:

- The cloud-based systems offered by Google and Microsoft would not replace On-line Web Learning (OWL) or Blackboard Learning Systems (BLS).
- There were opportunities for collaboration with the local hospitals, with whom there had been active communication, although the hospitals had greater limitations concerning information that could be transmitted or stored online.
- A cloud-based system would offer much greater storage capacity, combined with cutting-edge communication tools with calendar integration. Privacy concerns would need to be adequately addressed.
- There would be separate servers hosted locally for sensitive information.
- Google’s system is free; the cost for Microsoft’s system increases in tiers as one adds functionality.
- With a cloud-based system, the increase in capacity would benefit the University in continuing to offer IT services to alumni, and reduce system requirements for computers on campus. Ultimately this would lengthen their life span.
- The decision on a potential move to a cloud-based system would be made by the senior administration. If a student or faculty member had strong objections to the new system, Mr. Fischer anticipated that they would be able to remain on a local server.

**2011:60**

**Question Period**

In response to a question, Ms. Watters noted that student auxiliary fees were separate from tuition increases. Auxiliary fees might be proposed by Deans, tied to services for students that extended beyond what the University normally would provide. Once such a need was identified, student consultation and support was required—without which such fees would not be approved by either the Board or the government.

**2011:61**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.