

Item: Senate Minutes, May 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, May 9, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barker, Barkhouse, Bennett, Boran, Bouchard, Brooks, Campbell, Canning, Cochrane, Cox, Croll, Gantar, Gilbert, Gorsky, Hewitt, Maes, Mansour, Marche, MacLaren, McConnell, McLarney, Mechoulan, Meynell, Noble, Pinder, Rapaport, Ross, Sadek, Saulnier, Schellinck, Smith, Summerby-Murray, Thorburn, Traves.

Regrets: Amirault, Chen, Crago, El-Masry, Farina, Gardner, Garduno, Hughes, E., Hughes, J., Karabanow, Lee, Leon, Macy, Magill, Marrie, MacLennan, McClure, Moore, Moukdad, Pegg, Pelot, Scrimgeour, Shepherd, Shukla, Singleton, Thomas, Tillotson, Wach, Watters, Westwood.

Absent: Couban, Cunningham, Gassmann, Milson, Webster.

The meeting was called to order and the Chair of Senate proceeded with the presentation of the Dalhousie Teaching Awards 2010-2011. President's Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards were presented to Rachel Dingle, Department of Psychology; Cheryl Watts, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology; and Victoria Walker, Department of Chemistry. The Dalhousie Sessional and Part-Time Instructor Award of Excellence for Teaching was presented to Erin Wunker, Department of English & Canadian Studies.

Mr. Fraser also welcomed the incoming DSU Senate representatives for May 2011 – April 2012: Chris Saulnier, President; Sarah Bouchard, Vice President, Academic & External; Jonathan Magill, DSU Representative; and Margaret Scrimgeour, DSU Representative.

**2011:62**

**Adoption of Agenda**

The May 9, 2011 Senate agenda was adopted with one addition - agenda item #3 Matters Arising from the Draft Senate Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2011.

**2011:63**

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Draft Minutes of March 21, 2011 Senate Meeting**

**THAT** the Senate approve the draft minutes of the March 21, 2011 Senate meeting as circulated.

**Approved by Consent.**

**Approval of Draft Minutes of April 11, 2011 Senate Meeting**

**THAT** the Senate approve the draft minutes of the April 11, 2011 Senate meeting as circulated.

**Approved by Consent.**

### **SCAA: Faculty of Dentistry – University Medal Name Change**

THAT Senate approve the renaming of the University Medal in Dentistry as the Dr. D. S. Precious University Medal in Dentistry.

**Approved by Consent.**

### **SCAA: Faculty of Dentistry – Academic Hood for Master of Periodontics**

THAT Senate approve the academic hood colors for the Master of Periodontics degree as gold silk with scarlet border.

**Approved by Consent.**

**2011:64**

### **Matters Arising from the Draft Senate Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2011**

There were no matters arising.

**2011:65**

### **Chair of Senate Report**

Mr. Fraser congratulated Senators Jean Hughes and Martin Gardner who, along with Dianne Delva, David Petrie and Preston Smith were members of one of the eight inter-professional teams selected from more than 30 institutions throughout North America to attend the Millennium Conference 2011 on Critical Thinking.

Mr. Fraser noted that 132 graduands receiving Dalhousie Bachelor of Science (Agriculture), Bachelor of Technology, and Master of Science degrees were among those graduating at the Nova Scotia Agriculture College Convocation on May 6. He reminded Senators of the upcoming University of King's College Encaenia on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and the 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 made reference to items attached to the agenda for information: May 3, 2011 NS Agricultural College Graduands List; Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission approval of the termination of the combined Master of Business Administration/Master of Library & Information Studies program; and Health Law Institute 2010 Annual Report and Strategic Plan Brochure.

**2011:66**

### **President's Report**

Mr. Traves, too, encouraged Senators to attend the upcoming convocations. He noted that final decisions of the budget were being made. The Province had granted the University short-term solvency relief for the pension plan. This relief would be in effect for two years, giving the University an opportunity to work toward a jointly sponsored plan. The Province was in the process of developing legislation which would give government-like institutions, such as Dalhousie, permanent solvency exemption for jointly sponsored plans. As collective agreements were coming up for renegotiation, Mr. Traves indicated that there was a clear direction and opportunity for the University to move to a jointly sponsored pension plan. Mr. Traves further noted that this temporary solvency relief would reduce the University's projected budgetary shortfall from \$14 million to \$7 million. As the Board of Governors does not permit operating deficits, the \$7 million deficit would translate into cuts to both Faculties and administration.

**2011:67**

**Senate Nominating Committee Nominations:**

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

**THAT** Senate appoint Alan Pinder, Faculty of Science, as the Senate Vice-Chair (Student Affairs), for the term July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014.

The motion **CARRIED.**

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

**THAT** the Senate re-appoint Gail Tomblin Murphy, Faculty of Health Professions, as the Senate Nominee to the Board of Governors for the term July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2011:68**

**Senate Committee on Academic Administration:**

**Draft Dalhousie University Policy on Fairness in the Evaluation of Student Learning**

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

**THAT** Senate approve the Dalhousie University Policy on Fairness in the Evaluation of Student Learning.

Lynn Taylor, Director, Center for Learning and Teaching introduced the policy and summarized the process involved in developing it. In response to questions, she noted that patterns of grade distributions should be observed over time, and that the maintenance of standards and rigor, along with fairness in evaluation, normally would be dealt with at the Faculty level.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2011:69**

**Senate Steering Committee:**

**Draft Senate Discipline Committee Jurisdiction & Procedures**

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

**THAT** Senate approve the Senate Discipline Committee Jurisdiction & Procedures.

Bob Mann, Manager, Senate Discipline and Appeals, provided background on the proposed Jurisdiction and Procedures for the Senate Discipline Committee. He noted that the Jurisdiction and Procedures document codified current practice, included a more explicit reference to the Student Code of Conduct, and addressed circumstances such as incomplete panels and failure of a student to appear. He further noted that the work group had examined the particularity of various disciplines, and had consulted with students, Deans, and the Dalhousie Advocacy Service.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2011:70**

**Senate Steering Committee:**

**Student Ratings of Instruction – Policy and Procedures**

Susan Spence Wach, Associate Vice-President, Academic Programs, and Grant MacDonald, Chair, Senate Committee on Learning & Teaching presented the Student Ratings of Instruction – Policy and Procedures. Mr. Fraser noted that this item was presented for discussion only, and it was anticipated that a vote on the Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) Policy and Procedures would take place at the June 13 Senate Meeting.

During the discussion of the item, the following points were noted:

- Common questions 1 to 9 in Section A of the SRI would communicate to students not only the results, but also the complexity of teaching.
- It was observed that there was ambiguity in items 4.5 to 4.7, and the results of the common questions should be released to students only where the results were from classes with at least 10 responses, and response rates of 40%.
- It was suggested that online courses were not comparable to classes held in person and should be treated differently in the SRI process. It was also suggested that bringing the process online would introduce bias in the responses.
- It was noted that there should be more clarity in what data could be used for tenure and promotion purposes. There was a request for a procedure with which Deans could obtain SRI data from departments. Section A would be made available for the summative nature of its data, while the data in Sections B, C, and D (unsigned comments) were considered formative and thus would not be available for tenure and promotion purposes.
- It was noted that signed comments in Section D could be used for tenure and promotion purposes.

Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Spence Wach and Mr. MacDonald for their presentation of the SRI Policy and Procedures.

**2011:71**

**Question Period**

There were no questions.

**2011:72**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2011:73**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.