

Item: Senate Minutes, February 2012

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, February 13, 2012, at 4:00 pm, in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Amirault, Becke, Bennett, Bouchard, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Canning, Chen, Cochrane, Cunningham, Denike, Doman, Garduno, Gibson, M. Gilbert, R. Gilbert, Gorsky, Grant, E. Hughes, Johnston, Langille, Leach, Leavitt, Leon, MacLaren, Mansour, Marrie, Matte, McLarney, Meynell, Mitchell, Moore, Oomen, Packer, Pegg, Pelot, Pierce, Pinder, Robski, Rogers, Ross, Saulnier, Schellinck, Scrimgeour, Shepherd, Shukla, Singleton, Summerby-Murray, Thorburn, Traves, Wach, Watters, Westwood.

Regrets: Boran, Boudreau, Castleden, Cox, Crago, DasGupta, Farina, J. Hughes, Gardner, MacLennan, Macy, Susko, Tillotson.

Absent: Dionne, Magill, Noble, Rapaport, Stadnyk, Webster.

2012:012

Adoption of the Agenda

The February 13, 2012 agenda was **adopted**.

2012:013

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of January 9, 2012 Senate Meeting

THAT Senate approve the draft minutes of the January 9, 2012 Senate meeting.

Approved by Consent.

Name Change for the Department of Psychology

THAT Senate approve the name change for the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience.

Approved by Consent.

Academic Hood Color: Master of Genetic Counseling

THAT Senate approve the academic hood design for the Master of Genetic Counselling to be silver lining (light grey) with scarlet red silk border (inside and out) with white cording.

Approved by Consent.

Faculty of Health Professions – Amendment of Admission Requirement for MSc in Human Communications Disorders

THAT Senate approve the addition of a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score to the admission requirements for the Master of Science in Human Communication Disorders.

Approved by Consent.

2012:014

Matters Arising from the Minutes of January 9, 2012

There were no matters arising from the January 9, 2012 Senate Minutes.

2012:015

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Fraser offered condolences to the family and friends of Joan Elizabeth Cummings, who passed away on February 6, 2012. He then extended congratulations to Bernie Boudreau, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, and Ray Klein, Chair, Department of Psychology who were both named Royal Society of Canada (RSC) Fellows in the fall. Mr. Fraser outlined the process being followed in establishing the Presidential Search Committee, indicating the responsibility of the Senate to appoint six members to this committee. Mr. Fraser noted one informational item, the Senate Nominating Committee - Call for Nominations for Vice-Chair of Senate (Academic Programs) Term: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.

2012:016

President's Report

Mr. Traves began his report by acknowledging that the University community is watching the collective bargaining process very closely, hopeful that there will be a positive resolution in the near future. Mr. Traves then went on to comment on the potential impact of the Federal Government Budget on Dalhousie University. He indicated that the University is taking active steps to ensure that Dalhousie's best interests will be taken into consideration in the upcoming Federal Budget. Mr. Traves proceeded to comment on the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Nova Scotia government and the province's universities, and the issues that have been at the centre of discussions with the provincial government. He outlined the enrolment growth that Dalhousie has experienced, and the fact that this growth is not reflected in the distribution of funds to universities because of the funding formula currently in use. He stressed the need for universities' enrolments to be properly recognized and appropriately funded.

With respect to collective bargaining, Mr. Traves was asked if the Board's negotiating committee had a mandate to discuss monetary issues with the DFA's bargaining team. Mr. Traves responded that there had been an agreement by the parties at the outset of negotiations that the parties would address all non-monetary issues prior to negotiating monetary issues. He understood that the non-monetary issues now had been settled or withdrawn so that negotiation of monetary issues was about to begin. When discussions resumed later in the week, the Board's negotiating team would present a full monetary proposal.

2012:017In Camera: Senate Honorary Degrees Committee Nominations

Mr. Fraser announced that the Senate session would go in camera, and asked that all non-senators leave the meeting. When Senate returned to open session, Mr. Fraser announced that the slate of Honorary Degree nominations had been approved.

2012:018Budget Advisory Committee's Report (BAC XLVII) – Discussion Paper on the Operating Budget Plan for 2012-13

Ms. Watters, Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, reminded members that according to Board policy, the University's operating budget must be balanced. Competing demands thus must be prioritized to align with the budget. She indicated the next BAC report would propose measures to balance the budget; the report would be available at the end of February. Student consultation would proceed in March. A final budget would be presented to the Board of Governors, for approval, in April. Ms. Watters indicated the difficulty of planning farther into the future, since the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Provincial Government does not contain funding specific commitments beyond 2012-13. She also indicated that a Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan—currently the subject of negotiations between the Board and the University's employee groups—is expected to provide long term relief from the need to meet the requirements of the solvency test for the pension plan. With respect to recruitment, Ms. Watters stressed the need to reach out both to Canadian regions outside of Atlantic Canada and to prospective International students, to increase enrolment. She stated that enrolment stability was one of the main uncertainties in attempting to balance the budget.

2012:019Dalhousie Student Survey Feedback – Presentation

Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice President, Student Services, began by outlining the goal of internal surveys as tools to enable Dalhousie to compare its present and past performance, as well as to compare itself to other universities across Canada. She then stated that student satisfaction is improving and that Dalhousie is on par with, or ahead of, its comparator group, the "U15" Canadian universities. Ms. Neuman noted that there is increasing dissatisfaction with fitness facilities at Dalhousie, and also noted that incoming students tend to have very high expectations of the University. She reported that the co-curricular record is now fully functional, as Dalhousie strives to create for students the best university experience in Canada. With respect to the expressed need for expansion of daycare at Dalhousie, this is being investigated as Dalhousie plans new buildings.

2012:020Student Ratings of Instruction – Update

Ms. Lynn Taylor, Director of the Centre for Learning and Teaching, provided an update on the process of implementing the policy on Student Ratings of Instruction. She outlined the goal of the policy as gaining evidence to help improve teaching and the student learning experiences. Ms. Taylor described students' access to the summary results once instructors had given their permission. She described the student access page that will soon be available through MyDal. She summarized the criteria that must be met, in addition to the instructor's permission, for SRI summary results to be posted. Ms. Taylor then extended thanks to all the individuals who performed the departmental liaison role, ensuring accurate and timely

distribution, completion, and return of the questionnaire forms. The return rate was very high.

In response to a question concerning the potential for students to gravitate only to those classes where the instructors have high ratings, Ms. Taylor reiterated that students have many different learning styles and preferences; the goal of the SRI is to inform students of the type of professor with whom they will be learning. She also reported that the survey questions are well designed and researched to provide helpful information on instruction.

2012:021

Dalhousie University/Nova Scotia Agricultural College Merger – Update

Ms. Spence Wach, Associate Vice President, Academic, began by reminding the Senate that negotiations were ongoing with the provincial government concerning details of the merger. She indicated that a stable funding base was essential for success of the merger, and that discussion was continuing related to property and assets. Ms. Spence Wach reiterated that it was anticipated that an agreement would be reached to enable NSAC students to become Dalhousie students, effective September 2012.

Mr. Saulnier reported that the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) was very excited about the merger, and will be creating a seat at the DSU for a student of what is currently the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

2012:022

Question Period

Mr. Saulnier announced that the Student Union is starting a voter registration campaign for the upcoming municipal election, since students will be able to vote in municipal elections in the riding in which they live, due to a recent change in voting policy for municipal elections.

2012:023

Other Business

There was no other business.

2012:024

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.