

Item: Senate Minutes, January 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, January 9, 2012, at 4:00 pm, in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Amirault, Bouchard, Boudreau, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Canning, Castleden, Chen, Cochrane, Cox, Crago, Denike, Dionne, Doman, Gardner, Gibson, M. Gilbert, R. Gilbert, Gorsky, E. Hughes, Johnston, Langille, Leach, Leavitt, MacLaren, MacLennan, Magill, Mansour, Marrie, Matte, Mitchell, Moore, Noble, Oomen, Packer, Pegg, Pelot, Pierce, Pinder, Rapaport, Rogers, Ross, Saulnier, Schellinck, Shepherd, Shukla, Singleton, Summerby-Murray, Susko, Tillotson, Traves, Watters, Westwood.

Regrets: Becke, Bennett, Boran, DasGupta, Grant, Leon, Macy, McLarney, Meynell, Scrimgeour, Thorburn, Webster.

Absent: Cunningham, Farina, Garduno, J. Hughes, Robski, Stadnyk, Wach.

2012:001

Adoption of the Agenda

The January 9, 2012 agenda was **adopted**.

2012:002

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of November 28, 2011 Senate Meeting

THAT Senate approve the draft minutes of the November 28, 2011 Senate meeting.

Approved by Consent

SLTC: Admission Requirements - Health Sciences

THAT Senate approve the proposed revisions to the University Calendar of the admissions section for the School of Health Sciences.

Approved by Consent

SLTC: Health Professions Undergraduate Calendar revision

THAT Senate approve the removal of regulation 12.1 from the Academic Regulations section of the Undergraduate Calendar.

Approved by Consent

SLTC: Admission Requirements: Master of Social Work

THAT Senate approve the proposed editorial changes to the Graduate Studies Calendar section concerning the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree.

Approved by Consent

SPGC: Transportation Demand Management and Security Committee – Senate nomination

THAT Senate appoint Muhammad Habib, Faculty of Architecture and Planning/Sexton campus to the University Transportation Demand Management and Security Committee for January 1, 2012 - June 30, 2012.

Approved by Consent

2012:003

Matters Arising from the November 28, 2011 Senate Minutes

There were no matters arising from the November 28, 2011 Senate Minutes.

2012:004

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Fraser offered condolences to family and friends on the passing of two former members of the Dalhousie community: Walter Struan Robertson who passed away on January 1, 2012, and Stuart Cooper 'Robbie' Robinson who passed away on December 22, 2011. He then extended congratulations to Jerry Singleton, School of Health & Human Performance, upon his induction into the Academy of Leisure Sciences.

Mr. Fraser highlighting a number of informational matters of interest to Senators, including the three year schedule for Senate Reviews of Faculties, the proposed process and timeline for the planned 2012 review of the Student Accommodation Policy, the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Brain Repair Centre, and the awarding between convocations of a Doctor in Dental Surgery degree.

2012:005

President's Report

Mr. Traves provided a brief update for Senate on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reached recently with the province of Nova Scotia and covering the period January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2015. He highlighted various elements of the MOU, including the 3.1% reduction in the operating grant for the province's universities for the 2012-13 fiscal year, the 3% cap on tuition increases for most programs in each year of the MOU, the government's commitment to increasing operating grant funding for the university system in the third year of the agreement according to a mechanism yet to be determined, and the creation of a University Excellence and Innovation Program with funding of \$25 million over the three years of the agreement. Nova Scotia universities may apply individually or in partnerships for funding from this Program to support projects that will help to achieve cost reductions while maintaining quality within the university system.

2012:006DSU President's Report

Mr. Fraser invited Sarah Bouchard, DSU Vice President, Academic and External, to provide the Report on behalf of the DSU President. Ms. Bouchard highlighted DSU and student reaction to the new Memorandum of Understanding. She noted that students are disappointed that tuition fees are likely to rise again this year; the DSU looks forward to working with the University to discuss and provide feedback on any proposed increases in tuition.

2012:007SLTC: Amendment to Faculty Discipline Procedures – Guidelines for Evaluators

Bob Mann, Manager, Discipline and Appeals, provided a brief update on the proposed amendments to the Faculty Discipline Procedures (FDP). It is proposed that the Guidelines for Evaluators be included at the beginning of the FDP document. Previously, the Guidelines for Evaluators were incorporated into the Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) Terms of Reference; however, as of July 1, 2011 the revised SDC Terms of Reference excluded the section on Guidelines for Evaluators.

On behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the amendment to the Faculty Discipline Procedures – Guidelines for Evaluators.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2012:008Pension 201 Presentation

Mr. Fraser introduced Ken Burt, Vice President, Finance and Administration, and Katherine Sheehan, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources, who provided background on the Pension Plan issue and the potential financial and academic impacts on the University. The presentation began with a review of the Town Hall presentations to employees, intended to provide information and gather feedback (supplemented by online access to the information). Mr. Burt and Ms. Sheehan provided a brief overview of a typical defined benefit pension plan and the current economic climate, as well as the impacts of external factors—including demographics, a weakened economy, and low interest rates—on Dalhousie's plan. The presentation touched on the challenges facing the pension plan, the process being followed in attempting to address these challenges, and the results of the discussions to date.

The presentation concluded with a discussion of the goals of proposed changes and the role of the Province with respect to solvency relief.

2012:009Annual Report on Research Funding

Martha Crago, Vice President, Research, provided a report on research funding. She introduced John Newhook, Associate Vice President, Research, and noted his contributions to the presentation. Ms. Crago asked that the contents of the presentation remain at Dalhousie. There was discussion of the importance of research funding to the University and the region, now and in the future. Ms. Crago highlighted Dalhousie's research results with respect to tri-council, provincial government and contract funding. With respect to national research funding, she presented data indicating Dalhousie's success rates as compared with the G13

group. In terms of what these results mean for Dalhousie, and the measures necessary in order to continue to build research strength, she noted, in particular, the importance of team and collaborative research, strong grant applications, and greater support and mentoring for emerging researchers.

2012:010

Question Period

There were no further questions.

2012:011

Other Business

There was no other business.

2012:011

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.