

Item: Senate Minutes, November 1985
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

**MINUTES
OF**

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session in the Board and Senate Room on Friday, 8 November 1985 at 4:00 P.M.

Present with Mr. W.E. Jones in the chair were the following:

Andrews, Cameron D.M., Cameron T.S., Casey, Cohen A.D., Czapalay, Dean, Fentress, Ferguson, Fingard, Friedenber, Horrocks, Huber, Jeffery, Klein, Leffek, MacDonald M.D., MacKay W.A., MacKinnon, Maloney, Pedersen, Ravindra, Ritchie, Robinson, Rodger, Shaw T., Sinclair, Stern, Stuttard, Varma, Welch, Winhan.

Invitees: Christie. M. MacDonald, Traversy.

Regrets: Gratwick, J.V. Jones, Medioli, Pooley, Rutherford, M.H. Tan, Waterson.

85:121.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings of 11 October and 28 October 1985 were distributed for information.

85:122.

New Members of Senate

The Chairperson welcomed two new representatives from Mt. St. Vincent University

Dr. Peter Schwenger
Dr. Norman Uhl

85:123

Question Period

Assistant Vice-President J. Graham responded to the points raised by Mr. Jeffery at an earlier Senate meeting (Senate Minute No. 85:111), regarding the fire in the Weldon Law Building. He noted, for example, that installation of standpipes had not been required by the building code of that day, that the difficulty in getting in the fourth floor door was imposed for security reasons, but that the fire department had taken only a few seconds to break in; that there was reason to believe that the security guards had toured the building from top to bottom; that the

fire had ignited at about 7:00 A.M.; that it was a matter of conjecture whether sprinklers would have been helpful but that clearly, there was agreement that sprinklers should be activated in the future. A process of upgrading old buildings, although expensive and time consuming was initiated (e.g. Chemistry, Old Archives) and a survey of major university buildings had resulted in a priority listing of buildings which required upgrading in terms of fire prevention. Investigation into installation of smoke detectors was underway. The administration will return to Senate with a report when action has been taken. Mr. Jeffery was satisfied that fire safety hazards at the university were not being "treated lightly". The President shared his concern for safety and advised Senate of the review of physical arrangements for safety conducted by PPC. Mr. Rodger wondered whether the lack of alterations and renovations monies from the government had resulted in deteriorating physical plant conditions at Dalhousie which in turn affected safety conditions. Mr. Graham concurred-that this had resulted in delayed proceedings but not deterioration.

Mr. Ravindra queried whether there was a central office at the University which assumed responsibility for displaying posters for special lecture series. He was informed by the President and Mr. Rodger that there was no such office at Dalhousie, but that those involved in organizing such events usually undertook the associated responsibility for publicity.

85:124

Reports and Recommendations -- Committees of Senate

A. Academic Planning Committee

1. Proposed Change in Name -- Department of Religion

The proposed change in name of the Department of Religion to the Department of Comparative Religion was reported for information.

2. Residency Programme in Clinical Chemistry

The Chairperson advised Senate that implementation of the residency programme in Clinical Chemistry had been recommended for approval to the Board of Governors by APC on behalf of Senate. This had appeared as a "For Action" item on the agenda for the 6 November 1985 APC meeting.

B. Steering Committee

1. Issue Agenda

The summary report on the Issue Agenda (prepared by the Secretary on behalf of the Steering Committee) was reviewed briefly by the Chairperson. Seven unresolved issues were incorporated, namely, mandatory retirement, aging and lack of turnover of

faculty, reward structure of the university, women in senior academic administrative posts, French as a Second Language, foreign student policy and a code of ethics for students.

It was agreed upon motion (Horrocks)

that a committee composed of two representatives each from APC and FPC, Dr. E. Renner (who had prepared a number of relevant papers) and VicePresident Sinclair should be constituted to consider the issue of aging of faculty and to report back to Senate their findings and proposals. if any.

Mr. Horrocks reiterated the invitation to Senators (pg 5 of the report) to forward comments on the issue of women in senior academic administrative posts to the President's Advisory Committee on the Employment of Women, Handicapped Persons and Members of Minority Groups.

Mr. Jeffery was asked by the Chair to advise the Senate Office of his request that student senators receive all enclosures with their agendas.

2. Policy re Use of Executive Search Firms

A report entitled "Policy/Guidelines for Use of Executive Search Firms for Senior (Academic) Administrative Posts at Dalhousie University", had been predistributed for the information of Senators, as a response to the question referred from Senate on 8 April 1985. The document encompassed responses received as a result of a survey of chairpersons and selected members of Dalhousie committees which had used the services of such firms.

Mr. Andrews requested that Cultural Activities (pg 1) be labelled "academic". He raised concerns about costs which were substantial, in his view, and one search firm which appeared to be seeking to gain a monopoly in Canadian academic institutions searches for senior personnel. The Chairperson reiterated that the views expressed had not been those of the Steering Committee, but rather of respondents to the survey.

3. Joint Board/Senate Meeting

Mr. Jones advised Senators of a joint Board/Senate meeting planned for Tuesday, 21 January 1986 from 4:30 P.M. to 5:45 P.M. which would provide an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest such as the Royal Commission Report and to intermingle socially. This event had been recommended at previous meetings of the "6 and 6". Mr. Rodger shared his understanding that the Royal Commission Report was currently at the printers.

4. Nominations to the Board of Governors

Another issue pinpointed at a "6 and 6" meeting of representatives from Senate and the Board had been the opportunity for Senate to put forward suggestions to the President of names to be considered for possible nomination to membership on the Board of Governors. The President clarified the mechanism involved. Mr. Jones noted that the Steering Committee had been invited to put forward names to be considered for nomination at the meeting at which the Board had been advised of several vacancies. In light of the degree of urgency involved, the Steering Committee had prepared a list of six individuals representative of various sectors/interests of the community. In the future, if members of Senate have suggestions of individuals who could be recommended when vacancies arose, these could be provided to the Secretary or Chairman of Senate.

Mr. Rodger corrected the statement that members of Senate were not eligible by clarifying that full-time teaching staff could not serve on the Board.

C Senate Academic Appeals Committee

Correspondence from Mr. Evans (Chair, SAAC) which had been circulated at the previous meeting of Senate, included two recommendations on the final page, namely;

1. That Senate refrain at this time from approving Faculty level academic appeal rules and procedures.

2. That Faculties be asked to provide to the Secretary of Senate a document setting out in one place a complete indication of their academic appeal rules and procedures for future consideration and approval by Senate. The "Student Information Guide on Academic Appeal Procedures at Dalhousie University" may serve as a useful guide in this.

The Chairperson reported that he and Mr. Evans had met with the Deans of the three faculties named in the report whose regulations might pose potential problems. Mr. Jones reminded members that Senate would, in the future, need to consider approval of the regulations of individual Faculties.

It was moved and seconded (MacKay/Sinclair)

that Mr. Evans' letter be received for information and that Senate look forward to approving changes in Faculty regulations.

Mr. Rodger expressed grave doubts, on procedural grounds, about bringing faculty regulations into line. He was advised by the Chairperson that a copy of the relevant minute excerpt from the October 1983 meeting at which this course of action had been agreed could be forwarded to him.

Mr. Andrews thought it was important to be clear about what Senate would be approving in the future.

An amendment was moved and seconded (Rodger/Huber)

that the motion stop after the word "information".

Mr. Sinclair spoke against the motion. Mr. Robinson contended that it was not reasonable for Senate to consider approving the distinctly different regulations from Faculties. Mr. Huber remarked that Senate could be advised on rules and regulations which could be tabled in Senate, but these might simply be received, not necessarily accepted. Mr. Friedenberg then spoke in support of Mr. Sinclair's comments. He did not anticipate a problem in terms of faculty autonomy, as Mr. Robinson had, and believed that Senate should reserve the power to take a position against Faculty regulations which were considered inappropriate. The President concurred with Mr. Friedenberg, adding that this was a legal problem. Mr. Rodger argued that Senate did not have the power to approve Faculty academic appeal regulations. Mr. Robinson observed that some Faculties were influenced by obligations external as well as internal to the university and hence might have policies which would seem unusual to other Faculties.

The amendment **failed** and the main motion **carried**.

Mr. Horrocks, who had earlier attested to the difficulty encountered by those who do not receive documentation distributed at Senate meetings, requested that a copy of Mr. Evans document be forwarded to all Deans.

85:125.

Report of the Presidential Search Committee

A report entitled "Report to Members of the Board of Governors and Senate" was circulated at the meeting. Mr. Jones confirmed for Mr. Horrocks that the process described might conclude near the end of January.

85:126.

Report of the President

President MacKay reported verbally on a number of recent matters of interest to Senators including - University-Government relations [such as two meetings with the Minister of Education regarding funding of universities; a meeting of the Presidents and Premiers; meetings of the Presidents with MPHEC (where foreign student fee differential was discussed) and continuing discussions of the review of Medical funding.]

- He thanked Ms. Fingard for her successful leadership efforts regarding the events for the Women's Centenary; and remarked on special events including the Killam, Guptil and Chute lecture series and the special rededication of the Forrest Building. Lastly, he noted the convocation at MSVU to mark their 60th Anniversary, the cooperative Gerontology Programme being considered by university presidents and continuing concerns regarding the budget for next year.

Mr. Rodger emphasized this financial concern particularly in light of the proposed reduction of transfer funds by the federal government. He urged Senators to contact their MP's, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, etc. to emphasize the importance of education and continuation of the past formula Mr. Leffek asked the President whether the matter of a \$50 service fee imposed by the immigration department had been discussed at the meeting of Presidents with MPHEC, to which the President added that AAU would undoubtedly have some interest.

Mr. Welch reminded Senators of the motion passed earlier regarding foreign student fee differentials. The President confirmed for Mr. Welch that the concerns had been raised with the Presidents and MPHEC collectively and would be considered by AUCC. Mr. Huber proposed to put a motion before Senate at the next meeting which would protest the \$50 fee for processing foreign student applications. He would seek Mr. Leffek and President MacKay's advice on the wording of this motion.

85:127.

Other Business

Mr. B. Christie had been appointed as one of the four nominees from the President to serve on the Senate Advisory Committee on Computing.

The Chairperson reminded Senators of the request for nominations for Honorary Degree candidates and advised them that there would be no Senate meeting on the 25th of November 1985.

85:128

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.