

Item: Senate Minutes, August 1989

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**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**SENATE MEETING**

SENATE met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 14 August 1989 at 3:00 p.m.

Present with Ms. P. Lane in the chair were the following:

Barkow, Birdsall, Black, Carlson, Cromwell, Cummings, Curri, Dykstra, Egan, Gass, Gratwick, Johnson, Kimmins, M.D. MacMcNeil, A.W. Murphy, Richards, Shannon, Smillie, Smith, Stairs, Vance, Verabioff, Walker, K.S. Wood, Young.

Invitees: M.D. MacDonald

Regrets: Andrews, Bérard, Carruthers, H. Clark, Gold, Heffernan, J.V. Jones, Konok, O'Shea, M.H. Tan, Williams.

**89:109.**

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chair referred to the minutes of the 10 July 1989 meeting, item 89:089. Mr. Wainwright offered the following revision to paragraph 2, second sentence: "Mr. A. Wainwright suggested that while such lists had a quaint charm, he did not believe, from his experience in English, that they had, in themselves, any effect on a student's admission to graduate studies." It was moved and seconded that this revision be approved (R. Bastarache/A. Young).

The motion carried.

The minutes of 24 July 1989 were approved upon motion (T. Cromwell/R. Carlson).

**89:110.**

Report of the President

Mr. Stairs highlighted the 14 August 1989 report of the President as distributed at the meeting.

**89:111.**

Question Period

Ms. Vance directed a question to Mr. Stairs about procedures used by academic departments to communicate with students seeking admission to their programmes, particularly when students cannot be reached by telephone. Mr. Stairs requested specific details from Ms. Vance and indicated he would look into this matter.

**89:112.**

Response to Questions Raised at 10.7.89 Senate Meeting

The Chair drew attention to the response from Mr. Mason re "Flowers, etc.," 28 July 1989, distributed at the meeting.

**89:113.**

(a) SAPC Report on Role and Capacity Statement

Mr. Carlson reported on the activities of the Academic Planning Committee with regard to the preparation of the Role and Capacity Statement. He reviewed the history behind this activity. As a result of the Adlington report the government intends to set a base budget based on role and capacity statements for each university that would be less sensitive to enrolment fluctuations. MPHEC has circulated a form which must be completed by the end of September. The Academic Planning Committee, in cooperation with the President's Office, is working on a draft that includes addressing the issues of strengths and weaknesses of the University. All Deans have been asked to comment on strengths and weaknesses of their respective faculties. Mr. B. Christie, Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning, is preparing the draft based on the advice of APC. Mr. Carlson indicated that discussions thus far are trying to emphasize Dalhousie's distinctiveness in terms of its quality based on the careful assessment of academic programmes. He encouraged individuals or groups to provide their views to the APC or Mr. Christie. In response to a question from Mr. Shannon, Mr. Carlson indicated that at this stage the Committee was not attempting to define quality but was emphasizing the review and assessment process. With regard to strengths, it is stressing Dalhousie's unique aspects including the depth of its programmes, its graduate and professional programmes and, as well, examining specific issues that arise out of the responses from the faculties. With regard to weaknesses, the Committee has identified the negative effects of the largeness of the University, under-funding, and again, specific issues arising from faculties. He indicated that a final draft will come to Senate.

(b) SFPC Report

Mr. Cromwell reported that, at the invitation of the President, he had attended a meeting between Dalhousie representatives and the Province's Advisory Committee on University Finance. He indicated that Dalhousie's presentation to the Committee was based on the document "Presentation to the Advisory Committee on University Finance by Dalhousie University, August 2, 1989", distributed with the Senate agenda and prepared by the President's Office. The Advisory Committee indicated that it was directed to prepare options for the Minister regarding funding mechanisms that could be available when the Role and Capacity statements are being considered. It was confirmed that the Nova Scotia Council would have a leading role in funding discussions as opposed to the MPHEC. The Advisory Committee is to report by the end of September. The Advisory Committee wanted Dalhousie's views on:

- its satisfaction with the current formula
- the best way to initiate a fresh start
- priorities for funding
- views on how the Adlington recommendations might be implemented, especially with regard to policy envelopes
- the views of Senate

With regard to the latter, Mr. Cromwell advised the Committee that Senate had not reviewed the document. He felt that Senate would probably agree with the analysis of the problems with the application of the funding formula which the President had outlined in his oral presentation to the Committee. He also emphasized the need for long term stability in funding. Mr. Cromwell indicated that in anticipation of further opportunities for input, the SFPC would be considering the Dalhousie submission. He encouraged members of Senate to forward their comments to him.

In response to a question, Mr. Cromwell indicated that the Committee is an advisory committee to the Minister and not a sub-committee of the Nova Scotia Council. The Advisory Committee will be meeting with representatives from all of the universities. Mr. Carlson noted that the statement on page 2 of the document was close to the Academic Planning Committee's analysis of strengths and weaknesses of Dalhousie.

**89:114.**

Report of the Senate Steering Committee

Mr. Cromwell spoke to the report of the Senate Steering Committee. With reference to the Senate motion of 10 July 1989, calling for the establishment of an ad hoc committee to consider the

recommendations of the hearing panel on the case of Dr. X, Mr. Cromwell moved on behalf of the Senate Steering Committee the establishment of an ad hoc committee with

**the membership and mandate stipulated in the July 31 report of the Senate Steering Committee with the proviso that if the members proposed by the Senate Academic Appeals Committee or the Medical School do not include a student member, the Dalhousie Student Union would then nominate a student.**

In response to a question, Mr. Cromwell indicated that the Committee would select its own Chair.

Ms. Vance expressed concern that the students were not being given the opportunity to select the student representation on the Committee. It was moved and seconded (Vance/Shannon)

**that the motion be amended to read**

**that the words "proviso that ...." be replaced with "the addition of one medical student nominated by the Dalhousie Student Union."**

This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Kimmins felt the student representative should be from the residents programme and that one student representative was insufficient. It was moved (Vance/Bastarache)

**that one of the medical school representatives be a resident from the residency training programme.**

The motion carried.

The membership proposed by the Senate Steering Committee as amended by Senate is:

Senate Academic Appeals Committee (1)  
Senate Steering Committee (T. Cromwell) (1)  
University Counsel (B. Crocker) (1)  
Medical School, one of whom will be a resident (3)  
Student nominated by the President of the Dalhousie Student  
Union (1)  
Total membership - 7

Mr. Cromwell moved to item 2 in the report of the Senate Steering Committee. The Committee suggests that Senate attempt to limit discussion to no more than 20 minutes per agenda item. The will of the assembly could extend the period of discussion. In response to a question Mr. Cromwell indicated that the will of the assembly could be determined by a simple majority if a vote is required.

After discussion whether the time period should be shorter, members expressed support for the initial suggestion. Mr. Cromwell encouraged members to forward their comments to the Steering Committee on this matter.

Mr. Cromwell reported on item 3 of the Steering Committee's report relating to students from the People's Republic of China. Information in the report is a result of enquiries made by the Secretary of Senate.

**89:115.**

Nominations from Senate Committee on Committees

The Chair called for further nominations. Hearing none, the Chair declared the nominations closed and the nominees elected.

Senate Academic Planning Committee

C. Boyle (Law) - 1991

Senate Physical Planning Committee

V. Thiessen (Sociology and Social Anthropology) - 1992

Senate Library Committee

A. Andrews (Theatre) - 1992

B. Archibald (Business Administration) - 1991

G. Hart (Nursing) - 1990

N. Prowse (Dentistry) - 1990

D. Stinson (Medicine) - 1992

Board-Senate Public Relations Committee

P. Rosson (Business Administration) - 1992

K. Dunn (Math, Statistics & Computing Science) - 1992

**89:116.**

English Usage - A Mini Debate

The Chair reported that it was intended to have Mr. Betts and Mr. Andrews present a brief debate on this issue. With their absence this item is postponed until the next meeting.

**89:117.**

Notice of Motion

It was moved and seconded (Vance/Bastarache)

**that whereas the Faculty of Health Professions has had a Dean's List for four years, with the requirement being a 3.55 grade point average, with only the top 15% of student eligible and, whereas the Senate recently approved the notation of the Faculty of Science Dean's List on Student's Transcripts, and whereas the criteria for the two lists are different, BIRT if a notation such as a Dean's List is to appear on transcripts, then for reasons of clarity, credibility, and consistency, there be eligibility criteria as follows:**

**a) that the top 15% of students, in any given faculty, provided that they have at least a 3.55 GPA, be eligible, and that**

**b) in the event that less than 15% of the students in a faculty have at least a 3.55 GPA, only those with at least a 3.55 GPA be eligible.**

**Be it further resolved that, for the same reasons as above, an individual faculty may not add to the criteria as outlined and approved by Senate for that faculty, and that any such changes, either deletions or additions be first approved by Senate.**

Ms. Vance suggested that it would be appropriate for this matter to be referred to the Committee on Academic Administration. It was moved (Cromwell/Shannon)

**that this matter be referred to the Committee on Academic Administration.**

The motion carried.

**89:118.**

Other Business

a) Awarding of a Degree -- Faculty of Dentistry

The Chair had received a letter from the Dean of Dentistry recommending the granting of the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery to Mr. Joseph Shea. This was moved and seconded (Young/S. Wood).

Mr. Smith spoke against the motion because no representative from the faculty was present to make the

motion and to answer any questions that might arise regarding the status of the student. Other members expressed concern about the lack of a representative from the faculty. It was suggested that an additional motion could address the issue of representation at Senate for the granting of degrees.

The motion carried.

It was moved (Cromwell/Carlson)

**that Faculties be advised that when candidates are to be presented to Senate for granting of degrees, a representative from the Faculty knowledgeable about the student or students be in attendance at that meeting.**

Ms. Curri asked whether there was a regular timetable for faculties to present candidates for degrees. The Chair indicated that Dentistry seemed to be the only faculty that awarded degrees at various times.

Mr. Kimmins explained that in the past the Senate has been advised by Dentistry that this is required in order to meet licensing requirements that would allow the individuals to proceed with their practice in the Province. Concern was expressed that if a representative was not at a meeting, a particular student or students may be held back. It was moved (Young/Richards)

**that the motion be amended with the addition of the word "normally" inserted between the word "students" and "be in attendance..."**.

There was discussion on the motion with various members speaking for and against the amendment.

The motion failed.

The Chair called the question on the main motion. The motion carried.

b) Senate Forum

Mr. Barkow spoke on behalf of the Academic Planning Committee. He explained that the Chair of Senate suggested the idea of holding from time to time a Senate forum that would provide a more informal and non-parliamentary setting to discuss academic issues and major reports in the University. This item was presented for information and to seek input from Senate members on this proposal and possible topics. Two suggested topics were 1) the Report from the Royal Commission on Health and 2) Academic Freedom and Accountability. Volunteers to participate in discussions were also being sought.

c) Students from the People's Republic of China

Mr. Kimmins referred to the Steering Committee report, item 3. He noted that the report contained no information on how students could be funded if required. Mr. Cromwell indicated he had no further



information. This question would be referred to the Secretary of Senate.

**89:119.**

Next Meeting

The Chair announced that there would be a regular meeting of Senate on 11 September 1989 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a special meeting of Senate to deal with the Role and Capacity Statement on 18 September 1989 at 4:00 p.m.

**89:120.**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. on motion (Kimmins/S. Wood).

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Secretary

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Chair