

Item: Senate Minutes, June 1989  
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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF

SENATE MEETING

SENATE met in regular session in the Senate and Board Room on Monday, 12 June 1989 at 3:00 P.m.

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

Andrews, Barkow, Bastarache, Berard, Betts, Birdsall, Bissett-Johnson, Burns, S. Cameron, Caty, Clark, Cromwell, de Burger, Easterbrook, Fillmore, J. Fraser, R. Gamberg, Graham, Gratwick, Greer, Haley, Kimmins, Leffek, McGuire, McKee, McNeil, A. Murphy, M. Myers, D. O'Brien, O'Dor, Ozier, Pross, Retallack, Schroeder, Shannon, Stairs, Stuttard, Vance, Zentilli.

Invitees: B. D. Christie

Regrets: Belzer, Forgay, Friedrich, Gregor, J. V. Jones, Konok, Maloney, J. D. Myers, O'Shea, Tamlyn, Writer.

At the request of the Dalhousie Student Union and the Chinese Students Association, a minute of silence was observed for the victims of the recent massacre at Beijing.

89:075.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 1989 were approved upon motion (Murphy/Stairs).

The minutes of the meeting of 28 April 1989 were approved upon motion (S. Cameron/Cromwell), with the addition of the name of Ms. Vance to the list of those present.

The minutes of the meeting of 5 May 1989 were approved upon motion (Cromwell/Haley).

The minutes of the meeting of 12 May 1989 were approved upon motion (Stuttard/Cromwell), with the following corrections and additions: page 3, line 24 - the word "of" should read "as", the word "degrees" should read "names", and the punctuation changed to a comma and the following phrase added: "but their names were not included in the printed programme for their convocations."

The minutes of the meeting of 19 May 1989 were approved upon motion (Murphy/Stairs).

89:076.

Report of the President

The President's Report, dated 12 June 1989, was distributed at the meeting (appended). The President outlined the major items in the report as: MPHEC-AAU Committee on Roles and Capacities, the proposed King's Bachelor of Philosophy programme in Contemporary Studies, the Spring Convocations, the proposed Research Advisory Committee, and the issue of employment equity.

Mr. Shannon asked if a student representative was to be named to the Research Advisory Committee and made the point that a graduate student could prove a valuable member of such a committee, a point supported later by Mr. Stuttard. President Clark replied that, while he had no objection to the idea of a student member, he was not certain of what role a student might play on the committee. Mr. Pross suggested, in light of Senate's concern for research at Dalhousie, that the Research Advisory Committee have representatives of Senate on it, and that the President meet with the Senate Steering Committee to determine Senate representation. The President replied that he wished to leave the proposed committee's composition as it is defined in his report for a trial period of three years and that Senate could be kept informed of the committee's activities by the Vice-President (Academic). The President, in response to a question by Mr. Barkow, assured Senate that the term "active researchers" in his report did not refer only to those whose research brought large external grants to Dalhousie. In reply to a question from Mr. Gratwick, the President said that the chair of the proposed Research Advisory Committee would be elected by its members. Ms. Ozier asked for an example of what sorts of decisions would be made by the proposed Research Advisory Committee. The President replied that it would be an advisory committee and that its recommendations would be referred to the appropriate committees of the various faculties and those of Senate.

Mr. Greer asked that the differences between the B.Phil., as proposed by the University of King's College, and the B.A. be explained to him. The President indicated that he was not able to see the distinction. In reply to questions from Ms. Vance, the President outlined again the nature of the relationship between Dalhousie and King's and the concerns which Dalhousie had regarding the proposed B.Phil. programme. He indicated that he would be meeting again in the near future with the President of King's College and hoped that some agreement could be reached.

89:077.

Question Period

Mr. Luke asked if any decision had been reached regarding the future of the Centre for African Studies. The Vice-President (Academic) replied that the matter was still under consideration and that no final decisions had been made.

Anticipating a question, the President indicated that, on the matter of an official language for the University, he had compared the Concise Oxford English Dictionary and the Gage

Canadian Dictionary. His calls to the Privy Council Office suggested that the federal government had not adopted a single style or aid to style. Mr. Andrews asked if the documents supporting his preference for the Gage Canadian Dictionary had been received. The President confirmed that they had been received and indicated that he would present them to and consult further with the Senate Committee on Academic Administration on this matter. Mr. S. Cameron suggested that the Chambers' Dictionary also be considered in discussion of this question.

Mr. Greer expressed concern about shortened summer hours at the Killam Library and their impact on students in summer programmes. Mr. Birdsall replied that the Library was considering extensions of its hours and hoped to have changes in place by the end of the week. Ms. Vance was concerned about the impact on students of the relocation of the Science Library to the Killam. Mr. Birdsall indicated that the Library planned, during the move scheduled for August, to make available all materials except those which were in transit at any given time, and that steps were being taken to assist students in finding and using materials.

89:078.

Role of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration (SCAA)

The President introduced this document on behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration. Ms. Vance and Mr. Greer were concerned that Recommendation VII, creating a Subcommittee on Student Life, might lead to overlap and duplication of the work of the Committee on Student Relations of the Board of Governors. Messrs. Clark, Stairs, and McKee disagreed, emphasizing the importance of Senate taking greater interest in the whole of student life at Dalhousie. Ms. M. Myers was concerned that the proposed Subcommittee on Undergraduate Affairs (Recommendation IV) might duplicate the work of some faculty committees. The President indicated that he saw the roles of these bodies as different and that this subcommittee would seek to coordinate overall university policy. Mr. Pross suggested that the proposal's creation of three additional subcommittees might prove burdensome to the members of SCAA. Mr. Stuttard and Ms. Ozier asked if SCAA could add members to subcommittees who were not members of the full Committee and, if so, how these persons would be selected. Ms. Vance, Ms. Caty, and Mr. Fraser were concerned about the possibility of the new subcommittees duplicating the work of other committees and slowing the work of SCAA. Mr. Stairs suggested that SCAA was free to add members to its subcommittees and to structure its internal operations.

The President moved that the document be received by Senate for information only, but Mr. Pross argued that such a motion was unacceptable, as certain of the recommendations altered the Committee's mandate and, therefore, required Senate approval. Mr. Cromwell agreed that some recommendations in the document did have constitutional implications and suggested that the report be approved in principle and referred to the Senate Steering Committee.

It was moved (Ozier/Caty)

**That the report be referred to the Senate Steering Committee to determine which of its recommendations should be presented to Senate for information and which required Senate approval, and**

**That the Senate Academic Planning Committee be asked to consider Recommendation V, and**

**That the Steering Committee also include in its report back to Senate recommendations concerning membership on subcommittees.**

The motion carried.

89:079.

Definition of Plagiarism

Mr. Stairs presented for information from the Senate Committee on Academic Administration the background to and the wording of a revised Calendar entry on plagiarism which had been approved by SCAA. Several Senators expressed concerns about what they saw as vagueness in certain statements in the entry, about the possibility that the University would now be open to differing standards for attribution and responses to plagiarism, and about other possible consequences of increasing professorial discretion in responding to alleged plagiarism. Ms. Ozier suggested that the new Calendar entry would have the effect of altering the mandate of the Senate Discipline Committee and, as such, should be considered by Senate. Mr. Barkow suggested that the document be sent back to its authors, Mr. Stairs and Mr. Bissett-Johnson for revision with the assistance of those Senators who made suggestions.

It was moved (Stuttard/Zentilli)

**that the document be referred back to the Senate Committee on Academic Administration.**

The motion carried.

89:080.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.