

Item: Senate Minutes, April 1994

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, 25 April 1994 at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Dunn in the chair were:

J. Archibald, Atherton, Bankier, Bérard, Birdsall, J. Black, Bradfield, Brett, M.P. Brown, Campbell, Carruthers, Carlson, Clarke, Conrod, Cross, Curri, Doolittle, Fingard, E.A. Frick, Gamberg, Hansell, Holloway, Hoskin, Kaspar, Kussmaul, Laidlaw, Lewis, MacInnis, MacLennan, MacLeod, Mahony, Mason, Maxner, McCabe, McIntyre, McKee, McPhee, Myers, O'Brien, Pereira, Pross, Ritchie, Roald, Rutherford, Schwenger, Shafai, Sherwin, A.M. Simpson, Sinclair, Sinclair-Faulkner, K. Smith, Sorge, Starnes, Stolzman, M. Stone, Stuttard, Sullivan, Sutow, Verabioff, Wainwright, K.S. Wood.

Invitees: S. Drake, J. Eastman, M. MacDonald.

Regrets: Arklie, Clovis, M. Crowley, Fitzgerald, Gilroy, J. Gray, Haley, Hobson, D.W. Jones, J.V. Jones, Kimmins, Kozey, Lane, K. MacDonald, D. MacLean, Murray, O'Shea, Powell, Pytko, Rappell, Sketris, M.H. Tan, C.N. Williams, Wassersug, Waterson.

94:050

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 14 March 1994 were approved upon motion (B. Mason/T. McPhee).

The minutes of the meeting of 28 March 1994 were approved upon motion (B. Mason/T. McPhee).

94:051

Nomination to the Senate Committee on Committees

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Mr Bérard tabled the following nomination for election to a position on the Senate Committee on Committees:

N. Murphy (Health Professions)

This nomination was approved upon motion (R. Bérard/M. Bradfield).

94:052

Nomination to the University Tenure Panel

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Mr Bérard tabled the following nomination for election to a position on the University Tenure Panel:

T. Laidlaw (Education)

This nomination was approved upon motion (R. Bérard/M. Bradfield).

94:053

Proposed Change in Membership of the Senate Committee on Instructional Development

Mr Bérard reported that the Steering Committee had considered and given its approval to a proposal from the Senate Committee on Instructional Development to reduce the size of its membership to what SCID believed would be a more manageable and effective number. On behalf of the Steering Committee, it was moved (R. Bérard/J. Ritchie)

that the membership of the Senate Committee on Instructional Development be amended as follows:

- a) 3 members elected by Senate (reduction from 8 to 3);**
- b) 1 representative of the Dalhousie Student Union (reduction from 3 to 1);**
- c) 1 representative of the Senate Academic Planning Committee (unchanged);**
- d) 1 representative of the Senate Library Committee (unchanged);**
- e) Vice-President (Academic & Research), ex officio (unchanged);**
- f) Executive Director, OIAT, ex officio (unchanged);**
- g) elimination of two decanal representatives;**
- h) elimination of the representative of the Senate Committee on Computing and Information Technology; and**

that the SCID be asked for a report on its work and attendance at the end of the year.

Ms Bankier expressed concern that the Senate Committee on Computing and Information Technology had not been consulted about the elimination of its representative, and it was moved (J. Bankier/W. Birdsall)

that section (h) be deleted from the proposal pending consultation with the Senate Committee on Computing and

Information Technology.

The amendment carried.

The question having been called, the amended motion carried.

94:054

President's 1992-93 Report to Senate on the Policy for Increasing the Proportion of Female Faculty

Mr Dunn said that the President would be asked to speak to this report at the next Senate meeting at which he was in attendance. It was moved (B. Mason/C. Stuttard)

that Senate receive the President's 1992-93 Report to Senate on the Policy for Increasing the Proportion of Female Faculty.

The question having been called, the motion carried.

94:055

University Rationalization - School of Education

Mr Sullivan, Director of the School of Education, presented background to the recommendations of the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education, and their acceptance by the Provincial Government, that the School of Education at Dalhousie be closed and its programmes discontinued. He pointed out a number of flaws in the report on which the recommendations were made and the absence of any rationale for several of the recommendations, particularly those relating to graduate studies in Education. He said that the recommendations constituted a challenge to the authority of Senate to decide which programmes, if any, at Dalhousie should close.

Mr Sullivan gave notice of the following motion:

On 15 April 1994 the Minister of Education issued a press release which stated that the "government accepts that [Education] programmes at Dalhousie ... should be phased out." Given that Senate has recently supported the Dalhousie response to the Shapiro Report, a response which indicated that "we cannot support [the Shapiro] recommendations" and given that the Minister's announcement violates the duly constituted authority of the University to make decisions regarding the closure of academic programmes:

it is, therefore, resolved that the University administration and the Minister of Education/Government of Nova Scotia be advised that the authorization of

programmes and changes to them are the responsibility of the Senate of this University as provided for in the University's charter. The Senate deplors any intervention by political authorities in the academic affairs of the University.

Ms A. Manicom (Education) asked why the University had issued a press release noting that programmes in physical and health education would remain open but had not given such clear support to graduate programmes in Education. Mr Mason said that a further statement would follow a meeting on Wednesday evening involving the presidents of the universities affected by the Council's recommendations, the Chair of the Council, and the Minister of Education, but he noted that the Government can withdraw certification of graduates of the Dalhousie's B.Ed. programme and can request that the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission withdraw its approval for graduate programmes. The Government can also resort to amending the Universities Act. Mr Pross said that he doubted that Government wished to amend the Act and argued that the case for continuing Education studies at Dalhousie be made forcefully.

Mr Stuttard said that his understanding was that MPHEC approved the establishment or termination of university programmes only at the recommendation of the universities themselves. Mr Sinclair said that Dalhousie has operated a programme, that in Costume Studies, without having received approval by MPHEC. Mr Sullivan said that he was troubled that the University, in view of the success of Dalhousie's graduate programmes in Education, would countenance their referral to MPHEC for possible termination.

Ms Laidlaw said that the University has been, in her view, slow to respond to the negative characterizations of the School's programmes in the Council's documents and asked why the senior administration has not specifically endorsed those programmes. Mr Mason said that the University has not withdrawn its endorsement of the School's programmes but had temporarily suspended admissions pending the outcome of the meeting of 27 April referred to above. Messrs Stuttard and Sinclair-Faulkner said that enrolment in programmes should not be suspended unless specific authorization is given by Senate. He said that he expected the Chair of Senate to make this clear to the President. Mr Mason said that he hoped and believed that more informed decisions could be made on 28 April. Mr Dunn said that he would meet with the Vice-President (Academic and Research) to communicate Senate's concerns.

Ms Bankier said that other universities had rejected the recommendations of the Council and that Dalhousie should not accept them without protest. She said that accepting such a flawed and inconsistent report would have negative consequences for future rationalization exercises. Ms Fingard said that members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies were concerned by the slurs cast implicitly on sound and healthy graduate programmes by the Council's recommendations, especially in view of the fact that no review had been done of graduate studies in Education by the consultants retained by the Council. Mr Sullivan said that, while he appreciated the reluctance of the University to antagonize the Provincial Government, both St Francis Xavier University and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design had been aggressive in their opposition to the recommendations of the NSCHE and appear to have been successful in that opposition.

Ms Stone reported that the Interuniversity Committee on Women's Studies had written to the Minister

of Education to object to the decision, which, it was believed, would have a disproportionately negative impact on women graduate students and on the field of Women's Studies in the area. Mr McCabe pointed out that the focus of the review team that generated the recommendations to the NSCHE was on preparation of teachers for the public school system and that it sought to respond, not just to academic concerns, but to concerns raised by professional bodies such as the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Nova Scotia School Boards Association.

Mr E. Ricker (Education) said that the original order-in-council establishing the NSCHE called for the Council to work in cooperation with the various universities. Mr Mason said that the Council had received expanded powers in 1992, but Mr Ricker pointed out that the order-in-council establishing the powers of the NSCHE had not been amended.

Mr Dunn said that the motion would be debated at the next meeting of Senate, on 2 May 1994, a meeting which was being re-scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

94:056

Discriminatory Harassment Policy

Mr Dunn reported that, in view of the concerns expressed about the disposition of the proposed policy on discriminatory harassment, he had agreed with Mr Shaw, Chair of the Board of Governors, that informal discussions be carried out among an ad hoc committee of three representatives of Senate and three representatives of the Board to determine if there are any further steps to be taken at this time in addressing the issue of discriminatory harassment. He said that he would like one of the committee members to be a student. Ms. Bankier suggested that efforts be made to ensure that the committee included representation of women, minorities, and persons with expertise in issues of discriminatory harassment.

Ms Laidlaw asked if the question of the role of Senate representatives to the Board of Governors had been discussed. Mr Dunn said that the Steering Committee had discussed this question at its meeting of 17 March (S.C. 94:037) and that it had taken the position that Senate representatives to the Board should speak and vote according to their consciences but that the Chair of Senate, as an ex officio member should fully explain any of Senate's decisions which may come before the Board. Ms Laidlaw said that she believed that Senate representatives should be accountable to Senate. Mr Wainwright said that he believed it was the responsibility of every Senate representative to express clearly the views of Senate as expressed in formal Senate decisions. Ms Stone suggested that Senate representatives who do not agree with a given Senate decision might be asked to yield their places temporarily to persons who could advocate Senate's position. Mr Dunn agreed to refer the question back to the Steering Committee.

94:057

Report of the President

Mr Dunn reported receipt of the Report of the President (previously circulated). Mr Pross observed that, in giving his report, the President often makes reference to the accomplishments of Dalhousie

faculty and students, a practice which he commended. In the absence of the President, however, he said that he wished to recognize the success of graduate students from the Department of Economics and the School of Public Administration in winning three of eight positions in the accelerated economist training programme of the Public Service Commission of Canada. Mr Bradfield pointed out that a fourth student had been offered a position but had declined the offer.

94:058

Cameras and Tape Recorders at Senate Meetings

Mr Bérard reported that the Steering Committee at its meeting of 17 March (S.C. 94:032) had endorsed Mr Dunn's decision to forbid the presence of cameras at the Senate meeting of 14 February 1994 and had agreed that this decision should become Senate policy. Ms Bankier said that, in response to recommendations of the report on morale at Dalhousie, a committee was being established to look at open decision-making at the University. She said that any permanent decision on the use of cameras at Senate meetings should await the report of that committee. Ms Sherwin said that pictures often provide useful information about meetings that most people are unable to attend. Ms Bankier noted that some universities actually telecast meetings of their governing bodies. Mr Dunn said that he would refer the matter back to the Steering Committee.

94:059

Question Period

Mr Lewis asked when departmental and Faculty budgets will be available. Mr Mason said that the Provincial budget was expected on Friday, 29 April but noted that the Deans have had tentative budget allocations based on the Third Report of the Budget Advisory Committee.

Mr Bradfield raised the issue of the cost of renovations to the basement of the President's House. He wished to know specifically the percentage of the cost related to a seepage problem and that related to creating new usable space in the basement. He also asked which body had approved the expenditures, noting that they had not been dealt with by the Senate Physical Planning Committee, which reviews Alterations and Renovations projects for the campus. Mr Mason said that he was unwilling, in view of the current budget problems and increasing demands for information from the NSCHE and other bodies, to commit staff time to respond to such questions. He indicated that unless he was given specific direction to make such a response a priority, he would not be providing a response.

Ms Bankier said that the report on morale at Dalhousie identified concerns about wasteful expenditures as an influence on morale. Mr Mason said that he had tried to answer Mr Bradfield's original question on the matter and that the morale of the staff was lowered by having to prepare information to satisfy the curiosity of members of Senate. Mr Bradfield said that he was concerned that the expenditure in question did not have to pass through the scrutiny of the Alterations and Renovations process. Mr Mason said that most expenditures were well controlled.

94:060

Other Business - Presidential Search Committee

Mr Dunn reported on the current work of the Presidential Search Committee, noting that it had held two poorly-attended public meetings but had received a number of written submissions. He urged members of Senate to consider submitting their views in writing to the Committee.

94:061

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. upon motion (C. Stuttard/E. McKee).

Secretary

Chair