

Item: Senate Minutes, December 1994

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
MINUTES
OF
SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, 12 December 1994 at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Dunn in the chair were:

Aucoin, Bankier, Bednarski, Bérard, Birdsall, Black, M.P. Brown, Burns, Butlin, Campbell, Clark, Clarke, Conrod, Cross, J.E. Crowley, Curri, Earl, Eberhardt, Egan, Farmer, Fingard, Fitzgerald, Friedrich, Gardin, Gesner, Ghiz, Hobson, D.M. Lewis, Lovely, Lydon, Lyttle, MacInnis, MacLennan, Mahony, Makrides, Mann, McCabe, McIntyre, McKee, Moger, O'Shea, Pereira, Poel, Richards, Ritchie, Ruedy, Sherwin, A.M. Simpson, Sinclair-Faulkner, K. Smith, Starnes, Stolzman, M. Stone, Stroink, Stuttard, Sullivan, J.E. Sutherland, Sutow, Taylor, Turnbull, Wentzell, Winham, Woolf, Wright, Yang.

Invitees: M. Dauphinee, J. Eastman, M. MacDonald, S. McIntyre. D. Pothier.

Regrets: M. Crowley, DeMéo, Haley, Hare, Laidlaw, Moss, Murray, F.C. Nowakowski, Owen, Roald, Schlech, Shafai, M.H. Tan.

94:153

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 24 October 1994 were approved upon motion (E. McKee/J. Ghiz).

The minutes of the meeting of 14 November 1994 were approved upon motion (E. McKee/J. Ghiz).

94:154

Nominations to the University Tenure Panel

Mr Bérard reported that the following persons had been nominated to serve on the University Tenure Panel by the Senate Committee on Committees and had received the requisite approval of the President and the Dalhousie Faculty Association:

M. Brooks	(Management)	1997
P. DeMéo	(FASS)	1997
R. Friedrich	(FASS)	1995
E. Ricker	(Education)	1995
J. Ritchie	(Health Professions)	1997
D. Woolf	(FASS)	1997

It was moved (D. Hobson/C. Lydon):

that Senate confirm the election of the persons named to the University Tenure Panel.

The motion carried.

94:155

Revised Terms of Reference - University Ombud

Mr McKee reported that the Ombud Advisory Committee had proposed a number of minor changes to the terms of reference of the University Ombud. The revised terms of reference had been approved by the Senate Committee on Academic Administration (**SCAA 94:036**). On behalf of SCAA, it was moved (E. McKee/D. Egan):

that Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the University Ombud.

The motion carried.

94:156

Proposed M.Sc. Programme in Physiotherapy

Mr Bérard reported that the Senate Academic Planning Committee and Senate Financial Planning Committee had considered the proposed M.Sc. programme in Physiotherapy. At its meeting of 21 November 1994, SAPC had recommended approval of the programme. On behalf of SAPC, it was moved (R. Bérard/L. Makrides)

that Senate approve the proposed M.Sc. programme in Physiotherapy.

The motion carried.

94:157

Senate Reform

Mr Dunn asked Mr Aucoin, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Reform, to introduce the final report of the committee. Mr Aucoin explained the changes that had been made to the document since its earlier presentation to Senate in June 1994. He noted that the appendix to the document explaining the division of representatives by Faculty was given for illustration only and that the final figures would be determined on the basis of current data at the time of implementation.

Mr Sinclair-Faulkner asked why the ad hoc committee decided that the proposed Priorities and Budget Committee of a new Senate should conduct closed meetings. Mr Aucoin replied that the deliberations of such a committee could raise undue concerns among different persons and groups in the University and that open meetings might inhibit frank discussion among members. He added that any recommendations of the committee would be debated in open session in Senate.

Ms Bankier said that she did not accept that the Dalhousie Senate had been ineffective. She added

her objection to the idea that the Priorities and Budget Committee should hold closed meetings.

Ms Bankier and Ms Stone objected to the lack of specific representation of minorities in the new Senate or of a seat on Senate for the University's Equity Officer. Mr Aucoin replied that the ad hoc committee did not see a satisfactory mechanism for ensuring minority representation at the University level and that its decision not to create an ex officio seat for the Equity Officer was part of its attempt to maintain a 3:1 ratio of elected to ex officio seats. Ms Bankier also objected to the limitation of the right to vote for Senators to those holding 50% or greater appointments. Mr Aucoin replied that this seemed a reasonable way to ensure that Senate was elected by those who had a primary and continuing commitment to Dalhousie. Ms Bankier also objected to the decision not to include the Registrar and the President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association as ex officio members of Senate. Ms Stone called for the President of the DFA to serve on the Priorities and Budget Committee.

Mr Sinclair-Faulkner said that he believed that the proposed reform was a good effort to streamline Senate but that it was not worth acquiescing to closed meetings of its most important committee. He said that he feared that doing so could create a ripple effect which would increase secrecy throughout the University. Mr Aucoin said that the aim of the ad hoc committee was to ensure greater faculty involvement in the budget process and that it was thought that open meetings might inhibit the faculty's full and frank participation in the process.

Ms Conrod said that budgets were now prepared in secret meetings and that they will continue to be prepared in secret meetings. Either Senate can choose to have a place at the table behind the closed doors or choose to stay outside. She said that Senate needed to trust its elected representatives.

Mr Taylor said that the proposal would help to bring together academic and financial planning. He expressed concern that the division of members by Faculty would reinforce the fractionalization of the University and that representatives will see themselves as agents of their Faculties rather than independent representatives taking a University-wide perspective. He said that he recognized that some members of Senate would be reluctant to give up their membership, but he said that there was no point in having a franchise in a powerless body. Mr Taylor objected to the formula used to determine representation, arguing that King's students should be included in any calculations. Mr Aucoin said that it was difficult to include King's students, who were registered at another university, just as it was difficult to give adequate credit to Faculties which did large amounts of service teaching. Mr Taylor replied that most King's students were majors in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science or the Faculty of Science. Mr Starnes added that King's students were part of a joint Dalhousie-King's Faculty of Arts and Science. Ms Stone also supported this interpretation and added that, although she supported reform, she believed the suggested ratios would leave FASS, Science, and Health Professions students without equitable representation.

Mr Taylor asked what would happen with the recommendations of the Priorities and Budget Committee. Mr Aucoin said that they would be presented to Senate for review and comment. He asked if Senate would be able to vote on the budget recommendations. Mr Aucoin said that Senate would vote on them but he noted that the Board of Governors was ultimately responsible for setting the budget.

Mr Stolzman said that the representation formula seemed to be a suitable compromise but he was concerned at what appeared to be an imbalance between the seats allotted to FASS and those to

the Faculty of Medicine. Mr Ruedy said that the representation of the Faculty of Medicine was complicated by the nature of many of the appointments in that Faculty, but he noted that the current formula did not take account of the almost 600 part-time faculty in Medicine. Ms Hansell, a member of the ad hoc committee, pointed out that the Faculty of Medicine undertook substantial service teaching, particularly to the other health-related Faculties.

Mr Ghiz, a member of the ad hoc committee, said that the proposal was a compromise, but he added that Senate had a choice between a compromise and the status quo. He said that a Senate of nearly 450 members at a medium-sized institution called into question the credibility of the University governance, which, in turn, compromised the University's ability to raise funds and other forms of public support. He urged members of Senate to give the proposal a chance and consider necessary amendments in due course. Mr Ghiz then suggested that the ad hoc committee might wish to reconsider its recommendation that the Priorities and Budget Committee meet in secret. Mr Dunn called for a straw vote on whether the deliberations of that committee should be open, and a substantial majority, on a show of hands, appeared to support open meetings.

Mr Lydon said that the Dalhousie Student Union supported the reform report, noting that, while the number of student representatives was reduced in absolute terms, the percentage of student representation was increased. He added that the DSU was concerned that the matter of a quorum for business in the new Senate had not been addressed. Mr Dunn said that this matter would be dealt with as part of the implementation process for any reform.

Mr Friedrich said that it appeared that Dalhousie's Senate would go from one of the largest in the country to one of the smallest. Mr Aucoin replied that the proposed Senate would still be one of the largest in Canada. Mr Friedrich said that he believed that Senate still required a certain proportion of at-large members, who did not see their primary role as representing their Faculties. Mr Aucoin said that there was no evidence that at-large members took a broader view than sectional representatives and that the creation of at-large members would create two classes of Senators and could lead to unhealthy divisions within the body.

Mr N. Brett (FASS) said that he saw Senate less as a representative parliament and more as a model of classical democracy, wherein members attended as they wished, and he suggested that Senate was no less effective for it. He asked if a reformed Senate would have been able to resist pressures to abandon programmes in Music and Theatre. Mr Aucoin said that Senate has been effective as a check on the actions of the administration and other bodies but argued that Senate has not played an effective part in the active governance of the University. Mr Brett also asked how the transition would be managed if the reform proposal was approved. Mr Dunn said that an implementation process would be developed and brought before Senate if the proposal was approved.

Mr Dunn thanked Mr Aucoin and other members of the ad hoc committee for their work. He said that the Steering Committee would review the comments made at the meeting and any others that might be presented to the Senate Office and prepare a final draft of the proposal for a postal ballot in January 1995.

94:158

University Rationalization

Mr Clark referred members to the first part of his report (appended). He noted the University's frustration at the lack of a clear response from the provincial government to the Cowan Report on human resources transition in teacher education programmes, prepared for the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education (NSCHE). He said that he hoped the University would be able to place early retirement and voluntary separation packages before faculty members in the School of Education before Christmas.

Mr Clark also announced that the NSCHE would be holding a meeting at Dalhousie on 19 January 1995, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. to discuss its recently released "Green Paper" on the university system in Nova Scotia. He added that the Council had called for briefs and presentations on the "Green Paper".

94:159

Proposed Policy on Accessibility for Students with Disabilities

Ms Curri reported that the Senate Committee on Academic Administration had considered proposals for a policy statement on accessibility for students with disabilities. She noted that a policy had been developed by a Presidential Advisory Committee on Accessibility for Students with Disabilities. After considering the committee's proposal, the President suggested modifications, which the Presidential Advisory Committee rejected. The President then presented his revised policy statement to SCAA. At meetings in October and November, SCAA considered both versions of the policy statement and adopted (**SCAA 94:035**), with some minor modifications, the policy statement proposed by the Presidential Advisory Committee.

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, it was moved (G. Curri/D. Egan):

**that Senate endorse the Policy Statement on Accessibility
for Students with Disabilities adopted by the Senate
Committee on Academic Administration.**

Ms Bednarski expressed her appreciation to the Presidential Advisory Committee and SCAA. She said that passage of the motion would take a vital step in making Dalhousie a more inclusive institution by enshrining in a written policy its commitment to students with disabilities. Ms Sherwin said that the Dalhousie Women's Faculty Organization had expressed support for the policy statement as part of its commitment to equity, and Ms Bankier added the support of the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

The question having been called, the motion carried.

94:160

For Information - Synopsis of Forum on *Reinventing Dalhousie*

Mr Dunn said that he believed that the recent Senate Forum had been a success and reported that the SAPC would prepare a summary of the event for broad discussion across the University. He added that video and audio tapes of the sessions were available in the Senate Office.

94:161For Information - Responses to Questions Raised Previously in Question Period.

Mr Bérard reported receipt of a memorandum from the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) giving answers to questions raised at earlier Senate meetings. Mr Mason reported that Dalhousie's current fee for membership in the AUCC is \$55,579.00 and that for CAUBO is \$4,805.00. He also noted that the University's total expenditures for outside legal services for all matters relative to the DFA Collective Agreement in fiscal year 1993-94 were \$30,026.65.

94:162For Information - Presidential Appointment on the Budget Advisory Committee

Mr Dunn reported that Mr G. Winham, who had been a Senate nominee to the Budget Advisory Committee, would now become a Presidential nominee and the Chair of the Committee. He noted that Senate will be asked to forward the names of two nominees to the President, who will select one to serve on the BAC.

94:163For Information - Programme Approvals from the Board of Governors

Mr Bérard reported that the Board of Governors had approved, at its meeting of 15 November 1994, the combined M.D./M.Sc. in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the combined Master of Nursing/Master of Health Services Administration degree programmes.

94:164Report of the President

Mr Clark summarized the remaining items in his report (appended). He said that the Sixth Report of the Budget Advisory Committee had been received and noted that, due to uncertainty regarding the future of federal Established Programmes Funding, the report did few projections beyond the 1995-96 budget year.

Mr Clark said that the University planned to make a brief presentation to the parliamentary committee considering the federal government's social policy review discussion paper on Tuesday, 13 December. Ms Bankier said that the Dalhousie Faculty Association also expected to make a brief presentation.

94:165Question Period

Ms Bankier said that the figures provided by the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) regarding outside legal fees relating to the DFA Collective Agreement covered only the 1993-94 fiscal year. She asked if any of the costs associated with the Article 25 arbitration might be

reported in the figures for 1994-95, and if so, what would they be. Mr Clark said that he could not answer the question, and he noted that the 1994-95 figures would not be available for some time.

Mr Stolzman asked if any attempt was being made to galvanize other universities with a national mandate to respond to proposed reductions in government support to higher education. Mr Clark said that CAUT and AUCC have both been active in this regard and that most of the country's universities have been lobbying against such reductions. He added that he did believe the situation at this point was very serious.

94:166

In Camera - Student Appeals

Mr Bérard reported the decision of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee relating to a student appeal in the Faculty of Law. It was moved (F. Lovely/E. McKee)

that Senate ratify the decision of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee.

The motion carried.

Mr Bérard then reported the decision of an ad hoc appeal committee relating to an appeal of an earlier decision by the Senate Discipline Committee. It was moved (W. Moger/J. Conrod)

that Senate ratify the decision of the ad hoc Student Discipline Appeal Committee.

The motion carried.

94:167

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. upon motion (P. Brown/J. Conrod).

Secretary

Chair