

Item: Senate Minutes, November 1994

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
MINUTES
OF
SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, 14 November 1994 at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Dunn in the chair were:

Amey, Archer, Atherton, Bankier, Bérard, Black, Blair, Butlin, Cassin, Clark, Clarke, Clovis, Cross, Dickson, Earl, Egan, Fingard, Friedrich, Hare, Hobson, Hoskin, Howlett, James, Kirk, Kussmaul, Laidlaw, Landymore, D.M. Lewis, Lydon, Lyttle, MacKinnon, MacLeod, McCabe, McKee, Moger, Moore, Nugent, Owen, Richards, Ritchie, A.M. Simpson, Sorge, Starnes, M.J. Stewart, Stodola, Stolzman, Stuttard, Sullivan, Taylor, Verabioff, Wortman.

Invitees: M. MacDonald.

Regrets: Carruthers, M. Crowley, DeMéo, Gardin, Ghiz, J. Gray, Haley, Makrides, Mann, Maxner, McIntyre, F.C. Nowakowski, Powell, Ruedy, Roald, Schlech, Sketris, M.H. Tan, Wassersug, Wright.

94:143

Minutes of the Meeting of 7 October 1994

The minutes of the meeting of 7 October 1994 were approved, with the addition of N. Archer to the list of those present, upon motion (C. Lydon/J. Ritchie).

94:144

Changes to the October 1994 Graduation List

Mr Bérard reported that the following two changes had been made to the October graduation:

Addition of L.J. Botley (#89023337), Bachelor of Arts (Major in English); and

Deletion of D. St Helene (#89085047), Bachelor of Science (Kinesiology).

94:145

Nominations to Senate Committees

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Committees, Mr Blair tabled the following names for election to Senate committees:

Senate Academic Planning Committee

| | | |
|-----------|----------|------|
| J. Baxter | (FASS) | 1995 |
| P. Rans | (Henson) | 1996 |

Senate Physical Planning Committee

| | | |
|----------|--------|------|
| L. Sorge | (FASS) | 1995 |
|----------|--------|------|

Senate Discipline Committee

| | | |
|------------|-------|------|
| E. Hodgson | (Law) | 1997 |
|------------|-------|------|

Mount St Vincent Senate

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|------|
| J. MacKinnon | (Science) | 1997 |
| L. Verabioff | (Health Professions) | 1996 |

Senate Library Committee

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|------|
| M. Calkin | (Science) | 1996 |
| F. Gregor | (Health Professions) | 1997 |

Nominee to Audit Committee of the Board of Governors

| | | |
|---------|-----------|------|
| P. Lane | (Science) | 1995 |
|---------|-----------|------|

Following the requisite calls for further nominations, Mr Dunn declared elected the persons named above.

94:146

Notice of Motion from the Senate Steering Committee re: Senate Voting

On behalf of the Steering Committee, it was moved (R. Bérard/J. Ritchie)

that Senate affirm that changes in membership of Senate will be voted on by a mail ballot to all members of Senate, with support of a two-thirds majority of those Senators voting required for approval of the changes.

Mr MacLeod asked why the motion did not mention a quorum for Senate. Mr Dunn replied that Senate had no quorum established. Mr Atherton asked if the legislation governing Dalhousie did not require a vote of 50% + 1 of all Senators in order to alter the membership. Mr Dunn replied that this was the case until 1988, when changes in legislation and subsequent interpretations of that

legislation by Senate seemed to establish the two-thirds majority rule. Ms Bankier noted that the legislation of 1988 was silent on the matter, but she pointed out that a number of changes to the membership of Senate have been established by the two-thirds rule since that time.

The question having been called, the motion carried.

94:147

University Rationalization

Mr Clark referred members to the first part of his report (appended). He noted that the Human Resources Committee established by the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) had accepted a report to the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education (NSCHE) from Ottawa consultant J. Cowan concerning the disposal of faculty members affected by the NSCHE decisions on teacher education programmes in Nova Scotia. Mr Clark added that he understood, unofficially, that the NSCHE had also accepted the report.

Mr Clark said that Dalhousie was drafting a response to the NSCHE report on Computing Science but added that it was not clear how the NSCHE planned to proceed with programmes in this field.

Mr Clark reported that the so-called "Green Paper" on the future of the Nova Scotia university system was not yet available in its full form, but a summary document had been received. The "Green Paper" is to be discussed at a public meeting to be held at Dalhousie in January 1995, and the President has planned to establish a small committee to advise him on planning and communicating the University's strategy in response to the document. He noted that the University would likely take a strong stand in favour of the amalgamation of institutions, at least within the metropolitan Halifax area.

Mr Clark reported finally that the Minister of Education and the Premier had called a meeting for Saturday, 19 November, with the presidents, vice-presidents and board chairs of the Province's universities.

Mr Hare, in reference to the matter of Education, pointed out that the focus of the NSCHE rationalization initiative was on undergraduate teacher education. Even assuming that the University was prepared to accept the Shapiro Report on teacher education, despite the many flaws and inconsistencies which have been identified in the document, graduate programmes in Education had not been reviewed, and Mr Hare asked that this point be made in the meeting with the Minister. Mr Hare also observed that the Cowan Report, referred to above, had not allayed the concerns of faculty members in the School of Education. He pointed out that it was very difficult for faculty members to make informed judgements about early retirement or voluntary separation options in the absence of any clear information about internal redeployment or external placement within the university system.

Mr Clark agreed that the NSCHE had handled the review of Education programmes badly and inconsistently. He noted that the Minister of Education himself was not always clear about what role in educational studies Dalhousie might play outside the realm of public school teacher education.

Senate, Mr Clark said, would have to decide ultimately about the place of undergraduate and graduate educational studies at Dalhousie, as the administration, under current legislation and the

Collective Agreement, cannot close programmes unilaterally. At the same time, the provincial government has announced that certain programmes will close, and that government provides substantial funding for the University. Senate will have to weigh the consequences of appearing to defy the provincial government.

Mr Sullivan pointed out that many faculty members of the School of Education feel betrayed by the University's apparent unwillingness to consider internal redeployment for those faculty members whose academic training and research was suited to the work of other units within Dalhousie. Ms Hobson said that Dalhousie was responsible, under its current Collective Agreement, to seek redeployment for faculty members made redundant according to the provisions of §25 of that Agreement. Ms Bankier said that the Cowan Report did not make this clear.

Mr Sullivan also noted that the Cowan Report recognized certain institutions as "winners", who are to be given new positions and the right to choose faculty from a pool of faculty members considered redundant at other institutions. It was not clear how many of those faculty members would be offered positions, whether they would have to pass through the tenure and promotion systems of the receiving institutions, or whether their sabbatical and other academic benefits would be respected. He reported also that the Cowan Report has been seen as a model for dealing with human resource transition in other programmes being considered for rationalization, and he urged that members of Senate study the document carefully, particularly those in units which might be affected by the rationalization process.

Mr Dunn said that these matters would be discussed by the Steering Committee. Mr Sullivan asked that the Chair of Senate inform the chair of the Academic Transition Committee of CONSUP that, contrary to what she may have heard, Senate had not acted to close any of Dalhousie's programmes in Education. Mr Dunn said that he would do so.

Ms Bankier said that the Cowan Report did not seriously involve any of the faculty associations representing the people affected by its recommendations or the Nova Scotia Council of University Faculty Associations (NSCUFA), which had expressed an interest in being consulted directly. Mr Clark said that he understood that Mr Cowan did consult NSCUFA. Ms Bankier replied that Mr Cowan had had two conversations with the executive director of NSCUFA and incorporated none of the organization's concerns in his recommendations. This, Ms Bankier added, was just a further example of a top-down planning process which has governed the whole rationalization exercise on the parts of both the government and the universities.

Ms Bankier asked why the recommendations relating to Education should be implemented in the absence of a clear plan for broader institutional rationalization. Mr Christie asked if, in view of the slow progress of the reports on Engineering and Computing Science, the NSCHE might be persuaded to delay implementation of the Education recommendations. Mr Taylor urged that Dalhousie request such a delay. Mr Clark said that the Minister of Education seems determined, apparently for political reasons, to proceed with the recommendations on Education as soon as possible. Ms Hobson assured members of Senate that the concerns raised at the meeting would be raised with the Minister. Mr Christie suggested that any committee established to respond to the "Green Paper" should include student representatives and the Director of the School of Education. Ms Fingard pointed out that there were many M.A., M.Ed., and Ph.D. students in the School of Education who would require supervision for some time to come and that their interests seem to have been overlooked. To attempt to provide for that supervision in the absence of the faculty in the School of Education would be an administrative nightmare.

Mr Taylor asked what the current status of the Cowan Report was. Mr Clark said that CONSUP had presented the report as a package to the Minister. If the Minister accepted the report and provided the funds called for, he expected that the recommendations would be implemented. Ms Bankier said that the Cowan Report seemed aimed primarily at protecting the financial positions of the universities rather than providing fair and equitable treatment for faculty members affected by it.

The Report also seemed to make clear that the Province could save no money by its approach to rationalization. Mr Stuttard asked how CONSUP would respond if the Minister did not accept the whole package proposed by the Cowan Report. Mr Clark said that he could not answer the question, but he noted that failure by the Minister to accept the package would call the whole rationalization exercise into question.

Mr McCabe said that the NSCHE did not seem to recognize the difference between teacher education and the broader field of educational studies. Dalhousie, he noted, could and should retain a major role in the latter field. Mr Clark said that Dalhousie has tried on a number of occasions to make clear the distinction between education and teacher preparation, but those efforts have not yet met with any great success.

Mr Stolzman pointed out that the provincial government did not address the role of the School of Education in undergraduate, non-professional educational studies or graduate studies, yet it has announced, without reference to the role of Senate, the closing of the School and its programmes. He said that this was no way to proceed with a rationalization process and pointed out that if such an interference in the governance of the University could proceed in the case of Education, it could proceed with any field. If Senate was to have any meaning, he said, it should be dealing with this.

94:148

Senate Forum - *Reinventing Dalhousie*

Mr Dunn reported on the final programme for the Senate Forum, scheduled for 18 November and 2 December 1994.

94:149

Report of the President

Mr Clark summarized the remaining items in his report (appended).

94:150

Question Period

Ms James, representing Mount St Vincent University, asked about the current status of the Interuniversity Programme in Women's Studies. Mr Dunn replied that the proposal was being considered by the Senate Academic Planning Committee and he expected that it would come before Senate in December or January.

94:151

In Camera - Student Appeals

Mr Bérard reported the decisions of an ad hoc committee on student appeals. It was moved (W. Moger/E. McKee)

that Senate ratify the decisions of the ad hoc committee on student appeals.

The motion carried, with Mr Friedrich abstaining.

94:152

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. upon motion (E. McKee/K. Sullivan).

Secretary

Chair