

Item: Senate Minutes, February 1996

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

SENATE met in regular session on Monday, 12 February 1996 at 4:00 p.m. in the University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present, with Mr. C. Stuttard in the chair, were the following:

Andrews, Archibald, Binkley, Kay-Raining Bird, Birdsall, Bleasdale, Brett, Cameron, Camfield, Campbell, Conrod, Cross, Crowell, Dickson, Farmer, Hobson, Hooper, Kenny, Kiang, Klein, Lovely, Lydon, MacDonald, MacInnis, Maloney, Pacey, Ricketts, Russell, Ruedy, Sherwin, Sutherland, Taylor, Wrixon.

Regrets: Cummings, Egan, Fraser, Hartzman, McIntyre, Moore, Pereira, Rosson, Shafai, Siddiq, Starnes, Thomas, Traves.

**96:025**

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

**96:026**

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion (Dickson/Ricketts) the minutes of 22 January 1996 were approved as circulated.

**96:027**

Matters Arising

With reference to **96:022**, Mr. Stuttard reported that after examining Robert's rules he believed that he had not erred in refraining from calling a roll-call vote. According to Robert's rules, a roll-call vote should never be used in an assembly which is not responsible to its constituency. Are the Senate members responsible to their constituencies? Mr. Stuttard said he will ask the Steering Committee to look into this question.

Even if elected Senators are responsible to their constituencies, was it appropriate to have a roll-call vote at that time? While Robert's rules are silent on this question, Kerr and King [in Procedures for Meetings and Organizations, 1984] state that a roll-call vote may be used after a voice or hand vote is inconclusive or members are unhappy with the interpretation of the vote by the Chair. If this occurs, then a motion to conduct a roll-call vote must be moved, seconded, and carried before that vote can be taken.

Mr. Ricketts asked if a position of "Parliamentarian," an individual who interpreted the rules for the meeting, might be appropriate? Ms. Hobson said Brian Crocker fulfils this function for the Board of Governors. Mr. Stuttard said that the Steering Committee was reviewing all the terms of references of Senate committees and the constitution, and he would forward this suggestion to the Steering Committee.

Mr. Wainwright and Mr. Lydon commented on the representativeness of Senate members. Mr. Birdsall asked that if the Steering Committee was looking into all the Terms of Reference of the Senate, could they also review the exclusion of ex-officio members from the offices of Senate, and from membership of SAPBC and the Steering Committee. Mr. Stuttard reiterated that the Steering Committee would look into all these questions.

Mr. Andrews stated that Senators had voted for specific reforms and he argued that Senate must abide by those reforms.

**96:028**

Nominations to Senate Committees

On behalf of the Committee on Committees, Ms. Binkley proposed nominations for three committees; there were no further nominations and the following were declared ELECTED:

Nominees for the Budget Advisory Committee (from which the President may select one):

**Melissa Furrow (Arts & Social Sciences/English)**  
**James McNiven (Management/Business).**

The Nominee for the Academic Appeals Committee (July '96):

**Walter Green (Health Professions).**

The Nominee for the University Committee on Environment (July '96):

**David Sutherland (Arts & Social Sciences/History).**

**96:029**

University Committee on Environment -- Report

It was moved (Sutherland/Bridsall)

**that the Report of the University Committee on Environment for '92-'95 be received.**

The motion CARRIED.

Mr. Ricketts and Ms. Binkley asked about the nature of the interdisciplinary, interFaculty class recommended by the report. Mr. McKee explained that the recommendation refers to an enhancement and expansion of the current class (Science 1000.06) offered in the Faculty of Science.

**96:030**

Report of the President

Since Mr. Traves was away for two weeks visiting Alumni Offices, Ms. Hobson presented the President's report which was circulate on E-mail on 8 February through the Dalhousie Notice Board. In this message, Mr. Traves stated that Mr. MacEachern reported that the Cabinet was impressed by how far the Metro Universities had gone with the Consortium plan but felt that some issues still needed to be resolved; in particular, the continuous autonomy of some administrative functions on the Metro Campuses, and computer science. The Cabinet now accepts the need for separate undergraduate programs in business but still would like to see more cooperation and integration at the graduate level. The Minister also indicated that the government will meet in March with the University Presidents to discuss the level of funding for the 1996-97 period and

the fiscal framework for the next three years. In April they will discuss the reform of the funding formula.

In response to a question from Mr. Cross concerning the School of Business, Ms. Hobson said the Minister's comments about the Cabinet accepting the need for separate undergraduate programs represented a substantial change in thinking.

**96:031**

Question Period

Ms. Raining-Bird asked whether, in accordance with its terms of reference, SAPBC could review the present state of the rationalization process, evaluate current proposals, and report back to Senate. Mr. Stuttard said he would put this question on the SAPBC agenda.

Mr. Cross asked if we knew what the new funding formula would be? Ms. Hobson responded "no" but it would be discussed at the March meeting of the government and the University Presidents.

Ms. Conrod asked when we should expect to have a final budget? Ms. Hobson replied not until after the March meeting.

Mr. Andrews asked if SAPBC had reviewed funding formula proposals and if so, what position did they take, and if not, would they. Mr. Stuttard responded that SAPBC had not addressed this question and he would add it to their agenda. Ms. Hobson stated that the President's office has communicated with the Minister and NSCHE, and indicated the importance of including research funding in the formula. She also stated that the document Mr. Andrews referred to has no specific formulae.

Mr. Brett asked if there had been any attempt to co-ordinate the Dalhousie and SMU reading weeks. This year, SMU's reading week is a week later than Dalhousie's. Mr. Lydon pointed to the need for consistency, given the previous action of Senate in advancing the start date for classes next September. Ms. Hobson said she would look into it.

**96:032**

Any Other Business

Ms. Sutherland congratulated the Senate Officers for putting the approved minutes of Senate and its specialized committees on E-mail. Mr. Andrews asked to have a separate item on the Senate agenda to discuss issues stemming from the various committees' minutes. Mr. Stuttard thanked Mr. Andrews for this suggestion.

**96:033**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 16:45.

Minutes approved.

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Secretary

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Chair