

Item: Senate Minutes, June 2006
Call Number: Senate fonds, UA-5

Additional Notes:

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, June 12, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. El-Hawary in the chair: Binkley, Butler, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Cook, Coughlan, Dunphy (Recording Secretary), Fraser, Geldenhuys, Hicks, Johnson, Klein, Lane, Leon, Livingston, LoRusso, Maes, McMullen, Pegg, Pelzer, Saunders, Schroeder, Scrimger, Scully, Slonim, B. Smith, Stroink, Sullivan, Taylor, Thornhill, Traves, Wallace, Wanzel, Wien, Wright, Yeung, Zuck.

Regrets: Beazley, Breckenridge, Camfield, Cercone, Cleave, Dawson, Edelstein, Hubert, Kwak, Murphy, Oppong, Phillips, Plug, Precious, Rosson, Tipping, Urbanowski.

Absent: Adshade, Barker, Ben-Abdallah, El-Masry, Finbow, Gray, Horackova, McNeil, Morgunov, Rutherford, Simmonds, K.E. Smith, Stone, Swanston, Webster, Whyte.

Guests: Bonnie Neuman, Jerry Singleton

2006:074

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. El-Hawary announced that there is a motion and an excerpt from the May 17, 2006 Senate Steering Committee meeting and proposed the item appear as item #6 following the Senate Nominating Committee. With this one addition the agenda was **ADOPTED**.

2006:075

Draft Minutes of April 10, 2006 Meeting

a) Approval

The draft minutes of the April 10, 2006 meeting were **APPROVED**.

b) Matters Arising

Mr. El-Hawary reported that Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Student Services, will make a presentation at the end of the meeting today addressing matters which arose at the April 10th meeting regarding international students. These issues will include financial assistance, support services, and statistics on retention rates. One additional item under matters arising is the summary of discussions with the Senate Discipline Committee (SDC). The June 12, 2006 report provides a summary of the discussions held between the SDC co-chairs, the Chair of Senate and the Secretary of Senate, facilitated by University Legal Counsel, Ms. Karen Crombie. Mr. El-Hawary stated that he would be pleased to answer any questions but pointed out that this matter had been discussed thoroughly with the Senate Steering Committee.

Mr. Scully pointed out that on pages 2 and 4 of the April 10th Senate meeting minutes there were questions raised about funds being directed to Student Services for international students. He reported that in the last fiscal year the additional revenue the University earned through international differential

fees, in excess of the basic tuition fee increase, was approximately \$260,000 - \$100,000 to Student Services and \$160,000 to bursaries.

2006:076

Draft Minutes of May 8, 2006 Meeting

a) Approval

The minutes of the May 8, 2006 meeting were **APPROVED**.

b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2006:077

Question Period

Mr. Stroink asked if there had been any further development regarding Ms. Horne's case since the last meeting. Mr. Scully reported that he was not aware of any.

Mr. Cochrane reported that he had read in University Affairs of what would appear to be a growing desire to opt out of the Macleans ranking system this year by a number of substantial universities and he wondered if Dalhousie had a position. Mr. Traves responded that he felt the report referred specifically to the issue of a reputation survey and the survey last year was not previewed as being high quality and was in conflict with other annual surveys that we participate in. Dalhousie took a position that we weren't going to participate this year and several other larger universities in the country have taken a similar position. This has sparked some discussion about the value of the Macleans survey. The President of the University of Toronto, Mr. David Naylor, wrote an article in favor of the survey but indicated that the ranking system was less than adequate in terms of the index. Mr. Naylor also pointed out that the Macleans survey may have run its course and had several limitations. Dalhousie will be participating again in the fall issue reporting on data regarding grades and various budget allocations.

2006:078

Senate Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Jost **MOVED**:

THAT Carolan McLarney, School of Business Administration, Faculty of Management and Vaughan Black, Faculty of Law, be elected to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 and Melissa Furrow, Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences be elected for the term July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2008.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations the nominees were declared elected to the Senate Discipline Committee.

Mr. Jost noted that with the successful nomination of the three SDC members today the Committee now has full membership as of July 1, 2006.

2006:079

Senate Steering Committee

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. El-Hawary **MOVED**:

THAT the Senate discipline process be re-visited by the Senate Officers and the Vice-President, Academic, with representation from the Senate Discipline Committee, who will report back at the first meeting of Senate in September 2006.

Mr. Scully reported that he will not be involved in this process and felt that it would be unrealistic to expect the report at the first meeting in September 2006 and proposed an amendment to the motion revising the date to October.

Mr. Scully **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Traves:

THAT the Senate discipline process be re-visited by the Senate Officers and the Vice-President, Academic, with representation from the Senate Discipline Committee, who will report back at the first meeting of Senate in October 2006.

Mr. Cochrane noted that the Senate Discipline process has been before Senate in two ways; one was a decentralization approach and the other was the difficulty with staffing on the committee (which has just been dealt with) combined with the members from the Faculty of Law resigning. Mr. Cochrane asked for clarification of the response. Mr. El-Hawary indicated he would like to defer to the fact that at the Senate Steering Committee meeting discussions ensued on all the events beginning with the Senate *ad hoc* Committee on Plagiarism and its report and the various parts. Mr. El-Hawary also noted that Senate ensured the various recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee were distributed to various committees and this has been done. The future discussions will centre on the difficulties encountered with the discipline process, the involvement with the membership from the Faculty of Law on both the Senate Discipline Committee and the Senate Academic Appeals Committee, and the centralization and decentralization questions.

The motion, as amended, **CARRIED**.

2006:080

Dalhousie University Graduation List – May 2006

Mr. El-Hawary reported that as of June 12, 2006 the following degrees and diplomas had been approved by the Chair of Senate on behalf of the Senate, and the Registrar of Dalhousie University, in consultation with the Provost of the College of Arts and Science and the Deans, and as identified in the correspondence to the Secretary of Senate as follows:

Mr. Scully **MOVED:**

THAT the Senate and the Registrar of Dalhousie University in consultation with the Provost of the College of Arts and Science and the Deans, approve on behalf of Senate, the awarding of degrees and diplomas to candidates as identified in correspondence to the Secretary of Senate.

The motion **CARRIED.**

Mr. El-Hawary reported that as the Chair of Senate with the Registrar of Dalhousie University in consultation the Registrar of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and as identified in the correspondence to the Secretary of Senate had approved the list of graduands of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College as follows:

Bachelor of Technology.....	5
Bachelor of Science (Agriculture).....	64
Master of Science.....	10

Mr. Philip Hicks **MOVED:**

THAT as the Chair of Senate and Registrar of Dalhousie University in consultation with the Registrar of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, approve on behalf of Senate, the awarding of degrees to candidates as listed in correspondence dated May 11, 2006 to the Secretary of Senate.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2006:081

Ombudsperson Advisory Committee

Ms. Bonnie Neuman stated that the Ombudsperson's Office has slightly adapted their staffing model to ensure one Ombudsperson is working through the summer and two in the fall and winter.

On behalf of the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee, Ms. Neuman **MOVED:**

THAT Senate affirm the appointment of Ms. Sarah Pottle as Ombudsperson and Ms. Kelly Sinclair as Assistant Ombudsperson for 2006/2007.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2006:082

Chair's Report

Mr. El-Hawary reported that on May 23, 2006 he received notification from MPHEC that the Bachelor of Community Design Honours Conversion has successfully undergone a review and has been approved and on May 26, 2006 the Bachelor of Informatics (Software Systems) and Bachelor of Informatics (Bioinformatics) had been approved. Mr. El-Hawary reminded Senators that immediately following the Senate meeting there will be a reception to honor all Senators, Senate Standing Committee members,

Board of Governors and University Committee members who will be completing their term on June 30, 2006.

2006:083

President's Report

Mr. Traves thanked members of Senate who participated in the recent success of the 13 convocation ceremonies where over 3000 students graduated. He was also pleased to inform Senate that the G-10, a group of ten research universities which came together to pursue matters of importance on the research agenda, has decided to expand its membership and added 3 universities to its membership. Dalhousie was invited to become a member of the organization. The issues on their agenda are of considerable interest and importance to Dalhousie and it will be an opportunity to speak to these matters early on in their evolution through the normal advocacy and lobbying process. Mr. Traves indicated he would be pleased to keep Senate informed of the G-13 discussions.

In regard to the provincial election, Mr. Traves noted that for the first time in a long time the word 'university' had been mentioned in various campaign documents. The reference primarily pertained to tuition levels making it explicit that universities are important and that these are matters of public concern. It appears that the lobbying efforts of all associated groups have been successful. This is an area the university will track with a hope to be fully engaged with the new provincial government.

2006:084

Student Services Presentation

Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Student Services, indicated that her written report, was available in hard copy format and will hopefully addresses the issues raised at Senate pertaining to international students: financial assistance, support services, and in particular the additional investment that has been made in terms of support services, and statistics on retention and attrition. Services for international students are provided across the campus by all service departments, by faculty, departmental offices and all central service departments; in addition one office, International Student and Exchange Services Office, has been created to provide specialized expertise and advising for international students.

The website that the International Student and Exchange Services Office maintains is very comprehensive and is designed as both an information vehicle for prospective and current students regarding business matters of the university in terms of particular needs for information that international students have. Furthermore, staff produce the International Student Handbook every year which the students receive upon arrival. They send out a weekly newsletter to all international students via email in an effort to keep in touch with them about events and activities, and if there is any pertinent information they need to know in terms of deadlines or changes in employment regulations or immigration regulations with respect to visa renewals. There are currently 5 full time staff and a number of student employees who are very committed to the students through the Office. Out of international fee revenue over the last two years, there has been a \$50,000 allocation in each of the two budget years for improvement in services and that money has been used to fund staff. In July 2005, there was a significant addition that allowed us to permanently fund the student event programmer in the office. This year the allocation of \$50,000 provided partial funding for allowing the manager, Ms. Cecille Sepidoza, to focus full-time on international students. Previously, that role was one of many that Ms. Suzanne Kolmer played in her role as Director of Student Resources.

International recruitment is important because students in international locations are becoming an increasingly high priority for us and, at the same time, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to attract international students. The competition for international students over the last several decades has become more and more significant with many more key players. Dalhousie is looking at specific areas to develop partnerships, or develop agreements with governments, agencies that support students financially, and with other high quality institutions. An additional area being worked on is the Dalhousie University

writing centre with the creation of programs specific to international students and a vision to what could be done in the future.

Retention and attrition are areas of concern for Senate and the Enrolment Management Steering Committee had requested that the research sub-group and the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis compile a report on retention and attrition. In the context of the entire first-year population for 2003-05, the international retention and attrition data was 15.4% at the end of first year for all direct-entry first year students. The continuing improvement over the years in the attrition rate is because our Ontario population of students constitutes a larger proportion of our overall undergraduate population. In terms of geographic citizenship, Ontario students are revealed by the data to be the group that have the strongest retention rate. Working back through the last three years, their average retention has been 10, 10.5, and 9.9. What the study found was that academic performance with a GPA at the A and B levels is probably the strongest indicator of strong retention, and lower attrition of students. Previous academic performance (as illustrated by the fact that a student has a scholarship) demonstrates a very strong correlation with strong retention of students. Living in residence has a very strong correlation; however, one should view this research with caution as the residences house a lot of Ontario students, who again have excellent retention. Student characteristics associated with attrition rates higher than the Dalhousie average suggest that there are groups of students at higher risk. One would expect higher attrition rates for international students. Their overall attrition rate in this last year was 20% compared to the 15.4% overall average at Dalhousie. However, Dalhousie students from Nova Scotia who are outside the Halifax city area have a 23.6% attrition rate, which identifies a very significant issue in terms of Nova Scotia students. Comparatively, the Halifax city group had a 17.6% attrition last year, which is still considered a high attrition rate. The figure for other Atlantic provinces, excluding Nova Scotia is 17.8%. In terms of Nova Scotia and the remaining Atlantic group the numbers have been consistent over the last three years. Three years ago attrition at the end of first year university was 15.6%. This figure rose to 19.6% and then subsequently to 20%. Attrition statistics tell us how many people are staying and how many are leaving; however, it does not tell us why. A follow up study will be conducted on the group of students who were eligible to return and did not. The goal of that survey will be to find out where our loss is in terms of student choices over which we have no control or influence; external factors; and where these factors have been created by ourselves in terms of our own policies, regulations, service levels, academic environment, or other issues.

With respect to financial assistance there are various forums available to students. International students are eligible for our basic recruitment scholarship program and once they register for their program, they can apply for an international bursary as can domestic students. There is a cap at \$600 in terms of a year of bursary support and that is a norm that is applied for all students. In 2005-06 a report from the Registrar's Office shows that 125 international students received over \$100,000 in bursary support. In addition to this basic undergraduate bursary from the Registrar's Office, the International Student and Exchange Services Office also has bursary money that they administer on the basis of individual application for emergency situations. That fund was developed initially for emergency situations; primarily for tuition expenditures and living expenses. Mr. El-Hawary thanked Ms. Neuman for an informative presentation. It was agreed that discussion of the report would take place at the June 26th Senate meeting with Ms. Neuman present.

2006:085

Other Business

Mr. El-Hawary extended thanks to retiring Senators: Mr. Lloyd Fraser, Vice-Chair of Senate; Mr. Jan Kwak, Dean of Graduate Studies; Mr. Philip Rosson, Acting Dean, Faculty of Management; Mr. Sam Scully, Vice-President, Academic; Mr. Robert Finbow, Ms. Marjorie Stone, Julia Wright from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Mr. Norman Scrimger from the Faculty of Computer Science; Mr. Joe Murphy from the Faculty of Dentistry; Mr. Nori Ben-Abdallah and Mr. William Phillips from the Faculty of Engineering; Ms. Lori Livingston and Mr. Fred Wien from the Faculty of Health Professions; Ms. Karen Smith from the University Libraries; Ms. Karen Beazley and Mr. Andrews Oppong from the

Faculty of Management; Ms. Magda Horackova and Mr. Nikolas Morgunov from the Faculty of Medicine; Ms. Marina Adshade, Ms. Patricia Lane, Ms. Patricia McMullen, Mr. Lawrence Plug and Mr. Gerhard Stroink from the Faculty of Science.

2006:086

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

APPROVED MINUTES

OF

SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, June 26, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barker, Beazley, Butler, Camfield, Chowdhury, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Edelstein, El-Masry, Hicks, Hubert, Johnson, Klein, Kwak, Lane, LoRusso, McNeil, Oppong, Plug, Rosson, Saunders, Scrimger, Scully, Simmonds, Slonim, K.E. Smith, Stroink, Swanston, Thornhill, Traves, Wallace, Wanzel, Webster, Whyte, Wien, Wright, Yeung, Zuck.

Regrets: Binkley, Breckenridge, Cercone, Coughlan, Dunphy, El-Hawary, Gray, Leon, Livingston, Maes, Murphy, Pegg, Phillips, Schroeder, B. Smith, Stone, Taylor, Tipping, Urbanowski.

Absent: Ben-Abdallah, Dawson, Finbow, Geldenhuys, Horackova, McMullen, Morgunov, Pelzer, Precious, Rutherford, Sullivan.

Guests: A. Power (Recording Secretary)

2006:087

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

2006:088

Question Period

There were no questions.

2006:089

International Students at Dalhousie University: Report to Senate – June 12, 2006

The Chair reminded Senators that Ms. Bonnie Neuman, Vice-President, Student Services, was present at the June 12, 2006 Senate meeting and presented a report on international students. Ms. Neuman's report had been circulated with the meeting package; Ms. Neuman had agreed to attend this meeting in order to answer additional questions which Senators might have.

Mr. Slonim wanted to ensure that issues concerning the financing of graduate students were addressed. Ms. Neuman responded that this issue relates to graduate students who are in financial need. Faculty members traditionally have been able to provide a lot of support for research assistance through their research grants. This has helped their graduate students cover their fees and living expenses. As international differential fees have increased, research grants no longer cover as many students, or cover them to the same extent. This issue is reflected in our graduate student numbers, particularly in Science and Engineering, and to some degree in Computer Science as Dalhousie has been a "bargain university" for a long time at the graduate level. Student Services supports primarily undergraduates and it is a strategic question for Dalhousie to determine how to respond to graduate students who are in need of full funding. The Dean of Graduate Studies and the Vice-President, Academic will be looking closely at this issue.

Mr. Scully indicated that this issue first came up at the April 2006 Senate meeting in the context of the Budget Advisory Committee Report and at that time he had suggested that a senior-level committee address this issue. He noted that the Enrolment Management Report indicates that Dalhousie will increase total international

enrolment. Mr. Scully anticipated that his successor would be leading an effort to address this issue. Mr. Fraser noted that as part of the follow-up to this issue, Senate had asked that a special task force be set up with representation from the Faculties of Science, Engineering, and Computer Science.

Mr. Klein mentioned that the issue is only partly about students' decision to come here. The supervisor's decision to seek out a graduate student who is an international student, as opposed to a domestic student, is expensive. Thus, supervisors may be apt to favor domestic students even though an international student would be better qualified. He thinks it important for the task force, once appointed, to keep this aspect of the issue in mind, as it is not only a concern about student welfare but also about supervisors' decisions about whom to recruit. Mr. Traves expressed his appreciation for Mr. Klein's remarks and agreed that the issue is directly linked to the research activities, the research budgets, and the recruitment strategies of our faculty members. Mr. Traves indicated that the discussion in the Recruitment Committee should be geared to research policies of the University.

Mr. Stroink wondered if attention could be given to extra English-language assistance for those international students who are in need of it. Ms. Neuman replied that this is recognized as a significant issue. Student Services is providing some assistance through the Writing Centre; in addition, Student Services currently is engaged in a strategic planning process which will be considering this, and other, student needs.

The Chair thanked Ms. Neuman for the presentation at the June 12th meeting and for returning to this meeting to elaborate and answer further questions.

2006:090

Senate Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Jost **MOVED:**

THAT Mr. Peter Butler, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, be elected to serve as Vice-Chair of Senate for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Mr. Peter Butler was declared elected to the position of Vice-Chair of Senate for the term indicated.

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Jost **MOVED:**

THAT Mohamed Khimji, Law, be elected to the Senate Steering Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 and Patricia Cleave, Health Professions; Lloyd Fraser, Continuing Education; and Norm Scrimger, Computer Science be elected to the Senate Steering Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

Jacob Slonim, Computer Science, be elected to the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

Ronald Tetreault, Arts & Social Sciences, be elected to the Senate Committee on Academic Administration for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 and Fiona Black, Management, and Aldo Chircop, Law, be elected to the Senate Committee on Academic Administration for the term July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009.

Beth McAra, Student Services, and Roger Mullin, Architecture & Planning, be elected to the Senate Committee on the Environment for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

Patrick Kelly, Architecture & Planning, and Vlado Keselj, Computer Science, be elected to the Senate Computing & Information Technology Planning Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

Mary Anne White, Science, be elected to the Honorary Degrees Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

Louise Spiteri, Management, and Reginald Urbanowski, Health Professions, be elected to the Senate Committee on Learning & Teaching for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

Maria Pacurar, Management, be elected to the Senate Library Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

Michael Pegg, Engineering, and Gerhard Stroink, Science, be elected to the Senate Physical Planning Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

Lois Murray, Medicine, be elected to the University Security & Parking Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

Richard Devlin, Senate Representative, Law, be elected to the University Hearing Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

Iraj Fooladi, Senate Representative, Management, be elected to the Board of Governors' Investment Committee for the term July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the nominees were declared elected to their respective committees.

Mr. Jost pointed out that the work of the Senate nominating Committee was not yet complete; in particular, a number of vacancies remained on the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, whereby the elected membership is derived from Senate. He asked that Senators give due consideration to participating on this committee.

2006:091

Senate Committee on Academic Administration

a) Turnitin.com

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Mr. Scully **MOVED:**

THAT the Senate re-affirm its policy of June 2002 on the use of Turnitin.com.

Mr. Scully said it would seem sensible to review Turnitin.com after a number of years of use to assess a variety of concerns that have been brought forward by students, both at the original adoption in 2002 and since. These concerns were originally presented by former Senator, Ms. Jennifer Bond. Both she and Mr. Edelstein had urged that students be allowed to opt out of Turnitin.com when a professor announced that papers would be submitted. SCAA went through the submission in detail, sought the advice of the University Legal Counsel, and received an opinion from Academic Computing Services on some of the concerns. Mr. Scully noted that Dalhousie University still has a significant job to do in terms of educating students and professors about why the University has chosen to adopt the use of this service and about the rules of the agreement with Turnitin.com. It is very clear that in some cases those rules have not been honoured by professors who have been using the service. The outcome of the discussions, in both the subcommittee and the parent committee, was a unanimous recommendation that the Senate Policy of 2002 be reaffirmed.

Mr. Edelstein indicated that the DSU has some concern with reaffirming this policy. Many of the concerns stem from the fact that the more DSU investigates the use of Turnitin.com, the more questions arise. He added that the DSU has concerns about Turnitin.com itself not abiding by its own rules and education that needs to happen internally within the University to students and professors about the proper use of Turnitin.com. There are a number of examples where papers have been forwarded to instructors;

either within the same institution, or other institutions, without the consent of the authors as Turnitin.com states is required. The DSU also has additional concerns that have come up subsequent to the concerns raised at SCAA. The concern is around Turnitin.com's use of a fingerprint. They claim not to store a full text copy of any of the papers, but instead there is a fingerprint that is stored and is then used to identify any further plagiarism in the future; however, that does not seem to be the case. There are a number of full text papers that have been recovered past the expiry of a course. So, even though an instructor sets up his/her course in Turnitin.com with an expiry date, after the expiry date of that course, full text versions of papers sometimes have been available. Mr. Edelstein indicated that he would be voting against reaffirming the policy until further concerns with Turnitin.com could be addressed.

Mr. Scully advised Mr. Edelstein to put his concerns in writing in order that SCAA could follow-up on the points he raised. Mr. Scully noted that clarification was required on these issues; in addition, education and due diligence are required on a continual basis in regard to the use of this service.

The motion **CARRIED**, with two dissensions.

b) Annual Report about Activities to do with Academic Integrity

Mr. Scully reported that "Activities to do with Academic Integrity" constituted another area where education is urgent. One of the vehicles for such education will be a significantly re-vamped website. A workgroup is actively engaged developing a new website. Mr. Scully's successor will take up the leadership of that group in the coming months. The re-vamped website should be available sometime during the fall term. It will be an educational website with interactive capacities including ones that will engage both student and teacher in a very positive fashion.

c) Space in Courses

Mr. Scully indicated that SCAA had approved the new regulation which was included in the meeting package for information. The regulation will be set out in the next Calendar and codifies what has already been good practice in many areas of the University. It covers all undergraduate programs and it is particularly urgent in areas where there are required courses in the final year of a program and where students are mobile.

d) Undergraduate Grading Patterns 1998/99 – 2004/05

Mr. Scully introduced this matter for information, as SCAA will be returning to this report in the fall and will be following up on some of the questions and issues that it raises. The bar graphs report on the First Year Class Grades by Faculty for two years. The graphs reveal a significant variation in practice across the institution. What they mask; however, is the substantial variation that occurs within Faculties, where they are departmentalized—most notably, in FASS and in Science. The materials are available from Institutional Analysis for anyone who wishes to follow up on them. Mr. Scully indicated that his primary concern was that Faculties examine the information and consider the Faculty's grading practices in comparison to other Faculties, and especially, how they are grading now over time. He found it difficult to believe that the quality of the student body changed significantly over time; this raised the specter of possible grade inflation. The new Vice-President, Academic will be following up on this—first with SCAA and then with the Deans of the undergraduate faculties.

Mr. Edelstein commented that he found the year-to-year comparison extremely interesting, especially in Faculties where it varies significantly. He noted that in some Faculties this would appear to put students at a disadvantage, knowing that students ahead of them or behind them were graded differently than they were.

Mr. Stroink indicated that it would be important to have a discussion about this at the Faculties and Departmental level. He inquired to what extent this document is generally available for distribution to faculty. Mr. Scully advised that the Dean can contact his office and he will arrange to have Institutional Analysis provide the information.

Mr. Traves observed that this report is extraordinarily important; we owe all of our students, and the integrity of our academic professions, consistent and fair grading. This is important to the University's reputation for integrity and fairness; it is also important to students in their access to scholarships, and to graduate and professional schools.

Mr. Slonim asked about the availability of statistics on student grades at the high school level. Mr. Scully indicated that the data use to be collected on the performance of first year students and shared in confidence with high schools. After the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation was introduced, the data ceased to be assembled. Mr. Scully and the Registrar recently had a conversation with the School Superintendent of HRM as the School Board is interested in obtaining such information; it may be that this information will be assembled and provided on an aggregate basis.

2006:092

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee

a) Draft Senate Guideline on Undergraduate Teaching

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposed Senate Guideline on Undergraduate Teaching, as amended by SAPBC on June 19, 2006.

Mr. Fraser noted that the amendment referred to in the June 19, 2006 SAPBC minutes was contained in the SAPBC excerpt circulated prior to the meeting:

At the June 19th SAPBC meeting it was **AGREED** that Guideline 3 be amended by inserting, in the second sentence, "(e.g. in Health Professions and Law)" after the words "professional programs." Guideline 3, as amended, would therefore read: At the same time, it is recognized that there are exceptions to any general rule or proposition in a university as diverse in its programming as Dalhousie. For example, there are many professional programs (e.g. in Health Professions and Law) where it is essential that students be introduced to current professional practice and problems, and in such cases this introduction can be most effectively provided by a practitioner. The basic test is still the same: "who can do the best job for the students?"

Mr. Scully indicated that the percentage of entry-level classes taught by tenured or tenure-stream faculty at Dalhousie University had dropped over the years. The Deans have worked with Chairs and Directors for the coming year and the initial returns provided suggested that our number in 2006-2007, which will be reported to Senate next March, should be in the order of at least 70%. In accordance with the proposed Guideline, in future, Senate would receive a report on this percentage annually.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

b) Undergraduate Studies and Programs at Dalhousie

Mr. Fraser reported that a preliminary discussion had taken place within SAPBC; that committee would consider the document in future meetings over the coming year. Mr. Scully spoke to the document and invited Senators to raise comments which would become the basis of future discussion. Mr. Scully noted that the paper has had a long genesis at Dalhousie; many of the ideas had early germination in a Senate Forum in March 2004. He and the Deans also had discussed many the issues extensively. The fact that some of these issues are still with us suggests that action is required.

Mr. Scully thanked Mr. Maloney and his decanal colleagues for the long conversations they had over the fall and winter terms.

Mr. Whyte expressed some concern about student alienation from the intellectual process and wondered if we should have an individual personalized tutorial system for all of our undergraduates, through which faculty members could provide greater support to students. He understood that this model had been used successfully by some universities. Mr. Scully responded that he was aware of places where this system had been tried and had not been sustained. It was worthy of consideration, but he suggests it needs to be placed within the larger context of professorial responsibilities to students, not just the tutoring or mentoring relationship. What is the most effective use of faculty time, which is our most valuable commodity? Mr. Scully added that this approach might be particularly helpful for first-year students as a way of assisting them to adjust to university study. A lot of thought has been given this past year by students and committees to the whole process of recruiting, admitting, and then receiving students; undoubtedly various reforms will result from this activity. We need a sustained support network for students through their first 12 to 18 months, to overcome the phenomenon of “Christmas graduates” in first year.

c) Enrolment Management

Mr. Scully noted there is a widespread concern as to what enrolment numbers will look like in the fall. Our current best guess is that we will have a further decline in our overall student population. We may see a very slight increase in the number of new students coming directly from high school. If that turns out to be the case, we may well be the only institution in Nova Scotia that can make that claim. There is a long-term problem here with a demographic decline coming in 2008 because of the number of high school graduates in the province.

The Enrolment Management Report touches briefly on an international enrolment strategy, more broadly defined; it repeats the question that Mr. Slonim raised earlier about support for graduate students. Appendix A depicts conservative numbers, tied to a projection of a total student population of 16,200 in the year 2010. There is every reason to believe that that number will grow, in particular if some of the initiatives in China bear fruit; hence, a tentative goal is 17,000 students by the year 2010.

d) Agreement between Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College:
July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009

Mr. Fraser reminded Senators that the proposed Agreement and the Draft Minutes of the SAPBC meeting were included with the Senate package.

On behalf of SAPBC, Mr. Fraser **MOVED:**

THAT the Senate approve the Agreement between Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College for the period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

Mr. Fraser pointed out that the Agreement provides for automatic renewal on an annual basis beyond 2009 if neither party terminates the Agreement. Mr. Scully provided a correction to the text: final paragraph, clause 8.01, the sentence should read: “This Agreement shall *inure* to the benefit of...” Secondly, he indicated that there is still an issue which is being discussed with President Hicks of NSAC, concerning the first sentence of 4.06 on page 3, which reads, “For the purpose of statistical reporting to external bodies or agencies students in the program normally shall be considered to be students of Dalhousie.” Mr. Scully indicated that he would like the agreement of Senate, if it turns out that nothing rides on this, to substitute for that the phrase, “... normally shall be considered to be students of the College.”

The motion was **CARRIED**.

e) For Information – Annual Report on Senate Reviews: 2005-06

Mr. Fraser advised that the Annual Report and the Summary of Unit and Program Reviews was available on the Senate website and was presented at this meeting as information for Senate. The report covers

Senate Reviews which had taken place or were in progress. The second page provided the schedule for Reviews for the next three years. In accordance with the Guidelines for Senate Reviews, SAPBC sets the schedule on a three-year basis. Appendix A provides this schedule and includes a preliminary schedule to 2011. There is also reference to a more detailed report on reviews at the program and unit level, prepared by the Office of Institutional Analysis; this is to be posted on the Senate website.

2006:093

Chair's Report

On June 13, 2006 the Chair of Senate received notice from MPHEC that the B.A. Double Major in Creative Writing, the B.A. Combined Honors in Creative Writing, and the Master of Science in Prosthodontics had successfully undergone a cursory review and had been approved. On June 19, 2006 the Chair of Senate received notice from MPHEC that the Master of Architecture had successfully undergone a cursory review and had been approved.

Mr. Fraser, on behalf of the Chair, thanked all who had attended the reception on June 12th, recognizing all members of Senate and Senate Standing Committees, as well as Senate representatives on the Board of Governors and University Committees, who were completing terms on June 30th. He added special thanks to Mr. Peter Butler for arranging the jazz ensemble for the reception. He also expressed personal thanks for the plaque presented to him on completion of his term as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Fraser noted that since this is the last Senate meeting before June 30th, he like again to extend thanks to elected Senators completing term on June 30, 2006: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - Robert Finbow, Marjorie Stone, Marcia Swanston, Julia Wright; Faculty of Computer Science - Norman Scrimger; Faculty of Dentistry - Joe Murphy; Faculty of Engineering - Nori Ben-Abdallah, William Phillips; Faculty of Health Professions - Lori Livingston, Fred Wien; University Libraries - Karen Smith; Faculty of Management - Karen Beazley, Andrews Oppong; Faculty of Medicine - Magda Horackova, Nikolas Morgunov; Faculty of Science - Marina Adshade, Patricia Lane, Patricia McMullen, Lawrence Plug, and Gerhard Stroink. He noted that some of those listed had agreed to serve a further term.

Mr. Fraser added a note of sincere thanks to the two Deans completing their terms—Jan Kwak, in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Philip Rosson, in the Faculty of Management—and to Sam Scully, completing his term as Vice-President, Academic and Provost. Mr. Fraser expressed particular appreciation for the various roles through which Mr. Scully, as Vice-President, had assisted Senate, including as Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Chair of the Enrolment Planning and Management Committee, Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, and a very active participant on the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee.

2006:094

President's Report

Mr. Traves informed Senate that the University had been invited to become a participating member of a group of research-intensive universities that has been in operation for 7 or 8 years, collectively known as G-10. They have decided to expand the group to become the G-13; Dalhousie was one of three universities invited to join the group. It will be a valuable forum in which Dalhousie can both share ideas and obtain information about a wide range of issues. Further, Mr. Traves noted that this was a valuable relationship for Dalhousie to assume and was a testimony to the work and success of our colleagues in the research arena because membership, to a large extent, is defined by a variety of conventional indicators of research success and activity, typically related to funding, but also to a variety of other measurements. The G-10 currently includes Alberta, UBC, Laval, McGill, McMaster, Montreal, Queen's UoFT, Waterloo, and Western. The expansion includes Dalhousie, Ottawa, and Calgary.

Mr. Traves provided a brief update on campus renewal, indicating there are various interior and exterior projects occurring across campus. The quad is being renovated on Carleton campus, as part of a long-term project to do a wholesale major renovation of the green space, transportation space, and transportation arrangements that prevail at Dalhousie. Dalhousie has focused largely on buildings over the last 50 years and

not much on the impact on the total system of human interchange that goes on; therefore, a plan has been developed for a major renovation of University Avenue and other parts of the Campus, to facilitate the movement of people and create active spaces in which people can interact with one another.

Two major projects that will commence over the course of the summer. The first will be construction of a significant new addition at the back of the Chemistry Building to provide a safer facility for the handling and storage of chemicals. The second significant project will be the beginning of work on re-construction of the former Management Building located on Coburg Road. The plan is to demolish the older part of the building and do major renovation to the “tower” portion of the building. The original plan was to also do a complete renovation of the exterior of the building. Some cost issues have arisen so the University is now considering what is affordable and will move forward with as complete a renovation as possible. Two groups at the University will go into this facility; to some extent this reflects the needs of those units and to some extent it reflects the University’s opportunity to access available funds. Across the university, two groups in need of space also could bring with them significant financial contributions which would essentially pay for the reconstruction. The Faculty of Computer Science had access to significant unspent CFI project funding. The College of Continuing Education, which moved into City Centre Atlantic after the construction of the new Management Building on the original College site and the university has been paying a substantial annual rent for that facility. The amount currently spent on rent can be turned into an “internal mortgage” to contribute to the reconstruction costs of the new space for the College of Continuing Education. The current plan is to have occupancy by the end of 2007. Mr. Traves indicated he will keep Senate informed of the progress of these projects.

Finally, Mr. Traves expressed his thanks to his colleague, Mr. Sam Scully, for his leadership of the academic operations of the University over the last several years and particularly wished to express his thanks at Senate, where he knew there was a keen appreciation of the leadership Mr. Scully had provided. Mr. Traves invited Senators to attend the celebratory barbecue event planned for Wednesday, June 28.

2006:095

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.