

Item: Senate Minutes, September 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, September 25, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Senator Butler in the chair were the following: Senators Barker, Binkley, Breckenridge, Camfield, Chowdhury, Cleave, Cochrane, Cook, Croll, Edelstein, El-Masry, Fraser, Geldenhuys, Grundy, Haslam, Helland, Hicks, Johnson, Kesselring, Khimji, Klein, Leon, LoRusso, Maes, McConnell, Nowakowski, Pegg, Pelzer, Persaud, Poulton, Rutherford, Scherkoske, Schroeder, Scrimger, Shaver, Sidler, Simmonds, Slonim, Smith, Spence Wach, Sullivan, Sutow, Swanston, Taylor, Tindall, Tipping, Traves, Urbanowski, Wanzel, Watters, Wheeler, Whyte, Yeung.

Regrets: Senators Bodorik, Dunphy, El-Hawary, Hubert, McLarney, Moukdad, Ross, Saunders, Singleton, Spence Wach, Wallace.

Absent: Senators DasGupta, Gray, Precious, Webster.

Guests: N. Akkus, J. Barnstead, I. Flint, S. Guppy, A. Power (Recording Secretary), M. O'Sullivan

Senator Butler informed Senators that Senator El-Hawary was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, as Vice-Chair of Senate he would chair the meeting. Senator Butler extended a warm welcome to returning and new Senators as of July 1, 2006. Representing the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Senator Judith Sidler, Department of German; Senator Krista Kesselring, Department of History; Senator Greg Scherkoske, Department of Philosophy; Senator Christopher Helland, Department of Sociology & Anthropology; and Senator Jason Haslam, Department of English; representing the Faculty of Architecture & Planning: Senator Michael Poulton, School of Planning; representing the College of Continuing Education: Senator Lloyd Fraser; representing the Faculty of Computer Science: Senator Peter Bodorik; representing the Faculty of Dentistry: Senator Elliott Sutow; representing the Faculty of Health Professions: Senator David Persaud, Health Services Administration; and Senator Jerry Singleton, Health & Human Performance; representing the Faculty of Law: Senator Mohamed Khimji and Senator Moira McConnell; representing the University Libraries: Senator Fran Nowakowski; representing the Faculty of Management: Senator Carolan McLarney, School of Business Administration; and Senator Haidar Moukdad, School of Information Management; representing the Faculty of Medicine: Senator Roger Croll, Physiology & Biophysics; and Senator Susan Spence Wach, Medical Education; representing the Faculty of Science: Senator Tetjana Ross, Department of Oceanography; Senator Kevin Grundy, Department of Chemistry; and Senator David Tindall, Department of Physics & Atmospheric Science; representing the Academic Administration: Senator Alan Shaver, Vice-President, Academic & Provost; Senator Norm Scrimger, Acting Dean, Faculty of Computer Science; Senator Carolyn Watters, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies; and Senator David Wheeler, Dean, Faculty of Management.

Senator Butler explained that there would be a brief new Senator orientation PowerPoint presentation immediately following the meeting for which all Senators were welcome to attend. A welcome reception will immediately following this orientation.

2006:096

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **APPROVED** as circulated.

2006:097

Draft Minutes of June 12, 2006 Meeting

2.1 Approval

The minutes were **APPROVED** as circulated.

2.2 Matters Arising

The Senate Discipline Committee process is being reviewed by a working committee and will report back at the October 23, 2006 Senate Meeting.

2006:098

Draft Minutes of June 26, 2006 Meeting

2.1 Approval

The minutes were approved as circulated.

2.2 Matters Arising

Senators had asked that a special task force be set up with representation from the Faculties of Science, Engineering and Computer Science to address issues pertaining to international enrolment. The former Vice-President, Academic, Mr. Scully, had indicated that his successor would be leading the effort to address this issue. Senator Shaver indicated that he is aware of the issue and it is on his list. Senator Butler advised that there was another matter arising regarding a redesigned website about academic integrity which was to be prepared by this fall. Senator Shaver responded that this is an extremely important issue and he is working on this as well. Senator Butler then referred to another matter arising from the last Senate meeting concerning the availability of high school grades where an aggregate basis may be available from officials in the Registrar's Office and Senator Shaver. Senator Shaver indicated that he would consult with the Registrar and report back to Senate.

2006:099

Question Period

Senator Whyte raised a point of information with respect to the June 12, 2006 minutes and the case of Ms. Gabrielle Horne. On September 8, 2006, the Board of Governors of the Capital District Health Authority, CDHA, ruled that the variation of privileges imposed by CDHA was not justified; therefore, it restored Ms. Horne's privileges. He reminded Senate that it was the withdrawal of this variation that led to the four-year interruption of Dr. Horne's research. There were no further questions.

2006:100

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC)

a) New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Arts Honours in Music

Senator Butler introduced invited guests, Senator Marcia Swanston, Department of Music, and Senator David Schroeder, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

On behalf of SAPBC, Senator Butler **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposed new academic program for the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Music.

The motion **CARRIED**.

- b) Modified Program Proposal: Bachelor of Music

On behalf of SAPBC, Senator Butler **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposed modified academic program for a Bachelor of Music.

The motion **CARRIED**.

- c) Proposal for Termination: 15-Credit Bachelor of Arts with Concentration in Music (Undergraduate)

On behalf of the SAPBC, Senator Butler **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposal to terminate the academic program for the 15-credit Bachelor of Arts with a Concentration in Music (Undergraduate).

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Binkley asked that it be recorded in the minutes that the Department of Music's curriculum is now the most effective and efficient program, at least in Atlantic Canada, if not further west and these are strong curriculum changes which, it is hoped, to be reflected in the increase of student interest in these programs.

- c) Name Change Request: Metallurgical Engineering Program to Materials Engineering Program

Senator Butler introduced invited guest, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Senator Joshua Leon.

On behalf of the SAPBC, Senator Butler **MOVED**:

**THAT Senate approve the name changes for the Metallurgical Engineering programs to Materials Engineering Programs:
Bachelor of Engineering in Materials Engineering;
Bachelor of Engineering co-op Education in Materials Engineering;
Master of Applied Science co-op Education in Materials Engineering;
Master of Engineering co-op Education in Materials Engineering;
Master of Applied Science in Materials Engineering;
Master of Engineering in Materials Engineering; and
Doctor of Philosophy in Materials Engineering.**

Senator Pegg spoke on behalf of Senator Leon explaining the rationale behind the request for the name change. As part of the reorganization of the Faculty of Engineering, a new department, Process Engineering and Applied Science was formed. At that time, the Metallurgical Engineering program became part of that new department and a proposal was put forward to change their name to Materials Engineering. This was to better reflect the program content and

also to increase the marketability of the program. Unfortunately, at the time of putting this through, the name change part of the motion got left off when it was approved by Senate.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2006:101

Senate Nominating Committee

Senator Butler recognized Senator Geldenhuys, Interim Chair, Senate Nominating Committee.

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Senator Geldenhuys **MOVED**:

THAT for the term September 1, 2006 –April 30, 2007, Mr. Michael McAllister, Faculty of Computer Science, and for the term September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009 Ms. Susan Molesky, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, be nominated to the Senate Academic Appeals Committee;

THAT for the term September 1, 2006 - June 30, 2008 Senator Grant Wanzel, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, and Senator Robin Whyte, Faculty of Medicine, be nominated to the Senate Physical Planning Committee;

THAT for the term September 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007 Mr. David Jakeman, Faculty of Health Professions, and Ms. Erin McNeil, College of Continuing Education be nominated to serve on the Senate Computing and Information Technology and Planning Committee;

THAT for the term September 1, 2006 - June 30, 2009 Ms. Patricia Manuel, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, be nominated to the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee;

THAT for the term September 1, 2006 - June 30, 2009 Ms. Sarah Bonnemaïson, Faculty of Architecture and Planning be nominated to the Senate Library Committee;

THAT for the term September 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007 Senator Jerry Singleton, Faculty of Health Professions, be nominated to the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations and hearing none, the nominees were declared elected to their respective Senate Standing Committees for the terms indicated.

2006:102

Senate Steering Committee

a) Senate Nominating Committee Slate of Nominees

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Senator Butler **MOVED**:

THAT for the term September 1, 2006 - August 31, 2009, Senator Austin Parsons, Faculty of Architecture and Planning; Ms. Patricia Lane, Faculty of Science; Mr. James Creighton, Faculty of Dentistry; and Senator Jacob Slonim, Faculty of Computer Science, be nominated to the Senate Nominating Committee.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations and hearing none, the nominees were declared elected to the Senate Nominating Committee.

2006:103

Senate Computing and Information Technology Planning Committee (SCITPC) Annual Report 2005-2006

Senator Butler invited Mr. Michael O'Sullivan, SCITPC Chair, to speak to the report. Senator Butler reminded Senators that the SCITPC Annual Report presented would only be received by the Senate.

Mr. O'Sullivan indicated that the report was self-explanatory and there are no motions to recommend to Senate; however, there was one misspelling. The name of the integrated library and management system should be spelled as two words, ex liberus.

2006:104

Senate Library Committee Report (SLC) Annual Report 2005-2006

Senator Butler invited Mr. Barnstead, SLC Interim Chair, to speak to the report. There were no questions and the Senate Library Committee Annual Report for 2005-06 was received by Senate.

2006:105

Dalhousie University May 2006: Additional Graduate

Senator Fraser explained the practice adopted by Senate in recent years that rather than approving the entire list of graduands before Convocation, this responsibility had been delegated to the Chair of Senate, the Registrar, and the Deans and Senate would confirm the awarding after the fact.

Senator Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate affirm the awarding of degrees and diplomas to the candidate previously 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.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

He noted that the list of graduands is included in the package of material circulated to Senators for today's meeting for the University Convocations held on May 23 to May 31, 2006, and updated on July 7, 2006. The updating on July 7, 2006 includes the name of Ms. Christina Wildeman, with a Diploma in Health Services Administration, who had been left off earlier lists, but the error was caught in time for her to graduate with her graduating class, and was approved by all of the appropriate parties.

Senator Fraser **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Traves:

THAT Senate affirm the awarding of the Diploma in Health Services Administration to Ms. Christina Wildeman.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2006:106**In Camera: Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC)**

The Senate session moved *in camera* to hear three reports of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC) decisions. Senators were requested to leave the three SAAC decisions with Ms. Power for shredding as one name had not been removed from the report.

When Senate returned to open session, Senator Butler reported that the Senate, during the *in camera* session, had ratified the decisions of June 20, 2006, June 26, 2006, and July 24, 2006 of the SAAC Hearing Panels.

2006:107**Chair's Report**

Senator Butler reported that over the past few months the Chair of Senate received notification from MPHEC that the existing Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program had been suspended; the Bachelor of Engineering in Mineral Resource Engineering program had been approved; and the Bachelor of Dental Hygiene program had been approved. Also, four annual reports had been received in the Senate Office and are available for review upon request: Marine & Environmental Law Institute, Dalhousie Institute for Research in Materials, Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre, and Neuroscience Institute.

The Vice-Chair noted that the Senate Officers will discuss the Senate floor and seating plan and consider an alternative seating arrangement or a new location for Senate meetings at their next meeting of the Senate Steering Committee.

2006:108**President's Report**

Senator Traves stated that he had previously circulated a report to the University community at the start of September and said he would be happy to answer any questions or hear any comments on issues that were raised. Dalhousie University continues to receive updates on enrolment at the University and will wait until the beginning of October to make an official final head count. It was expected that Dalhousie would see a substantial reduction in enrolments this year; however, as of September 22 Dalhousie enrolment was down by 76 students which amounts to less than ½ of one percent. Around the region enrolments are soft with a handful of universities reporting a modest increase of ½ - 1 percent, a number of Nova Scotia universities have recorded decreases of up to 6%, and others have simply reported that they were down. Senator Traves reported that the number of new students from high school who have come to the University is up this year by about 130 students. International student enrolments are steady, up marginally by a handful of students.

In summary, Dalhousie has done very well against its target and very well within the framework of the market that it is operating. We need to see our enrolment grow over the next several years. We have an ambitious program of growth in the next few years across the University and it is vital that we achieve those targets and balance our budgets, to meet all of the resource demands that come from the University community, principally for salaries, which is the number one item in our operating budget, but for many other important things as well. Senator Traves indicated that he will be focusing, over the next year, on the fact that Dalhousie has to do much better by our students in terms of the total student experience that is offered them. Through surveys, we have determined that students leave the University reporting a positive experience on the whole yet there are other survey results that have been conducted which suggest a somewhat lower level of satisfaction. He believes, generally speaking, at Dalhousie we do provide a very good experience, but in a highly competitive environment, many universities will be competing much more effectively over time.

Senator Traves offered his congratulations to the students operating from the Dalhousie Student Union for the excellent job they did this year in the student orientation program.

Senator Traves also reported that the Administrative Report on University Computing and Information Services department has been circulated to all members of the University community and a request for written feedback on the recommendations had been requested. To date, Senator Traves has received one response. The matter could be brought to Senate on a future occasion for discussion regarding the recommendations.

Senator Traves commented on the decision by Dalhousie University (along with 25 other universities) to withdraw from the Maclean's rating exercise. He noted that *Maclean's* magazine has indicated their intention to proceed with their ranking exercise and suggested that Dalhousie University does need a mechanism for public accountability by the university community to the larger community. We need mechanisms to provide a kind of transparency to students who are interested in particular aspects of the University and the University community, and to do so, on some kind of comparative basis that allows informed choices about what universities are doing, and what students might think about in terms of making choices about where to go to school. If this exercise leads, as *Maclean's* has suggested, to a new openness and a willingness to negotiate a new set of arrangements, Dalhousie University will participate in the future. Senator Traves said he would keep Senate informed of any discussions that arise.

Senator Traves reported that the new Minister of Education has introduced the issue of too many universities in Nova Scotia and has offered that this might be a problem, and that perhaps some kind of consolidation of universities would be a desirable outcome. Senator Traves indicated he has not had any discussion with the Minister but when he does he will report back on anything of substance that comes out of that conversation.

Senator Edelstein thanked the President and other members of Senate who attended the DSU inauguration ceremony on Sunday during Frosh Week, which was a very successful event.

2006:109

Adjournment

Senator Binkley **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Edelstein:

THAT the Senate meeting be adjourned at 5:00pm.

The motion was **CARRIED**.