

Item: Senate Minutes, June 2008  
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 9, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were: Adshade, Barker, Camfield, Campbell, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Coffin, Croll, El-Hawary, Fanning, Frank, Frank, Geldenhuys, Haslam, Kesselring, Maes, MacLaren, McLarney, Nowakowski, Pegg, Plug, Richard, Ross, Rutherford, Sadek, Saunders, Schroeder, Shaver, Singleton, Sutow, Taylor, Thornhill, Traves, Wanzel, Watters, Wheeler.

Regrets: Binkley, Butler, El-Masry, Fraser, K., Garduno, Harman, Helland, Kroeker, Larkin, Moukdad, Robinson, Slonim, Smith, Snow, Tindall, Tremblay, Webster.

Absent: Bodorik, Breckenridge, Cook, Gray, Grundy, Hughes, Johnson, Johnston, Leon, McConnell, Pelzer, Persaud, Precious, Schellinck, Scherkoske, Shepherd, Smith, J., Spence Wach, Willison, Yeung.

Guests: S. Brousseau, D. Buszard, V. Howard, J. Kolb, S. Mannell, A. Power, B. Richard, A. Roger, P. Ryall, J. Sherwood, T. Vinci.

The Chair called the meeting to order.

### **2008:66**

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was **ADOPTED**.

### **2008:67**

#### **Draft Minutes of May 12, 2008 Meeting of Senate**

##### 2.1 Approval

The minutes were unavailable for review.

##### 2.2 Matters Arising

Campus Security: Mr. Traves provided a brief summary of how the university deals with particular security matters. First, the problem must be localized with a clear understanding of where the specific problem is occurring. Anyone in harm's way must be notified and the rest of the community must be asked to stay away. Security will set up a ring around the site notifying anyone approaching the site that there is an issue. The second challenge is dealing with the people already in the place. Two mechanisms have been identified for passing along that information – phone trees and a text messaging system via students' cell phones or other communication devices. Notices will be put up on televisions and video screens that are in place in different locations around the university. The Metro Police have been consulted as well as other organizations about their emergency plans and the Dalhousie plans have been coordinated with the Metro Police. The university has developed arrangements in terms of authority structure in the University about who is to communicate what to whom.

Joint MBA Programs: A proposal to terminate the joint program involving the MBA and the Master of Health Services Administration, has come forward and is working its way through the system. It is to be considered by Graduate Studies, SAPBC and then Senate. With respect to the other joint programs, there is a meeting scheduled for next week which is a preliminary meeting on process regarding the suspension of programs.

### **2008:68**

#### **Question Period**

There were no questions.

**Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee**

**a) Centre for Comparative Genomics and Evolutionary Bioinformatics (CGEB)**

Mr. Fraser invited Mr. Andrew Roger, Associate Professor & Fellow, CIAR Program in Evolutionary Biology to present the proposal for the Centre for Comparative Genomics and Evolutionary Bioinformatics (CGEB).

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

**THAT the Senate approve the proposal for the Centre for Comparative Genomics and Evolutionary Bioinformatics.**

Mr. Roger explained that the Centre is a collaborative group working together to harness all the information from microbial genomic databases. Funding has been primarily attained from the Tula Foundation. They have provided \$3 million over a space of 8 years devoted to stipends for graduate students and post-doctoral research. The Centre has also been working with the Deans of the various Faculties and has received contributions from the Faculties of Computer Science, Science and Medicine.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**b) Proposal for the College of Sustainability with new Major/Honours programs in: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Community Design, Bachelor of Management, and Bachelor of Science**

Mr. Fraser welcomed members of the Steering Committee: Mr. David Black, Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Chair of the Steering Committee; Mr. Stephen Mannell, Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture and Planning; Ms. Deborah Buszard, Acting Director, Environmental Programs, Faculty of Science; Ms. Vivian Howard, Director, Bachelor of Management Program, Faculty of Management; Mr. Patrick Ryall, Acting Dean, Faculty of Science; Mr. Grant Wanzel, Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Planning; Mr. David Wheeler, Dean, Faculty of Management; Mr. David Schroeder, Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; and Mr. Jared Kolb, administrative support to the Steering Committee. Mr. Fraser invited the committee to present the proposal for the College of Sustainability with new Major/Honours programs in: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Community Design, Bachelor of Management, and Bachelor of Science.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

**THAT the Senate approve the establishment of the College of Sustainability and the Majors/Honours programs outlined in the proposal dated May 23, 2008; and the Senate urges that the College be provided with adequate resources to carry out its mandate.**

Mr. Mannell explained that the proposal had been generated by a Steering Committee comprised of interested individuals from across the University. The initiative came out of collegial discussions and concerns on the part of members of the Dalhousie community that the university has a responsibility to lead in the areas of environment, sustainability and society. We have an opportunity to coordinate and amplify what we are already doing, which is of very high quality but, because of the work in which we are engaged, often this work is very isolated and fragmented. The Steering Committee has been developing a community of concerned individuals within Dalhousie and this was taken up last summer by the Provost and then shared as a challenge through the Deans. The present proposal has two elements: the formation of a College of Sustainability and the establishment of new programs within four existing degrees (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Community Design, Bachelor of Management, and Bachelor of Science).

Embodied in the proposal for the College of Sustainability is the notion of four essential pillars: a significant role for community service; a common space within Dalhousie for issues of environment, sustainability and society; a constellation of graduate programs; and an integrated undergraduate program as a new entry point into the University. The undergraduate programs would include interdisciplinary team-taught courses incorporating experiential learning on issues of environment, sustainability and society. Through a program structure of combined double major and joint honors programs, the new degrees would build on existing strengths yet broaden students' understanding and awareness, and their collaboration with community partners. The programs thus should have a significant impact both on the programs of study of many undergraduate students at Dalhousie, and on the community beyond Dalhousie.

The College is envisioned as something that would extend our current Faculty structures, bridging existing Faculties with a Director who would report to a Council of Deans. Staffing would be a mix of dedicated staff, cross-appointed staff, and a range of external fellowships from within Dal, residencies, and other ways of having people move in and out of the College, and through its programs. There has been a high level of internal and external support for the proposal.

The formation of the College is a major initiative and it is expected to be highly successful based on the strong interests among existing students for the program, and the social passion that exists among young people. It is believed that, in the long run, the program will contribute to increased enrolment at Dalhousie. There is much to be gained through this initiative in terms of branding and that reputation enhancement. The start up phase of this program will be expensive; it will include several academic appointments as well as funds for teaching assistants, scholarships, and a host of things that will be necessary to make the College a great success. The university has committed a substantial amount of new strategic funds to ensure a successful venture. Mr. Traves expressed his confidence, based on the excellent work of all those involved combined with the hard work of the Communications and Marketing group, that the College will become a major new recruitment vehicle for Dalhousie. He indicated that he was prepared, on behalf of the University, to provide adequate resources to ensure its success.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2008:70**

**Senate Committee on Academic Administration: Posting of Student Grades**

Mr. Fraser invited Mr. John Sherwood, Executive Director, University Computing and Information Services, to give Senators a presentation on posting of grades. The Senate Committee on Academic Administration had been examining this issue because students wanted quick access to information on assignment and examination grades, but privacy requirements put severe limits on the methods that could appropriately be used for this purpose. Mr. Sherwood explained that the problem is trying to tell the students what their marks were without telling them other students' marks. We want to be able to tell a student exactly how they have done and we also want to be able to let them judge themselves against their class. One of the mechanisms for doing this is within 'Blackboard'; which is a full-course management system. The final grades for each course must be put into BANNER but grades on individual assignments and examinations are not entered in BANNER. Blackboard gives faculty an easy mechanism to address this issue. From an instructor's point of view, it is a central point for recording grades, for doing numerical calculations, for assigning letter grades, and for generating a spreadsheet that can then be uploaded into BANNER. Mr. Sherwood clarified that the letter grades are set by a table that is under the instructor's control.

The functionality for very small classes was discussed and, in particular, whether there was a guideline on when the function providing comparison with the rest of the class should be enabled. Mr. Shaver indicated that he will raise this with SCAA before making it generally available as an option for all instructors.

**2008:71**

**Senate Nominating Committee**

**Secretary of Senate**

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Ms. Brenda Richard **MOVED**:

**THAT Ms. Laurette Geldenhuys from the Faculty of Medicine be nominated for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011 as Secretary of Senate.**

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Ms. Geldenhuys was elected.

**Standing & University Committee Nominations**

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Ms. Brenda Richard **MOVED**:

**THAT Esmeralda Thornhill from the Faculty of Law be nominated to the Senate Steering Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010;**

**Ms. Carolan McLarney from the Faculty of Management be nominated to the Senate Academic Priorities & Budget Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009;**

**Ms. Elaine Gibson** from the Faculty of Law be nominated to the Senate Academic Appeals Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010;

**Mr. Blyth Archibald** from the Faculty of Management; **Mr. Joseph Sadek** from the Faculty of Medicine; **Ms. Teresa Cyrus** from the Faculty of Science; and **Ms. Anne-Marie Ryan** from the Faculty of Science be nominated to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011;

**Ms. Beth McAra** from the Student Accessibility Services be nominated to the Senate Committee on the Environment for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010;

**Mr. Dean Irvine**, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences/English be nominated to the Senate Computing & Information Technology Planning Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011;

**Mr. Grant MacDonald** from the College of Continuing Education and **Mr. Srinivas Sampalli** from the Faculty of Computer Science be nominated to the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011;

**Mr. Robert Milson** from the Faculty of Science be nominated to the Senate Library Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011 and **Mr. Darren Abramson**, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences be nominated to the Senate Library Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010;

**Ms. Holly Richardson** from the Faculty of Health Professions be nominated to the Senate Physical Planning Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011;

**Mr. Sunny Marche** from the Faculty of Management be nominated to the Board of Governors for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009;

**Mr. Peter Jones** from the Faculty of Engineering be nominated to the University Security and Parking Committee for the term July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, Mr. Fraser declared those nominated to be elected to their respective committees.

#### **2008:72**

##### **Budget Advisory Committee Report XXXVII: For Discussion**

Mr. Fraser invited Mr. Alan Shaver, Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee to discuss the BAC XXXVII report for the year 2008-2009. Mr. Shaver indicated that the document was very similar to the document that was brought before Senate and discussed at the April meeting. The floor was then opened for questions. The report is very positive, with frozen tuition fees and, as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Province, University revenue will actually go up slightly. This, then, offers the opportunity to have a new strategic priorities investment fund, while at the same time it reduces the size of the annual BAC cut. The new strategic priorities investment program will closely follow priorities set out by the President's strategic document.

Mr. El-Hawary inquired into the annual budget reductions for various units, which have been ongoing for over ten years, and asked if the committee had considered other options. Mr. Shaver said that although there is a cut every year, the size of the budgets of all the faculties do still increase, and that money is recycled, and the cost savings due to retirements and departures is one aspect that will have to be investigated. The Board long-term planning report requires the administration to undergo a review and to look at these kinds of questions. The question of sustainability of units that don't have any students to keep them going has not been broached yet.

#### **2008:73**

##### **Chair's Report**

Mr. Fraser reported that there were several AIO ratifications done by Ms. Laurette Geldenhuys, Secretary of Senate, on behalf of Senate and the details were available for review in a memo included with the meeting materials. Also enclosed with the meeting package, for information, was the June 3, 2008 list of graduands. Mr. Fraser expressed thanks to Senators who were present for the convocations at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the King's Encaenia.

Senate has received notification of the approval by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission for the Master of Science (Kinesiology) program modifications, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences in the areas of Oceans and Global Change, and the name change involving the Master and PhD programs in Anatomy & Neurobiology.

Senators completed a Senate Feedback Form in the spring and the Chair expressed appreciation for the feedback received and indicated that this will be dealt with that in more detail at the Senate Steering Committee in June. Steering will also look at the 2008-2009 schedule of meetings in regard to some of the feedback received for the coming year.

Mr. Fraser express sincere thanks to all Senators who finished their terms on Senate: Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences: David Schroeder and Krista Kesselring; Faculty of Computer Science: Jacob Slonim; Faculty of Engineering: Ezz El-Masry, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering (Returning) and Mike Pegg, Department of Chemical Engineering (Returning); Faculty of Health Professions: Pollen Yeung, College of Pharmacy and Brenda Richard, School of Social Work; Faculty of Law: Esmeralda Thornhill (Returning); Faculty of Management: Shamsud Chowdhury, School of Business Administration; Faculty of Medicine: Joseph Sadek, Department of Psychiatry (Returning) and Laurette Geldenhuys, Department of Anatomical Pathology (Returning); Faculty of Science: Keith Johnson, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Bruce Smith, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, and Kevin Grundy, Department of Chemistry; Ex Officio Senators: Grant Wanzel, Dean, Faculty of Architecture & Planning (as of August 31, 2008); David Precious, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry; Keith Taylor, Dean, Faculty of Science. Mr. Fraser also expressed gratitude to these retiring Senators and to those individuals who were completing terms on the various Senate Standing Committees.

Mr. Cochrane inquired if Dalhousie University published any comparative statistics year over year on graduates of various programs. Mr. Shaver responded that a table has been generated with the last 5 years of all the degrees granted by Dalhousie University. This report is on the web and this is just the beginning of the establishment of an academic data handbook which is being generated from the Office of Institutional Research.

**2008:74**

Report of the President

Mr. Traves added his thanks and appreciation to all of those who attended convocation and announced that the arrangements for the expansion for the Medical School in New Brunswick were moving forward. The new program will see Dalhousie, in 2010, admitting a first-year class of 30 students, and thereafter, after 3 more years, admitting another 30 students each year, eventually reaching a maximum number of 120 students at the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine campus in Saint John. This program will be offered by Dalhousie in cooperation with the University of New Brunswick. As well, the province of NS previously announced that the medical school will increase its intake of NS base students by ten. Mr. Traves advised that there has been a similar announcement about the desire of the provincial government to significantly expand the number of nursing graduates from various universities in NS and Dalhousie has been asked to increase its intake by 50 students per year, which would lead to a 200 student expansion ultimately when the classes are fully in place.

The Life Sciences Research Institute Building is now funded and construction will begin in the summer. A progress and design report of the campus master plan will be provided to Senators in the fall.

Finally, Mr. Traves added his appreciation to the Chair of Senate, to all Senators and to faculty colleagues who served on numerous committees. He explained that the work of Senate is very important to the University and from his point of view; the Senate functions well, efficiently, and has very strong leadership in the Senate Officers.

**2008:75**

Other Business

There was no other business.

**2008:76**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.