

Item: Senate Minutes, February 2009

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, February 9, 2009, at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were: Barkhouse, Binkley, Butler, Camfield, Campbell, Canning, Cochrane, Coffin, Crago, El-Masry, Fanning, Frank, Fraser, K., Gantar, Garduno, Harman, Helland, Hughes, Jean, Hughes, Jon, Johnston, Karabanow, Leonard, Maes, McClure, McConnell, McLarney, Milson, Nowakowski, Pegg, Persaud, Robinson, Ryan, Sadek, Saunders, Scrimger, Shaver, Shukla, Snow, Thomas, Thornhill, Tindall, Traves, Tremblay, Ugursal, Watters, Webster, Wheeler.

Regrets: Barker, Boran, Couban, Cox, Gassmann, Haslam, Moukdad, Ross, Rutherford, Schellinck, Singleton.

Absent: Adshade, Cook, Croll, El-Hawary, Farinda, Kroeker, Larkin, Leon, Macy, Maclaren, Plug, Scherkoske, Shepherd, Smith.

Guests: S. Brousseau, T. Gill, A. Kachan, A. Power, K. Taylor

### **2009:16**

#### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

### **2009:17**

#### Draft Senate Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2009

##### a) Approval

The minutes of the January 12, 2009 Senate meeting were **APPROVED** as circulated.

##### b) Matters Arising

The recommendations contained in the Ombudsperson Annual Report for 2007-2008 were discussed at the January 21, 2009 Senate Steering Committee (SSC) meeting and the motions have been referred to Ms. Dorothy Pedlar, Manager, Discipline and Appeals, for follow-up. Mr. Fraser also informed Senators that a Faculty Discipline Procedure Review Work Group has been formed to review the Faculty Discipline Procedures Concerning Academic Dishonesty. The Work Group will present their preliminary report to Steering at the first meeting in April 2009.

In regard to financial concerns relating to deceased students, the SSC has asked Ms. Brousseau, as University Secretary, to follow-up on this matter on behalf of Senate. A committee has been established through Student Services to review University policies and procedures relating to the death of a student.

### **2009:18**

#### Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser noted that there have been a few glitches in accessing the new Senate-protected website; these were anticipated and the University Secretariat will be running the Senate-protected website in parallel with the posting of materials in the public area of the website for the next couple of months, in order to ensure that any problems are addressed.

Mr. Fraser noted the appointment of Dr. Daniel Woolf, as the new Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Queens University, effective September 1, 2009. Dr. Woolf came to Dalhousie in 1987 and was here for twelve years, during which time he served on Senate and several Senate committees. He was Associate Dean and then Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Dr. Woolf is currently Dean of Arts at the University of Alberta.

Mr. Fraser reported that there are a number of very positive and exciting things happening across the University and he particularly noted the January 21, 2009 launch of the College of Sustainability.

Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Laurette Geldenhuys, former Secretary of Senate, and presented her with a plaque in recognition of her service in that role. Ms. Geldenhuys also served as Chair of the Nominating Committee before becoming Secretary of Senate. As Secretary of Senate she worked with the discipline and appeals workload, a task she undertook conscientiously and with a very positive spirit.

## **2009:19**

### Question Period

Mr. Ugursal inquired about the issues he had raised in September 2008 and noted his concern that he did not feel he had yet received a response from the Chair on these matters. Mr. Fraser reported that the issue related to whether Senate would be involved in a discipline process relating to faculty members was referred to the SSC who determined that this was not within Senate's jurisdiction. The second issue related to the sharing of information about academic appeals and Mr. Fraser noted that he had reported to Senate that that issue is being dealt with on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the University Legal Counsel. There are obvious concerns about student confidentiality that should not be compromised. On the other hand, there may also be issues where the community at large, or parts of the community, may benefit from information on an academic appeal so that appropriate learning can take place and any procedures or policies that require review can be addressed. Mr. Fraser indicated that there would be information shared in regard to the case that Mr. Ugursal is referring to, if it hasn't been shared already. Mr. Ugursal noted that his second follow-up question concerns who is expected to follow up in terms of disciplinary proceedings related to faculty. Mr. Fraser stated that Senate's mandate in this case, as it was a matter of a student appeal, was to address the student issues involved. Senate takes that role seriously and attempts to ensure that there is an appropriate outcome. Senate does not have a mandate to address other kinds of issues and there are other processes within the University to address those matters. Mr. Fraser commented that he would consult with Legal Counsel and others to confirm that Senate has acted to the extent of its jurisdiction in this matter.

Ms. Binkley noted that it has been 14 months since the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences first began working with Senate to determine a committee to look at the Faculty Review. The Faculty Self-Study has been completed and sent to the Senate and Vice-President Academic and Provost. Mr. Fraser explained that there have been several issues in relation to appointing a Chair and the search continues. Mr. Butler further explained that a list of potential chairs has been compiled, but SAPBC has raised concerns on two occasions regarding potential candidates and the Faculty was not agreeable to a candidate on one earlier occasion.

## **2009:20**

### Senate Academic Appeals Committee: Ratification of December 1, 2008 Academic Appeal Panel Decision

At this point in the meeting, Senate moved into an *in camera* session to discuss the ratification of a December 1, 2008 Senate academic appeal hearing panel decision. When Senate returned to open session, Mr. Fraser announced that the hearing panel decision dated January 20, 2009 had been ratified.

## **2009:21**

### Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee:

#### Proposal for the Establishment of the Nova Scotia Health Policy Research Centre at Dalhousie University

Ms. Crago provided an overview of the proposal which involves a partnership with the Nova Scotia government to create a Health Policy Research Centre (HPRC). The concept is to create a Centre which will be a repository for a set of interlinked databases that will provide information for researchers to be able to move forward to create the health policy and practice that will potentially lead to better health and social outcomes in the province. It corresponds well with the priorities for the province and with the strategies and priorities for the University for this period of time.

Ms. Crago noted that the proposal has been developed through a significant amount of consultation within the University, government and the wider community. The HPRC would be designed as a multi-faculty health policy research centre under the Vice President Research. The proposal is for the government to fund the Centre at a cost of \$12 million for a five-year period; the funding would be renewable and reviewable and would provide the proper database and personnel. The Centre would be housed at Dalhousie, initially in space occupied by the Population Health Research Unit.

Essentially, the proposal creates the "basket" into which the money can fall if government funding is approved. If that funding is not forthcoming, the University will need to reconsider the situation. Approval of the proposal at this stage will clearly demonstrate to the province that the University is committed to this concept. Ms. Crago

confirmed that the next step, following university approval, will be to wait for the provincial budget process to see whether funding for the Centre is approved.

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

**THAT the Senate approve the proposal for the Nova Scotia Health Policy Research Centre.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2009:22**

Senate Steering Committee:

a) Senate Nominating Committee Nomination – Faculty of Arts and Science

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

**THAT the Senate approve the nomination for Dr. David Black, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, to the Senate Nominating Committee for the term March 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

b) Senate Officers' Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Fraser pointed out that this is a constitutional amendment and the bylaws state that constitutional amendments may be made at any regular meeting of Senate, provided that due notice of the motion has been given with the agenda circulated to members at least 7 days in advance of the meeting, and at least two-thirds of members voting at the meeting must be in favour of the amendment. Ms. Binkley, at the January Senate meeting, had requested clarification of the roles of the Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) and the Associate Vice-President (Academic) who has responsibility for academic programs. Mr. Fraser explained that both individuals play a role with respect to academic programs and that these roles can be viewed as complementary. The role of the Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Program) would parallel the role of Senate, which would be, in effect, a role of consideration of new program proposals. The Vice-Chair, for example, would be responsible to ensure that the Senate Academic Priorities & Budget Committee, in the first instance, and Senate, has all the appropriate information to make an informed judgement about the proposal which comes forward. The Vice-Chair is also involved ultimately in the review of Faculties. The Associate Vice-President would have more of an implementation role in terms of dealing with the Faculty and the Dean around the recommendations coming out of the review.

Mr. Shaver added that the Associate Vice-President (Academic) also chairs the Classroom Scheduling Committee with a vision to renovate the schedule. There is also an Information Technology Operations Group which unites UCIS, Facilities, and the Centre for Learning and Teaching to try and improve the information technology aspect of teaching activities.

It was noted that there are a number of references in the amendment that speak to "Faculty" and that there are and can be representatives who serve as Senate Officers who are not affiliated with a "Faculty". Mr. Fraser confirmed that there is no intent to exclude eligible Senators from the College of Continuing Education, the Library, or any other unit that is not technically a Faculty.

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

**THAT Senate approve that Section III, sub-sections A and C of the *Constitutional Provisions Governing the Operations of Senate* be amended as outlined in the February 3, 2009 memo.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Fraser noted that Senate currently has a vacancy in the position of Vice-Chair (Academic Administration), formerly Secretary of Senate. The Senate Nominating Committee will be meeting very shortly and will be looking for someone to fill that role.

**2009:23**Academic Integrity Officer Ratifications

Mr. Shaver **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Canning:

**THAT the Academic Integrity Officer agreed penalties, as presented in the Secretary of Senate's memo of February 2, 2009, be ratified.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2009:24**Enrolment Management Update: Recruitment, Admissions and Registration

Ms. Asa Kachan, Assistant Vice-President, Enrolment Management & Registrar gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Enrolment Management Update: Recruitment, Admissions and Registration. She reviewed the current enrolment challenges facing the University in terms of its traditional markets, and the steps it is taking to address these issues. These efforts have produced some significant results, but she noted that Dalhousie needs to expand its breadth in terms of the kinds of students it attracts if it is to retain the critical mass of students to offer the current range of programs and to have the depth to do those programs well. Dalhousie needs to reach out to markets and establish itself in areas where it has not previously been active. It needs to continue to build its strength in Ontario, and increase the great strides made in Alberta and British Columbia and within international markets. Retention is also key to meeting the University's strategic priority of increasing enrolment; the University wants to retain quality students, and it wants students who will fit the institution and who will stay to complete their programs.

Ms. Kachan provided a brief overview of the recruitment cycles and activities that take place locally, nationally and internationally, and the range of strategies and marketing campaigns that the University employs in different markets. She provided some examples of the improvements that have been made in admissions and registration processes and practices; these are also very important in increasing enrolment and retention. Ms. Kachan noted that quality of education is the number one reason why students select one institution over another, and that is something the entire Dalhousie community can work to attain every day.

**2009:25**Senate Review of the Faculty of Science

The Chair welcomed Mr. Tom Gill, Chair of the Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Science, and Ms. Marty Leonard, Acting Dean (from July 1, 2008) and Mr. Keith Taylor, Former Dean (to June 30, 2008). Mr. Gill reported on the work of the Committee and its findings and recommendations. He noted that the Faculty is doing wonderful things, but it has some significant challenges including budget, faculty hiring and student recruitment. One of the major recommendations is that the Faculty develop a Strategic Plan to help it address some of its current challenges.

Ms. Leonard, Acting Dean, thanked Mr. Gill, his committee and the external reviewers for what the Faculty felt was a thoughtful and constructive review. She reported briefly on the Faculty's response to the Report's twelve recommendations. The Faculty agreed with all of the recommendations and are now at different stages of carrying them out. Ms. Leonard acknowledged the leadership of the former Dean of the Faculty of Science, Keith Taylor, who led the Faculty through the last five years, and also through the Review.

Mr. Fraser expressed his thanks to members of the Senate Review Committee and to the Faculty for their response. He noted that a review by the Vice-Chair of Senate and the Associate Vice-President (Academic), is underway to ensure that the review process is a meaningful and productive one.

**2009:26**Senate Ad Hoc Governance Committee Draft Report

Due to time constraints, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

**2009:27**

## President's Report

Mr. Shaver reported briefly on matters in the federal budget which affect universities. He pointed out that there is a fairly comprehensive review on the website of the Association of Universities & Colleges of Canada (AUCC). The high point is the announcement of \$1.4 billion to support university infrastructure projects over the next two years with the expectation that the provinces will provide matching funds. There is also \$750 million to support new competitions for the Foundation for Innovation.

### **2009:28**

#### Other Business

There was no other new business.

### **2009:29**

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.