

Item: Senate Minutes, January 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, January 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were: Adshade, Barker, Barkhouse, Binkley, Boran, Butler, Camfield, Campbell, Canning, Cochrane, Coffin, Cook, Couban, Cox, Crago, Croll, El-Hawary, Farina, K. Fraser, Gantar, Garduno, Haslam, Helland, Jon Hughes, Karabanow, Larkin, Leon, Leonard, Macy, MacLaren, McClure, McConnell, McLarney, Milson, Moukdad, Nowakowski, Persaud, Ross, Ryan, Sadek, Saunders, Schellinck, Scrimger, Shaver, Shepherd, Shukla, Thomas, Thornhill, Tindall, Traves, Tremblay, Watters, Wheeler.

Regrets: El-Masry, Gassmann, Harman, Maes, Robinson, Rutherford, Singleton.

Absent: Fanning, Jean Hughes, Johnston, Kroeker, Pegg, Plug, Scherkoske, Smith, Snow, Ugursal, Webster.

Guests: J. Bain, S. Brousseau, D. Buszard, A. Kachan, A. Power, F. Taheri, T. Trappenberg

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**2009:01**

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

**2009:02**

Draft Minutes of November 24, 2008 Meeting of Senate

a) Approval

The minutes of the November 24, 2008 meeting were approved, as circulated.

b) Matters Arising

The recommendations within the Ombudsperson Annual Report 2007 – 2008 will be discussed at the next Senate Steering Committee (SSC) meeting. The SSC have been discussing the actions the university takes when there has been a death of a student and the SSC will report in due course once Ms. Brousseau, University Secretary, looks into this matter further. There were no further matters arising.

**2009:03**

Chair's Report

Ms. Geldenhuys, Secretary of Senate, has resigned and the Senate Nominating Committee will be seeking to fill this position. Circulated with today's agenda were the group initiative responses from the various discussion groups from the Senate Forum held on November 10, 2008. The three areas explored at the Forum were: Teaching and Learning Initiatives, Research Initiatives, and Community Engagement Initiatives. These are being forwarded to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) for consideration.

For information: The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has approved the modification to the Master of Business Administration program and the name change for the Master of Health Services Administration to Master of Health Administration. The 2007 – 2008 Annual Reports for the RBC Centre for Risk Management and the Brain Repair Centre have been received in the Senate Office. A memo concerning the Presidential Review has gone out to the university community from Jim Spatz, Chair of the Board and Chair of the Review Committee. Senate representatives on the Review Committee are: Peter Butler, Carolyn Watters, and the Chair.

The Chair expressed condolences to family and friends of three members of the Dalhousie community who had died in December. Mr. Young Kwan Eum, a third-year student in Mathematics and Statistics, died in a highway accident. Dr. John Lally Cornwall was a member of the Department of Economics until his retirement in 1993,

and Dr. Allan Harvey Shlossberg had been a faculty member in the Departments of Medicine and of Obstetrics and Gynecology until his retirement in 2004.

#### **2009:04**

##### Question Period

There were no questions.

#### **2009:05**

##### Budget Advisory Committee Report XXXVIII Report

Alan Shaver, Chair, Budget Advisory Committee and Vice-President, Academic presented the Budget Advisory Committee's Report XXXVIII. Other members of the BAC were present for the discussion. Highlight of the Report included:

- 2009-10 is the second year of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Province; it provides for:
  - Increased government funding of \$17.4 Million (12.3%);
  - Tuition fees for regular credit programs to be frozen; and
  - Nova Scotia students to receive a bursary of up to \$1,022 (full course load)
- Projected enrolment unchanged for fall 2009.
- Comparative fee information has been included for the information of the campus community.
- Collective Agreements in place for Dalhousie Faculty Association and Nova Scotia Government Employees Union (Agreement with IUOE expired in 2008-09 and CUPE will expire in 2009-10).
- A preliminary allocation of \$7.7 million in funding for new investment in Strategic Initiatives.
- At this stage, the budget model does not include any Faculty and Unit budget reductions but does include a 3.7 million shortfall. The next BAC Report will contain a proposed balanced budget for 2009-2010.
- The Report includes a discussion of uncertainties relating to investment markets, energy costs, enrolment and the implications of economic conditions generally.

Mr. Shaver drew attention to the membership of BAC, which is on the back of the cover sheet and represents broad representation across the University. BAC is also served by people from the budget office and financial services, as resource. This year we are back on schedule in terms of the discussion of the budget planning process. Last year the MoU discussions made the development of the budget model simply problematic until we had numbers that we could rely on. This year we were determined to get back on schedule so that we could bring it to Senate and other venues earlier than we normally do. Initially it appeared that it would be easy to come up with a budget model as it would be a straight-forward budget year but, as the economic situation changed, that created an enormous amount of uncertainty.

Mr. Shaver drew Senators attention to the Discussion Paper Highlights. The MoU with the Province provides for an increase in funding to Dalhousie of \$17.4 million. This anticipates increasing costs to the University. It also partially recognizes the enrolment increases the university has experienced in recent years. That money is composed of two parts; one part is the general increase to the envelope of Nova Scotia universities funding from the government. This addresses the general increase in enrolment across the system. Another component is an adjustment of the proportions that the universities get based on their share of the enrolments. Dalhousie's share of the enrolment has increased so there is an increase in our allocation and that increase will be phased in over 4 years. This is the second year that it has increased. Tuition fees for regular credit programs have been frozen so, as was the case last year, there is a tuition freeze. Nova Scotia students will receive a bursary of up to \$1022 per year. Again, this is not new, though the value has increased. This is money that we receive from the government and transfer directly to students. It greatly benefits Nova Scotia students by lowering their fees but has no direct impact on the university's budget. Currently we are projecting that enrolments will remain unchanged. We wish to be conservative in our projection but there has been some difference of opinion within BAC concerning this estimate. Appendix B provides comparative fee information relative to other universities across Canada.

In terms of uncertainty, last year we had some uncertainty with respect to the compensation through the Collective Agreement negotiations. Those are completed and so we do not have uncertainty surrounding the compensation issues for most of the people employed by the University. We have set aside a preliminary allocation of \$7.7 million for investments in new strategic initiatives. This would be the seventh year of investments in strategic initiatives; a list of past strategic initiative allocations can be found in Appendix E. At this point, tallying the projected revenue and expenditures results in a shortfall of \$3.7 million. As is our normal practice, no provision has yet been made for budget adjustments or cuts. Those adjustments will be

incorporated into the next BAC Report, which will include a proposed balanced budget for 2009-2010. BAC has invested a lot of time considering the external uncertainties caused by the economic situation, and has determined that we should move forward: have a plan and stick to it, while being flexible in dealing with changing circumstances.

Mr. Shaver drew members' attention to the Preliminary Operating Budget Revenue and Expenditure Model on page 8, and reviewed the assumptions on which the preliminary budget model is based. The ERBA distribution to Faculties has been 50% for some years. The Board's Long-Term Financial Planning Report recommended that ERBA be maintained, but that it be reviewed with the intent of making it a more effective tool for enrolment management. There is a sub-group currently engaged in that review; we anticipate receiving their report shortly. If their report results in changes to ERBA affecting 2009-2010, these would be incorporated into the next BAC Report.

The budget model incorporates an 8% increase in Energy, Water Taxes and Insurance, but, in fact, energy prices for 2009-2010 are very difficult to predict. In this context, Mr. Shaver drew members' attention to the plot of the average price of Bunker C oil since April 2005 (page 18).

Because of the drop in interest rates, Operating Interest Income (line 4 of the budget model), was projected to be down \$1.8 million from \$3.2 million in 2008-09. Endowment Income (line 3) is a bit of an unknown, although we know that our endowment value has decreased in recent months—like all investments in the stock market. Since 2004 we have allocated funds from endowment earnings based on a three-year running average, incorporating practices that ensure that we neither over spend nor under spend. We are a little uncertain as to what our endowment earnings will be but the spending rate from endowment funds is not normally set at this stage of the budget cycle. Endowment earnings contribute to salaries for endowed chairs, scholarships and other student support. Obviously, professors, whether they are endowed chairs or not, will continue to get their appropriate salaries. If there is a decrease in funds available from endowment income, we will compensate for that in other lines of the operating budget. If the earnings and the amount we can spend from our endowments goes down, the university is committed to maintaining both the value of our scholarships for our students, and also the number of scholarships available. This means that that shortfall, if there was one, would have to come out of the operating budget.

Under expenditures, compensation is by far the largest expenditure. The budget for utilities has been raised by \$1.1 million and strategic initiatives are set at \$7.7 million. The budget is shadowed by uncertainty concerning some significant items. One is the possibility of government capital investment. This case is being made by several universities. Dalhousie has a deferred maintenance backlog of well over \$200 million. There is a looming budget issue related to the pension plan. At this time, the plan is solvent and no immediate action is required. Nevertheless, it is clear that most pension plans are under stress because the downturn in the stock market, so the value of most pension plans has dropped. Pension plans are reviewed and regulated by government regulations to ensure that they are maintained in a solvent position so they can meet their commitments. Our solvency test will come in 2010 and, at that time, we may well be faced with a requirement to allocate significant additional resources to the plan in order to ensure its solvency. We will closely monitor the situation since it could have a significant impact on our budgets in 2010-2011 and beyond. In addition, the Nova Scotia government has indicated its intention to eliminate mandatory retirement, no earlier than July 1, 2009. This could have a significant impact on the university's budget, beginning as early as 2010-11.

The contingency (line 17) has been increased from \$1.3 million to \$1.6 million, but that is a modest increase which is intended to cover operational variances rather than major adjustment related to the pension plan or the elimination of mandatory retirement.

One of the issues on which BAC would appreciate feedback is the approach the University should take in responding to the current economic uncertainty. The BAC group has spent a lot of time discussing it. One approach would be to time our strategic investments in such a way that in 2009-2010 we might focus primarily on projects involving limited-term expenditures and, as much as possible, avoid commitments to continuing expenditures so that by this time next year we would still have a cushion of base funds to use to meet any emergencies or, if the emergencies did not materialize, to invest the funds in longer-term initiatives.

Mr. Fraser opened the floor to the three questions which were presented in BAC.

1. What approach should the University take to address the current economic uncertainties?
2. What approach should be taken for reductions to Faculty/unit budgets?
3. What approach should be taken for investment in strategic initiatives in 2009-10 and in the future?

Mr. Cook had three questions. First, in terms of indirect costs of research funding (line 6), when do we find out what that actually is, and what is the current figure based on? Mr. Shaver replied that the figure is unknown since it is an allocation from the government. The current figure in the budget model simply reflects the amount received in 2008-2009. Secondly, Mr. Cook asked for a reminder as to whether we have any indication from the federal government as to whether there will be any significant change in this funding. Mr. Shaver said that the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) has continued its lobbying of the government to increase this allocation. It is estimated that indirect costs of a researcher are at least 40% of the total cost of the actual direct spending. The amount which Dalhousie receives is approximately 24% now, so there is a lot of lobbying to try and raise that. It is a significant issue but it is not clear that there is going to be any change in the federal budget. Thirdly, Mr. Cook asked for a ballpark figure of our annual pension payouts. Mr. Burt, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, responded that the university pays out approximately \$19 million/year.

Ms. Binkley noted that the report outlines strategic spending in the areas of enhanced research and academic strengths, enriched student experience, strength in enrolment, campus renewal, renewed human resources, and increased philanthropic support. All of these areas are not only supported by areas such as the Registrar's Office, Facilities Management, Student Services, Communication, External Relations, but they are also supported by the faculties; that is, the faculties are taking on more responsibilities and over the last 3 or 4 years, these responsibilities have been downloaded onto the faculties. BAC has recommended that all units are required to seek efficiencies but the cuts have been done on a differential basis—the assumption being that we shouldn't cut the units that we believe strategic initiatives are going into. She thinks there is a fallacy in this argument; faculties are part of this group who are taking on more and more of these responsibilities. They are being cut differentially. She feels that the cut should be a 1.87% cut across the board rather than the differential cut as in the past.

Ms. Binkley also asked if the University is lobbying to have the pension plan amortization changed from 5 years to 15 as it is in many of the other provinces for many of the other universities. Mr. Burt responded, yes. Secondly, Ms. Binkley asked what the actual declines are in the value of the two pension funds, the pre- and post-retiree funds. Mr. Burt explained that the university manages the money on a consolidated basis and overall our funds are down 20% compared to the market being down by about 15%. In terms of the way the benefits are paid out, he explained that there really is no impact on the retirees – they are receiving their full value based on their pension entitlements.

The BAC will be presenting its next report once it has received comments on this report, and is in a position to present a proposed budget for 2009-2010.

#### **2009:06**

##### Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC):

##### Modified Program Proposal: College of Sustainability, Environment, Sustainability and Society

Mr. Fraser welcomed Debora Buszard, Environment Programs, Faculty of Science and Thomas Trappenberg, Associate Professor, Faculty of Computer Science. A brief description of the program was provided.

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

**THAT** the Senate approve the Modified Program Proposal from the College of Sustainability and the Faculty of Computer Science to add Minor, Major, and Honours programs in "Environment, Sustainability and Society," as described in the proposal, to the following degrees: Bachelor of Computer Science, Bachelor of Informatics, and Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

The motion **CARRIED**.

##### New Program Proposal: MA (Musicology)

Mr. Fraser welcomed Marian Binkley, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Jennifer Bain, Associate Professor, Department of Music to the meeting to present the new program proposal for a Masters in Arts in Musicology. Ms. Bain explained that this is a two-year program and the first graduate program in the Department of Music. It would be five seminars plus a thesis with a maximum of eight students within about five years. There is no other MA program in Musicology east of Quebec City and the program is expected to attract students to the region and have the support of the undergraduate Music programs in the Atlantic region. It is anticipated that the program will be attractive to both national and international students.

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

**THAT** the Senate approve the new program proposal for the Master of Arts (Musicology).

The motion **CARRIED**.

In response to a question, Mr. Fraser explained that Graduate programs are review by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and there is a financial review through the Vice-President, Academic's Office as well as other specific reviews by the Registrar, Facilities Management, the Libraries, and others, and then it comes together at the SAPBC. The program, once fully approved, will be internally reviewed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in accordance to their program review schedule.

Suspension/Termination of the Master of International Health Services Administration (MIHSA)

Mr. Fraser spoke to the proposal and outlined the need for the suspension and eventual termination of the program. The MIHSA program represents a well-intended graduate program that has become financially and logistically unfeasible.

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

**THAT** Senate approve the immediate suspension of admission to the Master of International Health Services Administration. The program will continue to be delivered to any current students until all students have graduated, or the time allowed for program completion has elapsed, or all students have left the program. At that time the program will be terminated.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2009:07**

Senate Committee on Academic Administration (SCAA):

Approval of Degrees Between Convocations

Mr. Shaver explained that graduates from other professional programs at Dalhousie University also experience the same challenges as those from Medicine and Dentistry, particularly when they intend to leave the country for employment. In other cases, there may be occasional extenuating circumstances, including life-threatening illness, which may result in a request for a degree to be awarded between Convocations.

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

**THAT** the Senate approve the following procedure for the awarding of degrees between convocations:

On the recommendation of the Dean(s) of the appropriate Faculty or Faculties, the Chair of Senate (or designate) and the University Registrar may approve the awarding of degrees to those students who have completed all degree requirements, and who must provide to licensing boards a copy of their degrees with their application for registration and license, or whose circumstances are otherwise deemed exceptional by the Dean, Chair of Senate, and Registrar. Each such degree awarded shall be reported with explanation to the next meeting of the Senate, and the name of the graduate will appear in the listing of graduates for the next Convocation.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Faculty of Management – Minimum Admission Averages

Mr. Shaver noted that the current minimum final grades for admission are 65% for English and Mathematics with a minimum overall average of 70%. The Associate Registrar (Admissions) suggested the change noting that the current required average misleads students into thinking they have a chance of being admitted when in reality they have very little chance of being admitted with the present minimums. There have been over 1000 applicants for the 300 spots and it is therefore not considered a deterrent to the number of admissions.

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

**THAT** the Senate approve that the minimum admission averages for the Bachelor of Commerce program be changed to: minimum final grades for both English and Math of 70% and an overall final average of 75%.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Faculty of Graduate Studies & Faculty of Health Professions – MSc Physiotherapy Admission Requirement

Mr. Shaver reported that the current admission requirements for the program require applicants to have completed one 3-credit-hour course in Biomechanics and one 3-credit-hour course in Physics. The rationale for the request is that introductory biomechanics, typically taught as part of a Kinesiology or Human Movement in the Science program, is not readily available to most students at Canadian universities, whereas Physics is offered at almost all institutions. This change has the potential to increase the pool of eligible applicants for the entry level.

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

**THAT** the Senate approve the admission requirements for the entry-level M.Sc. program in Physiotherapy as six (6) credit hours of physics; such as PHYC 1100X/Y.06 or PHYC 1300X/Y.06 or equivalent, or three (3) credit hours of Physics plus three (3) credit hours of Biomechanics.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2009 – 2010 Academic Dates – for Approval

Ms. Kachan, Assistant Vice-President Enrolment Management and Registrar indicated that, in accordance with the university academic principles, the dates for each term are determined in a way which provides 62 – 65 days/semester. In response to a question, Ms. Kachan indicated that there has not been any move to align the university study break with the Faculty of Medicine or the public school break; the 2010 study break, however, is intended to align with Saint Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent Universities. The academic principles on which the dates are based will be reviewed at SCAA over the coming months.

On behalf of SCAA, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

**THAT** the Senate approve the 2009 – 2010 academic dates, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Creation of a Pending Grade

Mr. Shaver informed Senators that SCAA had approved the grade of PENDING as a new grading option and this item was coming forward only for information. He explained that currently, when there has been an allegation of academic dishonesty against a student, the instructor of the class in question reports an 'INC – Incomplete' as the temporary grade pending the outcome of the academic discipline process. In accordance with the University's grading practice, 'INC – Incomplete' is treated as a failing grade in the GPA calculation. The assignment of a failing grade temporarily is detrimental to the student. The failing grade may result in a student being academically dismissed and in turn withdrawn from classes or prevented from registering. A student, who is ultimately found to be not guilty of the academic offense, may nonetheless have been prevented from moving forward academically during the investigation period.

Assignment of the grade of 'PENDING' to the student being investigated would allow the student to be academically assessed on the basis of all other grades achieved until such time as the outcome of the academic discipline process is determined. The grade of 'PENDING' will also be used on the student record in the case of a transfer credit, when a final grade has not yet been issued at the other institution. The use of this grade related to Dalhousie classes would be limited only to these circumstances. The grade of 'PENDING' would be replaced with a final grade following the outcome of the academic discipline process or receipt of the final grade from the other institution. The student's academic standing would be reassessed at that time.

**2009:08**

Senate Academic Appeal Committee: 2007 – 2008 Annual Report

The Senate Academic Appeal Committee (SCAA) Annual Report was received by Senate. It was noted that Stan Cameron, Chair of the Senate Academic Appeal Committee for 2007 – 2008, has retired from the university and Katherine Harman, was recently elected as the 2008 – 2009 Chair for the SAAC.

**2009:09**

Senate Steering Committee (SSC):

Senate Nominating Committee Nomination: Faculty of Computer Science

On behalf of the SSC, Mr. Fraser **MOVED:**

**THAT** the Senate approve the nomination for Stephen Brooks, Faculty of Computer Science, as a member of the Senate Nominating Committee for the term November 2008 to August 31, 2011.

The motion **CARRIED.**

Senate Officers' Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Fraser advised that this item was being presented for information and comment, and will be brought back to Senate at a future meeting in the form of a proposed change in the Constitution. He summarized the background. The roles of the Senate Officers have been unchanged since at least the early 1990s. Since that time, the roles played by the officers has changed significantly, both because of changing needs and because of strengthened administrative support—in particular with the establishment of the University Secretariat in July 2007. The Senate Steering Committee (SSC) had considered changes in the role of the Senate Officers and proposed that the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary be changed to Chair, Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) and Vice-Chair (Academic Administration). The two vice-chair positions are conceived of as being comparable in terms of workload and responsibility. The Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) would have primary responsibility for Senate Reviews and for Academic Programs, Centres, and Institutes. The Vice-Chair (Academic Administration), former the Secretary of Senate, would have primary responsibility for discipline, appeals, and academic integrity. The Senate Steering Committee would welcome feedback on this proposal and will then bring back a proposed constitutional amendment for Senate's consideration.

Mr. Fraser noted that currently the position of Secretary of Senate is vacant, so SSC wishes to have any redefinition of the officer roles completed prior to Senate filling the vacancy.

Ms. Binkley asked that when the Constitutional provisions are brought back to Senate, she would like to have described the differences in the job duties between the Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) and the Associate Vice-President, Academic in the President's Office.

Mr. El-Hawary wondered if there would be merit in bringing in a motion earlier in order to affect the change in titles. Perhaps we should be looking at it in terms of splitting the two issues. Mr. Fraser said that this has been discussed and the consensus was that, if the constitutional changes could be considered without significant delay, it would be cleaner administratively to make the constitutional amendments first, and then to fill the vacant position.

**2009:10**

Academic Integrity Officer Ratifications – for Approval

Mr. Butler **MOVED:**

**THAT** the Academic Integrity Officer agreed penalties, as listed in the Secretary of Senate's January 6, 2009 memo, be ratified.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2009:11**

Senate Review of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning

The Chair welcomed Farid Taheri, Chair of the Senate Review of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, and Christine Macy, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning (since September 1, 2008). Mr. Taheri



acknowledged the members of the Committee: Melissa Furrow, English Department; Jennifer Powley, student member; Sarah Wells, Physics Department; and Peter Tydemers. Mr. Taheri advised that the Review Committee was very impressed by the Faculty. The committee met with the University President, all the Vice-Presidents, faculty and staff, and representatives from the professions, and with individual faculty and staff who wished to discuss matters in confidence. The Review Committee was in agreement with the mission of the Faculty and noted significant growth, particularly in the School of Planning since 2003, with the relatively new Bachelor of Community Design Studies. As a result, the School of Planning has grown to almost the same size as the School of Architecture, yet they are lacking adequate space, both from the perspective of teaching space and office space. Recommendations were made addressing this issue. The School of Architecture has a severe shortage of space, and the School of Planning has an even more severe shortage of space. The Committee was impressed by the Governance document for the Faculty; however, it recommended that there should be greater clarity on the executive committee's function. It was noted that changes in ERBA had caused a significant impact on the future plans of the Faculty and some of the units. In terms of budget allocation, the committee recommended that because of the growth in the School of Planning the budget allocations to the two schools should be reviewed.

Mr. Taheri noted that there had been some problem regarding the admission to both Schools but that this issue was currently being addressed between the Faculty and the Registrar's Office. One of the Committee's recommendations related to the hiring of new faculty to replace faculty members who are retiring, and it was felt that a Faculty should engage in a visioning process prior to hiring new faculty. The Review Committee also looked at TUNS Press and recommended that it should be run as an academic press or closed.

Ms. Macy then outlined the Faculty Response, noting that the Faculty also was subject to professional accreditation reviews. Those reviews offer different kinds of insight and overview into their programs, as they are looking at them from a professional perspective, whereas the Senate Review offers an opportunity to see how the Faculty's programs fit within the context of the University. She indicated that the Faculty had prepared a very thorough self-study, and that alone was a very interesting and useful exercise. She reported that some of the recommendations of the Senate Review already had been addressed; in other cases—with the help of the senior administration, faculty, students, and staff—the Faculty was working to address them. This included the ERBA issue space planning; and logistical issues, such as registration and regularizing the Faculty's programs and procedures with other parts of the university. The fact that one of the schools runs on a trimester system, while the other operates on a semester system, for example, creates complications with registration and some other matters. The Faculty is engaging in a strategic planning process. The Faculty is looking forward to that process and believes it will be very helpful for future planning.

In response to a question, Mr. Fraser advised that following the consideration of Senate Reviews by the SAPBC and Senate, the Vice-President Academic is asked to continue work with the Faculty and to report back to SAPBC within 18 months on the Faculty's progress in addressing the recommendations. On behalf of Senate, Mr. Fraser thanked the Review Committee for its efforts and hard work, and also the members of the Faculty for their support, cooperation, and diligence.

## **2009:12**

### **President's Report**

Mr. Traves reported that, in anticipation of government initiatives to stimulate the economy, the universities collectively, have been very active in advocating that a significant amount of provincial and national infrastructure financing be directed toward the universities. University campuses across the country have massive deferred maintenance issues. There has been precious little attention to this question by either the provincial government or the federal government—which declines to accept jurisdiction for this issue, but at the same time provides money for research space and research space renewal, so sometimes there is some overlap between provincial and federal jurisdiction. This is an ongoing conversation, but obviously this is a time when governments at both levels are talking quite openly and actively about the value and need for immediate infrastructure spending and that the spending should be on things of lasting value which will contribute to the long-term strength of the country, and in particular, future economic growth. While obviously universities may be somewhat biased, they believe strongly that spending money on university infrastructure would be a very good contribution to this broader goal. As a result, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), has been very active with the federal government in pushing both a general deferred maintenance program and a specific program to support space renovations regarding research infrastructure activities. At the provincial level we have been promoting exactly the same kinds of initiatives, with a more undifferentiated space renewal. The responses are relatively positive and there is no debate about the need. The question is a matter of priority; clearly there are competing priorities. It remains to be seen how this will take shape in federal government financial strategy, and then with the provincial government budget, which will come forward later in the spring.

Dalhousie is particularly active in this. As Chair of AUCC and of the provincial association (CONSUP) Mr. Traves indicated that he has been spending a considerable amount of time on this particular issue. If we receive any funding on this account, we certainly can meet the program need, which will be to spend the money quickly.

**2009:13**

Website Updates:

Senate Website: Restricted Access – Demonstration

Mr. Fraser reported that a restricted, password protected website has been established for Senators and, in future, it will house the Senate meeting materials that are not of a confidential nature. He indicated that it may also house items such as Senate Faculty Review Reports. Some items, such as Agendas, would be publicly accessible but in many cases the detailed documents would not be. Ms. Power gave a brief demonstration and explained that each Senator must log in using their Dalhousie University netid and their password. Mr. Fraser further explained that the most sensitive documents, such as ones related to academic appeals, would not be placed on the restricted website but would continue to be circulated to Senators only in hard copy, with provision for shredding the material following the meeting. For the new few meetings, until Senators become familiar with the password protected site, most background documents for meetings will continue to be available on the regular Senate website, as has been the case in the past. In response to a question, Mr. Fraser indicated that Senators who wished to receive their documents in hard copy form would still be able to do so.

University Secretariat Website – Higher Education links

Ms. Power explained that the Higher Education section is a new area of the University Secretariat website and contains three areas – organizations, publications and reports.

**2009:14**

Other Business

Ms. Campbell informed Senators that on January 21<sup>st</sup> between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Rowe Building the official launch of the College of Sustainability would take place.

**2009:15**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.