

Item: Senate Minutes, March 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, March 9, 2009, in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Barker, Barkhouse, Binkley, Camfield, Cambell, Canning, Cochrane, Coffin, Cook, Couban, Cox, Croll, Fanning, Frank, Gantar, Harman, Haslam, Helland, Jean Hughes, Jon Hughes, Karabanow, Kroeker, Larkin, Macy, McConnell, McLarney, Milson, Moukdad, Nowakowski, Pegg, Ross, Ryan, Schellinck, Scrimger, Shaver, Shepherd, Shukla, Snow, Thornhill, Tindall, Tremblay, Watters.

Regrets: Adshade, Boran, Butler, Crago, Fraser, K., Gassmann, Johnston, Leonard, Maes, MacLaren, McClure, Robinson, Sadek, Saunders, Singleton, Thomas, Traves.

Absent: El-Hawary, El-Masry, Farina, Leon, Persaud, Plug, Rutherford, Scherkoske, Smith, Webster.

Guests: S. Brousseau, A. Power

The Chair called the meeting to order and reminded Senators that the agenda has been amended in order to accommodate attendance by interested senators at an announcement by the Honorable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, at 5:15 p.m. today. All are welcome to attend that session.

2009:30

Adoption of Revised Agenda

The revised agenda was **ADOPTED**.

2009:31

Academic Integrity Officer Ratifications – For Approval

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** (Binkley/Couban):

THAT the Academic Integrity Officer agreed penalties, as presented in the Vice-Chair, Academic Administration's memo of March 2, 2009, be ratified.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2009:32

Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nominations

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

THAT Mr. Andrew Roger, Faculty of Medicine, be nominated for the term March 9, 2009 to June 30, 2010 to the **Senate Computing & Information Technology Planning Committee**.

THAT Ms. Cynthia Andrews, Faculty of Dentistry, be nominated for the term March 9, 2009 to June 30, 2011 to the **Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching**.

THAT Mr. Paul Briggs, Faculty of Medicine, be nominated for the term March 9, 2009 to June 30, 2010 to the **University Security & Parking Committee** as the Carleton Campus Representative.

THAT **Mr. Lei Liu**, Faculty of Engineering, be nominated for the term March 9, 2009 to June 30, 2010 and **Ms. Kathleen Spurr**, Faculty of Health Professions, be nominated for the term March 9, 2009 to June 30, 2011 to the **Senate Library Committee**.

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

2009:33

In Camera. Honorary Degrees Committee: Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Convocation Nominations

According to the rules of parliamentary procedure, the session went *in camera* for this item. The slate of Honorary Degree candidates were approved upon motion. Senate then resumed open session.

2009:34

Senate ad hoc Governance Committee Draft Report: For Preliminary Discussion

Mr. Fraser introduced the draft report of the Senate ad hoc Governance Committee, noting that Mr. Butler, Vice-Chair, who chaired this committee, was unable to attend the Senate meeting. He then introduced members of the committee who were present: Carol Camfield, Eric Snow, Richard Kroeker, Mark Coffin, and Susan Brousseau. The committee was asked to review Senate's standing committee structure. Over the last several years, Senate has received feedback from several committees concerning their terms of reference, roles, responsibilities, and membership, and whether these are still appropriate and meaningful. It was noted that it is some time since there has been a significant review of the committee structure.

Mr. Fraser advised that the ad hoc committee's report has been submitted to the Senate Steering Committee (SSC), and a session was held recently with the Standing and ad hoc Committee Chairs to receive feedback. The report is before Senate today with the intent that comments and feedback will be communicated to the Senate Steering Committee for further consideration.

In the discussion that followed, questions and comments from Senators focused particularly on the overall number of committees, the continuing issue of attracting faculty members to serve on committees, and how Senate and committee service is valued. In response, it was noted that there are two ways the ad hoc committee is proposing to tackle these issues. One way is reducing the number of positions overall, which will occur in small steps, and the other is to make sure that the work that committee members are doing is meaningful. It is also anticipated that the proposed new strategy of primary committees and sub-committees will ensure that smaller Faculties have opportunities for participation without overburdening its members. Smaller, more stream-lined committees and sub-committees (with likely some overlap in membership), will ensure that business is handled effectively and that there is a better conduit of information between committees, sub-committees and the Faculties. Several Senators spoke to the importance of participation in governance activities, but emphasized that the work must be meaningful and recognized if participation is to be increased. Other questions during the discussion focused particularly on the anticipated mandates of the new student experience and academic support services sub-committees. It was noted that this report proposes the overall re-structuring of Senate committees; while some information-gathering and discussion of the actual terms of reference has taken place, this will be the focus of the next stage of the process.

Mr. Stan Cameron, former Chair of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee, also raised a practical matter in regard to reporting and ratification of decisions of the Senate Academic Appeals Committee (SAAC). His view is that the reporting structure should continue to be directly from the SAAC to Senate and not to the newly created Senate Academic Integrity Committee.

Mr. Fraser expressed his sincere thanks to the Ad Hoc Governance Committee for their work and also encouraged Senators to bring forward any additional comments directly to Mr. Butler.

2009:35

Chair's Report

Mr. Fraser reported, for the information of Senators, the passing of a number of members of the University community:

- Innis Christie died in February, at the age of 71. He was a highly respected Law professor, former Dean of the Law School, author, arbitrator, public servant in a variety of roles in the public service, including chairing the Workman's Compensation Board.
- Dimitri Procos, who was founding chair of the Department of Urban and Rural Planning at TUNS, and a member of our Faculty of Architecture and Planning until his retirement in 2006.
- Kurt Ruf, Carnegie and Rockefeller professor, and Head of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the Medical School in the 1980s.
- Michael Schaus, a third year student in Science, a double major in Biology and Economics, died on February 22nd and had recently been added to the Dean's list.

He extended condolences, on behalf of Senate, to those who were close to these individuals.

Mr. Fraser acknowledged this year's Governors Awards recipients - Amy Florian, Kaylyn Fraser, Emily Rideout, and Eric Snow. Kaylyn Fraser and Eric Snow are current members of Senate. The Governors Awards were initiated in 1992 by the Board of Governors, to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Dalhousie Student Union, and to recognize students' contribution to the quality and vitality of the University.

Mr. Fraser noted the call for nominations from the Senate Nominating Committee for the Vice-Chair, Academic Administration, and highlighted that this is a slightly revised role from the former Secretary of Senate. It is an interesting and challenging role and he encouraged all faculty senators to seriously consider the position.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) has approved the following:

- modifications to the Bachelor of Social Work program;
- termination of a number of programs related to Master of Business Administration
 - joint program with the MBA and Master of Health Administration
 - MBA ten-month, part-time, six-month, and the Master of Business Administration/Information Technology programs.

Mr. Fraser noted that he had the privilege of serving on the Committee on the Alumni Teaching Award as a representative of Senate. An announcement will be made in due course, and he noted the very impressive quality of teaching of the various nominees to that Award. He noted as well that the DSU have their awards on Tuesday, March 10th.

Finally, Mr. Fraser noted that a Senate meeting on March 23rd probably will not be required and it is anticipated that the next meeting will be held on April 13, 2009.

2009:36

Other Business

Ms. Binkley inquired about any progress on constituting a committee for the Senate Review of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Mr. Fraser advised there will be a meeting of the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee next week and he anticipates that a chair will be appointed at that meeting.

2009:37

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.