

Item: Senate Minutes, May 2010  
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, May 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Bennett, Boran, Camfield, Campbell, Canning, Cochrane, Couban, Cox, Crago, Croll, Gantar, Garduno, Gassmann, Gilbert, Harman, Hewitt, Hughes, Hymers, Karabanow, LeForte, Lovett, Macy, Maes, Marrie, MacLaren, MacLennan, McLarney, Mitchell, Moore, Nicholson, Pegg, Pelot, Pinder, Robinson, Ross, Saulnier, Shaver, Thorburn, Thornhill, Traves.

Regrets: Barker, Barkhouse, Ciabattoni, Fanning, Kroeker, Lee, Leon, McClure, Rutherford, Ryan, Saunders, Shukla.

Sabbatical: McConnell, Milson, Singleton.

Absent: Barrett, Cunningham, El-Hawary, El-Masry, Farina, Frank, Mechoulan, Sadek, Shepherd, Smith, Sorge-English, Szumilas, Thomas, Watters, Webster, Wedge.

Mr. Fraser welcomed the members of the Senate and guests present. Mr. Fraser announced that this is a great time of year for the Senate because it is the time of year when the University gets to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of members of the Dalhousie community. The Dalhousie Senate presented the 2010 Dalhousie Sessional and Part-Time Instructor Award of Excellence for Teaching to Professor Taghrid Abou Hassan, Department of French; 2010 President's Graduate Teaching Assistant Award to Ms. Sarah Crawford, Department of Chemistry; and the 2010 Dalhousie University Educational Leadership Award to Mr. David Black, Ms. Deborah Buszard and Mr. Steven Mannell from the College of Sustainability: Environment, Sustainability and Society Program.

Mr. Fraser also recognized the new 2010-2011 Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Senators: Mr. Chris Saulnier, President; Mr. Rob LeForte, Vice President, Education; Ms. Maggie Lovett, Senate Representative; Ms. Carly Nicholson, Senate Representative; Mr. Ben Wedge, Senate Representative; and Mr. Alexander Szumilas, Senate Graduate Student Representative.

**2010:052**

**Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

**2010:053**

**Draft Minutes of April 12, 2010 Senate Meeting**

The Draft Minutes of the April 12, 2010 Senate meeting were **APPROVED**.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**2010:054**

**Chair's Report**

Mr. Fraser provided an update on several items and noted that a full written report on these items would be provided at the next Senate meeting. Mr. Fraser noted the follow up to the Senate Review of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), the appointment of Ms. Katherine Harman, Faculty of Health Professions, as Chair of the Senate Review of the

Faculty of Management, an update received at Senate Academic and Budget Priorities Committee (SAPBC) from Mr. Alan Shaver, Vice President Academic & Provost, on the outcome of discussions regarding the Senate Review of the Neuroscience Institute, and SAPBC approvals, on behalf of the Senate, of the Undergraduate Medical Education modified program proposal and the New Postgraduate Medical Residency Programs.

Mr. Fraser also thanked the members of the Senate who took the time to complete the new on-line Senate Feedback survey. The response was up considerably from last year. A follow-up report on the survey feedback will be presented to Senate in June. Mr. Fraser reminded Senators of the May Convocations and encouraged them to attend the ceremonies.

#### **2010:055**

##### **President's Report**

Mr. Traves updated the Senate on the HERO bursary, a project brought forward by the DSU that supports the children of Canadian Military personnel who have died in current, active mission. Mr. Traves discussed that the University is fairly far along with budget planning for the upcoming academic year. The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) is currently wrestling with the challenge of a \$9.2 million dollar deficit, which must be eliminated before presenting the budget to the Board of Governors (BOG) who only considers balanced budgets. The increased Pension Plan contribution is a serious factor affecting a balanced budget and the Ad Hoc Committee on Pension Sustainability has been created to represent all the parties affected by the Pension situation in order to find a resolution. In looking forward the BAC must consider other factors such as the end of the MOU and therefore has deemed it necessary to create a two-year budget plan to prepare for these financial changes. While there have been positive forecasts for increased enrolment that would provide increased budget funds, this additional income would not completely eliminate the deficit. It will still take the remaining five to six weeks before the July 1 budget deadline to fully iron out all the budget details and issues.

Mr. Traves also discussed the Provincial Government's \$2.5 million dollar cut to the Medical Education Program. There was some confusion between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education if this funding had already been allocated resulting in a double payment to Dalhousie. Dalhousie has been working with the Ministries to clear up the misunderstanding and a resolution on this matter is expected very soon.

Mr. Traves mentioned the two new major capital projects that have been discussed at the BOG. The first is the construction of a new student residence and multipurpose building that would be built across from Risley Hall. A new student residence has been made possible through selling Fenwick Towers, which Dalhousie had owned, and given significant renovations needed it was more economical to sell it to pay for the mortgage on a new residence in a more prime location on campus. The second major project is the construction of a new Athletics Facility and renovations to the existing Dalplex Athletic Facility and Sexton Campus Gym. The BOG approved an increase of \$180 for full time student tuition once the facilities are complete to fund these projects. Furthermore, the community memberships will also increase to help absorb the cost.

#### **2010:056**

##### **In Camera – Senate Steering Committee**

The Senate went in camera for the next three items.

##### **Ratification of Senate Ad Hoc Appeal – Decision Received on March 7, 2008**

The Chair requested Senate's permission for Mr. Bob Mann, the new Manager, Discipline and Appeals, to remain during the two Senate academic appeal ratifications. Senate was in agreement and then went into an in camera session. All non-senators were then asked to leave the meeting. When the Senate meeting resumed in open session, the Chair reported that the Senate Academic Appeal Panel's decision received on March 7, 2008 had been ratified.

### **Ratification of Senate Ad Hoc Appeal – Decision Received on April 9, 2010**

Senate remained in camera. When the Senate meeting resumed in open session, the Chair reported that the Senate Academic Appeal Panel's decision received on April 9, 2010 had been ratified.

**2010:057**

### **In Camera – Honorary Degrees Committee: Nominations for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011**

Senate remained in camera. When Senate returned to open session, Mr. Fraser announced that the slate of nominations to receive an honorary degree from Dalhousie was approved.

**2010:058**

### **Senate Committee on Academic Administration: Hood for the Bachelor of Community Building and Design (BCBD) Degree**

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, Mr. Shaver **MOVED**:

**THAT** the Senate approve that the hood for the Bachelor of Community Building and Design be chartreuse silk with a peacock blue silk border and red cording.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Ms. Christine Macy, Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, explained to the Senate the significance of the approval of the hood. Ms. Macy noted that the colors and design reflect the Gambian flag, which honors the convocation of the first cohort of international students to graduate from the Community Building and Design Program; a joint project between Dalhousie University, the Gambia Technical Training Institute and the University of the Gambia. Further to the success of this graduating class, one graduating student has been further provided a partial scholarship to support their Graduate education.

**2010:059**

### **Dalhousie University's Research Funding and Performance – Presentation**

Mr. Fraser asked Senators if the Senate meeting could be extended for an extra half hour to ensure the balance of the agenda items could be discussed. Senators agreed. He then welcomed Ms. Martha Crago, Vice President Research, to discuss Dalhousie's Research Funding and Performance. Ms. Crago emphasized that research is engaged in to create knowledge that can then be transferred and extended to our teaching at Dalhousie and beyond. Dalhousie faculty are encouraged to maintain the highest standards of research.

Following some Federal Government changes to research funding, the new areas of focus for research funds are: Science, Technology and Innovation, and Environment, Energy, Health and IT; thus, this is not the best news for Social Scientists. Importance has also been placed on the practical application of research that is being conducted in these areas. In considering how Dalhousie has been performing from a research funding perspective, overall the amount of research dollars received annually has greatly increased since 2005. In regards to research intensity, the numbers vary on how many people at Dalhousie are actually considered able to receive funding and therefore the ranking of Dalhousie in research intensity performance varies depending on how many people are deemed potential funding recipients. In terms of individual grants, Dalhousie has a strong performance in this area as well as in collaborative research and training experience programs where Dalhousie actually receives a much larger funding percentage than one would expect based on our size. In terms of Discovery Grants, Dalhousie does very well and has submitted many. Dalhousie has not submitted any National Centre of Excellence (NCE) proposals and nor have any been submitted by any other Atlantic Regional university. Dalhousie also received a Canada Excellence Research Chair, which is a significant accomplishment given the competitive nature of the funding competition and the limited availability of these awards. As well, Dalhousie has a high number of quality publications, which is especially successful given the lower level of funding received for research.

Ms. Crago noted that in looking forward Dalhousie must remain competitive by focusing on the areas where we perform strongly, and to consider building a critical mass in research areas of interest. There is opportunity in Halifax to access resources such as the hospital facilities and local industries and communities that are interested in participating and taking part in University research initiatives. Furthermore, there ought to be an emphasis on administrative supports for these research grants in order to ensure plans are implemented and followed. Dalhousie is also currently working with the NS Government to establish a solid vision and message for why investing in research is important for the Government to continue funding. The existing Federal partnerships, while not large in terms of research funding dollars, are an area where Dalhousie has been successful and therefore should seek to continue a reputation of success at the Federal level.

During the discussion of the presentation on Dalhousie's Research Funding and Performance, the following points were noted:

- Concern was raised over the potential for individual research to fall to the margins in favor of focusing on large-scale research initiatives. Basic research is still very important and this needs to be emphasized. While it may be difficult to show results over short amounts of time, over the scope of a number of years of research the results of basic research initiatives can be very significant.
- It was noted that clinical trials of a few million dollars might sometimes be considered a low number.
- Is there potential for a Maritime Coalition of Universities when applying for some of the research grants?

Mr. Fraser thanked Ms. Crago for her presentation and discussion. Due to the time constraint, Ms. Crago will respond to questions on the research presentation at the next meeting of Senate.

#### **2010:060**

##### **Senate Ad Hoc Governance Committee Structure & Terms of Reference**

Mr. Fraser presented a brief overview of the new terms of reference and structure for Senate Standing Committees. There have been a number of consultation meetings and discussions regarding the new Senate Committees terms of reference and structure. In providing some history, the present Committee structure dates back over thirty years when the University was only about half the size it is now. In 1979, discussions began regarding the potential of setting up five Committees and reducing the size of Senate. Following a year of discussion the Committee structure was adopted; however, the reduction in Senate was declined. By 1995, Senate had grown to over 400 members, and therefore there was a need for a reduction in numbers at this time. Presently, there are approximately 200 active members on Senate and the 13 Standing Committees, although not all the Committees are active. Following a recommendation last year for governance restructuring, some guiding principles were established. These principles focus on ensuring that as the acting senior academic body, the Senate and its standing Committees have the power to make decisions on matters such as research and quality. The current restructuring plan includes Committees that consider the macro issues such as overall large-scale planning of University activities; the intermediate level including Academic Programs and Research Initiatives; and thirdly the micro level day to day matters by the Senate Educational Experience Committee. There will be some operational guidelines established mandating the relationship between the Committees.

#### **2010:061**

##### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **2010:062**

##### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.