

Item: Senate Minutes, November 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, November 22, 2010 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Amirault, Barker, Barkhouse, Bennett, Boran, Brooks, Canning, Cochrane, Couban, Crago, Croll, Gantar, Gardner, Garduno, Gassmann, Gilbert, M., Gilbert, R., Hughes, Karabanow, Lee, LeForte, Lovett, Maes, Mansour, Marche, Marrie, MacLaren, MacLennan, McLarney, Meynell, Milson, Moore, Noble, Pegg, Pinder, Rapaport, Ross, Saulnier, Schellinck, Shepherd, Shukla, Summerby-Murray, Szumilas, Thorburn, Tillotson, Traves, Wach, Wedge, Westwood.

Regrets: Campbell, Castleden, Chen, Cox, Cunningham, Gorsky, Hewitt, Leon, Nicholson, Pelot, Singleton, Thornhill, Watters.

Absent: El-Masry, Farina, Macy, McClure, McConnell, Sadek, Smith, Thomas, Webster.

2010:100

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as circulated.

2010:101

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of October 25, 2010 Senate Meeting

THAT the Senate approve the draft minutes of October 25, 2010 Senate meeting.

Approved by Consent.

Senate Nominating Committee: Nominations to Senate Standing Committees

THAT the Senate appoint Ms. Heather Andreas, Faculty of Science, to the Senate Committee on Learning & Teaching (SCOLT) for the term November 22, 2010 to June 30, 2011;

THAT the Senate appoint Mr. J. Michael Lee, Faculty of Graduate Studies, to the Senate Library Committee (SLC) for the term November 22, 2010 to June 30, 2011; and

THAT the Senate appoint Mr. Eddy Ng, Faculty of Graduate Studies, to the Senate Appeals Committee (SAC) for the term November 22, 2010 to June 30, 2013.

Approved by Consent.

Appointment of Ombudsperson

THAT the Senate approve the appointment of Ms. Nicole Adams as the Ombudsperson for 2010-2011.

Approved by Consent.

2010:102

Matters Arising from the Draft Senate Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2010

- The draft Senate Constitution will be circulated soon and there hopefully will be an opportunity for discussion at the next meeting in December, before the Senate vote. Mr. Fraser encouraged Senators to take a look at the draft and raise questions and concerns early on.
- The Vice President, Student Services has outlined the implementation plans for the Student Accommodation Policy via email to the University community.
- At the October 25 Senate meeting, the Senate Committee on Academic Administration agenda item - Faculty of Health Professions: Inter-professional Education Courses & Program Requirement Proposal – IPHE 4900 “in-progress” Grade – had been deferred. This item will come forward to a Senate meeting when ready.

2010:103

Chair of Senate Annual Report 2009-2010

Mr. Fraser extended condolences to family, friends, and colleagues on the passing of Dr. Patricia Anne Monture. Mr. Fraser congratulated the Faculty of Management for being selected by European CEO Magazine for the Global Business Education award for the most innovative business school in Canada.

Mr. Fraser noted that on November 15, 2010, the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee, on behalf of Senate, approved the reinstatement of admission to the combined Master of Business Administration and Master of Engineering for July 2011. This proposal would now go to the Board of Governors for final approval.

Mr. Fraser introduced the Chair of Senate’s Annual Report: 2009-2010, and noted that the report was a presentation of Senate’s activities and accomplishments over the previous 12 month period, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The Chair’s report highlighted the main activities that were at the focal point of Senate and its Standing Committees during this period; namely, Governance, Policies and Procedures, Curriculum Innovation and Renewal, as well as contributions to a variety of University issues and projects.

2010:104

President’s Report

Mr. Traves noted that the search for the Vice President, Academic and Provost is moving forward and it is anticipated that there would be two or three candidates who would be brought to campus in the New Year for a full public consultation. Mr. Traves congratulated the Faculty of Engineering for the extension of accreditation for an additional three-year period. Mr. Traves reported that the Board of Governors had approved the Campus Master Plan – Framework Plan and the construction of a new research building attached to the Life Sciences Center. The university was actively planning a multipurpose building on Le Marchant Street and an inter-professional health education building on University Avenue. Mr. Traves noted that the government had indicated its plan to commence the discussion of a multi-year funding Memorandum of Understanding with the universities in the New Year. Mr. Traves indicated that he had circulated a memo concerning Dalhousie Pension Plan and that some decisions will have to be taken shortly.

2010:105

**Senate Committee on Academic Administration
Policy on Awarding a Posthumous Degree – Revisions**

Mr. Fraser noted that the amendment to the policy was essentially a minor amendment to indicate that the transcript, and not the parchment, was the area where the posthumous awarding was noted.

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

A posthumous degree may be awarded to a deceased student under the following circumstances. The student must have:

- a. Died while a student, or within 12 months of the last registration;
- b. Been in good academic standing of a high enough standard that eventual graduation was expected;
- c. For an undergraduate student in a program requiring 20 credits, completed at least 15 credits;
- d. For an undergraduate student in a program requiring 15 credits, completed at least 12 credits;
- e. For a graduate student in a course-based Master's program, completed 75% of the course work;
- f. For a graduate student in a thesis-based Master's program, completed all course work and submitted a draft of the thesis deemed satisfactory by the supervisor and one other committee member; and
- g. For a graduate student in a Ph.D. program, completed all course work, comprehensive examination (or equivalent) and thesis proposal, and submitted a complete draft of the thesis approved by the committee and an external examiner.

A student who was in an Honours or 20-credit undergraduate program at the time of death, but is not eligible for a posthumous Honours or 20-credit degree, may be recommended for the corresponding 15 credit degree, if the criteria for that degree are met.

Procedures:

- a. On receiving notice of the death of a student, the Registrar, in consultation with the department or school and the Dean(s), shall determine if the deceased student is eligible for a posthumous degree and communicates this information to the Chair of Senate, the Provost and the President.
- b. Upon agreement from all the parties, the Registrar will communicate with the next of kin to confirm whether the family wishes to have a posthumous degree conferred and to discuss possible arrangements for the awarding of the degree.
- c. The posthumous degree will be noted as such in the list of graduands approved by Senate in the Convocation program and on the transcript, but not on the parchment.
- d. If the family wishes, a representative may cross the stage during Convocation in place of the deceased student to receive the degree parchment.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Academic Regulation 16.2 – Mid-Term Scheduling Rule – Revised

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

THAT the Senate approve that Academic Regulation 16.2 in the Undergraduate Calendar be amended to read: Tests are normally scheduled during class time. Tests scheduled outside class time should not conflict with regularly scheduled classes. Dates and times must be included in the course syllabus.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Faculty of Dentistry – Grading Scale

Mr. Ron Bannerman, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Faculty of Dentistry, noted that historically a grade of D is the lowest passing grade, and the lowest score to achieve a D grade is 50%. The proposed motion would designate a numeral score of 65% as the minimum passing score, which is the pass mark for the standardized national examinations instituted by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada.

During the discussion of the motion the following was noted:

- A question was asked, if the proposed passing grade had been in effect during the past year, how many students who previously had passed, would now fail with the higher numerical passing grade. Mr. Bannerman gave the current statistics, indicating that with a 65% passing grade there would be more students requiring

supplemental examinations, or being asked to withdraw. Mr. Bannerman noted that the Faculty would explain this change to students so that they could be better prepared.

- Mr. Bannerman noted that a passing grade of 65% was commonly seen in other Canadian university dentistry programs.

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

THAT Senate approve that, effective in the 2011/12 academic year, the letter grade-numerical score conversion scale for all classes in the Faculty of Dentistry designate a numerical score of 65% as the minimum passing score. This scale will be used for all courses in the Faculty of Dentistry programs, except those classes directed/taught by Departments outside of the Faculty of Dentistry.

A friendly amendment was proposed and accepted, substituting “all undergraduate classes” for “all classes.” The reworded motion follows:

THAT Senate approve that, effective in the 2011/12 academic year, the letter grade-numerical score conversion scale for all undergraduate classes in the Faculty of Dentistry designate a numerical score of 65% as the minimum passing score. This scale will be used for all undergraduate courses in the Faculty of Dentistry programs, except those classes directed/taught by Departments outside of the Faculty of Dentistry.

The motion **CARRIED**.

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

THAT Senate approve that effective in the 2011/12 academic year, the following letter grade-numerical score conversion scale be implemented for all classes in the Faculty of Dentistry.

In this scale 65% is the minimum passing numerical score. GPA equivalencies for final letter grades are consistent with the Dalhousie University GPA equivalency scale.

Numerical Score	Letter Grade	Grade Point Equivalent
95-100.....	A+.....	4.3
90-94.....	A.....	4.0
85-89.....	A-.....	3.7
80-84.....	B+.....	3.3
75-79.....	B.....	3.0
70-74.....	B-.....	2.7
65-69.....	C.....	2.0
N/A.....	INC.....	0.0
0-64.....	F.....	0.0
N/A.....	P (pass for credit).....	Neutral
N/A.....	W (withdraw).....	Neutral
Pending.....	Neutral

A friendly amendment was proposed and accepted, striking the words “GPA equivalencies for final letter grades are consistent with the Dalhousie University GPA equivalency scale.” The revised motion follows:

THAT Senate approve that effective in the 2011/12 academic year, the following letter grade-numerical score conversion scale be implemented for all undergraduate classes in the Faculty of Dentistry. In this scale 65% is the minimum passing numerical score.

Numerical Score	Letter Grade	Grade Point Equivalent
95-100.....	A+.....	4.3
90-94.....	A.....	4.0
85-89.....	A-.....	3.7
80-84.....	B+.....	3.3
75-79.....	B.....	3.0
70-74.....	B-.....	2.7
65-69.....	C.....	2.0
N/A.....	INC.....	0.0
0-64.....	F.....	0.0
N/A.....	P.. (pass for credit).....	Neutral
N/A.....	W.. (withdraw).....	Neutral
Pending.....	Neutral

The motion **CARRIED**.

2010:106

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee: New Program Proposal – Master of Journalism

Ms. Kelly Toughill, Director and Associate Professor, University of King’s College spoke to the new program proposal for the Master of Journalism. She noted that this proposal was built on an existing framework of joint degrees between Dalhousie and King’s College. The pedagogical objective of the program is to prepare journalists to lead innovation in the news industry. The program would have two streams: investigative journalism and new ventures. The investigative stream offered a theoretical base and practical instruction in investigative reporting. Students would graduate proficient in new forms of specialized research skills such as data mining public records and reporting with geo-location systems. Graduates would be in demand by news agencies that need public service journalists of maximal efficiency. The new venture stream was for students who want to launch a new Journalism enterprise on their own or through an existing media organization. Graduates would be able to develop a successful strategy, organizational structure and financial backing for a new venture. Both streams respond to changes in the structure and form of the news industry, and were developed after deep consultation with leaders in the field.

The program will be restricted to students who have a Bachelor of Journalism (BJ) degree. The program would draw heavily from King’s existing BJ and BJH programs. The rare applicant who had not graduated from a four-year undergraduate Journalism program could be eligible to apply under a prior learning assessment process. Enrolment is estimated at 20 students per year, duration will be 10 months with the program starting in June. The new venture stream includes two courses offered by the Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University. Students might be offsite for the final three months, working on a professional project. Tuition will be \$230 per credit hour, or roughly \$7,000 for the entire program.

Atlantic Canada is the only region of the country not currently offering a Master of Journalism degree. A survey of alumni and graduating students of the School of Journalism at the University of King’s College found strong support for the Master of Journalism proposal. When asked if they would be personally interested in the program, 72 per cent said “yes” or “maybe.” The Master of Journalism program at Ryerson University received 10 applications for every admission space. Senior leaders at The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, the CBC and The Halifax Chronicle Herald had written letters endorsing the approach of the program and confirming the competitive advantage its graduates would have in the job market.

During the discussion of the motion the following points were noted:

- Half of the credits were in core classes.
- There were no specialist streams, such as science reporting and political reporting, offered right now, but the program was structured in such a way that other specialties could be added at a later date.

- There were many people being laid off in the journalism industry, while at the same time there were many with different skills being hired.
- The program was projected to be revenue neutral.
- The program intended to interact and collaborate with other programs at Dalhousie and King's College.
- Other Master of Journalism programs in Canada largely only admit students who do not already have a Bachelor of Journalism degree.
- A question was asked if this venture was unsuccessful, what would be the cost. Ms. Toughill noted that financially there would be very little cost, while the primary danger was the damage of reputation, which has been built over time.

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

THAT the Senate approve the Master of Journalism program proposal with a start date of June 2011. This start date is conditional upon signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Dalhousie University and the University of King's College prior to the start of the program.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2010:107

2009-2010 Annual Reports:

Mr. Fraser noted that the 2009-2010 annual reports were routinely received by Senate and presented for information. The following individuals were available to respond to questions:

- Faculty Discipline Process – Mr. Carl Canning, Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Administration)
- Senate Discipline Committee – Mr. Vaughan Black, former SDC Chair
- Senate Appeals Committee – Mr. Lloyd Fraser, as Ms. Katherine Harman was unable to be present
- Ombudsperson's Report – Mr. Marc Braithwaite, Executive Director, Student Wellness (Student Services)
- Code of Student Conduct – Mr. Marc Braithwaite, Executive Director, Student Wellness (Student Services)
- Senate Reviews of Faculties – Mr. Lloyd Fraser, Chair, Senate Academic Priorities & Budget Committee

2010:108

Proposed Senate Standing Committees

In describing the proposed new Senate Standing Committee structure, Mr. Fraser noted that four standing committees—Senate Nominating Committee, Senate Honorary Degrees Committee, Senate Appeals Committee, and Senate Discipline Committee—were relatively unchanged; the other three new proposed Committees would pick up the work of nine current committees. The three new committees are: Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, and the Senate Educational Experience Committee. Mr. Fraser outlined each of the three committee's proposed mandates, functions and membership. Mr. Fraser further noted that there would be a reduced number of individuals involved in the seven committees. The proposed new governance structure is designed to provide stronger links between Senate and its Standing Committees.

During the discussion of the presentation, the following points were noted:

- Instead of enshrining special project committees in the constitution, ad hoc committees could be formed and then disbanded after their work was completed. There would also be sub-committees, whose work was ongoing.
- Mr. Fraser noted that the Senate Nominating Committee proposed that in the future Senate would indicate to incoming Senators a normal expectation of serving on Senate committees, for it was hoped that the membership of the Senate would overlap that of its committees. Currently there lacked a good system of filling Senate committees, and it would be advantageous to both the University and the individuals for the Senate to develop a diverse pool of faculty members to serve on its committees.
- A question was asked why research fell under the mandate of the Senate Academic Programs & Research

Committee, not the Senate Planning & Governance committee. Mr. Fraser noted that this continued the current practice that research related issues were considered by the Senate Academic Priorities & Budget Committee.

2010:109

Question Period

There were no questions.

2010:110

Other Business

There was no other business.

2010:111

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.