

Item: Senate Minutes, March 2011

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 21, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Adshade, Barkhouse, Bennett, Campbell, Canning, Chen, Cochrane, Cox, Croll, Gantar, Gardner, Gassmann, Gilbert, Gorsky, J. Hughes, Karabanow, Lovett, Macy, Maes, Mansour, Marche, MacLennan, McClure, McConnell, McLarney, Mechoulam, Meynell, Milson, Moukdad, Noble, Pegg, Pelot, Pinder, Rapaport, Ross, Schellinck, Shukla, Smith, Summerby-Murray, Szumilas, Tillotson, Traves, Wach, Watters, Wedge, Westwood

Regrets: Barker, Boran, Crago, Cunningham, El-Masry, Garduno, Hewitt, E. Hughes, LeForte, Leon, Marrie, MacLaren, Moore, Nicholson, Saulnier, Shepherd, Singleton, Thorburn, Webster

Absent: Amirault, Brooks, Couban, Farina, Lee, Sadek, Thomas

Guests: K. Crombie, F. McGinn

2011:38

Adoption of Agenda

The March 21, 2011 Senate agenda was adopted with one amendment. Agenda item #6 was removed.

2011:39

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of February 14, 2010 Senate Meeting

THAT the Senate approve the draft minutes of the February 14, 2010 Senate meeting as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

2011:40

Matters Arising from the Draft Senate Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2010

It was noted that the Budget Advisory Committee Report would appear later on the agenda. There were no other matters arising.

2011:41

Chair of Senate Report

Mr. Fraser congratulated, on behalf of Senate, the student representatives recently elected in the DSU elections – Chris Saulnier, President; Sarah Bouchard, Vice-President, Academic and External; Jamie Arron, Vice-President, Student Life; Jonathan Magill and Margaret Scrimgeour, Undergraduate Senate Representatives; and Max Ma and Dustin Griffin, Board of Governors Representatives. Mr. Fraser extended condolences to family and friends on the death of Ms. Anita Slaunwhite and Professor Susan Campbell.

Mr. Fraser reported that the combined Master of Business Administration/Master of Library and Information Studies program had been terminated by the Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee (SAPBC), on behalf of Senate, at the March 7, 2011 SAPBC meeting.

Mr. Fraser updated the Senate on approvals by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission: Reinstatement of the combined Master of Business Administration/Master of Engineering program; Master of Journalism program which will be offered jointly by Dalhousie University and the University of King's College; and the conversion of the credential for the Bachelor of Laws to Juris Doctor.

Mr. Fraser noted the approval of graduands for convocation between convocations attached to the Senate agenda for information, and noted that the next scheduled Senate meeting would be on April 11th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

2011:42

President's Report

Mr. Traves invited Senators to the launch of the capital campaign on March 29th in the McInnes Room, Student Union Building, at noon. He noted that the Budget Advisory Committee was entering into the next stage in developing the draft budget and collective bargaining will be moving forward, along with efforts to address the pension situation.

2011:43

Senate Academic Priorities and Budget Committee:

New Program Proposal – Bachelor of Science (Recreation) Honours and Honours Conversion

Fred McGinn, Interim Director, School of Health and Human Performance, spoke to the proposal to introduce an Honours and Honours Conversion option in the Bachelor of Science (Recreation) program, and noted that currently students who are interested in applying to the graduate program (MA in Leisure Studies) within the School are placed at a disadvantage when compared to those from other undergraduate programs, since an honours degree (or research experience) is a requirement of the Dalhousie University Masters program.

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

THAT Senate approve the new program proposal for the Bachelor of Science (Recreation) Honours and Honours Conversion as presented, with a start date of September 2012.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2011:44

Senate Steering Committee: Proposed Senate Constitution

Mr. Fraser gave an overview of the background and highlights of the proposed Constitution and outlined the proposed timeline for implementation.

In the discussion of meeting procedures, Mr. Fraser clarified that:

- Any motion proposing constitutional change requires seven days notice of motion and an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of members voting; any amendment to such a motion requires only a simple majority for approval of the amendment.
- Any motion to postpone a decision would need to be seconded, would be debatable, and would require a simple majority for approval.
- If a motion to postpone a decision on agenda item #8 (Proposed Senate Constitution) carried, agenda item #9 (Proposed Senate Standing Committees' Terms of Reference) and #10 (Senate Appeals Committee: Jurisdiction and Appeals Procedures) would not be discussed at this time.

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

THAT Senate, by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting, revoke the Constitutional Provisions Governing the Operation of Senate in its entirety and including all amendments thereto, effective June

30, 2011, and approve the adoption of the Dalhousie University Senate Constitution, as presented in a document dated March 9, 2011, such adoption to be effective July 1, 2011.

Mr. Fraser indicated that due notice of motion had been given with the agenda circulated to members seven days in advance of the meeting; the following amendment also had been circulated with the agenda.

Ms. Tillotson **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Bennett:

THAT The proposed Constitution be amended at s. 5.1 (b) to include the following text: "As far as possible, membership to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee will be constituted to strive to ensure full and proportional representation across the range of diverse Faculty interests and mandates spanning the University."

Mr. Fraser then indicated that following the distribution of the proposed amendment, there had been an opportunity to refine the wording and the following was now proposed to replace the original amendment:

THAT The proposed Constitution be amended at s. 5.1 (b) to include the following text: "Membership in the Senate Planning and Governance Committee will be constituted to provide, as far as possible, full and proportional representation across the range of diverse Faculty interests and mandates spanning the University."

The substitution was accepted by unanimous consent.

During the discussion of the amendment, it was noted that the purpose of the amendment was to clarify and emphasize the principle of ensuring a diverse representation on the Planning and Governance Committee from across all Faculties.

The amendment **CARRIED**.

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

- It was suggested that Senate was not ready to vote on the proposed Constitution, noting the following reasons:
 - The current Constitution contained passages concerning Senate's self-definition and its perception of its relationship to the university administration, to the Board, and to the Faculty Association, which were absent from the proposed constitution.
 - The current constitution contained reference to the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA), yet there had been no consultation with the DFA. There might be elements of the proposed constitution that would be inconsistent with the collective agreement.
 - In the current constitution, there were statements asserting Senate's primacy in academic governance and priorities, which were not explicit in the proposed constitution.
 - Senate ought to take the proposed constitution back to its constituents, explain the difference, and gain the grassroots confidence before proceeding to a vote.
- It was suggested that there was discomfort concerning certain legal aspects of the proposed constitution, with insufficient time for discussion.
- In response to a question, Mr. Fraser indicated that Senate had conducted a governance review in 2008-09 and in 2009-10 had appointed a working group to develop the proposed new committee structure. Based on this work, the preparation of the proposed Constitution and Committee Terms of Reference began in June 2010, with the assistance of the University Legal Counsel. The process had included considerable consultation; the draft constitution had been circulated to Senators in December, with discussion at the January 10th and February 14th meetings.
- It was suggested that the nature of Senate's relationship with the Board of Governors and the Dalhousie Faculty Association ought to be included in the proposed constitution, since comments on these relationships were contained in the existing constitution. It was suggested by others that the constitution was not the appropriate document in which to describe such relationships. Senate could not unilaterally dictate relationships with other bodies.

Mr. Noble **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. McConnell:

THAT Senate postpone the vote scheduled for March 21, 2011 on the proposed Senate Constitution (Agenda Item 8.1) until Senate meets in session in November of 2011 or until full and direct consultation with the professoriate and all of Senate's constituencies has taken place, so that Senate is assured it has the fullest confidence of all these Senate constituencies.

In discussion of the motion, clarification was sought concerning details of the proposed consultation and the implications of adopting the proposed motion.

The question was called. The motion **FAILED**.

Mr. Fraser re-read the motion, as amended:

THAT Senate, by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting, revoke the Constitutional Provisions Governing the Operation of Senate in its entirety and including all amendments thereto, effective June 30, 2011, and approve the adoption of the Dalhousie University Senate Constitution, as presented in a document dated March 9, 2011, such adoption to be effective July 1, 2011; and

THAT The proposed Constitution be amended at s. 5.1 (b) to include the following text: "Membership in the Senate Planning and Governance Committee will be constituted to provide, as far as possible, full and proportional representation across the range of diverse Faculty interests and mandates spanning the University."

There was no further discussion.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2011:45

Senate Steering Committee: Proposed Senate Standing Committees' Terms of Reference

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

THAT Senate, by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting, approve the terms of reference for the following Senate Standing Committees as presented in a document dated March 9, 2011, such terms of reference to be effective July 1, 2011: Senate Planning and Governance Committee; Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee; Senate Learning and Teaching Committee; Senate Nominating Committee; Senate Honorary Degrees Committee; Senate Appeals Committee; and Senate Discipline Committee.

Mr. Fraser indicated that due notice of motion had been given with the agenda circulated to members seven days in advance of the meeting.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2011:46

Senate Steering Committee: Senate Academic Appeals – Jurisdiction and Appeals Procedures

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

THAT Senate approve the document titled Senate Academic Appeals – Jurisdiction and Appeals Procedures, dated March 9, 2011, as presented, such approval to be effective July 1, 2011.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2011:47

Motion from Senators J. Gantar/L. Meynell

Mr. Gantar **MOVED**, Ms. Meynell seconded:

THAT The Senate Planning and Governance Committee undertake a broadly consultative exercise to explore and identify principles and values that will guide Senate in carrying out its responsibilities, for adoption by Senate by June 30, 2012; and

THAT The Senate Planning and Governance Committee recommend to Senate any appropriate amendment(s) to the preamble (Background) to the Senate Constitution arising out of these principles and values.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2011:48

Budget Advisory Committee: Discussion Paper on the Operating Budget Plan for 2011-2012 (Report #2 for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year)

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

2011:49

Question Period

Mr. Fraser noted two questions that had been received. The first question concerned a report that the university would be admitting 10 students from Saudi Arabia to the Faculty of Medicine. Mr. Fraser reported that the Dean of Medicine was away but had indicated to him that it was the intent to select 10 Saudi students from a pool of 30 applicants, using the same criteria as for any other students admitted to the Faculty of Medicine. The gender balance is unknown at this point. In response to a second question, Mr. Fraser reported that Dalhousie University had been one of twelve Atlantic universities who had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs, intended to improve access to post-secondary education and research opportunities for Aboriginal youth in Atlantic Canada.

2011:50

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.