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## SENATE MEETING MINUTES May 10, 2013

The 550<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, May 10, 2013, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

**PRESENT:** Dr. Dodds, Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Bradshaw, Dr. Enns, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Austin, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Ivanoff, Dr. Power, Dr. Russell, Dr. Secord, Dr. Sewell, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Street, Dr. Adam Sarty (for Dean Smith), Mr. MacDonell, Mr. Coady, Mr. Ermal Loshi (SMUSA), Dr. Renee Hulan (ENGL Dept) and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate

**REGRETS:** Dr. Barclay, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Smith, Dr. van Proosdij, Dr. Wang, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Mr. Hotchkiss, Mr. Michael, Mr. Perry and Mr. Slaunwhite (SMUSA)

Meeting commenced at 2:34 P.M.

**12067**      **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**  
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

**12068**      **SPRING GRADUATES**  
Documentation circulated at the meeting by the Registrar as **Appendix A**  
**Key Discussion Points:**

- There were a couple of extra copies of the graduate listing available for reference. Hard copies are only provided for the Deans and the Senate file.
- There is approximately the same number of graduates as there were last year with a similar distribution across the faculties.
- We also have two posthumous graduate awards.
- For the morning ceremony we have 40 faculty members confirmed as attending. In the afternoon there are 20 faculty confirmed at this time. More faculty representation is needed.
- A proposal was submitted in regard to the possibility of including traditional Aboriginal drumming in the May 2013 Convocation ceremony and other convocations to follow. The Registrar advised that further investigation is necessary before we decide whether to change the traditional program.
- There are a small number of outstanding grades. We will need the enabling motion again this year.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, “**to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix A) at the Spring Convocation**”. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, “**to enable the Registrar to add such graduates to this list as may be identified subsequent to this meeting.**” Motion carried unanimously.

12069

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2013, were *circulated* as **Appendix B**. The following revisions were noted:

- Page 5, item 4 - WMST in the fourth sub bullet point – The Dean had a few editorial changes for clarity which she read to the members. The Dean will submit it in writing.
- Page 4, the last bullet in item 3, joint MA WGST – change the question to: “How does the Department of Sociology and Criminology feel about hosting the WMST Program?”
- Mark Slaunwhite’s name has no ‘e’ in it. Correct the spelling.
- Page 8, New Business – a) In the last bullet point the word dropbox should begin with a capital.

Moved by MacDonell, and seconded, ‘**that the minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2013 are approved as revised.**’ Motion carried.

12070

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

12071

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. Academic Planning

001 English Department program review documentation attached as APC Notice of Motion-**Appendix C**, Self Study-**Appendix D**, Dean’s Response to Self-Study-**Appendix E** External Reviewers Report-**Appendix F**, Department Response, **Appendix G**, and Dean’s Response-**Appendix H**. Dr. Renee Hulan attended to answer questions.

Key Discussion Points:

- Gauthier advised that two motions are being brought forward from the APC.
- Question: Is the second motion regarding a review of English 1205 a review of the course itself or is it a review of the requirement for that course within the various degree programs? Answer: On page 7 and 8 in the external program reviewer’s report there are a number of recommendations related to the issues identified by the reviewer within their report. It is those

issues and recommendations that will define the scope of the review of ENGL 1205.

- Question: The external reviewers had a large number of recommendations that were outside of the scope of the department. Are they going to be addressed by the university? Answer: The APC has taken these under advisement but they are not being addressed at this time.
- Question: There were two recommendations that were not addressed by the Department but they were within the scope of the Department. These were recommendations 9 and 14. For example 14 relates to low enrolment in courses and that is everyone's concern isn't it? Recommendation 9 seems to be asking for a committee to review the department's commitment to interdisciplinary programs. Answer: In the view of the department, we addressed the enrolment issue in our self-study. We interpreted enrolment in our self-study in the context of the overall declining enrolment within the university due to changing demographics in Nova Scotia. Enrolment in the Faculty of Arts is low across the board. We have fewer students taking the upper level courses because we have fewer students overall. We viewed the enrolment issue as part of the overall demographic shift. We didn't feel that the department had an internal enrolment issue nor that we could address the larger issue overall within the university.
- Question: What is the department doing to address recommendations 7 and 16 in regard to service to the committee and our commitment to ensure that non-credit teaching does not come at the expense of fee-paying students? Answer: The Department reaffirmed their commitment to the community and to the fee paying students. We set an hierarchy of priority wherein Majors come before students taking courses for electives; community members would be lower in the hierarchy than fee paying students.
- Question: There are situations where there are large numbers of community members lumped together with fee-paying students. Answer: Cross-listing means that the courses that are offered within the department for the degree students are also on offer for other students as well. We attempt to strike a balance. We offer these courses on a regular basis. For example,

- Dr. MacLeod's courses had one fee-paying student and 80 non-fee paying members of the community.
- Members were advised that the Department did not include an update on everything they were doing with ENGL 1205. Work is underway in terms of this review. In regard to the inter-disciplinary programs, it is important to note that the external reviewers acknowledged in their report that many institutions are initiating such programs but the English Department has a long standing program. This remains a core part of the department mission and image.
  - Question: Will the task force being set up include representatives from across the university? Answer: If Senate approves these motions, the Academic Planning Committee will discuss initiating a task force and will develop some terms of reference.
  - Question: Documentation for reviews usually takes longer to reach the Senate. This time we received the program documentation much quicker. Is the lack of depth in the department's response related to the quick timing of this submission? Answer: The quick timing was a result of the fact that the external reviewers did their report very quickly. We have been working on the writing a report on first year teaching recommendations since. We are working on curriculum changes that will be submitted for implementation in the fall of 14-15. The Department has not had a chance to assemble all the things that they are doing into a full report.
  - Question: The first recommendation of the external reviewers was that the University investigate and resolve the complaints about the Student Advising Centre. Does the Dean have any comments? Answer: We have looked at this complaint in depth. It is not always clear to students what kind of advising takes place. There are some issues around advising for Majors versus non-Majors. As we get complaints, we do a complete investigation and try to reconstruct the incident. In the context of the five students noted by the reviewers, we were able to identify what was behind the complaints and resolve them.
  - Members were advised that the Department welcomes the second motion. We welcome the university's involvement in the review of ENGL 1205. In the past, the English Department has submitted concrete proposals in regard to the English requirement for first year student. We also advocate strongly for writing

across the curriculum. It is difficult to run a multi-section course that every student in the university has to take. A presentation was circulated at the request of the members of the Department, who wanted to remind the members of Senate of the link to the department's research success. The external reviewers stated that when considered alongside the strong teaching commitment of the Department, the record of scholarly activity was particularly impressive, matching as it does in both quality and quantity per faculty member the degree of research and publication activity achieved in much larger research-intensive institutions.

- Question: What is the department's approach to recommendation two through four? Answer: The department has been looking at this since the fall. We are working through the review in time for the curriculum process.

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, "***that Senate approve that the Department of English develop and submit an Action Plan to Senate by September 1, 2013 with a report back to Senate by September 1, 2014 that addresses the following recommendations from the External Reviewers' Report:***

- **That the Department re-examine its 100 and 200-level courses and desired sequencing in order to move English students more expeditiously through to specialist study in the field by second year.**
- **That the Department consider re-designating several 200-level courses as 400-level courses.**
- **That the Department of English consider creating certain key prerequisites to encourage students to attain the necessary preliminary skills before attempting senior courses."**

**Motion carried.**

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, "***that a University-wide assessment of English 1205 be undertaken during the 2013/14 academic year.***" **Motion carried.**

- .002 PhD Program (Management) follow-up report from Program Review, attached as **Appendix I**, External Reviewers Report attached as **Appendix J** and cover memo for this and next item attached as **Appendix K**

Moved by Gauthier and seconded, “**that the Senate accept the follow-up report from the PhD (Management) Program as meeting the requirement of Article 5 ‘Steps in the Review Process’ of the Senate Policy on the Review of Graduate Programs at Saint Mary’s University.**” Motion carried

.003 EMBA Program follow-up report from Program Review, attached as **Appendix L** and External Reviewers Report attached as **Appendix M**.

Key Discussion Points:

- It was noted that this was a status report and not the follow-up report required under Article 5 of the Senate Policy. Extensive research has been done and a full proposal will be submitted in the fall.
- Question: In the list of names for convocation why is the EMBA listed separately? Is it actually a separate degree? Answer: The credential granted is an MBA but the pathway to that credential is different. This is a process that is recognized and approved by MPHEC.
- The motion from the Academic Planning Committee was withdrawn and replaced with the following motion:

Moved by Vessey and seconded, “**that the Senate accept the interim status report from the EMBA Program pending submission of a final report from the EMBA Program in the fall of 2013.**” Motion carried.

**12072**      **PROFESSOR EMERITUS RECOMMENDATION**

Documentation circulated at meeting as **Appendix N**.

Key Discussion Points:

- Dodds advised that at the Senate Executive meeting this recommendation was approved. Due to timing of the Board of Governors meeting and convocation this was handled a little out of sequence.

Moved by Dodds and seconded, “**that the Senate approves the recommendation of Dr. Vlodek Tarnawski, Division of Engineering, for the award of Professor Emeritus.**” Motion carried.

**12073**      **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

None

**12074**      **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Key Discussion Points:

- Members were advised that summer school started this week with record enrolments.
- We had a very successful program to encourage women to engage in science and trades programs. Representatives of Techsploration

schools in Nova Scotia were on campus and a large number were wearing Techsploration tee shirts.

- In the on-going MOU discussions, there was a two-day event held on-campus recently. One of the sessions presented on-campus was on MOOCs and the threat the pose for PSE. We met as a group with government representatives the following day. All institutions were asked to prepare an outlook perspective report. The government summarized those and identified some areas for concern. The government advised that no matter what happens in the re-election the data will not change. The 3% tuition cap will not change and the 1% budget cap will not change. It was a fairly detailed investigation that was undertaken by the government.
- NE Campus project is on target to be completed in the summer.

**12075**

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: Is there any news on the joint rink proposal? Answer: The city is going to issue an RFP. The government, city, Dalhousie and Saint Mary's all like that idea. The land on South Street is owned by the province. We would like them to sell it to us for \$1 for this purpose. If it is not built on South Street on the other side of the IWK, we don't know where it would be located. The current cost estimate is 31 million.

**12076**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 P.M.

Barb Bell,  
Secretary to the Office of Senate