

**SENATE MEETING MINUTES
October 29, 2004**

The 483rd Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, October 29, 2004, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Pye, Dr. Miciak, Dr. Stretton, Dr. Heukaeufer, Dr. Linney, Dr. Bowlby, Dr. Dostal, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Konopasky, Mr. Partington, Mr. Whalen, Mr. Shannon, Dr. van Proosdij, Mr. Schnare, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Enns, Dr. Russell, Dr. Chard, Mr. Hotchkiss, Dr. Naulls, Ms. Lefebvre, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Driscoll and B. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Jones, Ms. Lingley, Dr. Lee, Dr. Paul Bernard

04219 CALL TO ORDER

Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

04220 REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.
Self Introduction and welcome of student senators.

04221 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

.01 Moved by Dr. Keith Hotchkiss, second by Dr. Chard, **‘that the minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2004 be approved with the following amendments: Item: 04210- 0101 correct spelling of last name ‘Barron’ on page 4. Dr. Bernard and Dr. Lee were present and Dr. Lingras and Adrienne Taylor were not’. Motion carried unanimously.**

.02 Minutes of Senate Executive Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Senate Executive Committee of September 15 and 22, 2004 were received for information.

04222 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

Study of Workplace Issues and Spirituality' or 'Centre for Workplace Spirituality' were suggested.

- Location was questioned (Sobey School of Business). The explanation was that that location was just a matter of expediency.
- Concern expressed that the base and topic were viewed as narrow.
- Greater involvement/collaboration within SMU and the Community (workers) was suggested. The explanation was that a great deal of interest was expressed from many avenues and that the Centre would be open to including anyone in the process.
- Concern was expressed relative to the teaching aspect, and taking existing resources away from normal courses. The response was that no courses are currently being taught. One course is being developed and will likely be offered in the summer. The group is collaborating with Cont. Ed. at this time in this development. Downstream there could be resource implications. Dr. Miciak issued an open invitation to any department that wants to become involved in the activities in the Sobey School of Business including this Centre.
- It was suggested that if the project were to be more inclusive in scope, the potential existed for more interest to be generated within SMU as well as elsewhere.
- The parliamentarian suggested spitting the motion relative to proposal substance and the title of the Centre.
- Dr. Bowlby submitted that his department had intended to include a letter of support but due to time restrictions did not get it submitted. It was also submitted that this is larger than the sponsoring bodies that came together to develop the proposal. The Centre is intended to allow a bridging effort to take place and the title is indicative of the role that this Centre is going to play at SMU. This Centre has already received an indication of significant outside funding. That in and of itself is indicative of the interest and support of the concept. It was suggested that it would be a mistake to determine where the emphasis is going to lie at this point.
- The question of the Centre turning a profit and how that might be handled was answered by Dr. Miciak – any profit would be put into the research agenda.
- The Centre will share space with one of the other Centres on campus; no additional space is required.
- Reference within the proposal to an executive director will be changed to reflect an academic director.
- Dr. Driscoll provided that there was already a center in Toronto called Centre for Spirituality and the Workplace.

Moved by Dr. Konopasky, second by Dr. Bowlby **“to amend the motion by replacing “Centre for Work and Spirituality” with “Centre for Spirituality in the Workplace”**. Motion carried.

.02 Curriculum Committee

.0101 Dr. Chard presented a brief summary of the Calendar Changes submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Curriculum Committee.

Discussion established that it had been felt that the course workload was heavy and the thesis was not being given enough credit. This is not a change in the total number of credits or the length of program. No feedback has been received on any MPHEC issues. A review will likely happen sometime in the next two years as MPHEC is on the verge of reviewing all these programs.

Moved by Dr. Chard, seconded by Dean Richardson **‘that the calendar changes as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies be approved’**. **Motion carried.**

.0102 Dr. Chard presented a verbal report on the progress of the Senate Curriculum Committee relative to the course numbering and prerequisite changes. It was reported that the Committee had completed the exercise of looking at all of the issues which included the three to four letter course numbering changes and the prerequisites. Consultation with departments has been significant and the volume of material generated, would constitute an updated calendar if submitted to Senate. Dr. Chard asked if Senate would waive the requirement for such a report and accept that the Senate Curriculum Committee had done due diligence in this respect

04228 **REPORT OF AD-HOC COMMITTEES**
None

04229 **REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES**
.01 Convocation

As chair of the committee, Dr. Chard submitted a verbal report as follows: Date: Sunday, Nov 14. at the WTCC. Four honorary degrees will be presented. The Speaker will be Lawrence Paul, Valedictorian – M. Haiven. Invitations have been sent to all involved faculty members. Convocation will likely not last more than 2 ½ hours. Numbers are important so please RSVP. Reminder notices will be forthcoming. There is a small procedure change – no luncheon this year.

04230 **REPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEES**
.01 None

04231 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**
.01 Floor (Not involving notice of motion)
None

.02 Floor (Involving notice of motion)

I. Membership of the Board, Atlantic Centre for Ethics and Public Affairs.

Dr. Murphy advised that the centre is about to launch a fundraising initiative and the profile in the business community is important. This change is to broaden the scope of the Board to include community participation. Three new members will be recruited by the Board itself.

Motion by Dr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Bowlby **‘that the membership of the Board of the Atlantic Centre for Ethics and Public Affairs be expanded from 12 to 15 members’**. Motion carried.

II. Academic Regulation 8c be reintroduced for the coming Spring semester’.

Motion by Dr. Richardson, seconded by Matt Shannon **‘that Academic Regulation 8c be reintroduced for the coming Spring semester’**.

Discussion established the following:

- This regulation set out in the 1995-96 Academic Calendar is as follows: c. in a course for which a formal examination during the special period is not being held, no test or examination is permitted in the semester’s last two weeks of classes. In exceptional circumstances, in-class tests may be permitted by the Vice President Academic and Research on the recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty”.
- Who will enforce this if we reinstate this regulation?
- It was suggested that a letter of reprimand should be filed in the official record of faculty guilty of operating in opposition to this regulation. It was suggested that if it is an Academic Regulation, a student could appeal. Concern was expressed relative to identifying infractions of this regulation and the potential to log two full weeks off the teaching program. As well, there is no remedy or quick solution if the Prof decides to have an exam in the last two/three weeks.
- The wording needs to be tightened up. Lab tests still to be allowed and we need to prevent a substitute for a final exam in the last two weeks.
- It was noted that annually, when the draft exam schedule is posted, experience shown that suddenly there are a number of instructors that do not require a final exam. The students are put in a very precarious situation when this happens.
- Dr. Murphy suggested that this was within the domain of the Academic Regs Committee. In the future this should go out to the faculty for input on these issues before coming to Senate.

- It was suggested that enforcement articles need to be discussed with the Union however the collective agreement sets out that the Union will observe the rules of Senate. Also that change before Spring 2005 would not be fair as there are full year syllabi that have already been provided to students.
 - Dr. Richardson withdrew this motion on the condition that it will be submitted in the very near future to the Senate Academic Regulations Committee. **Referred to Academic Regulations.**
- III. Motion by Dr. McCalla “that Academic Regulation 8 (c) (ii) be reworded as follows: in a one-semester course, no single test given in a regularly scheduled period (50 minutes or 75 minutes) or laboratory/recitation (up to 3 hours) shall contribute more than 25% [instead of 35%] of the overall evaluation of that course”. **Referred to Academic Regulations.**
- IV. Motion by Dr. Bernard “that in the advent of the changeover to SCT Banner, and in the interest of more precise student assessment and grade reporting, the Senate should consider the advantages of changing the University’s grading scheme from a letter-based classification to a number-based system. **Referred to Academic Regulations.**
- V. Motion by Dr. Chard “that the period designated for add and dropping courses, as well as registering late, revert to its original timeframe – i.e., five days from the start of classes in each semester, effective 1 September 2005. **Referred to Academic Regulations** with the stipulation that this come back to the Senate for a decision by the December Senate Meeting.

.03 Academic Calendar of Events.

Dr. Chard submitted that this document was circulated late according to the 48 hour period as stipulated in the Senate By Laws.

Moved by Dr. Chard, seconded by Dr. Konopasky ‘**that Senate lay aside the 48 hour rule in this instance and consider the proposed Calendar**’. **Motion carried**

Discussion established the following points:

- Fixed days were Labour Day and Christmas.
- This document would be the exact template of the 04-05 Academic term.
- Some TBCs are still there.
- Second Semester classes start a day after the University opens.
- The dates for Winter Break are shared with MSV and Dal and the first institution to set this becomes the yardstick for all.
- Number of teaching days, counting Saturdays in the first semester – 73 and 12 exam days; in the second semester - 72 teaching days and 17 exam days.

- Date for spring convocation is dictated by space/time in the WTCC. WTCC will not confirm more than 6 months in advance.
- The number of teaching days was questioned – quick calculations seemed to show that there were 73 in first term and 80 in the second. Number of teaching days in the second semester appeared to be at issue.

Moved by Dr. McCalla, seconded by Dr. Richardson **‘that Senate approve the Academic Calendar of Events on the stipulation that if, on close examination, there is an excess in teaching days the calendar for the second semester, the calendar will be adjusted to start on January 9th for the second term’.** Motion carried.

04232 **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
None

04233 **QUESTION PERIOD**
None.

04034 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Dr. Murphy gave a presentation on enrollment for any interested Senate members. The numbers of all academic institutions in Nova Scotia show a ‘new enrolment’ decline across the board.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate