

SENATE MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2014

The 554th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, January 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. Russell, Dr. Power, Dr. Secord, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Austin, Dr. Francis, Dr. Gilin-Oore, Dr. VanderPlaat, Mr. Hotchkiss, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Mr. Gordon Michael, Dr. Singfield, Mr. Patriquin, Dr. Lingras and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Smith, Dr. Kozloski, Dr. Sewell, Dr. Street, Dr. van Proosdij, Mr Gorba Bhandari, Mr. Ermal Loshi, Mr. Mark Slaunwhite and Mr. Coady.

Meeting commenced at 2:36 P.M.

13032 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

13033 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
Minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2013, were *circulated* as **Appendix A**.

The following revisions were noted:

- Ermal Loshi was not in attendance. James Patriquin attended.
- Page 6, Question Period - first bullet point: change to read as follows:
Question: What is being done with the old telescope? Answer: At the moment it is in storage. There has been some discussion about having a group of students somewhere near the equator take responsibility for it. It was noted that there is a current Facebook interface in place for the *new* telescope. There is no reason why the Facebook interface couldn't happen with the old telescope, but it's all dependent on mount and surroundings, neither of which the old telescope has anymore.

Moved by Secord, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2013 are approved as revised.” Motion carried.**

13034 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

13035 **WINTER GRADUATION LIST**

Documentation circulated as **Appendix B**.

- There are 319 credentials being conferred: 285 undergraduate, and 24 graduate. These are very strong students and we have an increase in the number of distinctions being awarded during the winter ceremonies.
- There are two ceremonies scheduled on Saturday; one in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix B) at the Winter 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.

13036 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01 Academic Planning

a) Proposal for a Master of Science in Computing and Data Analytics Degree Program circulated as **Appendix C**

Key Discussion Points:

- The Nova Scotia Government and IBM have entered in to an agreement with Nova Scotia Universities to develop education, research, and training in big data analytics (CARET: Collaboration on Analytics Research, Education and Training). Saint Mary’s is a full partner in this project along with other institutions and organizations. There is a growing and urgent demand for qualified professionals in these roles throughout Canada and internationally. This program addresses the increasing demand and includes a thesis option.
- The proposal was very well received by the external examiners. Modest changes were made to the proposal based on the feedback from those examiners.
- Other schools also provided their input. During the assessment process, MPHEC likes to see evidence of this type of input during the program development process.
- Members were advised that the proposal received complete endorsement at both council meetings in the Faculty of Science.
- It was noted that there is reference within the proposal to additional resource requirements and it appears as if these resources are going to be addressed through overload teaching arrangements.
- The detailed budget is referenced in section 6.1 as Appendix E but Appendix E is not included in the Senate documents. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to see the budget to determine if the program is going to generate enough revenue to cover the additional teaching resources that will be required. Response: The Dean, FGSR advised that the budget has not

been supplied with the proposal because it becomes too much of a distraction in the Senate discussions, which should focus on the academic components of the proposal.

- Consensus was that in order to determine academic viability, Senate should address whether there are enough resources to deliver any proposed program.
- This is not a deficit program and revenues will be greater than expenses. The proposal alludes to potentially hiring additional resources if the program requires such.
- The external feedback identifies, that given what has been provided in the proposal, the program cannot be offered without taking resources from other programs.
- Members were advised that faculty members interested in participating in the delivery of this program indicated that they would prefer not to do it through an overload teaching arrangement. There is a budget for a supernumerary position to address the required resource allocation. The program committee was satisfied that there will be no risk in the area of resource allocation.
- The Dean of the Sobey School of Business advised that this proposal does have resource implications for the Sobey School. The Business School's support for this program is coming at a profound cost. The School's part-time / full-time ratio has to meet a specific standard in order for the school to maintain their accreditation.
- Question: Appendix G - the document with the bubbles is confusing. Answer: We can summarize that feedback for the submission.
- Question: Is the onus on the student to find a placement so they are able to participate in the internship option? Answer: The program manager would have some experience in this area. We are going to generate opportunities but only the top students will have access to the internship program.
- Question: Is the internship a paid option? Answer: Yes
- Question: Will there be oversight over the selection of these job opportunities? Answer: The students do get reasonably good jobs and we monitor this carefully. Some students may be allowed to intern for more than two semesters if the opportunities are there.
- Question: Is the September 2014 start date realistic? Answer: If we have a response from MPHEC by the end of March, we are encouraged that we will have enough time to recruit sufficient numbers. The breakeven point is approximately 15 students, but we would like to start the program in September, 2014 with 25 students.
- Members were advised that this program has been promoted as a potential program being developed at SMU.
- This particular program will be hiring at least one full-time faculty member. Five of eight courses will be covered by that individual.
- Question: Is this a situation where each student is doing a different applied project? Answer: We are encouraging a team of 3 students to work together on one project so there are fewer projects.

- Question: There is a Project Course and we would like to know how that works. Answer: This would work like a thesis and have an assigned instructor in oversight and to administer the thesis.
- Question: Are there any concerns about proprietary knowledge and students using that knowledge considering the close relationship with the private sector? Answer: When it comes to internships, they don't go into the details. This process will be handled the same way we handle Co-op situations.
- Question: Do you see any conflict of interest in this regard? Answer: No. It is just like a Co-op term even though it is more sophisticated. We are doing this right now within other programs.

Moved by Dr. Gauthier and seconded, **“Moved that the Proposal for a Master of Science in Computing and Data Analytics Degree Program is approved for submission to MPHEC with the addition of the budget and the summarization of the feedback from D. Silver.”** .
Motion carried with 3 abstentions.

.02 Curriculum

a) Curriculum addendum report attached as **Appendix D**

Key Discussion Points:

- Dixon advised that these are the outstanding items referred to in the December minutes. Two of the calendar sections are new programs that were approved last year but the calendar entry was not ready in time to be published in the 13-14 academic calendar. The programs have supplied the text for insertion into the calendar.
- Members were advised that as one outcome of the program review process for the Master of Arts in Women and Gender Studies, one of the recommendations was to streamline the way courses offered in the both institutions were reflected in the individual academic calendars. As a result, the revised program section has been included in this submission.

Moved by Dr. Dixon and seconded, **“that the report of the Curriculum Committee is accepted, and that the material is approved for publishing in the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar.”** Motion carried.

13037 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

None

13038 **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Dodds reported the following:

- We received the report from the President's Council. There has been a fair amount of interest in that report which is posted on our website and elsewhere. There is also a timetable for some actions subsequent to that report. Broad cultural change is required and will take time. Some recommendations have already been implemented. In the middle of June we will present a report to the community.
- There is a three-year timeline for actions to be undertaken.
- Convocation is a week tomorrow. It is interesting to note that the numbers graduating in January have increased.
- Talks regarding the MOU are proceeding but there is nothing new to report. The minister has requested an meeting with each of the institutions on the individual campuses. We do not have an indication of who the minister wants to meet with during these meetings.
- It is important that the faculty of SMU who are involved in outreach and the community at large continue to participate and be visible to the community.
- We are currently attempting to identify who are qualified for graduate scholarships

13039 **QUESTION PERIOD**

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: Students were unclear on what the next steps would be in terms of the participation of the SMUSA executive. Concern was expressed in regard to the June timeline for the next report being after the new executive takes office. These officers would not be aware of the history behind the report. Answer: Now that the report has been accepted, we need to create an action team and identify a leader that will drive and monitor the progress of the implementation of the recommendations made in the recent President's Council Report. Orientation is a key area that should be addressed and we have the time to address that issue. We have identified some templates being used by other universities. These are currently being reviewed by the university lawyer.
- Question: Concern was expressed in regard to a new executive having to respond to subsequent meetings without knowledge of the incident which resulted in the initiation of this process. A SMUSA representative requested that the current representatives remain involved. Answer: That will be taken under advisement but we are hoping to have an agreement in place by June while the current executive members are still here. The intention is to move as quickly with this process as is expediently possible. It will take time to build a foundation for and to affect a cultural change on campus.

13040 **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 3:29 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate