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SENATE MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 2007

The 503rd Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, May 18, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Murphy, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Butler, Dr. Enns, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Linney, Dr. MacKinnon, Dr. Power, Dr. Russell, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Van Proosdij, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Mitch Gillingwater, Mr. Rhys MacDonald, Mr. Matt Risser, Mr. Alex Dong, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Wicks, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Konopasky, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Pe-Piper, Dr. Rand, Dr. Stretton, Mr. Hotchkiss, Ms. Lefebvre, and Miss. Shane Cunningham.

Meeting commenced at 2:40 PM.

06077

REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Amendments to the Agenda were reported. No objections were noted. The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

06078

Honorary Degrees

Recommendations for Honorary Degrees were circulated as *Appendix F*

- Dr. Murphy briefly reviewed the information provided for the four nominees. Members were asked if nominations should be dealt with individually or if an omnibus motion would be in order. The consensus was for an omnibus motion.
- The Registrar noted that the committee had nominated four very strong candidates.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, seconded **“that the Senate approves the recommendations for Honorary Degrees as submitted and will forward those to the Board for their consideration.”** Motion adopted.

06079

RECOMMENDATION FOR REGISTRAR EMERITUS

Documentation circulated at meeting as *Appendix G*.

Dr. Murphy advised members that he was recommending Dr. Elizabeth Chard for Registrar Emeritus posthumously

Motion by Dr. Murphy, and seconded **“that the Senate approves the recommendation of Dr. E. Chard for Registrar Emeritus and will forward it to the Board of Governors for awarding.”** Motion adopted unanimously.

06080

SPRING GRADUATES

.01 Documentation was circulated by the registrar as Appendix A.

Dr. Dixon advised that:

- This year’s convocation will be slightly different from last years.
- On the last page of the handout, the number in brackets on the left is the number of graduates in 2006 and column to the right of that is the graduates for 2007.
- A total of 1,344 credentials are being awarded. Some students are receiving two credentials concurrently, so that number does not directly translate to the number of students graduating.
- The increase in the number of distinctions awarded is due to regulation changes in the way distinctions are calculated.
- Senate also approved a change to the way distinctions were awarded in the honors program. This was done to harmonize the two processes. Out of 66 Honour graduates in Arts programs in 2006, there were only 6 distinctions awarded. This year we have a total of 89 Honour graduates in Arts of which 39 are receiving distinctions. The other faculties have more modest increases.
- Last year we recognized 64 graduates and this year we have approximately 150.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“that academic credentials be bestowed on the candidates for Spring Convocation as recorded in the official graduation list, presented as *Appendix A*”.** Motion adopted.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“that Senate enables the Registrar to add such graduates to the official graduation list as may be identified after this meeting and before Convocation.”** Motion adopted unanimously.

06081

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of April 13, 2007 were circulated as *Appendix B*.

The following amendments were noted:

- On page 3, fifth bullet point – in the question what about existing tuition; Dean Vessey advised that there is no difference in tuition because they have been harmonized.
- At the bottom of page 3, fourth line up, part time students do not pay a full course fee but they do pay a part-time program fee.
- Page 4, third bullet point up from the bottom of the page; the department proposed six names for consideration as external reviewers. One reviewer was chosen from this list. The second reviewer was selected from discussions between the VP Academic and Research, Dean Vessey and the Dean of AST.

Moved by Dr. Butler, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of April 13, 2007 be approved as amended”.** Motion adopted.

06082

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

06083

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01 Academic Planning

.0101 Proposal to establish the Center of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives attached as *Appendix C*.

Discussion covered the following points:

- Dr. Webb attended to answer questions arising from this review.
- This will be one of four Centres of Excellence established under CICA. Each is focused on a different niche area in Accounting.
- Dr. Webb advised that this development started when the department approached the CICA for a very modest amount of money to support their program. In with the submission were examples of some of the work they have been doing in this area. The CICA responded asking if we would be interested in establishing a Centre of Excellence in this field. Department response to this was positive.
- The Centre will develop a set of guidelines for cooperative business to facilitate application of the established principles. This is an approach that has worked well in the UK.
- There are very few world experts in this field and it is a new area of focus. Saint Mary's University has access to an acknowledged world expert in this field, Alan Robb, who is a SMU adjunct faculty.
- Question: Are there any connections with any other universities?
Answer: We certainly hope that interest will grow once the Centre is established.
- This will be the only Centre of its kind in the world.
- Since the development of this Centre was published, there have been several other donors to the program. \$185,000 in commitments were received to date.
- It was noted that space allocations have an impact on the University.
Question: Has the space noted in this proposal been identified?
Answer: No.
- Question: Who has responsibility for financial administration?
Answer: The Board. The Dean will also have a signing authority.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, and seconded, **“that the establishing of a Center of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives is approved.” Motion adopted unanimously.**

.02 Curriculum

.0201 Curriculum Changes submitted by the Faculty of Arts (EDUC/IDST) attached as *Appendix D*.

Discussion covered the following points:

- Dr. Dixon advised that these are minor changes; taking a full course and spitting it into two half courses and then cross listing those courses with IDST. These will be offered at both the Graduate and Undergraduate level.

Moved by Dr. Dixon and seconded, **“that the Senate approve the Faculty of Arts Curriculum changes as submitted.” Motion adopted unanimously.**

.03 Research Ethics Board

.0301 Policy and Procedures on Adverse Events attached as Appendix E.

Discussion covered the following points:

- Dr Stinson advised that this policy was developed in consultation with other REBs.
- A member suggested that the policy should include a statement that reporting to this group does not preclude reporting to other groups on campus, for example in a physiological event there should be a report to occupational health and safety.
- Question: (third line) “reported by a research participant” - Who is a research participant? Answer: The research participant is the subject in the research and not the research assistant or the researcher. An example situation might be discovering data that has been left in the halls, which is not an adverse event even though it may be against the Tri Council policy. Events must be directly linked to research activities. If, in leaving data in the hall, it then gets published and negatively impacts someone, that situation would have to be reported and dealt with by the REB. There is a recent shift in the language that is being used in this context. The report is actually supposed to come from the research participant. Members suggested a change to the text to state “reported by a researcher or research participant”.
- Question: Is there any way of tracking events? Answer: The forms are filed for future reference.
- Question: Do people get a copy of the policy and form? Answer: Once approved, these documents will be published on the website so that they are readily accessible.
- Question: Do individuals have an ethical responsibility to report? Answer: The Tri council requires that there is a methodology to report incidents. It was suggested that the word ‘ethical’ be deleted from this sentence.

Moved by Dr. Stinson and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the REB Policy and Procedures on Adverse Events as amended.” Motion adopted.**

06083

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES

.01

Convocation

- Dr. Dixon reported that more volunteers, in both Science and Commerce, are needed for the afternoon ceremonies. Members asked if Dr. Dixon would send a list around.
- Members reported that in Commerce it is difficult to go to both morning and afternoon convocation sessions. Most faculty teach students that convocate in both sessions. Question: Would the university consider graduating by discipline with the grad and undergrad students together? Answer: Dr. Dixon advised that the separate graduate section was only a recent change and the university would consider any suggestion to make things work better. Many institutions graduate by discipline. At the moment, this approach has provided a way to keep a balance (numbers) between the two ceremonies.
- This will be Murray Wilson’s last convocation. He will be Marshall of Convocation this year.
- This will also be the Chancellor’s last convocation. Pope Benedict XVI has named Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast, S.J. as Archbishop of Ottawa.

06084

.01

NEW BUSINESS FROM

Floor (Not involving notice of motion)

- Dean Vessey advised that the Gov Gen Gold Medal award has been given to the highest achieving graduate student but it has never been clearly stated how this is accomplished.
- An ad hoc committee of Professors Emeriti were responsible for this activity.
- Senate was approached last year because the members of this committee felt this was a very unsatisfactory procedure and wanted guidance.
- All of the stakeholders were consulted and the result was the development of this criteria. We just completed a trial run of this process and everyone involved felt this was a better process.
- Question: Isn't it difficult to quantify a degree of independence or novelty? It could mean different things to different people. Answer: When you are trying to adjudicate things, these are always difficult activities, but they are still highly achievable. Individuals with different expertise always seem to be able to identify a superior piece of work. The committee is not limited to these criteria, particularly in the nomination process. The nominators are asked to address each of these areas.
- The committee has reached their conclusion for this year and that information is currently on the registrar's voicemail.

Moved by Dr. Vessey, and seconded **“that the document be adopted as Senate Policy on the selection of the winner of the Governor General's Gold Medal.” Motion adopted unanimously.**

06085

QUESTION PERIOD

Mitch Gillingwater introduced Matt Risser and Alex Dong as two of the new elected student representative members of the Senate for the 2007- 08 Academic Year.

06086

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate