

SENATE MEETING MINUTES February 11, 2011

The 531st Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, February 11, 2011, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Enns, Dr. Smith, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Austin, Dr. Barclay, Dr. Barr, Dr. Beaulé, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Ivanoff, Dr. Kimery, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Russell, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Sun, Mr. Hotchkiss, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Anderson, Miss. Dix, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Wicks, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Neatby, Dr. Stanivukovic, Mr. Gomez, and Miss. Mashoodh

Meeting commenced at 2:33 P.M.

10042 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted. The agenda reordered to deal with appendix C&D before B.

10043 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2011, were *circulated* as **Appendix A**.

Moved by Gauthier, and seconded, 'that the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2011 are approved as circulated.' Motion carried.

10044 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

10045 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

a) Academic Planning

.01 MPHEC proposal for a modification to the Master of Science in Applied Science with Co-op Option, attached as **Appendix B**.

Key Discussion points:

- Both the self-study and external review indicated that the number of courses and coop work terms are excessive in comparison to similar thesis-based program in the Maritimes and across Canada.

- The existing M.Sc. in Applied Science with Co-op Option Program has a higher course requirement compared to similar programs in other universities in Atlantic Canada. The current program includes a total of twelve credit hours of interdisciplinary core courses and twelve credit hours in a specific discipline. The course requirements for the comparable programs from three Atlantic Canada universities ranged from twelve to eighteen credit hours. Twelve credit hours seemed to be the most frequently occurring requirement.
- The important proposed changes to the program are:
 - changed requirement for twelve credit hours of in-class core courses, to nine credit hours of in-class core courses.
 - changed requirement for twelve credit hours in additional course work in the specific discipline(s) of the student, or two work terms for the student in the co-op option, to six credit hours of course work in the specific discipline(s) of the student, or one work term for students in the co-op option (note the change from two work terms to a single work term).
- This is an interdisciplinary program. Because of an increased interest from other departments, it is proposed that Forensic Sciences, Physics, and Neuropsychology be added to the list of research areas to further broaden the interdisciplinary nature of the program.
- Question: Have students been avoiding this program because of the course load? Answer: No. The program has been extremely successful since its inception. The biggest benefit of the change is the reduced time to completion.
- Question: Will students currently enrolled in the program be able switch to the new program requirements? Answer: The students have the option at the undergrad level. It would also be possible to allow current graduate students to choose whether they wished to complete their program under the old or new requirements.
- Question: Would it be better to have a single thesis course worth 12 credit hours? Answer: The proposal changes the program by designating two thesis courses, allowing the committee to review the progress of the research at the end of year one (August) through a pass or fail grade in APSC 6603. Successful completion and defense of the thesis will be indicated by a pass grade in APSC 6604.
- On page one in 1.3 it stipulates that input comes from departments/programs. Reference is found again under 2.3.1 at the bottom of page 2, through the top of page three.
- On page two of the proposal for modification under the sub-title “Proposed”, it appears to indicate that SMU has a department of neuropsychology. Perhaps it should indicate “from the disciplines of”.

- The following change was suggested to the first sentence under the sub-heading “Description of and rationale behind the change:” on page two of the proposal:
 - “It is proposed that Forensic Sciences, Physics, and Cognitive and Neuropsychology be added to the list of research areas to further broaden the interdisciplinary nature of the programme.”

Moved by Vessey, and seconded, **‘that the proposal to modify the Master of Science in Applied Science with Co-op Option Program, circulated as *Appendix B* is approved pending department approval and implementation of the amendments discussed above, for furtherance to MPHEC.’**

Moved by Dixon, and seconded: **“that students currently registered in the program may meet the requirements of either the new or the old program as they see fit.” Motion carried.**

.02 Master of Science in Applied Science with Co-op Option Program response to the External Program Reviewers’ report and APC’s follow-up questions, attached as ***Appendix C*** and ***D***.

Key Discussion points:

- The proposed modifications to the Master of Science in Applied Science with Co-op Option Program are a result of the program review process.
- Part of the Program’s response is an update in regard to conditions imposed by MPHEC when the program was originally approved. This section is for the information of Senate Members only. The section *with the header Appendix A – External Reviewers Report* is the final report resulting from the program review process. Section VII is the Review Summary and contains the recommendations of the external reviewers.
- The Academic Planning Committee has some questions as a result of their review. The program response to those questions can be found in ***Appendix D***

Moved by, Vessey and seconded, **‘that the Master of Science in Applied Science with Co-op Option Program response to the External Program Reviewers’ report is approved and accepted into the record. Motion carried**

Moved by, Vessey and seconded, **‘that the Master of Science in Applied Science with Co-op Option Program response to the APC’s follow-up questions is approved and accepted into the record.’ Motion carried.**

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NEW BUSINESS FROM

None

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Key Discussion Points:

Dr. Dodds advised members that

- There will be no MOU process for this year. The University Presidents were called to a meeting with the new minister. They were advised that, for one year only, there will be a 4% reduction in relation to the grant. There will be a 3% tuition increase in each of three years.
- The Government has indicated their commitment to initiate a new MOU process beginning in April. There has been no word on when that will commence.
- The Government did not address the issue of other fees over and above tuition. They said they would get back to us on that issue.
- There have been no cuts that we know of for the community colleges.
- Tuition increase for international students is limited to 10%. The University Presidents are not happy with that allocation, or the one for part-time students.
- They have said that they will not be refreshing the enrollment data for the next round of MOU negotiations.
- The Universities will have to source funding for their own operational costs. Any increase in that area will have to be covered by the Universities. This could result in a significant rise in student fees.
- There will be budget cuts for next year and ensuing years.

10048

QUESTION PERIOD

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: The process to generate the current funding formula took two years. Is it feasible to arrive at a new funding formula in one year? Answer: When the formula was created, the government chose a university at random from outside Nova Scotia, one in the U.S. and one in the U.K. They compared the financial information of those three institutions and used that data to create the current formula.
- Question: Would the Government apply a new formula without the discussion/negotiation process? Answer: No. As a minimum, they want to have a dialogue about a number of potential changes to the system. They want everyone to consider what processes could be done cooperatively to realize certain efficiencies and cost savings.
- Question: Is it their desire to implement some of the aspects of the O'Neil report? Answer: Yes. For example they don't want to remove the tuition cap totally. There wasn't enough time to totally deal with the issue of the tuition cap. In the future, they may decide that some programs will receive no funding at all (professional programs).
- Question: Some of the suggestions, like the common applications centre, would lead us to believe that the government would be making decisions on how institutions will deliver their services. The O'Neill report seemed to suggest that Universities should be left to follow their own ways to achieve greater efficiencies. Answer: The government may force this through the budget cuts. O'Neill provided

a five year window on the idea of the creation of a University of Halifax. That idea is bound to come up again in the future. The Government has the power of funding and of licensing. They may use that power to effect change.

- Members were reminded that the Cyril Byrne Lecture in the McNally Theatre Auditorium is tonight at 7:30 PM. There will be a presentation by Irish Novelist - Anne Enright (Winner of the Man-Booker Prize).

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:15P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate