

SENATE MEETING MINUTES **September 15, 2006**

The 496th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, September 15, 2006, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Enns, Dr. Wicks, Dr. Butler, Dr. Vessey, Ms. Lefebvre, Dr. Naulls, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Konopasky, Dr. Linney, Dr. MacKinnon, Dr. Power, Dr. Russell, Dr. Stretton, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Kennedy, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Jarda, Mr. Steeleworthy, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Mitch Gillingwater and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Miss Lopez, Dr. van Proosdij, Dr. Pe-Piper, Mr. Hotchkiss, Dr. Rand.

Meeting commenced at 2:39 P.M.

06039 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY AND PARLIAMENTARIAN

- .01** Moved by Dr. Dixon and seconded, **'that Dr. Don Naulls is elected as Chairperson for the 2006-2007 Senate year.'**
- .02** Moved by Dr. Wicks, and seconded, **'that Dr. Jeff Power is elected as Vice-Chairperson for the 2006-2007 Senate year.'**
- .03** No Secretary was nominated or elected.
- .04** Moved by Dr. Murphy, and seconded, **'that is Dr. MacKinnon is elected as Parliamentarian for the 2006-2007 Senate year.'**

There being no further nominations, the above slate of executive officers was elected by acclamation.

06040 REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted with the following amendment:

- Agenda item number 10 is reordered to be addressed directly after agenda item number 6.

As many new members of Senate as were in attendance were introduced.

- 06041** **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
 .01 Minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2006, were *circulated* as **Appendix A.**
- Moved by Dr. Bjornson, and seconded, **‘that the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2006 are approved as circulated.’**
Motion carried.
- 06042** **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
 None
- 06043** **OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA**
 None
- 06044** **MEMBERSHIP ON SENATE COMMITTEES FOR 2006-2007**
- .01** **SECTION A – NOMINATED BY EXECUTIVE OF SENATE** circulated at the meeting as **Appendix B.**
- 0101 APPEALS
- Dr. Nicole Neatby (Arts)
- Dr. Sageev Oore (Science)
- Mr. Mitch Gillingwater (student rep)
- .0102 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE
- Dr. Edna Keeble (Arts)
- Dr. Chris MacDonald (Arts)
- Prof. Miguel Morales(Comm)
- Dr. George Ye (Comm)
- Dr. John Irving (Science)
- Dr. Ken Hill (Science)
- Mr. Mitch Gillingwater (student rep)
- Mr. Rhys MacDonald (student rep)
- .0103 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE APPEAL BOARD
- **TBA** (Arts)
- **TBA** (Arts)
- Dr. Peter Secord (Comm)
- Dr. Jie Dai (Comm)
- Prof. Marc Patry (Science)
- Dr. David Clarke(Science)
- Mr. Olivier Jarda (student rep)
- Mr. Michael Steeleworthy (student rep)
- .0104 ACADEMIC PLANNING
- Mr. Michael Steeleworthy (student rep)
- Dr. Sarty is replaced by Dr. K. Singfield (Comm)
- .0105 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS
- Mr. Mitch Gillingwater (student rep)

- .0106 ADMISSIONS
 - Dr. Rosana Barbosa (Arts)
 - Miss Christina Lopez (student rep)
- .0107 BY-LAWS
 - Mr. Michael Steeleworthy (student rep)
- .0108 CONTINUING EDUCATION
 - **TBA** (Part-time student)
 - **TBA** (Part-time student – OPTAMUS rep)
Deferred until new Division Director hired.
- 0109 CURRICULUM
 - Mr. Rhys MacDonald (student rep)
- .0110 LIBRARY
 - Mr. Olivier Jarda (student rep)
- .0111 QUALITY OF TEACHING
 - Mr. Mitch Gillingwater (student rep)
 - **TBA** (part-time student nominated by Org of Part-Time & Mature Univ. Students). Committee Chair, Ms. C. Harrigan will advise.
- .0112 RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD
 - Prof. Shelley Tulloch (Arts - ANTH) replaces M. Doucet
- .0113 SCHOLARSHIP
 - Miss Christina Lopez (student rep)

Outstanding member nominations to be provided by the Deans or as indicated, and ratified at the Senate meeting of October 25, 2006.

Moved by Dr. McCalla, and seconded, **‘that the nominees for Section A of the Membership on Senate Committees 2006-2007, are approved as recommended by the Senate Executive Committee.’**
Motion carried.

.02 SECTION B – NOMINATED BY SENATE FROM THE FLOOR OF SENATE circulated as **Appendix C.**

- .0201 AGENDA
 - Dr. Robert Dawson (Science)
 - Mr. Michael Steeleworthy (student rep)
- .0202 ELECTIONS
 - Dr. Susan Bjornson
 - Dr. Jeff Power
 - Dr. Deborah Kennedy
 - Dr. Thomas Rand

.0203 EXECUTIVE

- Dr. Danika van Proosdij
- Mr. Zach Churchill (student rep)

.0204 STUDENT DISCIPLINE

- Dr. Paul Bowlby
- Dr. Stella Gaon
- Mr. Olivier Jarda (student rep)
- Mr. Zach Churchill (student rep)

.0205 STUDENT PARTICIPATION

- Dr. Pawan Lingras
- Mr. Rhys MacDonald (student rep)
- Mr. Mark Keating (off-campus student rep)
- TBA (student rep/completed 1yr/sr. undergrad)

JOINT COMMITTEES

.0206 CONVOCATION

- Prof. Nicola Young (faculty member appt'd by Senate)
- Dr. David Turner (faculty member appt'd by Senate)

.0207 HONORARY DEGREES

- Mr. Doug Vaisey (member appt'd by Senate)
- Dr. Madine VanderPlaat (member appt'd by Senate)

Moved by Dr Dixon, and seconded, **“that subject to the confirmation of those members not present, the nominees for Section B of the Membership on Senate Committees 2006-2007, are approved as stated.”**
Motion carried.

06054

PROPOSED DATES FOR SENATE MEETINGS

- It was noted that in relation to the Budget Presentation in March, the date presented is only proposed and is flexible if necessary.
- Concern was expressed regarding meetings of Senate cancelled due to lack of substantial business. Dr. Dodds has offered to organize a special discussion session for any slow periods in Senate Business. Members were surveyed last year for suggestions. The request will be recirculated.

Moved by Dr. McCalla, and seconded, **“that the proposed dates for Senate meetings of 2006-2007 are approved as presented”.**
Motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**.01 Executive**

.0101 Special Case considerations (2) for Fall Graduation were circulated for information only.

.02 By-Laws (Documents circulated as ***Appendix F, G, I and J.***)

.01 Amendments to Sections 5.2 and 5.4.

- Members were advised of the following:
 - the text inserted into the Senate By-Laws under Section 5.2 - Standing Committee for the Senate Committee on Academic Discipline and the Academic Discipline Appeals Board, is the same text that was approved by Senate at the Senate meeting of May 12, 2006 in Academic Regulation 19.
 - the addition of the Joint Academic Committee of AST and CMU was approved at the Senate Meeting of January 14, 2005.

Moved by Dr. J. MacKinnon, and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the amendments to 5.2 Standing Committees and to 5.4 Joint Committees as presented.”**

Motion carried.

.02 Amendment to Section 3.5 Parliamentarian.

- This motion is proposed to allow Senate the flexibility to appoint a Parliamentarian who is most knowledgeable in parliamentary procedure; whether an elected member of Senate or not.

Moved by Dr. J. MacKinnon, and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the amendment to 3.5 as presented.”**

Motion carried.

.03 Amendment to Article 2 (2.1.4 and 2.3.5) – Changes to provide for electronic meetings.

- Discussion established the following points:
 - Members were advised that in the last couple of years, both Senate and Senate Committee have utilized electronic technology to facilitate securing a quorum and the decision making process. In the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (v10); electronic meetings may be conducted if provided for in the bylaws.
 - concern was expressed that e-mail is not a forum suited for the conduct of the deliberative process, specifically with relation to discussion, debate and or the resolution of disagreements or conflict.
 - concern was also expressed relative to successfully contacting all members of a group by email and also the handling of the voting process. It was pointed out that a call for availability for an electronic meeting would be no different than a call for a formal meeting. Some members

may not be available for a meeting whether it is a formal or electronic one.

- Dr. Dixon advised that in his experience, decisions in electronic meetings had been made utilizing majority vote of the entire membership.
- The decision was to return this amendment to the By-Laws committee for further consideration.

.04 Dr. Stinson presented an amendment covering sub-section 2.5.1 – Senate order of business and sub-section 3.5.1 for a typographical error.

Moved by V. Stinson, and seconded, **“that Senate approves an amendment to the Senate By-Laws version 6.1 as follows:**

- 1. amend Article 2 Conduct of Meetings, Section 2.5 Senate Order of Business, sub-section 2.5.1 - The form of the Senate Agenda, to coincide with additions and changes made to Article 5 Committees of Senate; and**
- 2. amend Section 3.5 Parliamentarian, sub-section 3.5.1 to correct a typographical error (it’s) identified in the first sentence.”**

Motion carried.

06047 **REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES**

.01 **Honorary Degrees** (Documents circulated as *Appendix K*)

Dr. Dodds briefly reviewed the documents circulated as Appendix K. Members were advised that if approved, all would not necessarily be awarded at the Fall Convocation. Degrees that would be awarded are listed in the documentation.

Moved by Dr. Dodds, and seconded, **“that Senate approve the recommendations for Honorary Degrees as an omnibus motion, as circulated in Appendix H.”**

Motion carried.

06048 **REPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEES**

none

06049 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

.01 **Floor (Not involving notice of motion)**

Zack Churchill, President of SMUSA presented a motion on behalf of the Student Representative Council to create an Ad Hoc Committee to review the SMUSA Charter of Rights and Responsibilities Document:

Discussion:

- Student Senators presented that the SMUSA Charter of Rights and Responsibilities was generated as a result of a Strategic Initiative Fund grant but that it is not recognized by the University as an official documents. This Charter is now included in the student handbook. The SRC request the formation of an Ad Hoc

Committee to review and revise this document if necessary and subsequent to that review, submit it to Senate for approval.

- Members were informed that this type of document was generally recognized through the Academic Calendar.
- SMUSA representatives were asked to consider the difference in regulations between graduate and undergraduate students during their deliberations.

Moved by Zach Churchill, and seconded, **“that the Academic Senate strike an Ad Hoc working committee comprised of the SMUSA Vice President Academic who shall chair, one (1) university administrator, one (1) student senator and two (2) faculty members to review the SMUSA Charter of Rights and Responsibilities and make a recommendation to Senate regarding its adoption (or not) as an official university document.”**

Motion carried.

An election was then held to populate this committee. The following nominations were received:

University Administrator

- Dr. Dixon

Two faculty members

- Dr. Keeble
- Dr. Philip Giles

Student Senator

- Rhys MacDonald.

The above were approved by acclamation.

.02 Floor (Involving notice of motion)

None.

.03 Chair

None

06050

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Dodds advised members of the following:

- The SMU flag is at half-mast because of events in Montreal.
- SMUSA held an Education BBQ on campus. MLA L. Preyra attended to help cook and also gave an address.
- Today is the last day for withdrawals without penalty. Both enrolment and course registration (new students, transfer students and returning students) are down in total numbers by 350 students.
- The Hearts and Minds Campaign launches next Thursday at 7:30 AM and 12:00 PM. There will be a pavilion on the front lawn of McNally Main to accommodate this event.
- Alumni weekend is this weekend with a dinner at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel on Thursday evening.
- The day care extension to infant care is located beneath the Loyola Residence Cafeteria. This project will not be finished until the end of December because of the delays associated with remediation work

due to asbestos removal. There is an approximate one-month delay to the schedule.

- Science building asbestos discoveries also impacted the renovation schedule by approximately one month. Contractors have had difficulty retaining labourers due to the higher wages offered in Western Canada. Dr. Dodds asked for the patience of the university community.

06051

QUESTION PERIOD

- Student Senators advised that the named undergraduate scholarship letters were not out and that students were worried about payments of loans due this week. Dr. Dodds acknowledged the situation and advised that all efforts were being made to correct it and that allowances were being made due to unavoidable delays in processing.
- Concern was expressed that this registration year appeared to be the most chaotic from the student's perspective and that attention to a quick resolution was necessary. Dr. Dodds advised that the University is mindful of the Banner issues that contributed to this situation. Efforts are being made to correct and improve the process for the next registration period.
- The question was asked if there was an association or if any analysis had been done on the potential impact of construction on registrations. Members were advised that most students would be unaware of the construction and that there appeared to be no link between construction and the reduced registration. Dr. Dodds advised that the equipment going into the new facilities was state of the art and should make an very positive impression during tours. When completed, the Science building should be an impressive facility. Members were reminded that significant funding for the renovations was coming from the campus renewal fund.

06052

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate