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SENATE MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2007

The 501st Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, March 16, at 10:00 AM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Butler, Dr. Enns, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Konopasky, Dr. MacKinnon, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Pe-Piper, Dr. Power, Dr. Russell, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Stretton, Mr. Hotchkiss, Ms. Lefebvre, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Jarda, Mr. Steeleworthy, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Wicks, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Linney, Dr. Rand, Dr. Van Proosdij, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Mitch Gillingwater, Mr. Churchill, and Miss Lopez.

Meeting commenced at 10:09AM

06061 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

06062 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HONOURARY DEGREES**

Documents distributed at meeting as *Appendix A*.

- Dr. Dodds advised members that the Honorary Degrees committee met yesterday and present these candidates for honorary degrees.
- Dr. Dodds presented brief biographical information on each of the candidates.

Moved by Dr. Dodds, and seconded, “**that Senate approve the candidates for Honorary Degrees as submitted in Appendix A.**”

Motion carried.

06063 **UNIVERSITY BUDGET FOR 2007-2008**

Mr. Corrigan presented the University Budget for 2007-2008:

- Questions:
 - How does the Capital Campaign fit within the budget? Answer: Funds raised are mostly for bricks and mortar and are allocated to infrastructure. Anything outside of what is currently planned, will be handled as a separate project with a separate/individual budget. Members noted that new construction had associated future maintenance costs.

- Is there a reason for the dramatic increase in enrolments at UPEI? How did they achieve that? Answer: A number of the provinces are aggressively campaigning to keep students within the province. UPEI renovated their science building and recreational facilities. They are a smaller institution, so a small increase in registration equates to a larger percentage increase.
- Is the recruiting unit focusing on recruiting more students? Answer: Dr. Dixon advised that communications with potential students have improved. As an example, new applicants are contacted within two days where previously it might have been 2 weeks before the first contact was made. SMU has working relationships with other schools that facilitate transfers. Response has been relatively positive. Parent nights have been organized around the province and have experienced increasing participation. Members noted that the marketplace is fickle and that the choice of a college is an emotional decision, not a rational one. Some of the recruiting and promotional activities are focusing more on this. Dr. Dodds advised that he had an opportunity to consult with some students from outside the local region but within the Maritimes. They advised that the programs and the environment at SMU were particularly attractive to the transfer students. The decision of the college to attend is not just based on price. Members noted that the provincial changes to the baccalaureate are getting attention worldwide. If more information sessions were being done with teachers, this may result in more students coming to SMU.
- Dr. Stretton advised members that as Chair of the History Department, he has dealt with some disappointed students in relation to Banner related and other issues. A key issue is that all the popular courses were filled by August and students were not able to register in the courses of their choice. Concern was expressed (re: budget cuts) to take these issues into consideration. Concern was also expressed relative to budget cuts impacting the library. Members were advised that this budget has 125,000 allocated to electronic resources and has not been cut in this area.
- By December next year the MOU will be signed with the Province and the financial picture for the next three years will be clearer. The inherent risk in this budget is much higher than it will be next year.

06064

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2007 were circulated as *Appendix C*.

Moved by Dr. Bjornson, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2007 be approved as circulated”**.

Motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**.01 Academic Planning**

MPHEC Report submission on Master of Arts and Graduate Diploma Programs in Criminology and the MPHEC application to terminate the Graduate Diploma in Criminology attached as *Appendix D*

- This report was generated in response to MPHEC Program Review requirements. It outlines the successes and problems related to this program and what steps are being taken to address those issues
- The following amendments were noted:
 - Page 6, Observation 2) <<The three graduates of the program>> should say **five** grads.
 - Page 6, Observation 3) << and 12 students are beyond their residency period.>> This should say “and **10** students are beyond their....”

Moved by Dr. Murphy, and seconded, **“that the report submission on the Master of Arts and Graduate Diploma Programs in Criminology be approved as amended and submitted to MPHEC”**. Motion carried unanimously.

- The expectations for the Graduate Diploma program in Criminology were not realized and the recommendation is to discontinue this program.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, and seconded, **“that the Senate approve the termination of the Graduate Diploma Program in Criminology.”** Motion carried.

.02 Academic Regulations**.0201 Regulation 10 – Special Examinations**

- Brief background information was presented on the reason for the regulation review. A review of what other institutions were doing was done and it was found that no other institution charged such a fee.
- Members were advised Regulations in the Graduate Academic Calendar parallel those in the Undergraduate Calendar. This particular regulation appears as Regulation 25 in the Graduate Calendar. Dr. Vessey requested that the motion identify that the change would also apply to Regulation 25 in the Graduate Calendar.
- A typographical error was noted at the end of d – delete the close quotation marks.
- It was suggested that with the removal of the special examination fee, more professors would be encouraged to follow this process.
- It was also suggested that this should be noted in course outlines. With course exams coming up, if this is approved it should be circulated to the students to advise them.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“that Senate approve the changes to Undergraduate Academic Regulation 10 – Special Examinations (aka Graduate Academic Regulation 25) as amended, for immediate implementation.**
Motion carried unanimously.

.0202 Academic Regulation 11 Academic Appeals, a. Appealing of Final Grades (ii)

- Problems experienced by the Academic Appeals Committee in securing student records to substantiate appeal cases identified that a policy was needed on retention of course materials and documentation was needed. On-campus retention of course materials has been specified with the understanding that department chairs will work with part-time and casual faculty to ensure course documentation is stored on-campus for a minimum of 12 months from the deadline of submission of grades.
- Ambiguity was noted in relation to the documentation professors and students were responsible to retain. There was concern over whether instructors would be required to make and retain copies of all work submitted by students. The following amendment was suggested:
 - A student's course documentation should include grade history and any retained graded materials on which the student's grades were based (i.e. exercises, reports, papers, tests, examinations not returned to the student).
- Ms. Lefebvre advised that this policy would be in line with FOIPOP.
- Dr. Vessey requested that the motion identify that the change would also apply to Regulation 30.a(ii) in the Graduate Calendar.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“that Senate approve the changes to Undergraduate Academic Regulation 11 (aka Graduate Academic Regulation 30 a (ii)) as amended.**

Motion carried unanimously.

.0203 Academic Regulation 24 - Requirements of Two Academic Programs (Dual Program) (page 36)

- Because of the change a few years ago to the requirement for a 3.0 GPA, student interest has been reduced to almost zero.
- The question arose about whether there were opportunities within the programs offered to complete two degrees in less than 150 credit hours. Dr. Dixon stated that it depends on if a student was doing a 3 or 4 year degree in Arts, but that is was still very close.
- Members were advised that:
 - that there was no graduate equivalent
 - prior to the 3.0 GPA requirement, students were being very creative in approaches to the dual degree situation and that the program had been very active. The 150 credit hour change appears to offer this same environment. In term of academic advising the approach should be how to add value to the program.
 - It was the feeling of the committee that it should not appear as if students could get a second degree for free.
- The following suggestion was made: The statement that “students have to meet all the specific requirements for each specific degree.” should be sufficient in conjunction with deleting the 3.0 GPA requirement and deleting the material crossed out on the left hand side of the proposed change.

Moved by Dr. Dixon and seconded, **“that Senate approve the changes to Regulation 24 as amended.”** The motion was carried.

.0204 Section 2 of the Academic Calendar – Recruitment and Admission Services Page 19, 4. Procedures for Other Admission Categories.

- This is a provision to cover home schooled students.
- Members suggested clearer definition of what constitutes an acceptable home school transcript (does it come from the parents or the province?)
- The motion was withdrawn. A review of home school transcripts will be undertaken prior to resubmitting to Senate at a later date.

06066

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Dodds advised that:

- The MOU is currently being reviewed. The process for developing a new MOU will be looked at only after the review process is complete.
- 19 March is the federal budget. We are looking for a dedicated transfer to the provinces.
- Some of the provinces have brought out retention bonuses if you study and stay in the province. NB and Manitoba have done this.
- Some provinces offer tax credits that you can then apply to your studies, if you already have a degree from anywhere.
- New Brunswick is reviewing their postsecondary education system and have external reviewers doing that review. The estimate for the long-term in NB is that registrations could be down next year by 20-25%.

06067

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate