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SENATE MEETING MINUTES May 13, 2011

The 533rd Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, May 13, 2011, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Enns, Dr. Smith, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Kimery, Dr. Russell, Mr. Hotchkiss, Ms. DeYoung, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Hahn, Miss MacDougall, Miss Keyes and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Wicks, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Austin, Dr. Barclay, Dr. Barr, Dr. Beaulé, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Ivanoff, Dr. Neatby, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Stanivukovic, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Sun, and Miss Sarah MacDonald.

Meeting commenced at 2:35 PM.

10059

REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Report of the Agenda Committee was accepted as circulated.
Introduction of student representatives for May 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012: Mr. Alwyn Gomez SMUSA President, Mr. Christian Hahn, Miss Sheena MacDougall, and Miss Lauren Keyes (Miss Sarah MacDonald - not in attendance).

10060

SPRING GRADUATES

Documentation circulated at the meeting as **Appendix A**.

Discussion covered the following key points:

- Copies of the list are only being circulated to the Deans and Senate. The list will be posted on the web and in the hall later today.
- There are a number of last minutes changes. We are still waiting for final grades to come in from other institutions.

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

10061

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of 18 March, 2011, attached as **Appendix B**.

Moved by Hotchkiss, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2011 be approved as circulated”**.

Motion carried.

10062

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

10063

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERITUS AWARDS

Dodds advised that these recommendations were approved by the Senate Executive as of this past Wednesday.

.01

Dean Emeritus recommendation circulated as **Appendix C**.

- Recommendation for **Dr. Michael J. Larsen**, Professor, English Department and past Dean of Arts.

.02

Professor Emeritus recommendation circulated as **Appendix D**.

- Recommendation for **Dr. Linda Christiansen-Ruffman**, Professor, Department of Sociology & Criminology.

.03

Professor Emeritus recommendation circulated as **Appendix G**.

- Recommendation for **Dr. David Turner**, Department of Astronomy and Physics.

Moved by Dodds and seconded, **“that an omnibus motion is moved to approve the recommendations of Dr. Michael J. Larsen for the distinction of Dean Emeritus, and Dr. Linda Christiansen-Ruffman and Dr. David Turner for the distinction of Professor Emeritus. These will be forwarded to the next Board of Governors meeting for awarding.” Motion carried unanimously.**

10064

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01

Academic Planning

.0101 Proposal to establish a School of the Environment, attached as **Appendix E**.

Discussion covered the following key points:

- Gauthier advised that both the Faculties of Arts and Science have approved the proposal being submitted. The APC met a number of times to discuss this proposal and has approved it as well. The initiative came out of the proposal to MPHEC for a Bachelor of Environmental Studies. That proposal was approved by Senate in June, 2010.
- Members were advised that the correct name is the ‘School of the Environment’.
- This proposal has been in process for a year. It was done on a very consultative basis. The program will start as of Sept 1, 2011. Uptake of the program has been very impressive.
- The required faculty positions are not new positions and will utilize existing faculty.
- Question: Will we anticipate a name change for the B.Sc. in Environmental Studies degree in the very new future.

Answer: Yes. It has to go through APC, Senate and MPHEC.

- Dixon advised that in order for Recruiting to promote this program recruitment materials are need to send to the printers in June.

Moved by Enns, and seconded, **“that the Senate approve the proposal to establish a School of the Environment as outlined in the proposal submitted as Appendix E”**.
Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Smith, and seconded, **“that a change of name proposal from the Faculty of Science to change the name of the B.Sc. in Environmental Studies to the B.Sc. in Environmental Science, is approved and will be forwarded to MPHEC as soon as possible”**. **Motion carried**

- .0102 2009-2010 Annual Report from CEARC attached as **Appendix F**
Discussion covered the following key points:
- Question: The amount of residual funds and the low expense amount in the past year was questioned. Answer: Gauthier advised that the submission includes a memo about their budget and the issue of the residual funds. The Director’s position of was vacant during the year, which contributed to this situation. The position has been filled and the proposed budget for the upcoming year reflects that.
 - Question: What does MMCCU stand for? Master of Management – Co-operatives & Credit Unions. Dodds advised that four students are graduating from this program at the spring convocation.

Moved by Gauthier, and seconded, **“that the Senate accept the annual report of CEARC as submitted”**. **Motion carried.**

10065 **NEW BUSINESS FROM:**
None

10066 **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Discussion covered the following key points:

- There was a meeting of the 11 university presidents and the new deputy. The negotiation committee consists of four presidents (one of which is Dr. Dodds). Students will be involved in the negotiation process but we do not know what form that participation will take. Meetings are planned for June and November. The Government wants the process concluded by December. Given that timeframe, they are unlikely to reopen the funding formula.
- The Presidents believe the Government’s goal may be 10% over the next three years but we don’t know how that will be spread out other than we have -4% for the first year.
- The central part of McNally is currently closed. Work there should be completed by August. The residents of the south wing of McNally are being repatriated. The renovation and construction of the Service Centre is ahead of schedule at this time.

- The Homburg Centre is on budget and should be finished in March / April, 2012.
- TESL is growing and needs more room. We plan to tear down the old extension and build a new one. Once that project is complete, main part of the TESL building will be closed and renovated.
- Friday, May 20 is the Spring Convocation in the Metro Centre
 - Six prominent leaders will receive honorary doctorates. They are: Dr. Peter Aucoin, Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Public Administration, Dalhousie University, Sarah Dennis, President and CEO of The Halifax Herald Ltd., Hon. Helen Gillis, retired Citizenship Court Judge, Leica Hardy, master dance instructor and choreographer, Dr. Donald Savoie, Professor of Public Administration at Université de Moncton and Paul D. Sobey, President and CEO of Empire Company Ltd.
 - **9:30 AM** – Presentation of undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Science and in the Sobey School of Business, and Graduate Degrees in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in the disciplines of Science and Commerce. Hardy, Savoie and Sobey will be presented at this ceremony. Paul Sobey will be the speaker.
 - 3 PM - Presentation of undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts and Graduate Degrees in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in the discipline of Arts. Aucoin, Dennis and Gillis will be awarded at this ceremony. Sarah Dennis is the speaker.
 - Senators were encouraged to attend Convocation.

10067

QUESTION PERIOD

Discussion covered the following key points:

- Question: Are there any plans for the Science parking lot? Answer: There are plans in the capital plan to resurface it. It will likely happen over the summer months.
- Question: What is the argument against replacing the TESL building? Answer: It is cheaper to renovate.
- Question: Do you anticipate an impact related to the change in the civil servant representation on the government committee? Answer: We have lost the institutional memory inherent in the previous representative and there is likely to be a different dynamic within the group.
- The government fundamentally believes in the O'Neill report. The demographics are not strong and growth has been from outside of Nova Scotia. The Government is in the process of setting up sub-committees to look at the various issues. One of those issues will be shared services.

10068

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate