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SENATE MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2008

The 509th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, April 11, 2008, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Charles, Mr. Larry Corrigan, Dr. Crocker, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Enns, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Kimery, Dr. Konopasky, Dr. MacKinnon, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Pe-Piper, Dr. Power, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Van Proosdij, Dr. Wicks, Mr. Hotchkiss, Mr. Webster, Mr. Gillingwater, Miss Schaller, Mr. Risser, Mr. Dong, Miss. Cunningham, Mr. Adam Harris, Chris MacDougall, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Butler, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Rand, Ms. MacDonald, and Dr. Dawson.

Meeting commenced at 2:30 PM

07062 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

07063 **SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY 2008-2009 OPERATING BUDGET**
A presentation was provided by Larry Corrigan – The budget is to be approved by the Board of Governors on April 29. Documents designated as **Appendix A** will be circulated as soon as approved.

- Question: What about the Atrium project? Answer: It has been approved by the Board. Planning for the work has occurred. Ground breaking is on April 19.
- Question: In three years when the MOU is to be renewed, we will be looking at decreased enrollments. Saint Mary's is not likely to do as well then, is it? Answer: Our grant is proportionate to everyone else's. If overall enrolment goes down there will be no change. Members were reminded that the formula was not changed, new data was used to populate it. The formula could be changed but this would take a significant effort to achieve. In the calculation of this formula, international students are viewed only up to 10% of the student body. We might argue for lifting that cap the next time in relation to the strategy of the province and the recent initiatives regarding immigration.

- Question: How long will it be before we can submit evidence of material impact related to the elimination of mandatory retirement? Answer: The MOU was only signed a couple of weeks ago. The clause to allow funding to subsidize the retirement issue was put in on the final day of negotiations. There is no plan yet how this will be handled. Within the next month, senior finance people will gather to discuss how this will be done. It is likely that a year will elapse and then a financial audit will be done. SMU is affected one year ahead of everyone else.
- Question: Have funds been set aside to deal with the collective bargaining? Answer: Yes. The exact sum is not currently available but can be provided if required.
- Larry Corrigan will provide the Senate Office with an electronic copy of the budget presentation once it is approved by the Board on April 29th <circulation by email and/or hard copy completed on April 30/08>

07064 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- .01** Minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2008, circulated as **Appendix B.**

Moved by Hotchkiss, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2008 be approved as circulated”**.
Motion carried.

07065 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

See report from Senate Executive Committee below.

07066 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- .01 By-Laws**
 Revised By-Laws version 6.1 circulated as **Appendix C**

Key Discussion points:

- Dr. MacKinnon advised that the updates to the By-Laws included changes to 5.5 – Presidential Committees – 5.5.1.2 University Budget Committee, and deleting the University Advisory Committee on Athletics & Recreation; In 5.4 – Joint Committees, The Joint Academic Committee of the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) and Saint Mary's University (SMU) is added; In 5.2 – Standing Committees – The Senate Committees on Literacy Strategy, Academic Discipline and the Academic Discipline Appeals Board are added; Admissions, Student Participation, and Property and Development Committees are deleted; There are changes to 5.2.5 Academic Regulations and 5.2.7 By-Laws Committee; In 3.5 Duties and Responsibilities of Officers there is a change in 3.5.1 change - election of Parliamentarian; In 2.5 Senate Order of Business, there are changes to coincide with changes in 5.2 5.4, 5.5 and 5.2.17. SMUSA has advised that in all instances of the wording “Students’ Representative Council” it should be amended to read Students’ Association.
- The Senate Chair advised members that in his absence, Dean Vessey had submitted a memo with feedback on the By-Law Document. A correction is noted under 4.2.6 - item 13 “Graduate Diploma in Criminology” should be deleted. Dean Vessey raises

concerns related to section 5.2.14.2 – Research Ethics Board. Specifically that there are components which are not in agreement with “The Senate Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans” (dated Sept. 17, 1999. He requests that Senate withhold approving the terms of reference of the REB until one of two things occur; they are brought into agreement with the Senate Policy or a revision to the existing Senate Policy is completed.

- The Chair of the REB advised that the concerns outlined in the memo are essentially in relation to conflict with the old 1999 Senate policy. The governing document for the REB is the Tri Council Policy (TCP). The TCP is a living document and changes frequently. Changes to the structure and operation of the REB have been made over the years as the TCP changed. The Senate Policy is outdated and needs revision.
- McCalla expressed concern regarding the wording of the membership and questioned the section referring to the exclusion of the “University’s legal counsel nor any lawyer”. He suggested that changes be made to the Senate Policy and By-Law section on the REB concurrently. He will provide his suggestion to the Senate Office.
- Power questioned 5.2.2 Academic Discipline Appeal Board referring to the Senate Academic Discipline Committee as the Senate Committee on Academic Discipline. It should be consistent. 8 people on an appeal board seemed cumbersome. Response: Dixon – The two bodies are described as in Academic Reg 19 which was approved by Senate in the last academic year. In each instance the case is heard by a panel of faculty from the department in the which the complaint arose. A large pool is needed to draw from. Only the members required by nature of the appeal participate in a hearing. A large membership demonstrates that the committees are formed so that there is no evidence of bias.
- (* The Board members shall participate in adjudication training annually.) is to be deleted.
- Discussion ensued on whether the Committee on Admissions should be dropped. It was suggested that recruitment and admissions should come under the purview of Senate. Members were advised that the responsibility for this area is now handled elsewhere.
- Murphy advised that there was a joint committee of the university and union that discusses recruiting strategies.
- Dixon advised that admissions requirements come under Academic Regulations and are reviewed by that Senate Standing Committee.
- A member questioned why 5.5 University Budget Committee was in the Senate By-Laws. The listed membership is incorrect. This section was referred back to the By-Laws Committee.
- McCalla – Committee on Literacy Strategy 5.2.13.5 – Item one and two should be combined; also 6. student representation should be amended to say “One student representative of the student body appointed by the Students Association”.
- The By-Laws document was referred back to the By-Laws Committee for the amendments outlined above.

.02 Executive Committee

Revised Professor Emeritus Policy (Version 1.1) circulated as **Appendix D**.

Moved by Wicks, and seconded, **“that the revised version 1.1 of the Senate Professor Emeritus Policy is approved as circulated. The same revisions are to be made to the Dean Emeritus Policy.”**
Motion carried unanimously.

07067 **REPORT OF AD-HOC COMMITTEES**

None

07068 **REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES**

.01 **Honorary Degrees**

Recommendation circulated as *Appendix E*

➤ Dodds presented a recommendation from the Honorary Degrees Committee.

Moved by Dodds, and seconded, **“that the recommendation for an honorary Doctor of Civil Law is approved. Senate’s recommendation for approval will be submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.”** Motion carried unanimously.

07069 **REPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEES**

See item 07063 above – Budget Committee.

07070 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

None.

07071 **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Key points:

- There will be a ground breaking ceremony on April 29th for the official grand opening of the science building and to launch the Atrium project. The plans are ready and the footings are scheduled to be put in during the summer. Access to the Library and Science Buildings will be inconvenienced due to the construction.
- There are a number of projects planned in the capital budget:
 - Both elevators in the SMUSA building will be replaced.
 - The natural gas system is expected to be on line for September. We have 7 boilers. Some need to be replaced while others need to be adapted. There will be significant construction involved.
 - There will be more stone work done on the McNally building.
 - Some work will be done on lighting.
 - The complete listing includes both large and small projects and is available on request.
- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) are the primary agencies through which the federal government supports research at Canada’s universities and research hospitals. In the budget the government announced allocations of \$34 million per year to NSERC for collaborative research. In the last few years, Saint Mary’s has been very successful in securing NSERC grants.
- Members were advised that the half time support for the REB has been increased to a full time position subsequent to recent audit done on the practices of our REB and a requirement of the (TCPS) Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.

- Staff additions in student counselling and advising were recommended by the Student Success Task Force Initiative.
- The current oil tank will be boxed in and some oil will remain on campus for emergency use.

07072

QUESTION PERIOD

- There were no questions.
- SMUSA President Mitch Gillingwater advised that this was the last Senate meeting for the current Student Senators. The incoming SMUSA President, Chris MacDougall and VP Academic Adam Harris were introduced. The other three Senators for 2008-2009 are Miss Shane Cunningham, Mr. Alex Dong and Miss Yasmin Ann Hanna.
- Murphy advised that he had attended a one day summit on accessibility to higher education. Zack Churchill, past president of SMUSA spoke at this summit. Zack was also on the Mike Duffy Live show.

07073

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate