

## SENATE MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2010

The 527<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, September 17, 2010, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

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

**REGRETS:** Dr. Dodds, Dr. Enns, Dr. Wicks, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Stanivukovic, Dr. Sun, and Mr. Gomez

Meeting commenced at 2:36 P.M.

The new members in attendance were introduced and self introductions were done by the student representatives.

### **10001 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND PARLIAMENTARIAN**

**.01** Moved by Pendse and seconded, **'that Dr. Naulls is re-elected as Chairperson for the 2010-2011 Senate year.'**

**.02** Moved by Pendse, and seconded, **'that Dr. Kimery is elected as Vice-Chairperson for the 2010-2011 Senate year.'**

**.03** Moved by Vessey, and seconded, **'that Dr. Pendse is re-elected as Parliamentarian for the 2010-2011 Senate year.'**

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

### **10002 REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

### **10003 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2010, were *circulated* as **Appendix A.**

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **'that the minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2010 are approved as circulated.'** Motion carried.

10004

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**.01 Senate item 09058** – Abbreviated Terms of Reference for the Animal Care Committee (for insertion in Senate By-Laws), circulated at meeting as **Appendix G**

Moved by Smith, and seconded, **'that the Terms of Reference for the Animal Care Committee for insertion in Senate By-Laws, circulated as Appendix G, are approved as circulated.'** Motion carried.

10005

**FALL GRADUATION LIST**

Hard copy documentation was circulated to Deans and the recording Secretary only as **Appendix F** for this meeting. This is in response to a requested at the Senate meeting of May 2010. The Registrar presented the information to balance of Senate members using the projection system in the boardroom. The following key points were made:

- There are 350 grads on the October grad lists.
- The list will be posted on the SMU website today.
- There is a large group graduating in the Certificate in Math Program. This is a large cohort of teachers that went through the programs over the last while and are now graduating together.
- Questions: Has there been any increase in problems with the letters of permission for other instructions. Answer: This is a continuing problem. We have been having issues with getting grades once courses at external institutions are completed.
- The program will be sent to the printer next Friday. Until that time we can still add names to the grad list as are identified between now and then. Most institutes will not add last minute graduates to their program.
- Question: Why is the date for fall grad so early? The early fall graduation date is particularly difficult for FGSR. Answer: Last year the date was early as well. The reason we changed the fall grad date is that students finishing in June or August have to wait 6 or more weeks to graduate if the date is in late October. This has caused some issues for some of our graduates in relation to their jobs. Now that most admissions are done on-line, the Registrar's Office has the time to process grades in relation to graduation earlier.
- The Dean, Graduate Studies and Research requested that consideration be given to a later date for Fall Convocation. Key discussion points follow:
  - FGSR has a significant issue with the tight timelines for processing theses in time for the September 1<sup>st</sup> cut off, especially for those programs ending in late August. This is especially problematic with the MFIN program.
  - With the mid October Convocation date, students completing their programs in August must wait six weeks to get parchments. SMU has attempted to get parchments to students within 2-4 weeks.
  - International students have had to stay an unreasonable amount of time after the end of term in order to participate in convocation.
  - Students who wish to teach English overseas must have their parchments. No other type of document is acceptable and they can be in serious trouble if they proceed without their parchment.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, “to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix F) at the Fall 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.

## 10006

### MEMBERSHIP ON SENATE COMMITTEES FOR 2010-2011

#### .01 SECTION A – NOMINATED BY EXECUTIVE OF SENATE circulated at the meeting as **Appendix B**.

Members were advised that nominees were listed in bold in Appendix C

##### .0101 APPEALS

- Dr. Philip Giles (Arts)
- Dr. Pierre Jutras (FGSR – grad appeals only)
- Miss Cait Dix (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*) (returning)

##### .0102 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

- Dr. Miguel Morales (MKTG/Comm) (returning)
- Dr. Shyamala Sivakumar (MKTG/Comm)
- Dr. Alexander Soucy (RELS/Arts) (returning)
- **TBA (Arts) Dr. Enns will advise**
- Dr. Genlou Sun (BIOL/Science)
- Mr. Michael Mercer (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*) (returning)
- Miss Ayesha Mashoodh (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*)
- Miss Cait Dix (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*)

##### .0103 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE APPEAL BOARD

- Mr. B.J. Hall (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*)
- Mr. Alwyn Gomez (*student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*)(returning)

##### .0104 ACADEMIC PLANNING

- Miss Cait Dix (*student rep elected by Senate to Apr/11*) (returning)

##### .0105 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

- **TBA (Arts) Dr. Enns will advise**
- Miss Cait Dix (Student rep in senior year, appt'd by SA to Apr/11) (returning)
- Dr. Steven Smith (acting Dean of Science)

##### .0106 ANIMAL CARE

- Dr. Ron Russell, Biology (faculty from each Department using animals)
- Ms. Carmen Cranley, Biology (technician from each Department using animals)
- Dr. Cherif Matta, MSVU
- Dr. Jim Gillis (1 Veterinarian)
- Ms. Heidi deBoer (1 University Animal Care technician)
- Dr. Tanya Peckmann, Anthropology (1 University non animal user)
- Dr. Rob Gilbert, (Community Representative)
- Prof. Andrew Hebda (Community Representative)
- Mr. Brian Flynn (Student Representative - graduate)
- **TBA (Student Representative - undergrad) Dr. Smith will advise.**
- Ms. Margaret Schenk (1 Research Grants officer – ex officio)
- Ms. Valerie Wadman, Occupational Health and Safety Officer (ex officio)
- Dr. Paul Erickson, Anthropology (Chair)

#### .0107 BY-LAWS

- **TBA** (*faculty member appointed by Senate*)
- Mr. Matt Anderson (*Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*)

#### .0108 CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Dr. Tanya Peckmann (Arts) (returning)
- Dr. Doug Strongman (Science) (returning)
- Dr. Patricia Fitzgerald (Comm) (returning)
- **TBA**, (*Part-time student nominated by Director to Apr/11*)
- **TBA**, (*Part-time student – OPTAMUS rep nominated by Director – Apr/11*)
- Mr. BJ Hall (*Full-time student appt'd by SA to Apr/11*)
- Prof. David Wilson,(ENGL/ARTS) (Part-time faculty member) (returning)

#### .0109 CURRICULUM

- Dr. Natalia Kochetova-Kozloski (Commerce)
- Dr. Diane Crocker(Arts)
- Dr. Kathy Singfield ( CHEM/Science)
- Dr. Paul Dixon (Vice-President Academic & Research or a Dean (*ex-officio*))
- Miss Cait Dix (*student Senator elected by Senate to Apr/11*) (returning)

#### .0110 LIBRARY

- Dr. Roby Austin (Science) (returning)
- Miss Cait Dix (*Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*) (returning)

#### .0111 LITERACY STRATEGY

- Dr. Daphne Rixon (Comm)
- Miss Lisa Courtney (*Full-time student appt'd by SA to Apr/11*) (returning)

#### .0112 QUALITY OF TEACHING

- Dr. Zhongmin (John) Dong (Science)
- Dr. Mark Barr, English (*One member of Senate selected by Senate*)
- Ms. Heather Sanderson (*One Librarian nominated by the University Librarians*)
- Dr. Cathy Conrad (Teaching Scholar) (GEOG/Arts)
- Ms. Roxanne Richardson (BIOL/Science) (returning)
- Miss Ayesha Mashoodh (*One full-time student rep - nominated by Students' Assoc. Inc. to Apr. 11*)
- Miss Lisa Verge (*One part-time student nominated by OPTAMUS to Apr. 11*)(returning)

#### .0113 RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD

- Dr. Veronica Stinson (Science-PSYC) (Chair) (returning)
- Dr. Jim Cameron (Science - PSYC) (Vice Chair) (returning)
- Dr. Nicole Conrad (Science - PSYC)
- Dr. Peter Secord (Comm - Acct) (returning)
- Dr. Shelley Tulloch (Arts – ANTH) (returning)
- Dr. Audrey MacNevin (Arts – SOCI & CRIM)
- Dr. Margaret McKee (Comm – MGMT)
- Dr. Judy Haiven (Comm – MGMT)
- Dr. Larry Haiven (Comm – MGMT)
- Dr. Camilla Holmvall SCI/(Comm –PSYC/ MGMT)
- **TBA** (external representative) Dr. Stinson will advise.

#### .0114 SCHOLARSHIP

- Dr. Mitja Mastnak (Science)
- Mr. Matthew Anderson (*Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*) (returning)

#### .0115 STUDENT SUCCESS

- **TBA** (Arts)
- Mr. Matthew Anderson (*Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*) (returning)

- Mr. Alwyn Gomez (*Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*) (returning)

**.0116 SUSTAINABILITY**

- Mr. BJ Hall (*Student rep appt'd by SA to Apr/11*)

Outstanding member nominations to be provided as indicated, and ratified at the Senate meeting of October 8, 2010.

Moved by Smith and seconded, **“that the nominations for Section A of the Membership on Senate Committees 2010-2011, are approved as presented above.” Motion carried.**

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

**.0201 AGENDA**

- Miss. Cait Dix (student rep) (returning)

**.0202 ELECTIONS** (elected members of Senate)

- Dr. Vessey, Dean, FGSR

**.0203 EXECUTIVE**

- Miss. Cait Dix (student rep) (returning)

**.0204 STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

- Dr. Stinson
- Miss Ayesha Mashoodh
- Mr. Alwyn Gomez (student rep)

***AD HOC COMMITTEES***

- None currently active.

***JOINT COMMITTEES***

**.0205 HONORARY DEGREES**

- Mr. Michael Mercer (student rep) (returning)

**.0206 Joint Academic Committee of AST and SMU**

- Dr. Edna Keeble was approved by the Senate in the late spring as the replacement for Dr. Crooks who was stepping down.

Moved by Dix and seconded, **‘that the nominees for Section B of the Membership on Senate Committees 2010-2011, are approved as amended above.’ Motion carried.**

**10007**      **PROPOSED DATES FOR SENATE MEETINGS FOR 2010-2011**

Circulated as *Appendix D*.

Moved by DeYoung, and seconded, “that the proposed dates for Senate meetings of 2010-2011 are approved as presented”.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**10008**      **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01

Academic Regulations

2011-2012 Academic Calendar of Events circulated as *Appendix E*

**Key Discussion Points:**

- There are a number of rules that apply to creating this calendar. As is possible there should be 24 teaching days per term. The date to withdraw from classes is defined in the Academic Regulations. The break week is scheduled to conform to that of MSVU and Dalhousie. We need to double check with HR the date the university reopens in January (Tuesday) as we may be open on the Monday.
- The following revision was suggested for the period May to August. The statements need to reflect 2012 instead of 2011. It was suggested that we put the same statement in at the beginning of the Academic Calendar to cover the summer of 2011.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, “that the proposed 2011-2012 Academic Calendar of Events is approved as revised”. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**10009**      **REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES**

None.

**10010**      **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

None.

**10011**      **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**Key Discussion Points:**

Gauthier stated that the full O’Neill report is available on the Government of Nova Scotia web site at (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/>).

➤ Major points follow:

- It was repeatedly stressed that the report was not prescriptive but simply proposes options that might be considered.
- The report provides 10 recommendations over 8 different areas:
  - Tuition and Student Financial Assistance,
  - Government Funding,
  - System Restructuring,
  - Administration Integration,
  - Key Performance Indicators for Quality Assessment and Accountability,
  - Infrastructure,
  - Research, Technology Transfer and Commercialization, and
  - University Funding Formula.
- There were only a couple of specific references to SMU:

- O'Neill recommended the removal from consideration of amalgamation or a merger of AST and SMU emphasizing that there was nothing to be gained from such an initiative.
- It was also mentioned that Mount Saint Vincent should explore a merger or significant affiliation with Dalhousie or SMU to mitigate declining enrollment risks at MSVU. Again Dr. O'Neill stresses that this was not a prescriptive statement but a recommendation for consideration.
- There was also an indirect reference given in regard to industry liaison offices (ILOs). O'Neill stated that Dalhousie's ILO should be maintained, and other university ILO's should be amalgamated. Apparently O'Neill sees Dalhousie's ILO as the central ILO.
- In presentation to the Presidents and AVPs, he framed his report around four questions. O'Neill addressed, in detail, the key drivers of the financial situation facing the university system for the next five years. Again, he was not predictive in regard to government restraints.
- The report contains considerable input in relation to dealing with the financial situation. O'Neill said he didn't have the criteria to offer anything in regard to the university funding formula. He did say that there would be better days ahead and he offered some options to consider for the immediate future.
- O'Neill talked in length on the subject of student fees. He opposes the freeze of tuition fees and supports complete deregulation. He provided his rationale around that view. He recommended a substantial increase in the non-repayable grant portion of student loans. He recommended consideration of restructuring options that could be taken without incurring great cost and focused to provide quality programs.
- He recommended the government permanently eliminate consideration of the creation of a University of Nova Scotia. It simply is not viable. O'Neill suggested that while a University of Halifax might be a future possibility, it should be removed from consideration for at least the next five years.
- O'Neill stresses that universities should explore ways to reduce administrative costs.

10012

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

#### **Key Discussion Points:**

- Question: Did you have any specific concerns arising from this report? Answer: The areas of suggested linkages and administrative collaborations and of advanced scholarship and research are of concern. We will need time to put those into the context of our capacity and what is possible for SMU. There will definitely be some focus and discussion around the tuition issue. O'Neill also made it very clear that the universities must look closer at the compensation of faculty and staff. He didn't prescribe any approach to these issues. He only stated that it must be taken under consideration.
- Question: Did O'Neill refer to one ILO for the entire province or one ILO for Dalhousie and another for the other universities? Answer: The statement is not clear. We will need to seek further clarification.

He definitely stated that Dalhousie should maintain their ILO as a significant operation.

- Question: Did you get any sense as to what extent the government will adopt certain recommendations regardless of his statements that the recommendations in the report were not prescriptive? Answer: There is no way of knowing what the Government's response to this report will be. He offered some options on how to face the challenges ahead. There is a year left on the existing MOU. A committee is being formed to review the MOU. O'Neill did state that the existing model was good and should be continued.
- Question: Were there any indications of timelines and actions? Answer: None were given at the press conference this morning.
- Question: What did you feel was new in this report? Answer: I got the sense from the comments of colleges that the general feeling was one of relief. The belief is that there is flexibility within the report and opportunities to work together towards solutions.
- Question: Was there anything specific said about the economic indicators? Answer: O'Neill recommended bring experts together in the design of quality assessment tools for higher education to assist in the development of a prototype report card for Nova Scotia Universities.
- Question: Members were interested in a report on enrolment. The Registrar advised that:
  - Registration closes today. As of the last update, student registrations are up a little over last year. For the last five years the total of new students has been more or less stable. This year we will see a slight increase in enrollment in new students which is driven primarily by domestic enrollments. Our total international student numbers are also up this year. In the Faculty of Arts, new student registrations are up. Our transfers from Memorial are also starting to increase.
  - Question: What about transfers from other universities? Answer: These are slowly growing.
  - St. FX has invited SMU to provide some brochures for their graduate fair. Huge numbers of students are showing up to the graduate fairs to see what options are available to them. We are participating in some of these.
- The Director of Student Services advised that this is the Alumni Home Coming Weekend. This afternoon there was a really good turnout for the Golden Grad luncheon. Tomorrow there will be inductions into SMU Sports Hall of Fame, and the big football game against Laval. There are lots of other events to celebrate the Alumni Homecoming. See the website:  
<http://www.smu.ca/alumni/documents/Homecoming2010.pdf>

10013

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Barb Bell,  
Secretary to the Office of Senate