

SENATE MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2005

The 485th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, January 14, 2005, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. B. McCalla, Vice-Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Alan Miciak, Dr. Cory Pye, Dr. Danika van Proosdij, Dr. E.A. Chard, Dr. Esther Enns, Dr. Jaroslav Dostal, Dr. Margarethe Heukaeufer, Dr. Paul Bernard, Dr. Paul Bowlby, Dr. Robert Konopasky, Dr. Robert McCalla, Dr. Ron Russell, Dr. Shripad Pendse, Dr. Susan Bjornson, Dr. Terrence Murphy, Dr. Tim Stretton, Dr. Kevin Vessey, Ms. Kathleen Lingley, Mr. Ryan Whalen, Mr. Matthew Shannon, Mr. Derek Schnare, Mr. Keith Hotchkiss, Dr. Shelagh Crooks, Dr. Jim Cameron and B. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Linney, Madeleine Lefebvre, Mr. Partington, Dr. Lee

04250 **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Bob McCalla, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM.

The members of Senate rose and observed one minute of silence in honour of the more than 300,000 killed and 700,000 homeless, victims of the December 26/04 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

The new Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Dr. Kevin Vessey, and guests Drs. S. Crooks and J. Cameron were introduced.

04251 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

04252 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

.01 Minutes of November 10/04 meeting were circulated as Appendix A. Dr. Murphy presented the following changes to section 04242.12 – Research Ethics Board - "... ethical standards, with which all Ethics Boards must comply, are strongly influenced by the medical community. Dr. Murphy suggests we articulate our concerns and submit them to the granting councils with a voice in Ottawa."

Moved by Dr. Bernard, seconded by Dr. van Proosdij, **'that Senate approves the minutes of the meeting of November 10, 2004 as amended'**. Motion carried with one abstention.

04253 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

.01 None

04254 OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA

.01 According to the Professor Emeritus Policy approved by Senate on September 18, 1992, "The Senate Executive will review the nomination and, if a positive recommendation is forthcoming, will forward this to Senate, and subsequent to Senate approval, to the Board of Governors."

This item is transferred to the agenda of the next Senate Executive Meeting to be scheduled for February 9, 2005.

04255 PROPOSED ADOPTION OF STUDENT'S EVALUATION OF EDUCATIONAL QUALITY (SEEQ)

.01 Background documentation was circulated as Appendices B, C, D, E, F, G and K.

Discussion:

Dr. Murphy thanked the committee members who worked hard on evaluating the SEEQ. This instrument has been proposed for adoption because it is considered as superior to what we currently have in use. The following points were made:

- The SEEQ is widely used and has been exhaustively assessed for validity.
- It allows for determinations pertaining to quality of teaching issues and generates more functional reports. It can be also be used for summative purposes.
- The costs involved in making the change are not onerous and there are cost savings related to data entry.
- Customization is possible to address unique programs and situations. Core questions must remain unaltered (to maintain validity of data), but additional questions (a question bank is provided with the instrument) can be added to address specific data requirements.
- The committee recommended SMU seek legal advice on the copyright implications.
- Dr. Murphy advised Senate Members of the following:
 - that the SMUFU Collective Agreement addresses course evaluation questionnaires approved by Senate.
 - There are implications if base questions are changed as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding on Information from Student "Course Evaluations" and the reliability and validity estimates of the questionnaire.
 - The SEEQ is able to provide summaries at the faculty, department and university levels.

- The suggestion was brought forward that on-line evaluations would generate more cost savings and might be advantageous for time and scheduling efficiencies. Further discussion identified that there had been problems with this in other places but no reason exists to preclude this as a future consideration.
- This is the most tested instrument in this field. Anecdotal evidence from professors suggests that this instrument is a useful tool used to improve their own performance.
- It was agreed that an implementation committee will be required to oversee the introduction of SEEQ.
- A suggestion was put forward that a pilot test be done in the transition phase, using both instruments simultaneously. Dr. Crooks responded that the committee did not support that approach due to the fact that validity and reliability issues have already been established for this instrument.
- Required time to complete the questionnaire was estimated at between 10-15 minutes. At the U of Manitoba, students were usually done in 10 minutes.
- The question was called.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Paul Bowlby, **“that the Senate of Saint Mary’s University adopt the Students’ Evaluation of Educational Quality (SEEQ) instrument developed by Dr. Herbert Marsh as a replacement for the current SET instrument, effective in the 2005-2006 academic year.”** Motion carried with one against and no abstentions.

04256 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01 Curriculum Committee - Report circulated as Appendix J. Dr. Chard advised that this summary report represents changes approved by the Curriculum Committee.

Moved by Mr. Schnare, seconded by Dr. Bowlby, **“that the Senate of Saint Mary’s University approve the report of the Curriculum Committee”**. Motion was carried, with one abstention.

04257 REPORT OF AD-HOC COMMITTEES

.01 None

04258 REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES

.01 Convocation
 Spring convocation is Friday, May 20th. The Convocation Committee will meet shortly to determine the distribution of graduating students by faculty. There will be a valedictorian contest in mid February (entries close on Feb 11 with the contest on February 18th). 2 valedictorians and 2 alternates will be selected. The selection committee for valedictorians is a sub-committee of the Convocation Committee.

.02 Honorary Degrees

Dr. Chard indicated that one person has agreed to accept at this time. The President indicated this individual's name will be brought forward at the full Senate Meeting in February.

04259 REPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEES

.01 None

04260 NEW BUSINESS FROM

.01 Floor (Not involving notice of motion)

.0101 Second to last year of the President's term.

As per Section 4, Article 2 "Search Committee" of the Saint Mary's University By-Laws, a search committee is established when there are two years remaining in the present term of the President. Since Dr. Dodds has indicated he is willing to reoffer, the search committee will function as a review committee. Article 2 "Search Committee" (iv) stipulates that two faculty members of the Senate are to be chosen by Senate.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations. Drs Bob Konopasky and Paul Bernard were nominated and both confirmed acceptance.

Moved by Dr. van Proosdij, seconded by Dr. Murphy, **"that Senate close nominations to the Search Committee."** Motion carried unanimously.

.0102 New position of Associate Vice-President, Academic and Research

This position will be for an initial term of 3 years. Dr. Murphy asked Senate to appoint two faculty members (not required to be members of Senate) to an Internal Selection Committee.

Dr. Bernard nominated Steve Davis and indicated that Dr. Davis had confirmed acceptance.

Dr. Paul Bowlby nominated Shelagh Crooks; confirmation of acceptance will be required (confirmation subsequently received).

Moved by Dr. Vessey, seconded by Dr. Russell, **"that Senate close nominations to the Internal Selection Committee."** Motion carried unanimously.

.02 Floor (Involving notice of motion)

.0101 Joint Academic Committee of the Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Mary's University

- Dr. Bowlby advised that this was part of the MOU of Saint Mary's University's affiliation with The Atlantic School of Theology. This is one of two committees dealing with academic issues and is simply a planning committee.

- Committee membership was discussed and it was noted that there was a provision for ad hoc members to be invited as required for joint academic planning.
- Question was called.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Paul Bowlby, **‘that Senate approve the establishing of a standing committee of Senate called “The Joint Academic Committee of the Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Mary's University’.** Motion carried, with two against and no abstentions.

04261

VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Murphy presented on enrollment patterns: compared to last year SMU numbers are down just slightly. Numbers are close to level but are short of budget projections. International student enrolments are still strong though the rate of growth over last year has slowed. Areas of shortfall are Nova Scotia Grade 12 applicants and the number of transfer students. The shortfall in Nova Scotia Grade 12 applicants is partly a demographic phenomenon and might be due to aggressive recruiting of students by other Nova Scotia Universities. Saint Mary's University has stepped-up recruiting efforts within the province.

Senate Members were advised of the circulation of a memo on the upcoming review of the division of Continuing Education. Twelve years have elapsed since the last review. The recent resignation of the Director and the development of the Academic Plan stressing commitment to lifelong learning and community engagement make a review advisable. The Senate Continuing Education Committee met on Wednesday to review the information being presented today. The last review was a program review. This will be a strategic review that will examine whether the present organizational framework is best suited to realize the University's goals in this area. Different perspectives will be sought. The three person panel consists of Stephen McClatchie, Associate Vice-President of the University of Regina, Trudy Pound Curtis (a Saint Mary's University grad, Bachelor of Commerce, Assistant Vice-President Finance of York University), and Dale Schenk (Past Director of Continuing Education, McMaster University, now Executive Dean of Business School, Mohawk College, Ontario). The site visit for the reviewers is March 21 and 22. A report will be produced within 6 weeks of that date. Continuing Education's self-study was finished today.

The Chair read the notice for the “Time for Wine” event to be held in the McNally auditorium on Friday, February 4, 2005 from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Members were encouraged to participate.

04262

QUESTION PERIOD

Dr. Chard addressed the issue of students who in effect “disappear from classes” with no explanation. Members were advised that the Registrar's office frequently receives letters from parents, legal council, etc., in relation to fees and various other issues. Additional information from the faculty would assist the Registrar in responding to these issues.

Members were asked if they could communicate pertinent details as these situations develop.

04063

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate