

SENATE MEETING MINUTES February 11, 2005

The 486th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, February 11, 2005, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Alan Miciak, Dr. Cory Pye, Dr. E.A. Chard, Dr. Esther Enns, Dr. Danika van Proosdij, Dr. Jaroslav Dostal, Dr. Lee, Dr. Margarethe Heukaeufer, 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, Madeleine Lefebvre and B. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Linney, Mr. Partington, Dr. Paul Bernard and Dr. Paul Bowlby

04264 **CALL TO ORDER**
Dr. Naulls, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM.

04265 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

04266 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
.01 Minutes of January 14, 2005 meeting were circulated as Appendix A.
The following revisions were noted:

- On page 3 change "students were ~~always~~ usually done in 10 minutes"
- Also on page 3 – "**Curriculum Committee** - Report circulated ~~for~~ information purposes only as Appendix J".
- On page 6, "~~President's~~ Vice-President's Report". Also, last sentence in first paragraph – "Saint Mary's University has ~~renewed~~ stepped-up recruiting efforts within the province." And in the next paragraph, Stephen McClatchie".
- On page 4 – Honorary Degrees – correct name.
- On page 6 – "The meeting adjourned at ~~5~~ 4:11 p.m."

Moved by Dr. Chard, seconded by Dr. Dostal, **that Senate approve the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2005 as revised: Motion carried with one abstention.**

04267 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
.01 **Nominations to New Joint Academic Committee of Atlantic School of Theology and SMU circulated as Appendix B**

AST **Dean David McLachan**
 Dr. Susan Slater
 Dr. Philip Ziegler
SMU **Dr. Paul Bowlby**
 Dr. Anne Marie Dalton
 Dr. Geraldine Thomas”

Moved by Dr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Chard, **“that Senate accept the nominations as circulated. Motion carried with one abstention.**

04268 **OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA**
None

04269 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01 **Academic Planning**

- Strategic Initiative Fund Call circulated as Appendix C
 - Documents circulated for information only. No action is required by Senate. Applications were encouraged.

.02 **Academic Regulations**

- Academic Regulations Committee recommendation re the Drop/Add period was circulated as Appendix D
- Discussion touched on the following:
 - Dr. Murphy advised that a few years ago, Saint Mary's University implemented a trial extension of the Drop/Add period (page 28, Course Changes - section 13 [b]) of ten working days from the first official day of classes. The Academic Regulations Committee is suggesting reducing the Drop/Add period to 8 working days.
 - Labs become problematical when classes start mid-week and the first Friday is not a lab class. An extension to the following Friday is necessary to enable the student to try out a lab.
 - The following amendment to the motion was suggested **“eight working days from the first official day of classes, excluding Saturday”**. This amendment was accepted by the mover.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Derek Schnare, **“that Senate approves the following change in the Drop/Add period: ‘eight working days from the first official day of classes’.” Motion carried.**

- The Senate was advised that some students experience negative impact to their grades that is directly related to issues arising from late registration and course change.
- Discussion established that a missed lab presents a problem. If the lab is assigned a value of 10% it might not be able to be made up.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Dostal, **“that Senate approves insertion of the following exhortation in the appropriate place in the Academic Calendar – [that reasonable accommodation should be made for students impacted by late registration and course changes] ”**. Motion carried with one abstention.

04270 **REPORT OF AD-HOC COMMITTEES**
 .01 None

04271 **REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES**
 .01 **Honorary Degrees**

Dr. Dodds advised that the following individuals had been recommended for Honorary Degrees:

Moved by Dr. Dodds, seconded by Dr. Dostal, **“that the recommendations for Honorary Degrees, be handled as an omnibus motion”**. Motion carried.

Moved by Dr. Dodds, seconded by Dr. Dostal, **“that Senate approves, the list of proposed candidates for Honorary Degrees.”** Motion carried with three abstentions.

04272 **REPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEES**
 .01 None

04273 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**
 .01 **Floor (Not involving notice of motion)**
 .0101 Missed days due to storm days.

Discussion touched on the following points:

- Senate members were asked if they anticipated negative impact as a result of the recent consecutive storm days. General consensus was that there was an impact, but that reasonable accommodation had been made.
- It was suggested that, if required, the one study day (April 14 Thursday) between the last scheduled day of classes in the second semester and exams could be used as a make up day.
- It was suggested that a plan should be in place, to be activated if needed and that the University identify what that accommodation is, as soon after the storm as possible.

Moved by Dr. Lee, seconded Dr. Pendse, **“that a contingency plan be developed for the eventuality of consecutive storm days negatively impacting course delivery.”** Motion carried with two abstentions.

- Dr. Murphy will work with the Registrar and Deans to develop a plan.

.0102 Caribbean Cultural Expo, March 4th at 6:30 PM in the McNally Theatre Auditorium (Keith Hotchkiss).

- Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students.
- Caribbean food and beverages will be served at this event.
- There will be a performance of groups from St. Joseph's Academy and Sunnyside Elementary School from Antigua. One group is a primary school band directed by Rudolph Davis who is an alumnus of SMU. There are also dancers and the Academy's Choir. They will be performing at three high schools and three campuses while in Halifax.
- Dr. Dodds is hosting a dinner for them on Monday, February 28th at 6:30.

.0103 Clarification requested of Academic Regulation 4 Grading System - b.

Student representatives requested that the Senate Academic Regulations Committee clarify Regulation 4B in regard to students receiving course syllabi. Student representatives suggested that what is the first day of class is open to interpretation. This request will be referred to the Academic Regulations Committee.

.02 Floor (Involving notice of motion)

.0101 None

.03 Chair

.0101 Professor Emeritus Status

At a meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, February 9th, 2005, members approved a motion to forward to Senate the recommendation to award Professor Emeritus Status to Dr. Andrew Harvey.

Moved by Dr. Dodds, seconded by Dr. Richardson, **“that Senate forwards a positive recommendation to the Board of Governors in relation to awarding Professor Emeritus Status to Dr. Andrew Harvey”.** Motion carried unanimously.

04274

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr Dodds advised members of the following:

- The MOU process eventually led to an MOU being signed between the provinces and 11 Universities before Christmas. This MOU gives Saint Mary's University three years of certainty in respect to our revenue base.
- During negotiations it was clear there were other issues the government wants to address such as duplication, credit transfers etc., and these are mentioned in the MOU.
- Dr. Dodds advised members that he was serving on a committee working to lobby the government to refresh the Nova Scotia Research

and Innovation Trust Fund (NSRITF - administered by the Canada Foundation for Innovation). This trust fund was launched in April, 2001 to help the province's researchers pursue projects with social and economic benefits in virtually any sector. An audit of this fund is also pending.

- Dr. Dodds reported that the Canada Foundation for Innovation funds several projects, with a very wide range in scope, that are now underway in Nova Scotia
- Yesterday AAU hosted a one-day conference "The changing role of Universities". The issue of University closures was discussed at this conference. Dr. Dodds asked for feedback from Senate members on the existing SMU policy. He explained that obtaining the information needed at 5:30 AM is not an easy task. As a point of information on the last closure; Metro Transit information sources reported that buses were running when they were actually not on the roads. The SMU cancellation team had to make a decision without access to accurate information.
- Dr. Dodds congratulated Kathleen Lingley on the appropriate nature of a recent article in the Journal related to information on retroactive withdrawals.
- Members were informed of a scheduled open house on March 14.
- We were told that Government provides approximately 35% of the University's budget and it is enrollments that make up the balance. The January enrollments were up at Saint Mary's University. Members may have notice increased advertising by all Universities over the Christmas period.
- Dr. Dodds encouraged Senate members to use every opportunity to promote Saint Mary's University.

04275

QUESTION PERIOD

It was suggested that the current closure policy created confusion because decisions to close are made at two different times during the day. Dr. Dodds explained that the University preferred to offer classes in the evening if the weather allowed. Student representatives reported that student feedback on the new system has been very positive.

04276

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate