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SENATE MEETING MINUTES September 14, 2007

The 504th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, September 14, 2007, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Enns, Dr. Butler, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Naulls, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Dawson, Dr. MacKinnon, Dr. Power, Dr. Pe-Piper, Dr. Van Proosdij, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Kimery, Dr. Charles, Dr. Crocker, Mr. Gillingwater, Miss Schaller, Mr. Risser, Mr. Dong, Miss. Cunningham, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dean Wicks, Mr. Peter Webster, Mr. Hotchkiss, Dr. Konopasky, Dr. Rand, Ms. MacDonald,

Meeting commenced at 2:39 P.M.

07001 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY AND PARLIAMENTARIAN

.01 Moved by Dr. Pendse and seconded, 'that Dr. Don Naulls is elected as Chairperson for the 2007-2008 Senate year.'

.02 Moved by Dr. McCalla, and seconded, 'that Dr. Jeff Power is elected as Vice-Chairperson for the 2007-2008 Senate year.'

.03 No Secretary was nominated or elected.

.04 Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, 'that is Dr. MacKinnon is elected as Parliamentarian for the 2007-2008 Senate year.'

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

07002 REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted with the following amendment:

- Addition of Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee.
- Under New Business, addition to table the University Self Study Document for MPHEC submission.

There being no objections the Agenda was approved as amended.

As many new members of Senate as were in attendance were introduced.

07003

RECOMMENDATION FOR PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Recommendation for Dr. Gary Welch, Department of Astronomy and Physics and supporting documentation circulated at the meeting as Appendix A.

Key Discussion Points:

- Dr. Welch will continue in his research program and is applying to NCERC for funding to support those activities. No additional space will be allocated.

Moved by Dr. Dodds, and seconded, **‘that the recommendation for nomination of Dr. Gary Welch for the distinction of Professor Emeritus is approved and will be forwarded to the next Board of Governor’s meeting for awarding.’**

Motion carried unanimously.

07004

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2007, were *circulated* as **Appendix B**.

The following amendments were noted:

- Page 1 – in Regrets Correct Mr. Shane Cunningham to Miss.
- Page 3 – 06083.01 Academic Planning in bullet point #5, correct spelling of “Allan Rock” to “Alan Robb”
- Page 4 – 06083.03-0301 REB in the 3rd bullet point the question and answer do not match. Insert “the research participant is the subject in the research and not the research assist or the researcher”.
- Page 5 – in the second bullet under convocation – clarification: faculty do not normally teach on the day of convocation. They do teach students that convocate in both the morning and the afternoon sessions. Meaning faculty would have to attend both.

Moved by Dr. Power, and seconded, **‘that the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2007 are approved as amended.’**

Motion carried.

07005

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

07006

MEMBERSHIP ON SENATE COMMITTEES FOR 2007-2008

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

.0101 APPEALS

- Dr. Karen Lightstone (Commerce)
- Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)

.0102 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

- Dr. Alexander Soucy (Arts)
- Mr. Matt Risser (student rep)

- Mr. Alex Dong (student rep)
- .0103 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE APPEAL BOARD
- Dr. Alexandra Dobrowsky (Arts)
 - Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)
 - Miss. Shane Cunningham (student rep)
- .0104 ACADEMIC PLANNING
- Dr. Catherine Loughlin (Commerce)
 - Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)
- .0105 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS
- Dr. Lisa Gannett (Arts)
 - Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)
- .0106 ADMISSIONS
- Mr. Alex Dong (student rep)
- .0107 BY-LAWS
- Dr. Danika Van Proodij (Arts)
 - Mr. Matt Risser (student rep)
- .0108 CONTINUING EDUCATION
- Dr. Tanya Peckman (Arts)
 - Dr. Doug Strongman (Science)
 - Dr. Patricia Fitzgerald (Comm)
 - **TBA** (Part-time student)
 - **TBA** (Part-time student – OPTAMUS rep)
 - **TBA** (student rep)
 - **TBA** (Part-time Faculty rep)
 - **TBA** (Community rep)
- Director of Continuing Education to propose restructuring of committee and nominate outstanding positions at earliest opportunity.*
- 0109 CURRICULUM
- Dr. Kate Kimery (Commerce)
 - Dr. Tatjana Chorney (Arts)
 - Dr. Arthur Finbow (Science)
 - Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)
- .0110 LIBRARY
- Dr. Roby Austin (Science)
 - Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)
- .0111 QUALITY OF TEACHING
- Dr. Shelagh Crooks (Arts)
 - Dr. Robert Singer (Science)
 - Ms. Linda MacDonald (Cont. Educ rep)
 - Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)

- **TBA** (part-time student nominated by Org of Part-Time & Mature Univ. Students). (Committee Chair, Ms. C. Harrigan to advise.)

.0112 RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD

- Approve submitted listing

.0113 SCHOLARSHIP

- Dr. Victor Owen (Science)
- Mr. Mitch Gillingwater (student rep)

Outstanding member nominations to be provided by the Deans or as indicated, and ratified at the Senate meeting of October 19, 2007.

Moved by Dr. Butler and seconded, **“that the nominations for Section A of the Membership on Senate Committees 2007-2008, are approved as presented above.”**

Motion carried.

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

.0201 AGENDA

- Dr. Diane Crocker
- Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)

.0202 EXECUTIVE

- Dr. Bob McCalla
- Miss. Courtney Schaller (student rep)

.0203 STUDENT DISCIPLINE

- **TBA** (student rep)
- **TBA** (student rep)

.0204 STUDENT PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Alex Dong (student rep)
- **TBA** (off-campus student rep)
- **TBA** (student rep/completed 1yr/sr. undergrad)

AD HOC COMMITTEES

.0205 SENATE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE SMUSA CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **TBA** (Student rep – Full-time student appt'd by SRC to Apr 08)

JOINT COMMITTEES

.0206 CONVOCATION

- **TBA** Representative for External Affairs
- **TBA** Representative for Information Technology and Support Systems
- **TBA** Representative for Student Services
- **TBA** Representative for Book Store

- **TBA** Representative for Facilities Management
Two members of Senior Class elected by Senior Class
- **TBA** Sept 27th (Student rep to Apr 08)
- **TBA** Sept 27th (Student rep to Apr 08)
(To be advised by SMUSA and Dr. Dixon)

.0207 HONORARY DEGREES

- Miss. Shane Cunningham (student rep)

.0208 PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

- Mr. Matt Risser (Student rep to Apr 08)
- Dr. Tom Rand

.0209 ADVISORY BOARD ON ATHLETICS

- Mr. Keith Hotchkiss

.0210 Budget

- Dr. John McKinnon (one-year only)
- Dr. Jeff Power
- Mr. Mitch Gillingwater (Student rep to Apr 08)

Moved by Dr. Murphy, and seconded, **‘that subject to the confirmation of those members not present, the nominees for Section B of the Membership on Senate Committees 2007-2008, are approved as stated above.’**
Motion carried.

07007 PROPOSED DATES FOR SENATE MEETINGS
Circulated at the meeting as ***Appendix E***.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, and seconded, **“that the proposed dates for Senate meetings of 2007-2008 are approved as presented”**.
Motion carried unanimously.

07008 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
.01 Curriculum

.0101 Curriculum Changes from the Faculty of Education were circulated as ***Appendix F***.

Key Discussion Points:

- Dr. Enns stated that the Faculty of Education is trying to revamp the existing curricula in education to focus it more towards the area of general ‘liberal arts studies’. This will also have the benefit of making it more flexible in relation to recent changes in the Banner system.
- The MEd/TESL is offered in partnership with MSVU MSVU is the lead institution. The changes are being proposed to provide for more innovation. This is a full course that is being broken into two halves for more flexibility for students.

- A shortened version of the Directed Study course also allows for more scope and flexibility for students.
- It is being proposed to remove 4509.0 from calendar. This course is a left over from the days when SMU was offering the B.Ed. and is a housekeeping item only.
- A member noted that it looked like the Education Webpage had not been updated in quite a while. Dean Enns advised that she will assign someone to correct that..
- Question: Was the Sociology Department consulted in relation to the Sociology of Education course? Answer: Yes they were. It is negotiated and cross-listed as both EDUC and SOCI. Question: Why is the calendar description the same if it is only half course. Shouldn't it be different? Answer: The course has not been offered in a long time and could easily be offered within the description. The course will focus on topics "such as" ... This is a broad scope descriptor.
- 4456.0 - ...Second or Foreign Language – This course is crosslisted with a grad course and the prerequisites state only 30 credit hours of University courses. Some students will be in there with no background in education. Question: Shouldn't there be a 3000 level course listed here? Answer: This course has been operating this way for some time and it works. Graduate students take this course if they are admitted thru the M.Ed. Program at MSVU.
- Question: How do we have a Faculty without faculty? Answer: Dr. Dodds advised that this is a hangover from the 1994 Shapiro report. The report gave a mandate for programming in the "liberal study of education" both at Saint Mary's and other Nova Scotia Institutions. We have not closed this faculty because the Shapiro report did talk about having liberal arts courses across the curriculum. The last remaining faculty member appointed to the Faculty of Education reached retirement this year (Dr. Bernie Davis).
- Dr. Murphy identified that there was a significant advantage to students in identifying these course with education labeling.
- Dr. Vessey advised members that the cross-listed graduate course exist in the graduate calendar as of this year. The graduate calendar has a section on Education. Members were advised that whether there was a Faculty or not, SMU would continue to offer these courses and they would remain in this section.
- Question: Who submits a budget for this? Answer: Dean Enns is the acting Dean.
- It was noted that the course that is being dropped is an applied course. Question: Even though it is left over from the previous situation, wouldn't there still be value in keeping it as a half credit? Answer: Dean Enns stated that there are already a suite of two courses that serve this purpose: Perspectives on Schooling and Schooling and Society.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **"that the Senate approves the changes as presented."**

Motion carried.

07009

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES

.01

Honorary Degrees (Documents circulated at meeting as **Appendix G**)
Dr. Dodds briefly reviewed the documents circulated as Appendix G. Members were advised that if approved, all would not necessarily be awarded at future Convocations. Degrees that would be awarded are listed in the documentation.

- Members were advised that those receiving in the fall would be: Hon. Wilfred P. Moore, Walter Borden, Rev. Dr. Donald Edward Fairfax
Question: Is there a standard set of information that is required in a nomination for an Honorary Degree? Answer: No. Research is done by Mr. Doug Vaisey to substantiate the recommendation.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“that Senate approves the recommendations for Honorary Degrees as an omnibus motion, as circulated in Appendix G.”**

Motion carried.

07010

REPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEES

none

07011

NEW BUSINESS FROM

.01

Floor (Not involving notice of motion)

The Saint Mary's University Institutional Quality Assurance Report (Self-Study) Report was circulated at the meeting as **Appendix H**. SMU committed to submission of this report to MPHEC by the beginning of October.

Key Discussion Points:

- The report is distributed for information purposes.
- MPHEC has a process for reviewing institutions and this report is part of that process.
- Later in the fall, a meeting will be scheduled to review this document with MPHEC's Quality Assurance Monitoring Committee and a site visit will take place.
- A report will be drafted from that input and we will have a chance to respond. AAC will then make recommendations for MPHEC's approval and then those will be posted on their website.
- Question: How did we do? Answer: Dr. Murphy acknowledged that during the process there weaknesses were identified, but strengths have also noted in the report.
- Question: Does the self-study make any comparative review of other Universities. Answer: Dr. Murphy advised that discussion had occurred with MSVU regarding their audit and some of the quality measures they have put in place.
- Dr. Dodds advised that the MPHEC reports resulting from reviews of Acadia and St. Anne's have just been received. Once they publish their finding, the report will be published on the website and will be available in hard copy. Faculty was asked to bear that in mind when the Quality Assurance Monitoring Committee are on campus.

.02 Floor (Involving notice of motion)

Key Discussion points:

- Mitch Gillingwater stated in consideration of the legalities and other issues SMUSA has decided to leave the guide as is.
- There being no further discussion, the question was called.

Moved by Miss Courtney Schaller, and seconded, **“that Senate disband the Ad Hoc Committee to Review ‘The SMUSA Charter of Rights and Responsibilities’ Document.” Motion carried.**

.03 Chair

None

07012

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Dodds advised members of the following:

- On the issue of campus renewal we are close to finishing the Science Building. Dr. Butler advised:
 - Recently labs have been able to be opened as needed.
 - Researchers are still displaced but this will be resolved this fall.
 - The fourth and fifth floor spaces are largely completed.
 - The 3rd floor is still being worked on at this time with an expected finish date of the end of Sept/October.
 - Major construction should be completed by the end of November. Corridor and minor finishing touches will be done over the Christmas break.
 - In January, system deficiencies and calibrations will be addressed.
 - We are more or less on track for this completion.
- Future work projects in planning are: the Atrium, an extension on the white house on Inglis Street, paid for by a significant Canada Research Fund. This funding will be topped up a little to complete that facility. Unfortunately, four mature trees will have to be cut come down to accommodate this expansion.
- There will be an announcement next week in relation to health and wellness centre funding
- On Monday there will be a panel on campus to discuss our program for teacher education. In particular, they appear not to like our articulation agreement with the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI).
- The MOU with government will finish in March. The CFO and VP Finance are currently meeting re developing the costing data. There are four more meetings before Dec 12 and then the Presidents will meet.
- Enrollments are down 2% in full course offerings. We did budget for a drop. Dalhousie is down 1.9%. The Mount is down 4%. Acadia is down 5%.
- Last year we had a small first year class and a huge graduating class and there has been a decrease in continuing students (Students out for at least a year).
- There have been a number of tragedies, two students and two of the staff in Facilities Management.

- There have been a number of visitors to the campus recently; the High Commission for Ghana and the Chinese ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Lu Shumin were just two of them.
- A Shambala event was held on campus the week of August 12 to 19th (the Kalapa Festival).
- The President of SMUSA, presented first year student Leticha Lucas with a \$15,000.00 (tuition for four full years) Undergraduate Student Bursary.
- SMUSA is involved a fundraiser in support of the SMUSA Opportunity Bursary. Terry Kelly will be performing and proceeds will go to the bursary.
- There will be an inauguration of the Science Building. Question: Is there a long list of donors? Answer: The largest single donation is a million and a half which does not qualify in relation to the naming of the building. We have a proposal in for the naming of the Atrium building. The Science building financing came from CFI funds/ACENET Project and the rest is campus renewal fee. Dr. Pendse advised that there are two or three business schools that just recently received large donations and were named after the contributors.
- Dr. Murphy advised that new student numbers are up by close to 10% based on preliminary figures. International student numbers are up by 5%. The MBA and MFIN program registrations are both up significantly. There is good news in the recruitment picture even though FCEs are down by 2%.
- Question: We the government be revamping the funding formula? Answer: Dr. Dodds – The basic funding formula is frozen and we don't know what they have done recently. We think they have run the enrollment figures for the last three years and are comparing them. If that is the case, there will be winners (singular) and there will be losers. In terms of redoing the formula, that would take significant time. We have argued that we are not happy with the weighting used. Different winners and losers would result if this was done differently. The biggest winner would be Dalhousie because they have grown significantly. We have not had significant growth in science but have in the graduate area. We could just break even. FX may also win to some degree. The Government may just take the existing formula and put the enrollment numbers in. They do not have a lot of new money to put into the system. We will have to wait and see.
- Dr. Dixon advised that they have confirmed that they are using MPHEC data to work the formula.
- Question: Is there any indication that students will be included in this round of talks. Students only advised only one hour before the MOU was signed. Answer: Dr. Dodds advised there has been no indication from the Government how they will approach this. There was a breach of trust last time and that is not acceptable in this situation

07013

QUESTION PERIOD

None.

07014

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate