

## **SENATE MEETING MINUTES** **February 12, 2010**

The 523<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, February 12, 2010, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

**PRESENT:** Dr. Dodds, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Butler, Dr. Enns, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Barr, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Charles, Dr. Kimery, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Neatby, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Russell, Dr. Stanivukovic, Dr. Sun, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Mr. Hotchkiss, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Anderson, Miss. Dix, Mr. Gomez, Mr. S. Sun, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

**REGRETS:** D. Wicks, Dr. Beaulé, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Crocker, and Mr. Mitchell.

Meeting commenced at 2:35 P.M.

**09041**      **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted as circulated.

**09042**      **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2010, were *circulated* as **Appendix A.**

The following amendments were noted:

- Page 4, 09034.02 Curriculum Committee Appendix A, first bullet point – Change the second last sentence to read “...they have to be approved by each of the graduate program committees.”
- Page 3, 09034.02 Curriculum Committee .0201 in the third bullet delete sentence: “There is an agreement .... in this area.” Also delete the whole of the fourth bullet.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **‘that the minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2010 are approved as amended.’**  
**Motion carried.**

09043

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

09044

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01

**Senate Committee on Academic Planning**

**.0101 MPHEC Proposal from the Faculty of Arts for a new Major in Entrepreneurship attached as *Appendix B*.**

**Key Discussion Points:**

- This proposal introduces a new major in entrepreneurship. It is drawing on a program that already exists in the B. Comm. The Academic Planning Committee strongly supports this proposal.
- The introduction of entrepreneurship into Arts is an effort to formalize something that has been a core element in the Arts for some time. In more recent years these elements have been described as the entrepreneurial mindset. This is a unique program in Canada and has a lot of support from others instructing in this area.
- The proposal states that there are no new resources needed either in body or paper (library). Question: If the idea is to create this mindset within the Arts programs, would it not be useful for students to be exposed to people already successfully operating in this area of endeavour? It would be less of a leap of imagination for students, if instruction comes from people that have or are involved in entrepreneurial businesses. For students to be able to understand where the individual disciplines fit within careers, would be a significant asset. Answer: Enns – Through the Sobey School of Business, we have the Business Development Centre which is a resource to students working in the area of entrepreneurship. The Business Development Centre was involved in the development of this proposal.
- Question: Why is there no requirement in the proposal for specific arts courses? Answer: The students are doing a BA so they have to fulfill those requirements.
- Question: Are no specific arts courses required? Answer: No. B.A. students doing a Major in Entrepreneurship must meet existing B.A. degree requirements, and they must meet the existing requirements for the Major in Entrepreneurship.
- It was noted that it was a shame not to capture the philosophy expressed on the first page for Arts Students. When you look at the required courses listed on page four it appears to be lacking. This proposal should include new course offerings, otherwise, why would you propose a new program? Surely there should be one or two courses within this new program that are designed specifically for this program. Maybe those would be seminar courses? Answer: The Entrepreneurship Major to be embedded in the Bachelor of Arts degree is the same Major that can be taken in the Bachelor of Commerce degree. The requirements for the Major are same for B.A. students as they are for B.Comm. students. The difference is

at the level of “degree requirements. This is not a new program.

- The Registrar advised that the core courses that are unique to the Entrepreneurship program are in the proposal. This is not a business degree. There are elements that are part of the degree and there are elements that are unique to the Entrepreneurship Major within the bachelor of commerce, plus all the prerequisite courses that are necessary to do those courses.
- Student representatives advised that there is a clear demand from the student body for more options for majors within the Bachelor of Arts degree,
- This has already been done in the B.Sc The Majors in Mathematics and Psychology are offered by the Faculty of Science, but they are available to students enrolled in either the Bachelor of Science or the Bachelor of Arts degree programs. In all of these cases, the requirements for the Major are identical for all students. The only differences in program requirements come from the general degree requirements of the student’s respective program in Arts, Commerce or Science.
- It was noted that ethics was vitally important in this area. SMU has at least one faculty resource that instructs in this area. Here is an example of an arts course that would fit perfectly within this program. It was noted that students have the option of taking that course as a part of their BA.
- It was noted that both Ethics and Finance are missing. Both subjects are considered to be key elements in entrepreneurship.
- Members were advised that the BA is less prescriptive. To add a particular course would be outside the norms of the degree.
- Student representatives noted that while ethics is not necessarily required for the Entrepreneurship Major, the course was assumed as a requirement within the B.Comm degree. It might be advised to review the courses seen to be important in running the program? We should consider what requirements of the B.Comm are being left behind and what impact that may have to the Entrepreneurship Major.
- Members were advised that the requirement for ethics is driven by the philosophy behind the B. Comm. degree. The requirements for the BA are less prescriptive. The ethics requirement was not developed because of the entrepreneurship major, but because of a developing philosophy within the business community.
- Question: Did the Academic Planning Committee discuss this? Answer: No.
- Question: Who will administer this Major? Where will the students get advice? Answer: The students will get advice on the BA from the Faculty of Arts office. If students have questions on the Major in Entrepreneurship, they will get that information from the Sobey School of Business.

- Concern was expressed about things a student in Arts would be interested in acquiring. For example, questions that come up in the area of ethics are usually discipline specific.
- Members were advised that new courses in the area of entrepreneurship would be developed by Commerce and not Arts. If there is a desire within the various departments, those new courses would be developed over time by the curriculum committees.
- It was noted that in the letter from Robert Summerby-Murray, there is considerable detail providing points that we assume he intended us to consider. Concern was expressed that this letter will attend the proposal and MPHEC may ask why those points were not addressed. It was noted that his point #6 states that it refers to 5.1 but it does not make sense in context to that section of the proposal. Question: Did the APC see this letter when they discussed this proposal? Answer: This letter was received early in the process of the development of this proposal. The committee responded to those prior to submission for APC review. It was suggested that this should be articulated within the proposal in the area of 7.2 Response to consultation. We should say that we took Murray's response into consideration, so that MPHEC is aware of that.

Moved by McCalla and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the MPHEC Proposal from the Faculty of Arts for a new Major in Entrepreneurship for furtherance to MPHEC.” Motion carried.**

**09045**      **REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES**

None.

**09046**      **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

None.

**09047**      **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dodds advised:

- Prior to the Senate meeting, there was a meeting in this boardroom with The Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) that did not finish until 1:45 PM.
- ANSSA is the provincial student advocacy group. SMUSA is a member and there were representatives of our student assoc attending this meeting along with others from St. FX, Acadia etc. The group discussed planning of responses to the upcoming MOU negotiations. Student representatives were invited to participate in the last round of negotiations. It is anticipated that will be repeated in the upcoming negotiations.
- The potential impact of Tim O'Neill's report (due in the mid June) was discussed. O'Neill is a past faculty member of the Economics Department here at SMU. He is retired and living in PEI. He was asked by the province to head its review into the post-secondary education system. He has said that he will consider all options to

ensure the highest efficiency and quality of education - including joining universities together. He will be assessing fiscal capacities of the province, financial conditions of universities and demographic and the enrolment trends of Nova Scotia's post-secondary system. The goal of the report is to ensure long-term sustainability despite declining youth population and tight funding. Some Universities have already had a meeting with O'Neill.

- We discussed the potential impact of such a study on the MOU. One idea that has been voiced is the creation of a "University of Nova Scotia". A phrase O'Neill has used is the "law of unintended consequences". He is well aware that if an umbrella organization like that were created, there would be a number of things that would happen that would be unintended.
- The official opening of the Atrium is pending although it is currently officially occupied.
- The Burke Building is also scheduled for renovation. It is to get new windows, a new roof and bathrooms. There will be renovations to theatres A & B and also other renewal projects.
- The campus renewal fee will be increased. The trend has been to increase this every 2 years by \$2.00. The extra revenue would support the renovations. These funds are to be used for academic purposes only and can not be used for improvements to the student centre, recreation facilities etc. It has to be something of academic benefit.
- More work will be done on the residences over the summer.
- McNally building has been causing a lot of disruption but the improvements are good ones. Completion is expected to be by June or July of 2011.
- Question: Is there an offer of \$10,000,000 for someone to put their name on the Atrium? Answer: It is out there for naming opportunities. Unfortunately, it is not a good time for this type of thing. The interest is not in bricks and mortar, but tends more towards named scholarships. The largest single donation received towards the Atrium project was 1.5 million.
- Student representatives advised that the Students Association is against the campus renewal fee increase which would amount to \$70.00 per full-year course or \$35.00 per 3 credit hour course.

**09048**      **QUESTION PERIOD**

No questions.

**09049**      **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 P.M.

Barb Bell,  
Secretary to the Office of Senate