

Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada, B3J 3C3
Senate Office, MS 114
Tel: 902-420-5412
Fax: 902-420-5104
Web: www.smu.ca

SENATE MEETING MINUTES June 11, 2010

The 526th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, June 11, 2010, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Butler, Dr. Enns, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Barr, Dr. Beaulé, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Charles, Dr. Crocker, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Russell, Dr. Stanivukovic, Dr. Stinson, Mr. Hotchkiss, Miss. Ayesha Mashoodh, Mr. BJ Hall, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Ms. MacDonald, Dr. Tastsoglou, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Kimery, Dr. Neatby, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Sun, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Wicks, Mr. Anderson, Miss. Dix, and Mr. Gomez

Meeting commenced at 2:37 PM.

09071 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

Report of the Agenda Committee was accepted as circulated.

09072 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

.01 Minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2010, attached as **Appendix A**.

The following revisions were noted:

Dr. Russell was in attendance.

Moved by Bjornson, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2010 be approved as amended”**.

Motion carried.

09073 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None.

09074 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

.01 **Academic Planning**

.0101 MPHEC Proposal from the Faculty of Arts of a Bachelor of Environmental Studies attached as **Appendix B1& B2**.

Discussion covered the following key points:

- As a result of the report from the Sustainability Task Force, a pan-campus sustainability initiative was developed that encompassed all campus activities including a mandate to develop new academic programming.

- In priority #3 in the Academic Plan, 2008 – 2011 (Engaging the Vision) the focus is “Building on existing areas of strength, broaden and enrich Saint Mary’s programme offerings relating to current and emerging societal priorities, and the needs and interests of new constituencies of students”. In line with this priority, the Academic Planning Committee is recommending a new degree in Environmental Studies. The B.Sc. in Environmental Studies is primarily a science degree while the new proposal is oriented towards policy but is also enriched with courses in science and management. The Faculty of Arts and specifically the Department of Geography have brought this proposal forward.
- During recent consultations with the members of the Environmental Studies Executive, it became clear that the Science faculty thought the initial consultations were not extensive enough. Further consultations were undertaken to correct this and the proposal was revised prior to being submitted to Senate.
- There is a concern that any new proposal in a new area of study should have a pan-institutional approach. This led to the suggestion for the development of some kind of a school or organization to bring together students studying in this area. The Deans of Science and Arts will move a motion to initiate such a school.
- The motion for approval of the Bachelor of Environmental Studies and that to create a pan-institutional School of Environmental Studies are very closely related and interdependent.
- In terms of student recruitment, there is considerable student interest among those that are not necessarily interested in a science degree, but that are interested in environmental issues.
- This is a very focused and career oriented degree credential. The breadth of study spans a wide range of disciplines. The approved electives are associated with environmental studies. The number of free electives is limited. Students look at environmental issues through the social sciences and humanities. This would lead to careers in policy and administration and not science. This proposal is unique in nature as there are no similar degrees offered in other institutions.
- Many of the environmental science faculty members are keen to have something like this initiated. This creates a good linkage for students and we feel that the creation of the school is a critical component. The program structure attempts, as far as is feasible, to draw on courses that are in environmental studies and to link the students together in an effective way.
- This program has been in development a long time. The program is bigger than the Science program in environmental science. A member asked special notation for the significant work done by Cathy Conrad, who was instrumental in bringing this proposal here today. This program is a different type of degree and does not emphasize any specific area in arts, science, geography, or environmental science.

- It was noted that there is an error in year two - only 27 credit hours and year three has 33 credit hours in it. The suggestion was to move three credit hours into year two to resolve this issue.
- This type of skill set and expertise is needed and is a great alternative for some of our mature students.
- It was noted that enrolment in BIOL 1201, 1202 was capped at 30 and these classes are traditionally full. This could cause a problem.
- BIOL 1201 and 1202 are necessary to take a lot of the other courses but 1203 is not a requirement. Members were advised that BIOL 1203 was going to be reinstated as a general requirement. Students that want to take this degree without being in the science faculty don't really want to get into a full fledged biology stream. We have provided an option for non-science students. BIOL 1203 was included to give them a more accessible entry point.
- Question: If this degree is structured around policy, why is there not one single policy course listed even in the electives. Answer: PSYC 1250 – Social Behaviour has policy components as do a number of the environmental studies courses.
- Question: What are the students going to be able to do when they get out? How do the outcomes in Section 3 on page 8 match with the labour information found on pages 16 & 17? Do we have some sense that the students will be able to get these types of jobs? Answer: The degree does not lead directly to a specific career. The program provides students with skills, knowledge and experience that they can apply to a variety of environmental sectors.
- Russell – Appears that the students will be earmarked for environmental policy positions. It was noted that the scientific knowledge of many of the current career individuals in positions related to environmental policy is typically inadequate. It was suggested that a focus on specific areas of science would be beneficial without expanding the science content.
- Admission requirements are equivalent to the BA. Students will be allowed to transfer into the program.
- Question: Can a minor be added to an existing program? Answer: Currently there isn't an option for a minor. If subsequently there was a desire to do this, it might be considered. It was noted that there could be an issue with double counting of courses. The other challenge that could arise would be doing a dual degree (EG: BA in Geog combined with a Bachelor in ENVIS).
- A friendly amendment was proposed to the motion concerning a pan-institution School of Environmental Studies, to make the final report due for submission to Senate in May of 2011.

Moved by Murphy, and seconded, **“that the Proposal of a Bachelor of Environmental Studies is approved for forwarding to MPHEC for their consideration”**.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Dean Butler and seconded by Dean Enns, “**That Senate call upon the Academic Planning Committee to develop a framework for a pan-institutional School of Environmental Studies as a working title (the exact name to be determined later) to coordinate programming in Environmental Studies, including the B.Sc. in Environmental Studies, the Bachelor of Environmental Studies and any subsequently approved programme that Senate deems appropriate to place under the auspices of this School. The framework will include a suggested governance structure that supports the interdisciplinary, cross-cutting nature of Saint Mary’s programming in Environmental Studies. Further, that the Academic Planning Committee deliver an interim report on this matter to Senate within six months and a final report in the May 2011 Senate meeting.**” Motion carried.

.0102 SOCI/CRIM Program Review Response attached as **Appendix C1 (memo), C2 (Final Rpt), C3 (V1 Dept Resp), C4 (V2 Dept Resp)**

Discussion covered the following key points:

- Murphy advised that in the memo dated June 7, 2010, in the fourth paragraph, last sentence there is an error. It should read “to reduce potential conflicts **for** students” – not **with** students.
- The initial department response was positive and open but very preliminary in nature. APC asked the department to develop their response a bit more. In response to this request, a revised response dated March 30, 2010 was submitted to APC.
- The department has continued to consider suggestions made by the review committee and just in the last couple of days a proposal has been received to review a cooperative education initiative. This follows along with the ERC recommendations.
- In the Action Plan table in the status column APC advises that although discussions were completed on the recommendations, the results of the discussions were not necessarily implemented in a concrete fashion. Further work is needed.
- It was suggested that the Senate receive this report as an interim step until we can learn what actions have been taken.
- Almost all 16 recommendations have to do with academic matters. Recommendation 11 deals with space planning which is outside of Senate’s purview.
- Question: Have we done this type of thing in any previous reviews? Answer: We did this a couple of years ago with the MBA review.
- Question: Is one year a reasonable period, considering that a revised SOCI/CRIM curriculum is working its way toward

Senate. Answer: This revised curriculum will come before Senate before the end of 2010.

- Senators were advised that the word “completed” in the table status column was referring to whatever was in the department’s purview to change.
- Question: Has the department set up groups in regard to common learning objectives? Answer: The department has come up with common learning objectives and outcomes.
- Question: What is the status of an external report? Is it to be enforced? Answer: There is an expectation that the comments of external peers should be taken seriously and that their recommendations should be implemented unless there are clear and objective reasons why they should not be. There may be good reasons why something won’t or can’t be done.
- Question: Many of the ERC recommendations have broader implications in terms of the University overall (EG: teaching assistants involved in mentoring; interdisciplinary teaching programs). Do the members of the APC think about these messages in terms of what the University’s response should be? Answer: The Faculty of Arts is working on a Faculty policy for TAs. In terms of interdisciplinary policies – they say some discussion should take place in regard to this. It must be noted that all but one member of the SOCI/CRIM Department is appointed to this department only.

Moved by Murphy, and seconded, **“that Senate receive the document dated March 30, 2010, including the appended table, as an interim report from the Department of Sociology and Criminology to the recent External Review of their undergraduate programs on the condition that the Department submit to Senate within a year a final report detailing the actual results achieved in response to the recommendations contained in the Report of the External Reviewers.” Motion carried.**

Moved by Murphy and seconded, **“that with respect to recommendation 11 in the Report of the External Reviewers, which concerns a space plan for the Department, that Senate call upon the Department of Sociology and Criminology to work in consultation with the Dean through established channels to develop and implement a workable plan, bearing in mind the needs and constraints of the Faculty of Arts as a whole and the steps already underway to improve facilities in the Faculty.” Motion carried unanimously.**

.02 Animal Care Committee

.0201 Terms of Reference document circulated as **Appendix D.**

Discussion covered the following key points:

- Butler advised that a few months back the Animal Care Committee was approved as a Senate Standing Committee. A Committee Terms of Reference document was requested. In doing this, some suggestions from the March 12 Senate

meeting were incorporated into the TOR document. If the Senate is comfortable with this document, a condensed version will be developed for the Senate By-laws to be submitted for the September Senate meeting.

- A concern was expressed regarding the relationship with external bodies. On page 2 under Authority e) Extend such authority to any other organizations for which the SMU ACC oversees animal care through Memoranda of Understanding signed by officers of Saint Mary's University. At this time, this includes Mount Saint Vincent University.
Answer: This is similar to the way the REB handles a similar situation and follows the requirements of regulating bodies.
- Question: How many depts. are using animals? Answer: Currently only one department. We have to keep our membership open and flexible for potential future expansion.
- Question: How does membership get assigned? Answer: The same as the REB membership. They are nominated and Senate considers those nominations for approval.
- Question: What is a non-animal user? Answer: Someone who is not involved in animal research.
- It was noted that on page one in the line titled Quorum, at the end of the line it states "and one veterinarian". It should say and the veterinarian. In the next line titled "Terms of office" the statement "This does not apply to the veterinarian and the Animal Care technician" should be stated in a more affirmative fashion.
- Question: Is the quorum stated at 50% plus one onerous for this large committee? Answer: This hasn't been an issue.
- On page 6 under e) "Will provide an annual report to Senate at the end of each calendar year" should be changed to be consistent with the requirements for Senate Committees to report annually in October.

09075 REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES

.01 Honorary Degree Committee

.0101 Recommendations from the committee circulated as ***Appendix E.***

Moved by Dodds, and seconded, **"that the recommendations as submitted in Appendix E are approved as an omnibus motion". Motion carried.**

09076 NEW BUSINESS FROM:

.01 Floor (not involving notice of motion)

.0101 Dodds advised that Gabe Morrison asked him to mention the pending development of a Service Excellence Council. In a recent Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (SUSC) survey 90% of our students indicated that they were satisfied with their decision to attend SMU but only 61% were satisfied with the concern shown by the University to them as individuals and 50% felt that they were given the runaround. There are some critical service gaps that we need to address. There will be a Shared Vision Workshop on Friday, September 10th from 9 AM to 4 PM with respect to developing a shared vision for providing service

excellence to students and others at SMU AND what that would look like. This will then lead to the formation of the council.

Service excellence means different things to different people. Examples of some elements: problem solving in a timely fashion, accountability, respectful communication, practicing continuous process improvement, and factual responses delivered in a respectful fashion by well trained and knowledgeable employees.

A document from Ms. Morrison was submitted for the record as ***Appendix F.***

09077

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Discussion covered the following key points:

- We are still awaiting the Tim O'Neil report. We have a board meeting on Monday but it does not look as if the report will be available.
- During the week there have been different flags displayed on our flagpole. On June 7th, 18 representatives from the English Teacher's Association of Iceland were on campus for a one-week intensive TESL course. We also had an ambassador from Hungary on campus, representatives from Thailand and Vietnam, and two weeks ago there was a delegation from China visiting.
- Congratulations were presented to Dr. Malcolm Butler on his new position at Carleton University. Dr. Butler starts at Carleton on Aug 1.
- Dr. Terry Murphy was also acknowledged for his 9 years of service as Vice-President, Academic and Research. He will be taking administrative leave and then will return to a teaching position within the Department of Religious Studies.

09078

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate