

**Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of Senate**  
**(A special meeting to deal with the extension of class days)**  
held Thursday, April 6, 2006  
ITEC Lecture Theatre, Robertson Library, 5:30 pm

Present: L. Bate, A. Buchanan, D. Buck, S. Coady, D. Coll, K. Critchley, B. Davetian, M. Doyle, N. Etkin, R. Gallant, F. Gray, R. Herbert, M.L. Hughes, S. Jones, C. Keen, R. Kurial, S. Lee, F. Markham, L. Miller, J. Moran, M. Murray, M.J. McCarthy, R. MacDonald, W. MacLauchlan, J. Nimmo, T. Ogilvie, W. Peters, G. Pike, S. Qadri, W. Rankaduwa, D. Ryan, K. Schultz, D. Seeler, J. Sentance, S. Simpson, E. Spangler, H. Sutherland, J. Velaidum, D. Wagner

Regrets: E. Coady, M.L. Hughes, J. Nimmo

Absent: G. Bradshaw R. Gordon, K. Teather, S. Thomas

The Chair welcomed everyone back and explained that this special meeting was convened to have Senate consider amendments to the Calendar which would allow for the extension of class days following the faculty labour disruption of March 21 to April 5.

There were three motions introduced at the meeting.

**Moved ( R. Herbert/R. Kurial):** that University Senate approve teaching days for the Main Campus, University of Prince Edward Island on Friday, April 7; Saturday, April 8; and Monday, April 10. It was further proposed that classes normally conducted on Monday be conducted on April 7<sup>th</sup>; that classes normally conducted on Tuesday be conducted on April 8<sup>th</sup>; and that classes normally conducted on Wednesday be conducted on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

J. Sentance noted that there was no provision for classes that would normally be held on Friday, and wondered if the Friday classes could be accommodated in some way.

A. Buchanan responded that the intention was to recover as much class time as possible in the four teaching days remaining. By following a Thursday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday rotation, an additional 2011 students could be accommodated. It was suggested that professors who teach on Fridays could contact the Registrar's Office to find a time and space to hold an optional class.

Senators requested clarification on rules regarding the assignment of midterm exams on the additional instruction days. The Registrar indicated that in keeping with the normal rules, no tests or exams are to be held two weeks prior to the exam schedule without permission of the Chair and Dean.

S. Coady reported that students had concerns that professors scheduled tests for Monday evening and they have an exam on Tuesday morning.

H. Sutherland asked what students would do in the instance of a conflict with work on Saturday. A. Buchanan responded that conflicts would inevitably arise between class time and work, and that students would have to determine which was their priority.

**Carried**

**Moved ( R. Herbert/R. Kurial):** that the University Senate approve that the Examination period stated in the 2005-2006 Calendar extending from 10 April - 24 April inclusive be revised. The revised examination period will run from 11 April - 24 April, inclusive.

It was noted that Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> exams are re-scheduled for Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and that the last exam is currently scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

F Gray asked if there was consideration given to conducting the April 10th exams on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, or alternatively on April 24<sup>th</sup> to enable a block of open time over the Easter weekend.

In response, A. Buchanan offered that even though the last exam is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>, it was thought prudent to keep the 24<sup>th</sup> as a buffer day in case of inclement weather or some other unforeseen circumstance. He also noted that Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> had the most students writing exams, and that many students have travel arrangements that anticipate an early finish of exams. Delaying by a day or more would further complicate travel and scheduling arrangements.

W. Rankaduwa pointed out that international students, in particular, have travel arrangements that are very difficult to change.

A. Buchanan indicated that every effort will be made to accommodate students' legitimate needs, including the arrangement of special exams and exam times, or arrangement for the supervision of exams at other institutions.

W. MacLauchlan noted that there is a strong feeling that the students are a priority and faculty and administration will do everything reasonable to accommodate them.

W. Peters indicated that he felt every faculty member is sensitive to the situation and prepared to be flexible.

**Carried.**

**Moved (T. Ogilvie/L. Spangler):** that the University Senate approve teaching days for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine on Saturday, April 8; Saturday, April 15; Monday, April 17, including evenings and teaching into the exam schedule, if necessary.

T. Ogilvie explained that the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine could fit all necessary instructional time into the existing Calendar time frame. However, it was felt that by passing the resolution, faculty at AVC would have another option if they were not able to cover the necessary content within existing time frames.

**Carried.**

R. Gallant noted that he had heard from many students who were frustrated with the events of the past several weeks. Students were concerned that this disruption would reflect badly on their academic record. To that end, he requested that the University consider: (1) that students have the option of appending to their transcript a letter from the Dean, explaining the events of the term. (2) that poor academic performance this semester not be considered in the assessment of academic probation, academic dismissal, and scholarship renewal. (3) that students be able to discontinue courses without penalty. And (4) that students so wishing be able to complete course evaluation forms.

A. Buchanan noted that due to the unusual circumstances, students would receive a 60% refund if they discontinued before the start of the exam period and before a final grade had been submitted for the course.

L. Spangler suggested the solution of a Pass/Fail option and indicated that this was an option offered her when she attended a university which experienced a work stoppage.

S. Simpson spoke in favour of the proposals put forward by R. Gallant, and in particular noted the need for optional course evaluations.

W. Peters pointed out that foregoing the course evaluation for this semester was part of the "back to work protocol". Individual professors could have the evaluations administered if they so chose. He suggested that perhaps students didn't understand the purpose of the evaluation. They are intended for formative purposes, to assist professors in making pedagogical and instructional changes and improvements.

In light of the fact that it will now be a teaching time, the Chair polled Senators to determine the need and the desire to hold the regular monthly meeting scheduled for 3 PM on April 7th. After reviewing the agenda items it was determined that all could be dealt with at the Senate meeting of Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006..

All Senators agreed.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Buchanan  
Registrar