

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of Senate
Held Friday, February 9, 2007
ITEC Lecture Theatre, Robertson Library, 3:00 p.m.

Present: G. Bradshaw, A. Buchanan, D. Buck, K. Critchley, D. Dahn, M. Doyle, N. Etkin, R. Gallant, F. Gray, J. Hogan, M. Hughes, R. Kurial, K. Landry, A. Lopez, F. Markham, J. Moran, M. J. McCarthy, R. MacDonald, P. McKenna, W. MacLauchlan, M. McNiven, J. Nimmo, T. Ogilvie, G. Pike, K. Schultz, J. Sentance, W. Shilton, S. Simpson, H. Sutherland, S. Thomas, V. Timmons

Regrets: L. Bate, C. Keen, M. Leggott, M. Murray, W. Peters, W. Rankaduwa, D. Seeler, J. Velaidum,

Absent: B. Davetian, C. Lacroix, S. MacDonald, M. MacEachern, D. Ryan

Guest: P. Hooper

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair, W. MacLauchlan, called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda with the suggestion that agenda item 9, Report of the Honorary Degree Committee (in camera), be moved to agenda item 5, following the President's Report.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 5, 2007

The Chair indicated that he had received a letter from the President of the Faculty Association raising the question of the role of URC in the policy and process for selection of professor emeritus. The Chair recommended that this be dealt with under Business Arising from the minutes. F. Markham noted that there should be a change in the professor emeritus document under "nominating process", reflecting the consultative process that had been suggested at last Senate meeting. A. Lopez agreed that the last line of the nominating process should read : "Chair of the URC will invite the Chair and Dean to add documentation following consultation with the Department."

Moved(T. Ogilvie/H. Sutherland): that the minutes of the January 5, 2007 meeting of Senate be approved as amended.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - January 5, 2007

As previously mentioned, the Chair received a letter from the President of the Faculty Association, Wayne Peters, regarding conferring the rank of professor emeritus and the involvement of URC. The Chair reflected that this question had been raised at the January 5th meeting, and that it had been indicated that the recommendation of the Task Force and the action of Senate in adopting the new Policy and Process do not constitute an interference with the current mandate of the URC or with the faculty collective agreement. The Chair commented that two members of the Task Force have served as members of the URC, and that their recommendation recognizes that the URC has the appropriate skill set and composition to deal with professor emeritus recommendations. The ultimate decision to confer the rank of professor emeritus belongs to Senate, and Senate's action to seek the advice of URC under the new Policy and Process can be considered an instance of delegation; to an existing body, not an assertion of jurisdiction over URC in its mandate under the collective agreement. The Chair invited comments. There were none.

In other items arising from the minutes, T. Ogilvie wished to reinstate the motion that was tabled from the January 5 meeting which states:

Moved (K. Schultz/T. Ogilvie): that Senate approve the proposed Centre for Veterinary Epidemiological Research and recommend its establishment to the Board of Governors.

Carried.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- The President noted a number of events and activities that are happening on campus.
- The Grand Opening of the NRC INH is scheduled for February 16.
- International Development week wrapped up February 13 with the 6th Annual Luncheon featuring Doreen Kays as guest speaker. Asher Fredericks was named as the recipient of the UPEI International Student Scholarship.
- The christening of the new Steinway Grand Piano occurred with the first public performance on February 3, featuring Frances Gray and colleagues from the Department of Music.
- Researchers from UPEI are playing key roles in three of the six projects that attracted investment from the Atlantic Innovation Fund as announced on January 17th. These include: "Discovery and Production of Marine Bioproducts" (Russ Kerr as lead proponent); a collaborative project for the therapeutic treatment of sea lice in salmon and trout between the Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences at UPEI's Atlantic Veterinary College and Elanco Animal Health Canada (Larry Hammell as a major contributor); and, a project dealing with invasive species in shellfish aquaculture, in collaboration with the PEI Aquaculture Alliance (Jeff Davidson and Franck Berthe as major contributors).
- The President noted that Dr. Shannon Murray has been elected to represent the region on the steering committee of Canada's Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE).
- UPEI Students Caleb Curtis, Gabriel Landry, Daniel Palmer and Hannah Sutherland took first place in junior design at the Atlantic Engineering competition and will be heading off to Saskatoon for the Canadian Engineering Competition, March 8-11. A UPEI team of Engineering students placed second in the junior design category and will also be heading to the Nationals. A third team in the consulting division tied for first place. This is the first time that three teams from UPEI will head to the national competition.
- The Winter Banquet with proceeds in aid of the Friends of UPEI Student Bursary Fund will be held at McMillan Hall, February 15th.
- Once again this year UPEI will be hosting the CanWest Can Spell spelling Bee to be held on March 3rd at McMillan Hall.
- Noted Canadian environmentalist, Dr. David Suzuki spoke at UPEI on Saturday, February 3 as part of his National Tour. UPEI colleagues and students, along with community partners, offered an impressive program of perspectives on sustainability issues.

The President noted the recent passing of Sr. Bernice Cullen who was both a UPEI Founder and Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies. He noted that Sr. Cullen "stole the show" with her remarks at the November event honoring the contribution of Former Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr. Regis Duffy.

5. HONORARY DEGREE COMMITTEE (In Camera)

Moved (R. Kurial/R. Gallant): that Senate approve the nominations brought forward by the Honorary Degree Committee for 2007 Convocation.

Carried.

The Senate Meeting resumes out of Camera session.

6. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE REPORT ON CURRICULUM CHANGES

Moved (R. Kurial/W. Shilton): that Senate approve the deletion of the six semester hours of second language for the Honours English Program.

Dean Kurial noted that the removal of this requirement will put the UPEI programme in line with other Honours programmes in Canada.

D. Dahn commented that he would like to see UPEI require that all students have a course in mathematics. This is a

standard requirement in most other institutions, and a similar policy at UPEI would ensure that we are in line with other institutions.

Carried.

Moved (R. MacDonald/J. Sentance): that Senate approve the deletion of the economics requirement for the Bachelor of Business Administration degree and replace it with a free elective.

Carried.

Moved (D. Dahn/N. Etkin): that Senate approve the following changes within Biology courses:

Biology 222 - the following sentence be added to the last sentence of course description. "Laboratories will primarily consist of field investigations and analysis of field data" and the hours of credit be changed **from** "Three hours lecture, one hour tutorial a week" **to** "Three hours lecture, three hours laboratory a week"

Biology 111-112 - Delete the following sentence "This 60% combined average regulation does not apply to students who have received credit for Biology 110 prior to the 1996-97 academic year." under Notes regarding 100-level biology courses on page 77 of the 2006-2007 calendar.

The "ten-year-rule" for past course credit has now been reached.

Biology 112 - Insert the following note at the end of this course description

"NOTE - In most years, Biology 112 will be offered before Biology 111. Students intending to complete both courses in a single academic year should take the courses in whichever order they are offered."

Carried.

7. ACADEMIC PLANNING FACILITATION COMMITTEE

V. Timmons presented an update on the Campus Wide Curriculum Discussion. Members leading the Curriculum Discussion are as follows: Arts - Scott Lee; Science - Andrew Trivett; Education - Basil Favaro; Business - Ron Collins; Nurisng - JoAnne MacDonald; AVC - Darcy Shaw; ASG - Tamara Leary

8. UNIVERSITY BUDGET PRESENTATION

Gary Bradshaw and Phil Hooper presented an overview of the 2007-08 budget estimates.

For main campus, the principal sources of revenue are the annual operating grant from the Province and tuition revenue. A request for 1.4, 1.65 and 1.9 million increases over the next three years was presented to the Department of Education. Enrolments are expected to decline by 130 students over the next four years, based on current enrolment patterns and maintaining an average of 800 full time students in the freshmen class. After covering core costs including salaries, benefits and utilities, there remains about \$120k to deal with over \$900 in new budget requests.

For AVC, a new 5 year agreement is being negotiated with the four Atlantic provinces. Based on current estimates, there will be about \$300k to deal with new budget requests after covering core costs.

Gary Bradshaw emphasized that the budget situation is extremely tight and even these estimates are subject to obtaining the requested provincial operating grants.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The Registrar provided an update on student success and retention based on first semester statistics. This past Christmas the Registrar sent 143 "good work" letters to students who had been on academic probation and whose performance had improved to the point where registration restrictions could be lifted. This compared with 215 last

year. However, it was noted that there were fewer people who had received probation status in the spring because of the flexibility afforded students during the spring labour disruption. The Registrar also sent 312 “warning” letters, suggesting ways that students could improve their academic performance and avoid suspension. This compared with 273 similar letters last year. As with past years, 75% to 80% of the warning letters were sent to first and second year students. Males continue to be disproportionately represented in the warning letters, constituting 38% of the student population and 45% of the warning letters. The only other notable statistic was an increase in the number of letters to Arts majors, up 43% year over year. We will continue to monitor this. Overall course enrolments are up slightly over a similar time last year. In total, 538 students did not return after Christmas. Many of these would have completed the requirements for the degree, others transferred to other institutions, some received warning letters and choose not to return. Only 44 were first year, first-time entrants to the university. There has been a steady decline in this statistic since Christmas of 2001, when 76 first year, first-time entrants did not return.

On the positive side of the ledger, UPEI received 331 students after Christmas. One hundred and forty two of the gained students were first time registrants, including 32 new International students , and 17 students who transferred from other institutions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 4:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Alan G. Buchanan
Registrar, Secretary to Senate