

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of Senate
held Friday, March 10, 2006
ITEC Lecture Theatre, Robertson Library, 3:00 pm

Present: A. Buchanan, D. Buck, S. Coady, D. Coll, K. Critchley, B. Davetian, M. Doyle, N. Etkin, R. Gallant, R. Gordon, F. Gray, R. Herbert, M.L. Hughes, S. Jones, C. Keen, 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, W. Rankaduwa, D. Ryan, K. Schultz, D. Seeler, J. Sentance, S. Simpson, E. Spangler, K. Teather, S. Thomas, J. Velaidum, D. Wagner

Regrets: G. Bradshaw, R. Kurial,

Absent: E. Coady, S. Qadri, H. Sutherland

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Two supporting documents were circulated for the benefit of senators: a budget/business plan for the proposed MBA program forwarded from ARPC; and the UPEI Enrolment & Retention Statistics document referred to in Agenda Item 6, report of the Enrolment Analysis Committee.

Moved (J Nimmo/F. Gray): that the agenda be approved.

Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from February 10, 2006

A. Buchanan noted that the date in item #2, "Approval of the Minutes" should read January 13, 2006. Further on page 2 of the minutes under Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, it should read VBS 806 not 860.

The Chair invited a motion for the adoption of these changes to the minutes.

Moved (J. Sentance/J. Nimmo): that the Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President mentioned that the university is at an intensive stage of negotiations. He wished the members of the negotiating teams well in their work.

The President acknowledged several events regarding faculty achievement:

- Don McCormac has been named the recipient for the 2005 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Administration by the PEI Chapter of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC).
- In mid-February the Province announced 10 inaugural projects under the Prince Edward Island Research and Development Fund and of the ten, seven involved the work of UPEI colleagues - Cai Song, Ian Dohoo, Greg Keefe, Fred Kibenge, Carolanne Nelson, Chris Riley, Larry Hammell, Don Rainnie and Laurie McDuffee

In terms of student achievement the President noted :

- Our team of Engineering students won the 2006 Atlantic Engineering Student Competition over eight other teams and now will be representing the region at the National Engineering Student Competition in Montreal this weekend.
- Arts student Adam Arsenault is one of twenty Canadians who has been selected to travel to Botswana for a 6-8 week workshop on HIV Aids in that country.
- Beverly Gerg will be the first UPEI graduate in the Masters of Applied Health Services Research Program which is offered jointly with other universities in the Atlantic region.
- The School of Nursing and Department of Family and Nutritional Sciences recently held a highly successful annual health fair.
- On March 3, 4, and 5, UPEI hosted the Undergraduate English Conference, which featured sixty or seventy papers being presented and students participating from all the universities in the region.
- On March 3-5, UPEI played host to the Atlantic Universities and Aquaculture Conference and the Atlantic Universities Undergraduate Biology Conference

- In terms of student life, UPEI hosted the AUS Women's basketball finals; a series of music recitals is scheduled throughout the month of March, a beach volleyball tournament was held at the WA Murphy Centre, the UPEI theatre company has mounted a new production, and the annual Business Society Luncheon was a success. This weekend, the UPEI men's basketball team is traveling to Halifax to compete in the regional finals.

The President also provided an update on the work of several search committees:

- For the University Librarian position, two candidates have been on campus for their visits and the final candidate is scheduled to be here on Monday and Tuesday, 13 and 14 of March.
- For Dean of Science, two candidates have been through the search interview and visit process. One on Wednesday, March 15 and Thursday, March 16. The final candidate will be here on March 20 and 21.
- UPEI will host the provincial finals of the CanWest CanSpell Spelling Bee on March 11th.
- The Muslim Society of Prince Edward Island, in cooperation with UPEI, is organizing three events at UPEI - March 9, March 15 and March 30.
- Anne Compton, the first Islander to win the Governor General's Award for Poetry since Milton Acorn, will give a poetry reading in the UPEI Faculty Lounge in Main Building

4. REPORT ON CURRICULUM CHANGES

Faculty of Arts

History

Moved (A. Buchanan/J.Velaidum)

Cross list Canadian Studies 302 - The Canadian Experience with History 302.

Carried

Psychology

Moved (A. Buchanan/J. Nimmo)

Psychology 371 - Add the following to Three hours a week, two hours a week laboratory

Psychology 311 - Add the following to Three hours a week, two hours a week laboratory

Psychology 102 - Delete the note in the course description. ~~Note: there are no regularly scheduled workshops for Psychology 102. However, students should expect that their instructor will involve them in projects and other such activities throughout the semester.~~

Psychology 101 - Delete ~~one hour a week laboratory~~

Carried.

School of Nursing

Moved (K. Critchley/M.J. McCarthy)

Add #6 under Professional Conduct which states:

6. A student may withdraw voluntarily from the clinical component of a course only once during the program. Special consideration may be given for a student with extenuating circumstances.

Under Student Dismissals #13, add the following new sentence at the beginning of the paragraph:

13. Students who have been dismissed from the nursing program as a result of a clinical failure are not eligible for readmission to the program. Students dismissed for reasons other than clinical failures are eligible to apply....

Nursing 101 - Change **from** Other: 2 Community/Clinical Conference **to** 2.5 Community/Clinical Conference

Nursing 310 – Change **from** Other: 308 hours over 9 weeks in hospital and/or community following the end of the second semester **to** 297 hours over 9 weeks in hospital and/or community following the end of the second semester

Nursing 313 – Change **from** Other: change 15 community **to** 16 community

Change Biology 232 - Introductory Pharmacology **to** Nursing 232 - Introductory Pharmacology

Carried.

Moved (A. Buchanan/J. Nimmo): that Senate approve the following regulation on Academic Standing

Academic Regulation 17: Academic Standing

At the end of the academic year, students are automatically assigned one of the following standings based on academic performance:

Good Standing

Academic Probation

Academic Suspension

Definitions:

For the purposes of this policy, “Academic Year” is defined as September to April.

“Satisfactory Semester” is defined as any semester in which a student fails no more than one course and scores 60% in at least half of the courses attempted.

An “Unsatisfactory Semester” is defined as any semester in which a student fails more than one course, or scores less than 60% in half of the courses attempted.

Policy:

Students who have two satisfactory semesters in an academic year will be assigned the designation of **Good Standing**.

Students who have one unsatisfactory semester in an academic year will be placed on **Academic Probation** for the subsequent academic year. Students on academic probation may have restrictions placed on their course loads, and may be required to enrol in an academic support program.

Students who have two unsatisfactory semesters in an academic year, or who have an unsatisfactory semester while on academic probation, will be placed on **Academic Suspension**. Students on academic suspension are not permitted to take academic courses at UPEI for a full academic year following suspension. Any post-secondary studies completed during the period of academic suspension are not eligible for credit toward a degree or other credential at UPEI.

Appeal:

Both the standing and the conditions of academic probation and academic suspension are subject to appeal to the **Student Academic Appeals Committee**.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the proposed regulation. N. Etkin noted that there appears to be an inconsistency in the calculation of “unsatisfactory semester” and asked that the words “more than” be inserted before the word ‘half’. W. Rankaduwa expressed his belief that the Deans should not be taken entirely out of the process. D. Buck commented on the confusion of calculating “unsatisfactory semester” on a 60% standard when 50% is a passing grade. A. Buchanan replied that there is an academic regulation that requires a student successfully complete 10 courses in the selected major with a minimum grade of 60%. R. Gordon pointed out what appears to be the unfairness of placing a student with two high, but two sub-60% grades on academic probation or suspension. A. Buchanan pointed out that the student could appeal the decision.

There was some discussion about exploring other options for assessing academic performance, most notably converting to a Grade Point Average assessment. The Chair suggested that a working group be formed with the Registrar’s Office and the Academic Appeals Committee to prepare a discussion paper for the consideration of ARPC.

This motion will be **tabled**.

5. THIRD REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC REVIEW PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved (R. Herbert/R. MacDonald): that the University approve and offer, through the School of Business, a masters level program for a Masters of Business Administration.

R. MacDonald noted that there are two primary streams within the program - entrepreneurship and biotechnology. The program will offer a grounding in the fundamentals of business education with the opportunity to specialize. It is intended that the program will be an "executive" style MBA, limited to those who have at least four years of business experience. It is also intended that the program will be self-funding, and will have its own schedule of fees.

J. Velaidum asked for clarification regarding the minimum average of "B" for entry into the program. He also pointed out that we do not want to be preparing people for the business of Biotechnology who may not have the scientific understanding necessary to be successful in the business. He asked whether someone with an accounting background, for example, could enter the entrepreneur stream of the program and then change to the biotechnology stream, with very little biotechnical training.

In response, R. MacDonald indicated that the "B" average is the norm for similar graduate programs, and further, admission requirements for the Biotechnology stream will require a science background or extensive work in the scientific field.

J. Sentence inquired as to what additional resources might be needed outside the Business faculty. R. MacDonald indicated that there is a substantive review by MPHEC with regards to the addition of any new graduate program, and part of that review is the consideration of additional resources.

Carried

Moved (R. Herbert/F. Gray): that the University approve raising the University of Prince Edward Island's standard entrance requirements from 65% to 70% for recent high-school graduates effective September 2007. At the same time the University will expand the one-year Transition Program to accommodate students in the 65%-69% range. Students successfully completing the Transition Program would be granted normal admission.

C. Keen provided the background and rationale for the proposal. Our statistics show that students who enter UPEI with grades less than 70% are much more susceptible to failure. It was noted that the time frame for implementation is September 2007. A communication has been sent to all high school Principals and it has been discussed with high school Counsellors. A further discussion of the proposal will take place with Counsellors when they meet again on campus on April 7th.

B. Davetian asked if students had to have 70% average in all their grade 12 courses. A. Buchanan noted that it would be based on five of the grade 12 academic courses. C. Keen pointed out that we are not excluding the students who do not have the 70% but we are providing them the extra support they appear to need in order to achieve their academic goals.

Carried

Moved (R. Herbert/D. Buck): that the University approve the Academic Planning Facilitation Committee terms of reference and that the committee become a Committee of Senate.

After some discussion it was decided to divide the motion into two distinct motions. The first motion, outlining the terms of reference for the committee, would be tabled for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Tabled

A new motion would deal with the membership of the committee and its status as a committee of Senate. Accordingly, the mover and seconder put forward the following new motion:

Moved(R. Herbert/D. Buck): that the University approve the revised membership and that the committee be established as a committee of Senate .

J. Velaidum noted that there was no provision for Deans to be represented on the Committee. While there is currently a Dean on the Committee, it is only by virtue of his position as a member of ARPC.

D. Buck noted that one of the purposes of this Committee was to help unburden the Deans. This will give the University another stream for inputting academic ideas into the University.

R. Gordon noted that this committee could be a sub-committee of ARPC rather than Senate. There is a strong link between ARPC and this committee.

D. Ryan suggested that a sentence be added at the end of the Revised Membership motion to read "Members reflect the diversity of the University community."

R. Gallant noted the revised membership calls for one student union representative. Shaun Coady has been a member of the committee in his capacity as a Senator. With the thematic focus of the APFC being student success/student experience, it would be good to see another student representative, possibly a student representative of Senate who is not a member of Student Council.

D. Wagner noted the disadvantage of requiring student members to be Senators, in that the timeframe for Senate representation dictates committee membership and the term of service.

S. Simpson suggested that there be a requirement that an agreed upon percentage of committee members must be members of Senate.

J. Moran noted that if a Senator was to also be a member of APFC, it would be a considerable amount of work.

There was some question as to the necessity of having an Academic Support Group representative as a member of the committee. D. Buck noted that while the committee is fashioned as the Academic Planning Facilitation Committee, it was very carefully designed and positioned so that we draw upon everyone in the university community not just the academic units. A concerted effort was made, particularly, in the facilitations, to draw in the administrative departments as well.

It was proposed that the motion on the floor be amended to read

Moved (R Herbert/D. Buck) : that the University approve the revised membership to reflect the diversity of the university community, and further, that the APFC be henceforth mandated as a Committee of Senate.

Carried.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENROLMENT ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

C. Keen gave a brief overview of the enrolment statistics as of February 2006 compared with February, 2005. It was noted that the PEI school age population is on the downslide over the next 4 years. Provincial breakdown shows that student numbers have been holding quite nicely within Prince Edward Island. We have had a slight decline in the other Maritime provinces, which is our second most important market for recruitment. The percentage of PEI high school graduates has remained strong, indicating higher participation rates. The International student numbers also continue to increase.

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING

Report received.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Buchanan

Secretary