

**Minutes of the Third Meeting of Senate**  
Held Friday, November 3, 2006  
ITEC Lecture Theatre, Robertson Library, 3:00 pm

Present: L. Bate, A. Buchanan, D. Buck, D. Coll, K. Critchley, D. Dahn, B. Davetian, M. Doyle, N. Etkin, F. Gray, M. Hughes, R. Kurial, C. Lacroix, K. Landry, M. Leggott, A. López, F. Markham, J. Moran, M. Murray, M.J. McCarthy, R. MacDonald, S. MacDonald, M. MacEachern, P. McKenna, W. MacLauchlan, M. McNiven, J. Nimmo, W. Peters, D. Ryan, K. Schultz, D. Seeler, J. Sentance, H. Sutherland, V. Timmons, J. Velaidum

Regrets: G. Bradshaw, R. Gallant, C. Keen, T. Ogilvie, G. Pike, W. Rankaduwa, S. Thomas

Absent: J. Hogan, S. Simpson

Guests: C. Parsons, D. MacEwen

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

W. MacLauchlan called the meeting to order and noted that there were two new items of business to be added to the agenda: Consideration of proposed program changes from the Department of Engineering and under Other Business (ii) Report of the Honourary Degree Committee *in camera*.

**Moved (R. Kurial/D. Buck):** that the agenda be approved as amended.

**Carried**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 13, 2006**

**Moved (D. Seeler/R. Kurial):** that the minutes of the October 13, 2006 meeting of Senate be approved.

**Carried**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2006**

**(i) Bachelor of Education Human Resource Development Specialization (HRD)**

At the October meeting of Senate, program and course changes to accommodate the new Bachelor of Education in Human Resource Development were brought forward as part of the Curriculum report. At that time, Senators had questions related to the resources required to offer the new courses. In the absence of the Dean, Senators agreed that the item should be carried over to the next meeting.

The Chair invited C. Parsons to provide a background on the degree which is offered jointly with Holland College and is intended primarily for instructors in adult education. She pointed out that the BEd (HRD) is built on the model of a concurrent 4 year first degree BEd. The program does not require additional resources because many of the courses are taught at Holland College with UPEI approved instructors. New courses are to be taught by lecturers with the costs covered by the additional revenue generated by tuition.

**Moved (J. Nimmo/B. Davetian):** that Senate approve the following new courses for the BEd(HRD) program:

Education 362 - Communication Practices  
Education 371 - Introduction to Adult Education  
Education 372 - Facilitating Literacy in Adult Learners  
Education 373 - Special Needs of Adult Learners  
Education 374 - Transformative Learning  
Education 375 - Mentoring the Adult Learner

**Carried.**

**(ii) Program Changes For Engineering**

Given the fact that the late submission from Engineering was also related to course and curriculum change, the Chair suggested (with the agreement of Senators), that the item be discussed at this point in the agenda.

Don MacEwen was invited to present the proposal. Prof. MacEwen informed Senators that the Engineering Diploma would remain a 33 course program, but that changes in the configuration and content of courses would bring the program more in line with changes that have happened in the profession.

M. Murray suggested that a preferred Philosophy elective might be Phil 202 (Contemporary Moral Issues) rather than Phil 101 (Introduction to Philosophy). V. Timmons noted that there had not been consultation with the University Librarian before the item was brought forward. The Chair inquired about the time sensitivity of the proposal, given that Senators had not had long to consider the documentation. D. MacEwen responded that some of the courses affected would be offered next semester, so he felt it was essential that the item receive the consideration of Senate this month so that students would be able to make course selections.

C. Lacroix suggested that the new structure be accepted in principle and that greater detail and a full discussion of the proposal could come forward at the next meeting of senate on December 1.

**Moved (C. Lacroix/W. Peters):** that the proposed changes to the Engineering Diploma program be accepted in principle, and that a detailed proposal and rationale be considered at the December 1 meeting.

**Carried**

V. Timmons requested that before the item comes back before Senate, proponents consult with the University Librarian about required resources.

**4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- The President noted that the annual Maclean's ranking had just been released and UPEI had moved to 5<sup>th</sup> in the primarily undergraduate category. Among the factors contributing to that improvement; we are number 1 in faculty awards and number 4 in student awards. The President extended congratulations to all.
- The Steering Committee of Senate held its first meeting and the intent is to meet one week before each Senate meeting to set the agenda and discuss the business of Senate.
- An article in the current issue of The Guardian features the volume and quality of research that is happening at UPEI, with \$12.7 M in external funding for 2005-06.
- The Calgary "Friends of UPEI" group is holding its annual fund-raising dinner on Saturday, November 4. More than 200 tickets have been sold and the group supports more than 20 students from the Calgary area who are studying at UPEI.
- Two Canada Research Chair candidates have visited campus to make presentations: Dr. Rachel Heydon, Literacy and Learning, Oct. 30 and 31; and Dr. Bill Whelan, Bio-Medical Physics, presented on Nov. 2 and 3.
- The Webster Centre for Teaching and Learning held its official opening of the PIT (People in Thought), a student-centered area for active learning, which houses The Math Help Centre, The Write Place, and The STEP (Student Tutoring Education Program), a high school tutoring program staffed by UPEI students.
- The President extended congratulations to the Faculty of Nursing, which has received an upgrade of its accreditation from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, from a 5-year to a 7-year accreditation, extending to January 2011.
- He also extended congratulations to Nursing students on hosting Canadian Nursing Students' Association Annual Atlantic Regional Conference October 20-21.
- The President noted that UPEI Mathematics students had recently taken home three of four top prizes from the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS) 30th annual Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Conference at Cape Breton University. Student winners were Brodie Champion, Allan Stewart and

- Marcus Trenton. The President extended congratulations to the students and their faculty advisors.
- In an ongoing exchange of writers-in-residence with the Tasmania Writing Centre, UPEI welcomed the first writer-in-residence, Danielle Wood to campus.
  - The President extended a welcome to all to attend the kick-off celebration for the School of Business construction to be held on November 17. He also offered congratulations to the School of Business on the establishment of the Tourism Research Centre.
  - In the area of athletic achievements, the President noted that women's rugby coach, Dale MacLeod has once again been named the 2006 Atlantic University Sport Coach of the year. This marks the third consecutive year that Coach MacLeod has won the award.
  - UPEI Panthers have five players on the 2006 Women's Soccer All-Star Team, including this season's top scorer Janelle Blanchard, 2005 Rookie of the Year, Tessa Roche, Elizabeth McPhail, and Leslie Bradshaw.
  - The UPEI Women's Field Hockey team finished fifth at the first OUA championship on October 28. Three of the team were named as CIS All-Stars for 2006: Nicole Wagner, Katie Lee, and Mikaela Ellis.
  - 2006 Men's Soccer All-Stars teams' include UPEI Panther's Matt Thomson who is tied for 2nd in league scoring with 7 goals, and who is a conference all-star for the third straight year.
  - The Research Breakfast will be held November 22 at the Charlottetown Hotel with James Moran of History and Spencer Greenwood of Parasitology presenting.
  - There will be a Faculty Recognition Night on December 1 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge, Main Building.
  - The President reminded Senators of the deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup> for nominations for the Academic Support Group Staff Achievement Award.

## **5. REPORT OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **(I) Nominating Committee**

J. Moran presented the third report of the Senate Nominating Committee. The Student Union has elected the following student representatives for the various Senate Committee positions:

#### **Admissions and Scholarship Committee**

Reg Ferguson  
Sarah MacDonald

#### **Nominating Committee**

Hannah Sutherland

#### **Senate Committee on Enhancement of Teaching**

Tasha Kean,  
Steven Wakelin

#### **Research Grants Committee**

Colleen Corazza  
Faiz Ahmed

#### **Steering Committee for Senate**

Jeremy Hogan

#### **Student Discipline Appeals**

Mark Driscoll  
Kathryn Harrison  
Hannah Sutherland

**University Writing Council Committee**

Janelle Pitre  
Sarah MacDonald

**Academic Review and Planning Committee**

Jeremy Hogan

**Honorary Degree Committee**

Faiz Ahmed  
Ellen Klein

The Senate Nominating Committee also brought forward the following names as nominees for the committees indicated:

**Senate Committee on Enhancement of Teaching**

Betty Jeffery (Library)  
Balagi Ramanathan (AVC)

**Research Grants Committee**

Carolanne Nelson (Science)  
Jo-Ann MacDonald (Nursing)  
Doreley Coll (Arts)

**Senate Research Advisory Committee**

Richard Raiswell (Arts)

**Moved: (J.Moran/S. MacDonald):** that the report of the Senate Nominating Committee be accepted.

**Carried**

**6. ANNUAL REPORTS**

**(I) University Writing Council**

The annual report of the University Writing Council committee was received. VP Academic Development, V. Timmons spoke briefly to the report and thanked the committee for its efforts.

**Report Received.**

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**(i) Notice of Motion**

The Chair noted that Senators had received, as part of their meeting documentation, a Notice of Motion brought forward by D. Ryan. The Chair invited Prof. Ryan to speak to the motion.

D. Ryan explained that he had brought forward the notice of motion calling for a Senate discussion of the recently introduced Class Cancellation Due to Low Enrolment Policy because he feels it has obvious academic implications, and while he fully recognizes the budgetary implications of the policy he nonetheless feels that Senate is the appropriate forum for discussion of these matters.

The Chair welcomed a sharing of views on the issue and asked the VP Academic to speak to the rationale and background to the policy.

V. Timmons offered that there has not been a consistent or formal policy regarding the cancellation of classes because of low enrolment. And while there has been no formal policy, the practice has been that classes with fewer

than 10 students are often cancelled. The rationale for the policy was to institute a university-wide approach and to formalize what had already been practice in many faculties. She pointed out that the policy calls for consultation between the Deans and Chairs, and it stipulates that students must be accommodated to ensure they get the requirements for their program. The policy was an agenda item at the recent Chair's retreat, initiating an animated discussion and resulting in several changes to the policy. Most notable were the changes to the deadlines for review and cancellation which were moved to November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> respectively for the winter semester.

C. Lacroix added that the previous Dean of Science had this as a practice, and while classes with fewer than 10 were not automatically cancelled they did require examination.

R. Kurial noted that the policy had received extensive discussion within the Arts faculty, concerns were expressed and changes were made accordingly.

F. Gray asked if the policy made allowance for the distinction between core and non-core courses, and noted that students would be concerned and uncertain if there had to be a yearly justification of courses.

L. Bate and F. Markham asked if the same process was required of graduate courses at AVC. Would they also require yearly justification?

H. Sutherland indicated, from a student's perspective, her greatest concern was the fact that there was no guarantee that students would get the courses they need in order to graduate.

V. Timmons responded that all courses would be subjected to the same regular review, but that a history would develop very quickly of courses that would necessarily be offered. She also pointed out that the policy states that the first priority is to accommodate students and ensure they are able to get their program.

J. Sentance noted that the concern is whether alternatives can be arranged. "Directed Studies" for example, is an option that is offered by faculty members on a volunteer basis.

M. Murray, used the example of the ethics course: though not a core course, it is essential to students going on to graduate or professional school. V. Timmons indicated that he had just provided the kind of justification and rationale that would be needed to ensure the course is offered.

D. Coll inquired as to what would happen to a faculty member if one or more of their classes did not have the requisite number of students.

V. Timmons responded that courses could not be cancelled at short notice, but that efforts would have to be made to improve enrolments in courses that were historically under-subscribed.

D. Ryan indicated his greatest concern was not what was in the policy, but rather what was not. The level of consultation, for example, may change as positions change and new Deans bring different interpretations to the policy.

M. Hughes pointed out that it appears that the Deans and Chairs can override the policy. V. Timmons responded that the Deans and Chairs could not override the policy, but rather interpret its application.

B. Davetian suggested that the instructor should also have some say, along with the Dean and the Chair.

F. Gray noted that we are almost through the fall semester and questioned if implementation of the policy could be postponed until fall 2007. N. Etkin also pointed out that Senators were discussing a policy that many had not seen.

D. Ryan said that it was his intention, through the Notice of Motion, to have the policy brought before Senate for discussion. D. Dahn noted that there are obvious strong academic dimensions and it has always been the role of Senate to approve all academic regulations and issues.

The Chair suggested that the item could be dealt with at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting under "Business Arising". M. Murray pointed out that items under "business arising" are limited to 15 minutes of debate. He proposed that the issue come back as a separate agenda item.

The Chair sought and received the general consensus of Senate to have the policy discussed at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting under a separate agenda heading.

**(ii) *In Camera*: Report of the Honorary Degree Committee**

**(Moved: D. Seeler/C.Lacroix):** that the report of the Honorary Degree Committee be accepted, and that Honorary Degrees be conferred on those individuals named by the committee.

**Carried**

**(Moved: M.Hughes/C.Lacroix):** that the recommendations for speakers at the morning and afternoon convocation put forward by the Honorary Degree Committee be accepted by Senate.

**Carried**

**(iii) Start Time of December 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

The Chair sought Senators' direction on the timing of the December meeting of Senate. Because of the fact that the Faculty Recognition event is starting at 4 PM, it was suggested that Senate start an hour earlier than normal, at 2 PM. Senators agreed.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Alan Buchanan  
Secretary