

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of Senate
Held Friday, February 6, 2009
ITEC Lecture Theatre, Roberston Library, 3:00 p.m.

Present: G. Bradshaw, D. Buck, B. Campbell, K. Critchley, J. Douglas, M. Doyle, G. Evans, T. Goddard, F. Gray, R. Herbert, K. Kielly, R. Kurial, M. Leggott, A. López, M. Morrison, M. Murray, J. MacAulay, G. MacDonald, S. MacDonald, B. MacLaine, W. MacLauchlan, C. MacQuarrie, D. Reynolds, C. Riley, K. Schultz, D. Seeler, J. Sentance, M. Shaver, D. Sims, A. Smith, J. Stewart, S. Thomas, J. Velaidum, D. Wagner

Regrets: M. Brinklow McKnight, D. Dahn, C. Lacroix, A. Trivett

Absent: L. Edwards, P. McKenna, M. O'Halloran, W. Rankaduwa, C. Song

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated. **Moved** (D. Wagner/D. Seeler). **Carried**

2. Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2009

Moved (R. Kurial/T. Goddard): to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. **Carried**

3. Business Arising from January 9, 2009 Minutes

There were 12 nominations from the Board of Governors and 12 from Senate to complete the composition of the electoral board for choosing a Chancellor. Chancellor Andrew would be the fourth of seven Chancellors to serve a second term. There were many positive comments about his service as Chancellor, notably in representing and promoting UPEI and in presiding at Convocation and other official events. Bill Andrew has accepted for four more years. The President spoke to Chancellor Andrew this morning and he is very positive about serving as Chancellor for a further four-year term.

4. President's Report

- UPEI celebrated International Development Week, February 1 - 7, 2009 with a variety of activities and events for faculty, students and staff to participate, culminating in a very successful and well-attended International Development Luncheon today, February 6, which included the presentation of three scholarships to international students.
- To follow up on the issues that were presented at the January meeting, the UPEI Budget Development Task Force held two campus consultations this week. Staff and faculty were invited to provide input on ways to make our University operations more effective, efficient, and sustainable in the current economic climate.
- The University was saddened to learn of the passing of humanitarian, Dr. Ralph Hazelton in Ottawa on December 28, 2008. Dr. Hazelton was a professor of the Economics Department in the 70's and 80's.
- With the growing graduate enrollment and program offerings at the University in recognition of the issues raised in the Academic Planning Facilitation Report, the Strategic Research Plan and with input from the Graduate Studies Working Group, the Board of Governors approved the establishment of the position of Assistant Vice President, Graduate Studies, reporting to the Vice President, Academic Development. The Steering Committee has proposed that Grad Studies be the subject for information and dialogue at Senate's March meeting.
- The Board/Senate Liaison Committee has had three meetings to date. There is a very positive sense of collaboration and commitment to more regular communication between the Board and Senate. There will be a meeting and social time with Provincial Cabinet on March 26 for all Board and Senate members.

- There will be a concluding celebration of the achievements of the Building a Legacy Campaign. Friday, February 13 at 11 a.m. at the Alex H. MacKinnon Auditorium in Don and Marion McDougall Hall.
- Friday, February 13 at 4:00 p.m. in Faculty Lounge, Main Building there will be an art unveiling and Faculty Time. There are over 800 pieces of art on campus.
- There has been positive feedback on implementation of the move to electronic distribution of Senate materials and the use of the Virtual Research Environment for this purpose. Thanks to everyone involved.

5. Reports of Senate Committees

(i) Academic Review and Planning Committee

Moved (R. Herbert/M. Shaver): that the University offer through the Faculty of Science, a PhD in Molecular and Materials Science Integrating the Business of Science.

R. Herbert asked M. Shaver to speak on this program. M. Shaver explained that the program is a research intensive Ph.D. program based around the Molecular and Materials Science constellation at UPEI. To provide a value-added degree and to improve student preparation for entering the workforce, there is a significant, integrated business component. Students will receive a Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular and Materials Science and a Graduate Certificate in the Business of Science or, if they choose to continue with the business side of the program, a Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular and Materials Science and a Master of Business Administration. M. Shaver stressed that the program is unique to Canada and should attract students from across the nation and the globe.

Extensive discussion of the program followed. Questions regarding an external review of the program were asked, and while it is not policy to have these reviews conducted prior to Senate approving a program, M. Shaver reported that Dr. Bob Lucas, from Memorial University of Newfoundland, was in the process of reviewing the proposal. In response to queries on the demand for the program, M. Shaver highlighted the positive national and international response to the program, and the fact that students were being recruited into the successful M.Sc. program in Biology and Chemistry in part due to the potential of this program being approved. In other discussions, it was stressed that having a large number of highly qualified people as adjunct faculty to serve in supporting roles of supervisory committees strengthened the program. As many of these adjunct faculty members are associated with the NRC and Bioscience firms, this creates a natural link between the University and these companies, assisted through the extensive work of the BioAlliance. Jobs in the growing bioscience sector will be available to graduates of the program; many more PhD-level scientists work in the province than there are employed at the University today.

Carried.

(ii) Curriculum Report

Moved (D. Wagner/G. Evans): that the following sentence be added to the first paragraph under the certificate in Human Resources Management.

Students should have two years of work experience or one year of university/college credits plus meet UPEI entrance criteria.

Carried.

Moved (M. Shaver/d. Sims): that the following new course be approved:

Biology 825 Advanced Techniques in Scanning Electron Microscopy

Carried.

(iii) Nominating Committee Report

Moved (S. Thomas/K. Schultz): that the following names be approved for the Search Committee for Assistant Vice President, Graduate Studies

Michael Shaver (Science)

Wendy Carroll

Two Senators

Two members of Board of Governors (1 lay person and 1 Faculty from other grad program)

One student

One senior administrator - K. Kielly, Registrar

President or designate - R. Herbert, A/VP, Academic Development

S. Thomas asked for additional nominations from the floor. W. MacLauchlan nominated K. Kielly for the Senior Administrator position and R. Herbert will be the President's designate.

Carried.

6. Student Engagement & Retention - Findings and Reflections

R. Herbert introduced this item and asked Y. Gong to present the findings on retention and graduation rates of UPEI undergraduate students. Y. Gong presented 3 tables for information: Table 1 - Long Term Retention Rate and Graduate Rate by Faculty, Fall 2000 to Fall 2007 cohort (First-Year Full-Time New to UPEI Students in Fall Semester in Arts, Business, Nursing and Science only); Table 2 - First-Year to Second-Year Retention Rate by Faculty and Gender, Fall 2000 to Fall 2007 cohort (First-Year Full-Time New to UPEI Students in Fall Semester in Arts, Business, Nursing and Science only); and Table 3 - Fall 2000 to Fall 2007 Retention Rates of International Students (for information only).

While the numbers vary amongst the Faculties, the overall trend is that UPEI is demonstrating a 76% retention rate for students continuing into the 2nd Fall semester, 64% continuing into the 3rd Fall semester and 58% continuing into the 4th Fall semester. Summative information on the Graduation Rate across the 4 Faculties indicates that UPEI, over 6 years from initial year of intake, has about a 55% Graduation Rate.

In addition to this material, Y. Gong presented comparator information from Maritime Universities and Ontario Universities. UPEI's numbers on retention and graduation are not as strong as this grouping and there was great discussion around what this information actually means. There could be any number of reasons why students do not continue their studies and why they do not persist to graduation and work is being done to see if we can better understand our student population and why we appear to be losing a quarter of our students particularly from first to second year.

J. Velaidum, following up on the work he is doing related to Student Retention and Engagement, reported that he is conducting ongoing research but his initial findings have him focusing on four areas for students: mentorship, student orientation, the classroom experience and social and physical spaces. J. Velaidum stated that from surveys conducted to date some students who leave report being disengaged, some did not know why they were attending University. The mentorship initiative and an expanded student orientation focus could help first year students, particularly those who were not able to make a connection to the campus. Additionally, he noted that Faculty need to take an active role in helping students be engaged at the University.

7. Webster Centre Programs and Support

B. Campbell made a presentation on the Webster Centre. The Centre started in 2005 with three programs: the Faculty Development Office, Writing Centre and Math Centre. The Centre currently offer support through 12 program areas.

The staff include 10 coordinators, all who have graduate degrees or are in programs, 12 facilitators or instructors, 30 student mentors/tutors, 1 administrative support person, and approximately 120 volunteers. The programs, services and supports are:

- **STEP** (Student Tutoring Education Program) gives students the necessary skills and confidence to prepare themselves for future studies at UPEI.
(5 UPEI Tutors/10 High School students)
- **Transition Program** - for students who need additional academic and peer support to ensure success at university. They receive assistance in time management, accountability, study and organizational skills.
2007-08 - 40 students
2008-09 - 48 students without any marketing.
- **Pathways to Academic Success (PAS)** is to empower the student to become active, responsible learners. PAS Workshops are a series of workshops designed to assist you with your studies.
2008 Fall Term - 280 visits to the PAS workshops
- **Student Success Program 101** is a non-credit course designed to help students who are struggling academically.
2007-08 - 180 students
2008-09 - 160 students
- **Options Program** provides guidance as you explore your academic career choices.
2008 - 6 completed
2009 - 10 enrolled

Academic Supports

- **Accessibility Services and Adaptive Technology** - provides support services to students who have disabilities and/or learning difficulties.
18% increase use of service in 5 months - 267 active files with 200 of those students with diagnosed disabilities
- **Adult Connections in Education (ACE)** is a four-year inclusive post-secondary program for students with an intellectual disability.
2007-08 - 6 students
2008-09 - 7 with 3 graduates this year
- **English Academic Preparation (EAP)** supports international students with the challenges of taking university courses in a second language. It is a bridging program that allows students to begin working toward their degree while perfecting English skills. Full time pay 5 course tuition and part time pay 3 course tuition.
2007-08 - 135 students
2008-09 - 152 students
- **Effective Reading** is a six-week course that enables students to increase your reading speed while improving comprehension.
2008 - 15 students

- **University 100** is designed to assist first-year students with the often awkward transition from secondary to post-secondary education.
Fall 2008 - 162 students
Winter 2009 - 186 students
- **Faculty Development Office** hosts a variety of workshops each year in an effort to assist faculty development.
Let's Talk Teaching - 48 participants
10 Brown Bage Lunches and Fall Lecture Series - 100 participants
- **Students Helping Students**
Located in the Robertson Library Annex the "Pit" is a drop in centre
- **The Writing Centre** offers free writing consultation to all students, in any subject, at any stage of the writing process.
1000 visits a year
- **Science Help Centre** provides assistance to students in the subjects of biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, foods and nutrition and family science.
500 visits a year
- **Math Help Centre** provides individual help to students in any first or second year mathematics or statistics course.
1200 visits a year

8. Students and the Diversity Experience

R. Herbert spoke on the diversity results from the NSSE report, as a selected result, as it is an area that we are focussing on at this time. The results show that UPEI does not compare as well as other universities in the Atlantic, or Canada in the extent to which we emphasize encouraging contact among students from different racial, ethnic or religious backgrounds. It was opined whether students entering UPEI today from local schools or the University body as a whole would report the same feelings given the increase of international students on the campus, 'internationalization of the campus' as a university focus and the increase in newcomers to the Island who will become PEI High School graduates. One student senator noted it was her observations that international students on campus appear to keep to themselves and it may be more of a social aspect than a curriculum aspect.

9. Other Business

No other business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Kielly
Registrar and Secretary to Senate