

Minutes of the Special Senate Meeting
Held Friday, November 19, 2010
Alex H. MacKinnon Auditorium, Don & Marion McDougall Hall, 3:00 p.m.

Present: B. Banks, G. Bradshaw, D. Buck, P. Callbeck, B. Campbell, L. Chilton, D. Coll, K. Critchley, D. Dahn, B. Davetian, S. Dawson, R. Domike, G. Doran, I. Dowbiggin, L. Edwards, T. Goddard, K. Gottschall-Pass, F. Gray, K. Kielly, R. Kurial, M. Leggott, A. López, J. MacAulay, R. MacDonald, J. McIntyre, B. MacLaine, W. MacLachlan, M. Murray, J. Randall, D. Reynolds, R. Saada, D. Seeler, M. Shaver, D. Sims, H. Stryhn, M. Sweeney-Nixon, B. Wagner

Regrets: B. Deziel, S. Thomas

Absent: M. Doyle, C. Lacroix, R. Livingstone, K. Murnaghan, K. Schultz

The Chair called the meeting to order.

Moved (D. Seeler/T. Goddard): to waive the 10 days' notice on calling a Senate Meeting.
Carried.

The Provincial Government is proposing to amend s. 38 of the University Act and to introduce a New Degree Granting Act. We have expressed our concern with the lack of consultation around these substantive changes and, as recently as earlier today, the President met with Hon. Alan Campbell, Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, along with Board of Governors Chair, Fred Hyndman and Vice-Chair, Tom Cullen, to review concerns regarding the proposed changes. There is considerable urgency in that the Legislature will probably sit this Fall for 12 days which doesn't give much time. There should be consultation regarding this issue.

The Chair indicated that ARPC addressed the impact of the proposed changes and J. Randall, Vice-President Academic, introduced the report and highlighted the points being made with respect to the Background, Legislation, Historical Context and Legacy, Defining Features of a Degree-Granting University, Evaluation of Debate Surrounding the State of Private for-Profit Universities in other Jurisdictions, Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), Expanding On-Line Course Offerings, Innovation, Policy Development and Consultation, and a recommended Resolution.

Senate received the report of the ARPC and unanimously accepted the following resolution:

Moved (J. Randall/D. Seeler): Be it resolved that Senate strongly urges the Minister to allow sufficient time for consultation to take place with all stakeholders before making any changes to the University Act or introducing a Degree Granting Act.

Carried Unanimously

Attached for the record is the ARPC report and based upon the input of Senate, the following items are to be reflected:

- A provincial commission should be struck to look at higher education on the Island.
- Broad consultations are necessary and we have precedent within our own jurisdiction for lessons learned to address potential changes to education on higher education which are of grave importance to the community.
- Government should be called upon to mirror its own strategies around consultation on bringing kindergarten into the public school system.
- It is inappropriate and far-reaching for a major legislative change to be introduced in response to a single initiative.
- UPEI is well prepared to contribute to the consultations and to address any issues in postsecondary education made available to Islanders. This is not about UPEI being fearful of competition. We live with competition every day.
- We need all Islanders, the community, the University, and Holland College, all involved in the consultative process to determine what's needed and not needed here.

- UPEI has been established as our Provincial University for 42 years. This proposed legislation will have widespread and long-reaching impact on the Island, and well beyond any current political party. What's the rush?

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathleen Kielly, Registrar
Secretary to Senate