

SENATE MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2010

The 529th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, December 17, 2010, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Enns, Dr. Smith, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Wicks, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Austin, Dr. Barclay, Dr. Barr, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Ivanoff, Dr. Russell, Dr. Sun, Mr. Hotchkiss, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Hall, Miss. Mashoodh, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Beaulé, Dr. Kimery, Dr. Neatby, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Stanivukovic, Dr. Stinson and Miss. Dix.

Meeting commenced at 2:36 P.M.

10024 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

10025 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
Minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2010, were *circulated* as **Appendix A**.

Moved by Smith, and seconded, **'that the minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2010 are approved as circulated.'** Motion carried.

Announcements:

1. The Senate Office is permanently moved to Sobey Room 202.
2. The date for the Oct 2011 Fall Convocation has been changed to Sunday, Oct 23rd due to challenges in booking the WTCC. This is a change to the Academic Calendar of Events approved by the Senate at the September 2010 meeting.

10026 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
None

10027 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
.01 Academic Planning

- a. MPHEC proposal for a PhD in IDST attached as **Appendix B**.
Key Discussion Points:

- Members were advised that this proposal was developed over a period of many years. Proposals must go through 12 steps in the review process, from initial discussions through to the submission to MPHEC. One of those steps was a rigorous external review. An original criticism of the program was that there was too much course work and not enough time for research. This has been addressed. Only two three credit hour courses are required in this version of the proposal. After rigorous review and discussion, the proposal has received approval from: the department, the FGSR council, and the APC.
- Question: An entrance requirement of a minimum TOEFL score of 575 seems low. Other graduate level programs have a higher standard and the language requirement in graduate programs is usually higher. Answer: The requirements for MBA and Ph.D. programs are currently set at a minimum of 580. Members were advised that there is a proposal for this minimum to be increased but that the requirements were already above the minimum required at many other institutions.
- Question: Concern was expressed that the budget was significantly understated. Answer: In subsection 4.2.1 the financial implications are detailed. The proposal assumes a three year program and a step-wise increase in enrolment over the first three years to achieve a steady-state carrying capacity of 5 students in the program.
- Concern was expressed regarding the .5 FCE per year thesis supervision course release. If all 5 students were individually supervised by a different faculty member, and if all of those exercised the course release option, the cost could increase significantly. Adjustments will be made to the budget in the proposal prior to submission to MPHEC. Implementation of this program is predicated upon the University Budget Committee accepting the proposal for program ramp up over a three year period.
- At the current time, there is no Ph.D. of this kind in Canada. We want to maintain the Saint Mary's prominence in this field of study.
- Applications are reviewed to ensure students have an appropriate background. It is particularly important that the appropriate academic background exist in those registered in the program.
- By increasing our profile in this area, we have an opportunity to increase our grant activity, and attract additional research funding.

Moved by Vessey, and seconded, **“that the MPHEC proposal to establish a Doctor of Philosophy in International Development Studies is approved, with noted revisions, for furtherance to MPHEC.” Motion carried.**

- b. Request to withdraw the IDST Graduate Diploma as a degree offered at Saint Mary's University, attached as **Appendix C**

Key Discussion Points:

- Members were advised that the Graduate Diploma in IDST was introduced at the same time as the MA in IDST. The Graduate Diploma is the MA without the thesis component. The IDST Program has decided to terminate this program because it is not fulfilling the roll it was intended to.

Moved by Vessey, and seconded, “that the Senate approves the recommendation from the International Development Studies Program, to withdraw the Graduate Diploma in International Development Studies as a degree offered at Saint Mary’s University effective as of the 2011-2012 academic year, subject to the condition that any currently registered student(s) be allowed to complete their program.” Motion carried.

- c. Process and Timeline for Renewal of Saint Mary’s Academic Plan circulated for information as **Appendix D**

Key Discussion Points:

- Members were advised that the current Academic Plan ends in 2011. In preparation for refreshing that plan, there have been a series of discussions involving different groups. By the end of the calendar year, the Executive Management Group, the Deans and the Department Chairs will all have given their input into this process. Discussions have also been held with the VPAR advisory committee. They will provide the guidance as the process is implemented. The document stipulates timelines for the various steps. The process has been submitted so that Senate members will understand and be able to follow the progress.
- Question: Have graduate students been involved in the consultation process? Answer: Not at this point, but that is being considered now and they will be recruited through SMUSA.

- .02 Curriculum Committee Semi-annual report, circulated as **Appendix E**

Key Discussion Points:

- The Curriculum Committee held ten two-hour meetings to consider the submission from the Faculties. A significant amount of background and follow-up work was done around each one of those meetings.
- Detail on Faculty submissions was discussed and issues covered.
- In the process of consulting with departments on calendar changes, it has become very clear that understanding of the curriculum process and how it works has to be improved. A number of departments have requested assistance with developing their curriculum submissions.
- Concern was expressed in regard to changes to Graduate Academic Regulation 22. The faculty council specifically did not stipulate written feedback because of the nature of some graduate programs. Programs are not offered in lock step. Responsibility sits with faculty for the outcome. It was noted that students should have some type of concrete feedback when they are three quarters of the way through their program because they need to be able to demonstrate the nature of that feedback if there was an academic appeal. Verbal feedback is inadequate because it is not documented. Answer: With the exception of the MBA and EMBA programs, members were advised that all other graduate programs that are thesis based, require an annual report, which is an overall assessment of all aspects of the student’s program.
- The Dean requested removal of this submission from the Curriculum Report. The graduate curriculum submission originated from the Dean’s Office. As a result, this was accepted as a friendly amendment.
- The Dean, Sobey School of Business, requested removal from the Curriculum Report of changes related to FINA 2360. Since the curriculum submission originated out of the Dean’s Office, this was accepted as a friendly amendment.

- Page 29 – prerequisites for CHEM 1212 – the acronym MATH is repeated. In the section directly above this at the top - CHEM 4422 is Advanced Topics in Inorganic Chemistry.
- Page 30 - Honours in CHEM - last bullet – It was noted that 2303 and 3405 were taught in the same place, at the same time, by the same instructor and therefore MATH 2303 should be added to the prerequisite list.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, “**that Senate approve the revised text as presented in the Semi-Annual Report of the Senate Curriculum Committee for publication in the 2011-2012 Academic Calendar subject to the amendments as noted above**”. Motion carried.

10028 REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES

a. Honorary Degrees

Recommendations circulated at the meeting as *Appendix F*

Key Discussion Points:

- Dodds advised that these recommendations came forward from the committee this week. A brief background was presented on the candidates.

Moved by Dodds, and seconded, “**that the Senate approve the recommendations for consideration for honorary degrees as submitted.**” Motion carried.

10029 NEW BUSINESS FROM

Service Excellence Council

A Service Excellence Council has been formed. The head of the Council will be the VP Administration, Gabrielle Morrison. In 2011 staff will participate in workshops focused on service excellence. There will also be a discussion in regard to service excellence within the academic context, and we believe that the Senate is the place for that discussion. The Senate Committee on Student Success will also be considering this within the context of their Terms of Reference (TOR). If Senate members were interested, Ms. Morrison would be prepared to do a presentation for members.

10030 PRESIDENTS REPORT

Key Discussion Points:

Dr. Dodds advised members that

- The most recent open house event was an outstanding success with standing room only. This is a good indicator for future enrolment.
- There has been progress in regard to the anticipated MOU negotiations and no dates have been proposed for meetings in January. We have been told to wait for cuts – perhaps in the 5 or 10% range, but definitely not in the 22% range that has been proposed for the lower levels. The government is concerned that some institutions will not be able to deal with a 5% cut and there is a belief that the funding situation will not be equal.
- The government is very insistent on the issue of student assistance. They are dedicated to finding funding for Nova Scotia students.

10031 QUESTION PERIOD

Key Discussion Points:

- Question: Will we be increasing fees? Answer: We have to remain affordable and accessible. The government may allow certain programs to be funded to a greater level than others.

- Question: To what level are we expected to absorb costs? Answer: 3.6%. It was noted that most of the Collective Agreements had been negotiated at this point. From this point forward, the Government has stipulated no more than a 1% increase in contract negotiations.

10032

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate