

SENATE MEETING MINUTES January 20, 2012

The 538th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, January 20, 2012, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Enns, Dr. Fullerton, Dr. Smith, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Barclay, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Kimery, Dr. Neatby, Dr. Pendse, Dr. Russell, Dr. Sun, Dr. van Proosdij, Dr. Sewell, Dr. Street, Ms. Marie DeYoung, Mr Gordon Michael, Mr. Gomez, Ms. MacDonald, Ms. Keyes Ms. MacDougall, Mr. Hahn, and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Austin, Dr. Barr, Dr. Ivanoff, Dr. Stinson, Mr. Hotchkiss,

Meeting commenced at 2:38 P.M.

11040 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**
The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

11041 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
.01 Minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2011 were circulated as ***Appendix A.***

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, “**that the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2011 be approved as circulated**”.
Motion carried unanimously.

11042 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
None

11043 **WINTER GRADUATION LIST**
Documentation to be circulated at the meeting by the registrar as ***Appendix B.***

- The ceremony is being held on Sunday in the McNally theatre auditorium.
- The potential for live streaming will be investigated.

Moved by Dixon and seconded, **“to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the graduate list (circulated as Appendix B) at the Winter Convocation”**. Motion carried unanimously.

11044

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01 Curriculum Committee, addendum report circulated as *Appendix C*.

Key Discussion Points:

- The Curriculum Committee Chair presented a brief review of the changes.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the Curriculum Committee, addendum report be approved as submitted”**. Motion carried unanimously.

.02 Regulations Committee, change proposal circulated as *Appendix D & E*. Senate Members were asked to consider the Academic Regulation changes individually.

.0201 **Academic Regulation 1 (iii) – Number of Courses in an Academic Session:**

Key Discussion Points:

- Reduce the maximum hours in a summer session from 12 to 9 hours. The reduction brings the summer maximum load in line with other terms.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the revision to Academic Regulation 1 (iii) – Number of Courses in an Academic Session be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried unanimously.

.0202 **Academic Regulation 5h - Undergraduate Rating, Grades and Grade Points:**

Key Discussion Points:

- This change was forwarded to the Regulations Committee from the Academic Appeals Committee. A disclaimer is being inserted to highlight the fact that while the total of all elements of a course may exceed 50%, a pass in certain components may be mandatory in order to pass the course.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the revision to Academic Regulation 5h be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried unanimously.

.0203 **Academic Regulation 6b - Grade Point Average:**

Key Discussion Points:

- On October 14, 2011, the University Senate asked the Academic Regulations Committee to consider students pursuing a second undergraduate degree at Saint Mary’s University with specific focus on the options for generating a CGPA that closes with the degree and calculates the greatest benefit to the student.
- Current practice is to include all undergraduate courses in a single CGPA. Banner cannot separate undergraduate programs. A notation can be placed on the transcript.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the revision to Academic Regulation 6b be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried

**.0204 Academic Regulation 7. Standing Required c. Good Standing (ii)
Key Discussion Points:**

- Raising the graduation requirement to a DGPA of 2.00 or above would not affect significant numbers of students but would restore the standard for graduation to a level similar to what it was before the introduction of the DGPA.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the Regulations Committee change proposal be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried

**.0205 Academic Regulation 7. Standing Required g. Required
Withdrawal**

Key Discussion Points:

- In recent years the University has been more open to recognizing credits from community colleges. Colleges will accept students directly after dismissal from university and can initially be a better fit for some students.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the revision to Academic Regulation 7g be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried unanimously.

**.0206 Undergraduate Academic Regulation 9a Evaluations, and
Graduate Academic Regulation 25a**
Key Discussion Points:

- At the end of the term, the Registrar converts all blank grades to F.
- Suggestion: An option for a ‘no record’ as a type of grade. This will be sent to the Regulations Committee for consideration.
- Question: Why do we have to go through the Dean to submit in-progress grades? Answer: On graduate courses you can put in IP and IC but not on undergraduate courses. The Registrar will investigate to see if it is also possible for undergraduate courses.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that Undergraduate Academic Regulation 9a and Graduated Academic Regulation 25a be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried unanimously.

**.0207 Undergraduate Academic Regulation 10b Special Examinations
and Graduate Academic Regulation 26b.**
Key Discussion Points:

- Approval was not received from all stakeholders for a verification of illness form. Until a decision is made on this matter, reference to such a form should be removed.
- Question: The regulation states that requests for special examinations are to be submitted to the Dean one week after the end of the examination. Isn't one week an excessively amount of time? Answer: This question will be sent to the Regulations Committee.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that Undergraduate Academic Regulation 10b and Graduate Academic Regulation 26b be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried unanimously.

.0208 Undergraduate Academic Regulation 11e Academic Appeals – Fee, Notes and Graduate Academic Regulation 31e

Key Discussion Points:

- This has come forward from the Academic Appeals Committee. It needs to be clear to faculty that they have the opportunity and/or may be requested to address the Academic Appeals Committee.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that Undergraduate Academic Regulation 11e Academic Appeals – Fee, Notes and Graduate Academic Regulation 31e be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried unanimously.

.0209 Academic Regulation 14 Declaration or Change of Major, Area of Concentration, Honours, or Minor was withdrawn by the Chairperson of the Academic Regulation Committee.

.0210 Academic Regulation 25a Second Undergraduate Degree

Key Discussion Points:

- The intent is to ensure conformity within the regulations stipulating that 50% of credits for the degree be completed at Saint Mary’s University.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the revisions to Academic Regulation 25a be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried unanimously.

.0211 Academic Regulation 31 - Dean’s Lists for Undergraduate Programs

Key Discussion Points:

- Clarify what programs are eligible for Dean’s list standing.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that Academic Regulation 31 Committee be approved as circulated”**. Motion carried unanimously.

.0212 Recruitment and Admission Services, page 16, right column of the 2011-2012 Academic Calendar – 2. Admission to Undergraduate Programs – circulated as Appendix E

Key Discussion Points:

- The objective is to raise the bar for normal admission, but explicitly preserve our mission to provide opportunity to deserving applicants.
- We are proposing an Access Program. The hope is that this revision will formalize into a first year transition program for first year students.

Moved by Dixon, and seconded, **“that the revisions to Recruitment and Admission Services, page 16- 2. Requirements for Admission to**

Undergraduate Programs be approved as circulated". Motion carried unanimously.

.03 Literacy Strategy Committee, 2010-2011 Annual Report circulated as **Appendix F**.
There being no questions, the report was accepted into the record.

.04 Scholarship Committee, Revision to Award Criteria circulated as **Appendix G & H**.

Key Discussion Points:

- Members were advised that there are students coming full-time but for some reason may not be able to take a full course load.
- First year students starting in September only have enough time to complete 24 credit hours by April 30. For the Achievement Awards, we now specify that first year students must complete 24 credit hours.
- It was noted that something is missing in the revision for 2. Achievement Scholarships. The following change is suggested:
 - To be eligible for an Achievement Award, students must maintain a minimum 3.67 grade point average each year in the required number of credit hours. Students admitted in September must have completed a minimum of 24 credit hours by April 30th. Returning students must have completed 30 credit hours in the preceding 12 Month Period of Study May 1 to April 30.
- Financial Aid and Award Officers are ready to immediately consider this criteria.

Moved by Barclay, and seconded, **"that the revisions to Award Criteria as presented in appendices G & H and as revised above, be approved as circulated"**. Motion carried unanimously.

11045 **REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEES**

.01 Honorary Degrees Committee Recommendations circulated at meeting as **Appendix I**

Key Discussion Points:

- A brief background was presented on the candidates.

Moved by Dodds, and seconded, **"that the recommendation of the Honorary Degrees Committee be approved as circulated"**. Motion carried unanimously.

11046 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

None.

11047 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Members were advised that an MOU has been signed with the Government.
- The cuts were announced as 3%. There is also a promise of a 0 to 3% cut for next year.
- The following year (2014) there will be a return to funding formula.
- The facilitator for the NSCAD situation is Dr. Thomas. Dodds is to meet with him next week to discuss the situation.

11048

QUESTION PERIOD

- Money was provided by the province through the Offshore Energy Research Association (OETRA) to do geoscience research on the Nova Scotia Basin. The results of that research were released in June of 2011 and that led to a recent call for bids from the offshore exploration & development sector. Shell Canada has committed \$970 million on exploration over the next six years. This is a record high for the East Coast offshore industry. The research of G. Pe-Piper, A. McRae and J. Hanley contributed in a significant way to this outcome.
- It was noted that Saint Mary's is pleased and proud of the work done by researchers G. Pe-Piper, A. McRae and J. Hanley.

11049

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.