



Minutes

MEETING OF THE SENATE

A meeting of the Senate was held on Thursday, March 26, 2009 in Robert Sutherland Hall, Room 202 at 3:30 p.m.

Present: Principal Williams in the Chair **Senators:** Archibald, Baird, Baker, Barnett, Boag, Brien, Brinkworth, Brock, Brown, Bu, Cordy, Diederichs, Dixon, Flanagan, Fulford, Gibson, Hill, Horton, Jahanbakhsh, Koichopolos, LaFleche, MacLean, McCormack, McGrath, Minnes, Norman, Oosthuizen, Robbie, Ryan, Saiedi, Salzmann, Santeramo, Stairs, Stewart, Tam, Tolmie, J. Welsh, P. Welsh, G. Moore (Secretary), P. Watkin (Associate Secretary)

Also Present: B. Bachmann, J-A Brady, M. Ceci, R. Chaudry, K. Christie, J. Dixon, L. Jackson, T. Lin, S. McKinley, K. O'Brien, A. Nocilla, D. Rappaport, M. Sikorska, H. Smith, C. Sumbler, B. Teatero, S. Verbeek, K. Wiener

I OPENING SESSION

1. Adoption of Agenda

Main Motion

Moved by Senator LaFleche, seconded by Senator Horton, that the Agenda be adopted with the provision that Item III 2 - Nominating Committee Report, be withdrawn.

Carried 09-17

Amendment to the Main Motion

Moved by Senator Radcliffe, seconded by Senator J. Welsh, that the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee be discussed in Closed Session.

In response to the amendment, Senator Oosthuizen, Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, recommended that the Nominating Report be withdrawn from the Agenda and referred back to the Nominating Committee. Senators Radcliffe and Welsh agreed with this suggestion. The original Motion passed with this provision.

Principal Williams spoke to the circumstances around the original decision of the Senate Agenda Committee to cancel the March Senate meeting due to insufficient business and to undertake an electronic vote on item IV.2 "Appointment of Heads of Clinical Departments, School of Medicine and Queen's University affiliated Principal Teaching Hospitals" which was the one item where Senate action needed to be expedited. After receiving several concerns about these decisions from Senators, the Senate Agenda Committee rescinded its earlier decision and suspended the vote on item IV.2. Consideration of item IV.2 will take place at today's meeting. In order to avoid a similar situation in the future, the Principal asked that the Senate Operations Review Committee provide further clarification around the appropriate use of electronic voting.

- #### 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of 26 February 2009 (Appendix A, page 1)
- Moved by Senator Oosthuizen, seconded by Senator McGrath, that the Minutes of February 26, 2009 be adopted as circulated.

Carried 09-18

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

On behalf of Senator Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic) the following statement was read by Principal Williams:

Senators will recall from the last meeting that Vice-Principal Deane announced the impending release of his discussion paper on the curriculum. That document, "Contexts and Imperatives for Renewing the Curriculum," was posted on the website of the Vice-Principal (Academic) on March 1st, and subsequently distributed widely by email. Vice-Principal Deane also introduced and led a discussion of the paper at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on March 7th. Vice-Principal Deane hopes this paper will be a catalyst for discussion among faculty, as well as in the wider Queen's community, on the state of the curriculum and its future within local and international contexts. He is unfortunately out of the country for today's meeting, but looks forward to discussing the paper with Senators in the coming months. In the meantime, I would like to direct Senators to the Vice-Principal (Academic) website (www.queensu.ca/vpac), where the paper is available, along with background material, and an opportunity for posting responses, comments and other viewpoints.,

4. Chair's Report

Principal Williams noted that the provincial budget will be announced at 4:00 p.m. today. It is anticipated that funding for infrastructure projects will be available but there is uncertainty about additional monies for university operating expenditures.

In terms of the University's internal budget process for 2009-2010, Principal Williams reported that the process is on track to be completed by mid-April and will be presented to the Board of Trustees on May 2, 2009 for approval. Principal Williams reminded Senate that a three-year budget cycle has been introduced and that year two and three will be particularly difficult for the University.

5. Other Reports

a) Research Report (Appendix B, page 7)

Principal Williams introduced Dr. Scott McKinley, Associate Vice-Principal (Research) and welcomed him to Queen's. Dr. McKinley announced the 2009 winners of the Chancellor's Research Award: Dr. Jon Miller (Philosophy), Dr. Steven Smith (Biochemistry) and Dr. Mark Diederichs (Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering). This prestigious award recognizes excellence and innovations in research and provides each recipient with a grant of \$50K to advance their research.

Dr. McKinley spoke to the announcement in today's "Kingston Whig Standard" that *Everbrite Solar*, a leading solar-panel maker has announced plans to create a \$500M high-tech manufacturing facility in Kingston. In addition to the main plant there will be a \$25M experimental manufacturing facility which Queen's researchers will have access to for collaborative research. There were no questions or comments.

b) Board of Trustees Meeting – March 6/7 (Appendix C, page 9)

Principal Williams announced that the Board of Trustees, at its March 7, 2009 meeting, extended P. Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic)'s term by one year until June 30, 2011. This action was taken upon request of Principal-designate, Dr. Daniel Woolf.

In conjunction with the October Board of Trustees meeting, a celebration is planned to commemorate the naming of the Policy Studies building as Robert Sutherland Hall. Invited guests will include representatives of the Jamaican government and members of Mr. Sutherland's family.

II QUESTION PERIOD

Senator J. Welsh read the following Question on behalf of graduate students and faculty in the Department of French Studies:

“How does Queen’s intend to reconcile actual budget cuts reducing and closing programs that contribute to the practice and philosophy of diversity with Queen’s mission statement “Engaging the World” and “Social Diversity”?”

Senator Welsh reported that the Question arises from a situation in the Department of French Studies where nine of twenty-six graduate students are enrolled in a Francophonie program studying French language literature from outside France. Due to a number of circumstances, these graduate students will shortly be in the situation where they will no longer have a faculty member with the expertise to supervise them to the completion of their degree. Senator J. Welsh added that there were also equity concerns arising from the situation as the sessional adjunct who is currently teaching this stream and all of the graduate students themselves are of colour and/or from a religious minority.

Principal Williams stated that a response to the Question will be provided at the April 23, 2009 Senate meeting.

III REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. **Academic Development** (Appendix D, page 11)
 - a) **Proposed Name Change for the Department of Anesthesiology**
Moved by Senator Walker
seconded by Senator Oosthuizen
that Senate approve the proposal to change the name of the Department of Anesthesiology to the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective immediately, and to inform the Board of Trustees of this change.
Carried 09-19

There were no questions or comments.

2. **Nominating** (Appendix E, page 19)
 - a) **Elections**
As agreed upon under adoption of the Agenda this item was referred back to the Nominating Committee.

IV REPORTS OF FACULTIES AND AFFILIATED COLLEGES (Appendix F, page 23)

1. **Introduction of New field of Study in Graduate Program in the School of Nursing**
Principal Williams drew attention to the correspondence from the School of Graduate Studies and Research regarding the introduction of new field of study in the School of Nursing. There were no questions or comments.
2. **Appointment of Heads of Clinical Departments, School of Medicine and Queen’s University affiliated Principal Teaching Hospitals**
Moved by Senator Walker
seconded by Senator McGrath
that Senate approve the process for the Appointment of Heads of Clinical Departments, School of Medicine and Queen’s University affiliated Principal Teaching Hospitals (Appendix 1, Schedule “A”)
Carried 09-20

Senator Walker provided the following background information to Senate:

- Faculty members in clinical departments, the School of Medicine and affiliated Principal Teaching Hospitals, are independent practitioners who are not members of the Queen’s University Faculty Association (QUFA) and therefore not covered by the Collective Agreement (CA). They are however, members of the medical staff of hospitals and their

appointments are made by the hospital boards under the jurisdiction of the “Ontario Public Hospitals Act”;

- These practitioners also hold “special” appointments at Queen’s University which exist only as long as there is external funding available. The majority of these practitioners receive no funding from the University;
- The “Hospital Services Accountability Act”, instituted three years ago, identified a number of issues within Ontario teaching hospitals including Kingston General Hospital (KGH). At KGH, an investigation was launched prompting a number of actions including a governance renewal process. This review resulted in the signing of a new affiliation agreement. D. Kelly, Legal Counsel and the Office of the Vice-Principal (Academic) guided the University during these negotiations;
- The current Senate process for appointing heads of clinical departments has been in existence since 1971. The University currently holds primacy in the process but under the new affiliation agreement, the University has a reduced role in the selection of heads for clinical departments;
- The document presented to Senate is similar to agreements at peer institutions and meets the academic mission of the University and the accountability requirements of the hospitals ;
- Each search process addresses employment equity principles and members of search committees are educated about these issues by a number of surrogate means. The strategic plan of the Faculty of Health Sciences states that it is dedicated to eliminating biases. Senator Walker emphasized that competencies in diversity issues are paramount in medical education.

In response to concerns regarding the Faculty of Health Sciences’ commitment to equity issues, Senator Walker made the following friendly amendment to “Appendix 1, Schedule A”:

1. Appointment Process

The appointment of a Department Head and Head of a Clinical Department (the Head) will be governed by the Parties’ internal policies and procedures **and will respect and observe the principles of employment equity**. The Parties support the general principle of equity between the Hospitals and the University in the appointment process.

Senator Walker thanked D. Kelly, Legal Counsel and I. Bujara, Director, Human Rights and Equity Office, for their wise counsel. There were no questions or comments.

V MOTIONS (Appendix G, page 29)

1. Extension of Authority for the Dean of Arts and Science and Dean of Graduate Studies to Preside at Convocation

Senator Stairs introduced the recommendation and noted that the Motion was prompted by circumstances this year where the Chancellor, the Principal, the Vice-Principal (Academic) and the Vice-Principal (Research) were not available to preside over the Theological College convocation. Sighting the importance of Convocation and the circumstances that precipitated the necessity this year, Senator Brock suggested an amendment to the Motion to limit the authority to 2009 only. It was suggested that if future circumstances warranted a similar extension of authority to the Deans, then another Motion could be introduced at the appropriate time.

Amended Motion

**It was moved in amendment by Senator Brock,
seconded by Senator Dixon,
that the phrase “for 2009 Convocations” be added to the Main Motion**

Carried 09-21

Main Motion

**Moved by Senator Stairs
seconded by Senator Oosthuizen**

For 2009 Convocations, that the Senate appoint the Dean of Arts and Science and the Dean of Graduate Studies to preside at convocation in the absence of the Chancellor, or the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, or the Vice-Principal (Academic), or the Vice-Principal (Research). The exercise of this authority will be decided by the Principal after consultation with the Chancellor, once the convocation dates have been approved.

Carried 09-22

VI COMMUNICATIONS

None Received

VII MATTERS REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE (Appendix H, page 30)

Principal Williams drew attention to the following Matters Referred:

1. Proposal to establish a new stream in the Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences - Cancer Research, in the Faculty of Arts and Science [Referred to the Senate Committee on Academic Development
Proposal to establish a new stream in the Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences – Drug Development and Human Toxicology (DDHT), in the Faculty of Arts and Science [Referred to the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) and the Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC)]
2. Proposal to establish a Collaborative Program in Cancer Research in the School of Graduate Studies and Research [Referred to the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) and the Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC)]
3. Proposed changes to the Terms of Reference and Composition of the Senate Committee on Non-Academic Discipline (SONAD) [Referred to the Senate Operations Review Committee (SORC)]

VIII OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of students, Senator Barnett read a statement (attached to the Minutes) urging Principal Williams to sign the *University Presidents Climate Commitment* accord. In response to the statement, Principal Williams reported that the Executive Heads of Ontario universities continue to discuss this issue at COU. Although there is general support for the principles of the accord there is concern about the implementation strategies and how they could be integrated in Ontario. Principal Williams also reported that the Board of Trustees, at its March meeting, asked for a progress report on sustainability initiatives taken by the University over the past year. This report will be made available to Senate in May.

There were no questions or comments.

IX CLOSED SESSION

Not Required

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Statement Read by Senator Barnett

In an increasingly complex world it is often difficult to imagine what one person can do to make a difference. However, history is rife with examples of how one *person can* make a difference. Louis Braille and Charles Darwin, with the help of the institutions around them, created two innovations in thinking and practice that are representations of humanity's overarching push towards truth and justice. The importance of these concepts is sometimes easy to overlook, but are much easier to grasp if we witness two first year students reading Darwin's *Origin of Species* in our library, one with their eyes and the other with their fingertips. This example proves that actions taken today, could bring truth and social justice in thinking and in practice, to future generations.

2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The work that has been done, as reflected by four integrated assessment reports, outlines the dangers of human induced climate change on global communities. These reports have demonstrated that the actions of industrial societies have increased and continue to increase the concentration of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. If left unchecked, these emissions will cause rapid and dangerous climate change as never before seen. The conclusions of these reports have withstood scientific scrutiny over the past twenty years with most revisions calling for even greater action.

It is for this reason that I call upon Principal Williams to sign the University Presidents Climate Commitment, an accord that would hold this University accountable for its contribution to carbon emissions and demonstrate to the Staff, Faculty and Students that Queen's recognizes Climate Change as a threat to the safety, sustainability and security of not only our community, but others globally as well. By ratifying the commitment, Queen's will initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, will commit to reducing greenhouse gasses through the implementation of efficient and cost-cutting strategies, and will work with other universities and colleges to coordinate efforts that will further the goals of the commitment.

Queen's will not be alone in this initiative, by committing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and striving for carbon neutrality, we join 614 American and 6 Canadian schools that have already ratified accords with the same goals. On campus, over 1500 undergraduate students, 15 Campus groups, and nearly every faculty society and student government support this request.

IPCC assessment reports acted as the founding documents in the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. An international governance body charged with the responsibility of averting catastrophic damage to our eco-system. Numerous state governments have taken up this challenge by cutting their emissions significantly over the past 20 years. While others, such as Canada, have seen their emissions continue to rise.

This University has the responsibility, by signing the University Presidents Climate Commitment, to send a clear message to the federal and provincial government, that we

understand the science, economics, politics, and most importantly truth of climate change and how human and environmental suffering can and will be caused by inaction.

All peoples will be affected by climate change though not all equally. The negative effects of a warming planet will fall disproportionately on the most disadvantaged members of our societies. Unfortunately we as individuals, as an institution, as a nation and as a planet cannot prevent all of these human induced environmental calamities. The UNFCCC has resigned itself to 2 degrees of warming over the next century, but a new specter has surfaced from the scientific data. Many scientists, including James Hansen, the head of NASA's Goddard Institute, are predicting that if we do not make a drastic change to the organization of our communities, over the next decade and beginning in the next year, we will be unable to exercise *any* control over our climate through any mitigation effort. The potential effects of inaction can be devastating, and make it necessary for cities, corporations, nations and even universities, to do their part to take part in addressing climate change.

It is true that this one institution will have a minimal impact on total greenhouse gas emissions, even if it were to become carbon neutral tomorrow. Maya Angelou once wrote, "The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change". The Presidents Climate Commitment is a great step forward, but it cannot serve as the only step forward, only as the *first* step forward. Ratifying the commitment will follow the great work of Queen's leaders who have begun championing this cause. Leaders such as Dr. Pearce in the department of Mechanical Engineering, who is valiantly pursuing solar technology and efficiency standards at this University; Doctor Smol in the department of Biology, who has received numerous academic awards for his work in climate reconstruction; Professor Garvie from the Department of Economics, who has devoted a entire course to the Economics of Climate Change. Signing the agreement will give hope to all those students who pursue these courses in an attempt to become better global citizens as well. And let us never forget as well, that if Queen's truly wishes to engage the world, to build international linkages, and demonstrate our global consciousness, then Queen's must begin to demonstrate leadership in global issues such as sustainability and climate change.

We have waited far too long to take up this challenge. We must turn from inaction to action and sign a public commitment to combat climate change. Complacency is no longer an option in the face of the overwhelming costs of doing nothing. If we are to continue to espouse the virtues of truth and justice as an institution of higher learning, we must act.

In closing, I began this discussion by explaining that a measure of a good leader is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency, and to take action accordingly. Today, leaders are recognizing a problem, and taking action. Communities are recognizing a problem, and taking action. And so too, should our community.

I thank Senate for its time and patience.