



# Minutes

---

## MEETING OF THE SENATE

A meeting of the Senate was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in Robert Sutherland Hall, Room 202 at 9:30 a.m.

---

**Present:** Senator Oosthuizen in the Chair **Senators:** Archibald, Baker, Boag, Brien, Brinkworth, Brock, Brown, Bruno-Jofre, Ceci, Christie, Deakin, Deane, Dixon, Flanagan, Hills, Horton, Jahanbakhsh, Kisilevsky, LaFleche, Leichner, MacLean, McCormack, McGrath, Minnes, Norman, Remenda, Rouget, Rowe, Ryan, Santeramo, Saunders, Staples, Stevens, Tam, Walker, J. Welsh, Whitney, Wiener, G. Moore (Secretary), P. Watkin (Associate Secretary)

**Also Present:** C. Beach, J-A. Brady, R. Coupland, S. Kemp, T. Lin, J. Medves, K. Montgoermy, K. O'Brien, H. Smith, C. Sumbler, B. Teatero, M. Whitehead.

Senator Oosthuizen expressed Principal Williams and Senator Stairs, Vice-Chair of Senate, regrets for not being present at Senate. Both were out of town on University business.

### I OPENING SESSION

#### 1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Senator LaFleche, seconded by Senator Brien, that the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried 09-35

#### 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of 23 April 2009 (Appendix A, page 1)

Moved by Senator Deakin, seconded by Senator Brien, that the Minutes of 23 April 2009 be adopted as circulated.

Carried 09-36

#### 3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no Business Arising from the Minutes.

#### 4. Chair's Report

##### Financial Update

Senator Oosthuizen reported that the Board of Trustees approved the 2009-2010 budget at its meeting on May 2, 2009 but expressed serious concerns about carrying a deficit of \$8.3M. The Administration and the Board of Trustees' Finance Committee are scheduled to meet over the summer to discuss budget planning for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. Additional information about the budget can be found on the Office of the Principal's website: <http://www.queensu.ca/principal/financialupdate/2009-10budgetreport.html>.

##### Installation Ceremony

Senator Oosthuizen reported that Dr. Daniel Woolf's installation ceremony is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2009 in Grant Hall. Senators were encouraged to attend.

##### Spring Reunion and MiniU

Senator Oosthuizen noted that Spring Reunion and MiniU were scheduled for May 22-24, 2009. Over 700 alumni from 35 classes are expected to return to campus for Spring Reunion and plans for the second annual MiniU are going well.

### Performing Arts Centre

Senator Oosthuizen reported that recent funding announcements would bring the University very close to the estimated \$65M needed to build the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts on the former Tett Centre site. The federal and provincial governments are contributing up to \$30M. Drs. Alfred and Isabel Bader have given \$18M and the City of Kingston has confirmed a funding contribution of \$6M.

## 5. Other Reports

### a) **Research Report** (Appendix B, page 8)

Senator Rowe, Vice-Principal (Research), made the following announcements:

- Dr. J. Smol, Department of Biology, has won a Killam Prize and the Premier's Discovery Award for 2009;
- Dr. W. Kymlicka, Department of Philosophy as also won a Premier's Discovery Award for 2009;
- Dr. A. McDonald, Department of Physics, has been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, the national academy of science of the UK and the Commonwealth.

### b) **Board of Trustees Meeting, May 2, 2009** (Appendix C, page 16)

Senator Oosthuizen drew attention to the report on the Board of Trustees Meeting of May 2, 2009. There were no questions or comments.

### c) **Presentation by Senator Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic) on "Contexts and Imperatives for Reviewing the Curriculum – A Discussion Paper"**

<http://www.queensu.ca/vpac/curriculumdiscussion.html>

Senator Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic) provided a PowerPoint (attached) presentation on his discussion paper entitled "Contexts and Imperatives for Reviewing the Curriculum". The following highlights were recorded:

- Although change is often difficult, Universities' intellectual growth is dependent upon their ability to periodically renew themselves;
- Change must be made within the framework of maintaining quality and resource realities;
- Changes to the curriculum must be rooted in a discourse that reflects the present state and trajectory of disciplines;
- External influences are global, national and provincial;
  - Globally, the Bologna accord, initiated in 1999, will influence higher education around the world. The accord began with members of the European Union and now consists of 44 signatures and affiliated observers including institutions from Africa, China and Australia. The original purpose of the accord was to maximize mobility for students between universities. It has now evolved to include quality assurance. One of the strengths of the accord is that it aligns post-secondary systems without eroding the local richness of individual institutions. AUCC has urged Canadian universities to take account of developments relating to the Bologna accord;
  - Provincially, there has been a shift to take an outcome based perspective on the curriculum. This is being achieved by applying UUDLES (University Undergraduate Degree-Level Expectations) and GDLES (Graduate Degree-Level Expectations) which were approved by Senate as part of Queen's Internal Academic Review process. A successful transformation to outcome based degree requirements will allow Ontario universities to participate in a system similar to the Bologna accord and enhance the mobility of its students;
  - Nationally, the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) has passed a document similar to UUDLES which will potentially aid Canada in participating in the emerging Bologna system;
- The two key imperatives going forward are academic currency and sustainability. Queen's needs to define what outcomes it is striving for and what resources are available to achieve those outcomes;

- By 2011 it is anticipated that a new quality assurance regime will be introduced by the Ontario government which will replace the current internal academic review process for both undergraduate and graduate level programs. The new process will encompass both undergraduate and graduate programs and is envisaged as self-regulatory. The new process will be organized by the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents (OCAVP) and implicit in the new process will be an outcome based model of assessment.

Senator Deane stressed that it is unrealistic to think that the quality of a Queen's education can be preserved by tinkering with the curriculum. Failure to take note of academic currency will result in Queen's being marginalized. Senator Deane concluded his presentation by encouraging Senate to return to basic thinking, preserving essential values and remember that curriculum renewal is an open-ended process.

Senator Walker, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, thanked Senator Deane for his provocative paper which promotes more accountability to stakeholders. He noted that the University is challenged by its current structures which are not keeping pace with the evolving learning environment.

## II QUESTION PERIOD (Appendix D, page 17)

### 1. From Senator Christie, QUFA President, requesting a written report of the Legal Counsel's opinion about the role of the Deans and Senate. Oral response to be provided by Principal Williams

On behalf of Principal Williams, Senator Oosthuizen responded that the Senate Minutes of April 23, 2009 (page 3), accurately reflected Legal Counsel's opinion about the bicameral governance model and the role of the Deans within that model. For this reason, Principal Williams will not be releasing a report on the legal opinion he obtained on this subject. Senator Christie confirmed that the response satisfied her concern.

### 2. From Senator Christie, QUFA President, regarding the Board of Trustees and changes to the governing structure of Queen's University. Oral response to be provided by Principal Williams

On behalf of Principal Williams, Senator Oosthuizen responded that the issue of a governance review was raised at the University Council Annual Meeting on May 1, 2009. It is expected that a review, chaired by Principal Designate, Dr. Daniel Woolf, will begin this Fall (2009) and that the committee will include Senators, Trustees, and Councillors.

## III REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### 1. Academic Development (Appendix E, page 18)

#### a) Proposed change to degree name designation: Master of Applied Science in the Faculty of Applied Science.

Moved by Senator Deane

seconded by Senator Deakin

**that Senate approve the change of degree name designation for the Master of Science (Engineering) (M.Sc. [Eng]) and the Master of Science (M.Sc.) to the Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.) in the School of Graduate Studies and Research. This change will take effect for all new students entering the program effective September 1, 2009, and for those students continuing in their program after September 30, 2009.**

**Carried 09-37**

Senator Deane noted that the current distinction between the degree name designation for the Master of Science (Engineering) and the Master of Science exists for historical reasons. However, there is no meaningful purpose for this distinction and SCAD is recommending the adoption of a degree name designation of a Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.). There were no questions or comments.















## Contexts and Imperatives for Renewing the Curriculum

*A Discussion Paper*

Patrick Deane  
Vice-Principal (Academic)

*Meeting of the Senate  
Queen's University  
20 May 2009*

- Curriculum review and renewal is part of the process of change

*- To maintain quality and academic currency*

*- To address resource realities*

### 1. Global

*- The Bologna Process*

### 2. Provincial

*- University Undergraduate Degree  
Level Expectations (UUDLES)*

### 3. Local

*- Financial challenges*

- Academic Currency

- Sustainability

Background information and responses  
to the discussion paper can be found at

[www.queensu.ca/vpac/curriculumdiscussion](http://www.queensu.ca/vpac/curriculumdiscussion)

n

**Senate Committee on Academic Procedures**  
Report to Senate – May 20, 2009

**OFFICIAL CREDIT UNIT WEIGHTING AND GRADING  
AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**

**Proposed Official Grading System**

	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>
<b>Queen's</b>	A+	4.0	90-100	Exceptional; significantly exceeds the highest expectations for course work.
	A	4.0	85-89	Outstanding; meets the highest standards for the assignment course.
	A-	3.7	80-84	Excellent; meets very high standards for the assignment or course.
	B+	3.3	77-79	Very good; meets high standards for the assignment or course.
	B	3.0	73-76	Good; meets most standards for the assignment or course.
	B-	2.7	70-72	More than adequate; shows some reasonable command of material.
	C+	2.3	67-69	Acceptable; meets basic standards for the assignment or course.
	C	2.0	63-66	Acceptable; meets some of the basic standards for the assignment or course.
	C-	1.7	60-62	Acceptable; while falling short of meeting basic standards in several ways.
	D+	1.3	57-59	Minimally acceptable.
	D	1.0	53-56	Minimally acceptable; passing grade.
	D-	0.7	50-52	Minimally acceptable; lowest passing grade.
	F	0.0	0 -49	Failure
	P			Pass; no grade assigned
H			Pass with honours; meets the highest standards for the assignment or course.	
AUD			Audit	
TR			Transfer Credit; no grade assigned	