



Minutes

MEETING OF THE SENATE

A meeting of the Senate was held on Thursday, March 25, 2010 in Robert Sutherland Hall, Room 202 at 3:30 p.m.

Present: Principal Woolf (Chair) **Senators:** Archibald, Bakar, Bevan, Blennerhassett, Boag, Ceci, Chaudhry, Christie, Colwell, Cordy, Culham, Dacin, De Souza, Deane, Diederichs, Dimitrov, Dixon, Elliott, Eubank, Goodspeed, LaFleche, Lin, MacLean, McCormack, Medves, Minnes, Murphy, Notash, Oleschuk, Oosthuizen, Pardy, Reid, Roberge, Salvatore, Salzmann, Santeramo, Scott, Stairs, Stevens, Walker, Welsh, Wiener, Woolley, G. Moore (Secretary), C. Russell (Associate).

Also Present: M. Axelrod, M. Campbell, S. Chowdhury, C. Coupland, L. Jackson, M. Balanchuk, C. Beach, J-A. Brady, I. Bujara, C. Coupland, R. Coupland, B. Crawford, C. Davis, R. Denniston-Stewart, A. Girgrah, H. Hartley, T. Kwong, J. Lee, G. Lessard, A. Lockhart, C. Rudnicki, S. Sasson, H. Smith, C. Sumbler, B. Teatero, S. Verbeek, H. Wang, P. Watkin, M. Whitehead, J. Zelikovitz.

I OPENING SESSION

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

The Chair:

- welcomed new medical student senator, S. Bakar, who began his term in January and is attending his second meeting;
- congratulated new student senators who were successful in recent society elections, some of whom were in attendance;
- noted that he enjoyed meeting new, retiring and continuing student senators at a dinner on March 23, 2010;
- congratulated Senator Welsh, who recently won a Tricolour Award for distinguished service to the University in non-athletic, extra curricular activities;
- congratulated Vice-Chair, Senator Stairs, Principal of Queen's new School of Religion. The school was officially recognized at a ceremony on March 23;
- announced the appointment of R. Reznick as the new Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Director of the School of Medicine, effective July 1. He succeeds Senator Walker, who steps down June 30 after 10 years as Dean.
- thanked Senator Walker for his contributions to medicine, the Faculty of Health Sciences, Queen's, Kingston and the broader society of Ontario and Canada.

The Chair referred to a report from the Senate Orientation Activities Review Board (SOARB) that was circulated to senators on March 24 for consideration to be added to the agenda. The Chair reported that he and members of SOARB and the University Secretariat had decided that the issue required further discussion and should be brought to Senate at a later meeting. At issue is the timing conflict of the religious observances of Rosh Hashanah and Eid Al-Fitr and Orientation Week activities in September 2010.

The Chair asked Senator Ceci, President of the AMS, to provide an update on the situation. Senator Ceci noted that the conflict with Rosh Hashanah and Eid holy days would prevent some students from fully

participating in Orientation, an important and formative experience for new students that sets the tone for the rest of their time at Queen's. SOARB's solution to intersperse faculty orientation days with residence orientation days is still under consideration. In his view, however, it gives the impression that faculty orientation is more important than residence orientation. Members of SOARB, the current and incoming AMS executives, Queen's Muslim Students' Association (QUMSA), the Jewish Student's Hillel and the administration will evaluate options and come to a consensus on what would work best to accommodate students. He said that some groups favour changing sessional dates, but this would raise other issues. The AMS plans to work with AMS Orientation Roundtable coordinators and faculty societies to develop a solution for this year as soon as possible, and to develop policies to ensure that this does not happen again. He noted that a similar situation arose in 1999 and will take place again in 2013.

The Chair expressed his thanks to SOARB Co-Chair C. Coupland who attended the meeting and to student Co-Chair B. Sargent and rest of the committee members for their hard work on the issue on very short notice. He looked forward to the results of further discussions at the next Senate meeting.

The Chair requested that the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures be asked about developing a policy when setting sessional dates so that they do not conflict with future faith dates.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Senator LaFleche, seconded by Senator Oosthuizen, that the agenda be adopted as circulated with the addition of a brief closed session at the end of the meeting to hear a report from the Principal.

Carried 10-13

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of 18 February 2010 (Appendix A, page 1)

Moved by Senator Wiener, seconded by Senator Medves, that the minutes of February 18, 2010 be adopted as circulated.

Carried 10-14

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

4. Chair's Report

External Updates

Ontario Budget: It is expected that the government will reaffirm its commitment to increase accessibility to postsecondary education for Ontarians with the aim of reaching a participation rate of 70 per cent. This year, an additional 20,000 spaces will be available. The province also wants to increase international student enrolment by 50 per cent while maintaining spaces for Ontario students. This aligns with Queen's goal to increase internationalization. After the Senate meeting, the Principal participated in a COU conference call with other Ontario Executive Heads to discuss the budget implications and their response.

Federal Budget: Despite the increasing federal deficit, the post-secondary sector did not see major cuts in the 2010 federal budget released earlier this month. The Chair welcomed a new program of federally funded postdoctoral fellowships designed to attract top PhD graduates from Canada and internationally. Funds were also targeted to entities such as TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics, of which Queen's is a member.

Federal meetings: The Principal had two productive March meetings in Ottawa with former Clerk of the Privy Council, Kevin Lynch and Associate Deputy Minister of Industry, Paul Boothe, who shared

their impressions about opportunities in the sector. The Principal is encouraged that Queen's is well-placed to take advantage of a number of these opportunities.

Israel: In late May, the Principal will travel with the Premier and the Minister for Economic Development and Trade on an international business mission to learn more about Israel's success in commercializing research discoveries. He has invited John Molloy, President and CEO of PARTEQ Innovations to join him. The trip will enable them to leverage their expertise in a new international market, and to investigate academic and research partnerships with Israeli universities.

Performing Arts Centre: On March 23, City Council postponed voting on a \$6-million contribution to the new Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. The funding is crucial in Queen's securing \$30 million from the federal and provincial governments toward the project. The development of the arts and culture hub on the Lake Ontario waterfront would include the new centre and a renovated city-owned J.K. Tett building. It would encourage collaboration among Queen's and local artists, and provide great benefits to both the University and the City. The delay deals with financing details around Queen's contribution to the development of the site, including utilities and road work for both buildings and how to do this the most inexpensively at the same time.

Internal updates

The Chair referred to the new appointment of Dr. R. Reznick as Queen's new Dean of Health Sciences and Director of the School of Medicine. Opportunities to celebrate Dean David Walker's significant contributions to Queen's and local, regional and provincial health care and education are being planned.

Interim Provost and VP (Academic) B. Silverman, whose appointment starts May 1, will assume the role of Acting VP (Academic) on April 1 to smooth the transition with outgoing VP (Academic) P. Deane, who steps down on April 30.

The Chair has visited all of Queen's Faculties and Schools over the past few months, and is now visiting academic departments (15 so far), hearing from faculty members about their projects and priorities. These visits will continue over the next year.

Earlier in March, the Principal hosted a Public Square meeting with staff in Wallace Hall, attended by about 200 people. He learned details on some issues with the recent implementation of the finance piece of the QUASR project. To address the issues, the administration plans to increase support to those on the front lines who are adapting to the new system. Future staff meetings are planned, including one at West Campus, perhaps with smaller numbers to encourage discussion.

The Academic Planning process is moving forward, with discussions between Faculties and Departments now taking place before Faculties submit their plans to the VP (Academic) on April 15. As with all complex processes, this requires careful yet imaginative thinking and muscular debate. I am confident this is happening across campus. He thanked the professors who would form the team of academic writers selected to draft the high-level plan: M. Adams (Pharmacology and Toxicology/ Kinesiology and Health Studies/Urology), T. Bryant (Mechanical and Materials Engineering/ Kinesiology and Health Studies/Surgery), Y. Chan (Business), K. Nossal (Political Studies/Policy Studies), J. Scott (German) and J. Smol (Biology). He looks forward to discussing their work with the campus community, including senators, over the fall.

5. Other Reports

a) Research Report (Appendix B, page 12)

There were no questions or comments.

b) Board of Trustees Meeting – March 5/6 (Appendix C, page 15)

There were no questions or comments.

c) Honorary Degree Recipients Spring 2010 (Appendix D, page 17)

The Chair drew attention to the list of those receiving honorary degrees at Spring Convocation. Recipients for Fall Convocations will be confirmed later. He encouraged senators to attend Convocation ceremonies in Grant Hall, noting that they are short, sweet and most enjoyable.

II QUESTION PERIOD (Appendix E, page 18)

1. **What is the University doing to encourage Faculties and Units to implement the new Senate Educational Equity Policy (approved by Senate, Nov. 26, 2009). Oral response to be provided by Senator Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic)**

Senator Deane noted the appointment last November of Dr. A. Husain as Director, Educational Equity & Diversity Projects. His team, the Diversity and Equity Task Force (DET) is completing an assessment of the various diversity and equity reports tabled at Queen's over the last two decades. Priorities for implementation will be identified and timelines set, with the intention of moving quickly from the stock-taking phase to implementation. Dr. Husain has also released a document to assist in integrating the policy into the Academic Planning exercise.

The new Quality Assurance process replacing the Internal Academic Review requires that programs provide information on how equity goals of the University will be addressed.

Since Senator Deane and the Chair will not be attending the April 22 Senate meeting, the Chair thanked Senator Deane, who starts his appointment as President of McMaster University on May 1, for his contributions to the University. The Chair noted that his departure is a coup for McMaster and a loss for Queen's, and that he is grateful to B. Silverman for filling in over the next year.

2. **During the discussion and vote on the new GPA-based grading system for Queen's during the May 2009 meeting of Senate, a number of questions were raised as to how the new grading system would be implemented. According to the minutes, the response to these queries was: "SCAP plans to deal with these issues in the Fall and will examine best practices at other universities before making any major decisions. Dr Beach [Chair of SCAP] added that this is a very complex issue and that Senate was being asked to approve the major framework of the official grading system. Details on how to assess students using this system will be examined over the next academic year by SCAP."**

Are there any plans for SCAP to report back to Senate on progress on these issues? If so, what items will be raised and will these be for information or for action?

C. Beach, Chair of SCAP noted that in May 2009, Senate approved an official grading system comprising letter grades (with +'s and -'s), grade points, and grade descriptors. SCAP selected the scale because it was the most common in use in North America. The committee wanted to examine the choice of a specific scale more carefully once the letter grade/Grade Point Average framework had been approved. Over the summer of 2009 and the first three months of the fall term, the Office of the University Registrar did an extensive review of grading scales at schools in Canada and several in the U.S. The office also did extensive modeling of various grade-point scales and narrowed them down to five options that SCAP felt would be most appropriate for Queen's.

SCAP expressed a preference for one of the five options and sent a memo, "Queen's New Grading System," to Faculties and Faculty Boards for feedback and debate. SCAP felt in hindsight that the memo may have been too brief, as it received substantial pushback on its proposal from the Arts and Science Faculty Board. A second more detailed memo was circulated with reasons for the preferred option. Dr. Beach and the Registrar have met with groups to answer questions and concerns. The major concern is the compression or lack of differentiation of grades at the top end of the scale for adjudicating prizes and awards (internally) and for evaluating students (externally) for further studies and jobs and for general fairness (i.e., if an A+ is performance is better than an A, it should be reflected in the GPA). SCAP requested further input by March 29 and met in late March to reach a final decision, which it plans to submit for information to Senate for its April 22 meeting. SCAP views this as an implementation matter and also wants to avoid putting Senate in a position of having a contentious, time-consuming debate on a topic that is often discipline-specific and sometimes inflexible (i.e. in a distributional matter where not everyone can be satisfied).

III REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Queen's University at Kingston

1. **Academic Development** (Appendix F, page 20)

a) **Enrolment Plan 2010/2011 – 2011/2012**

The Chair noted that the government's goal for growth is ambitious – an increase of 20,000 students in a short period of time. It is obvious that funding for universities is tied almost exclusively to growth. It is imperative for universities to do what they can and take students where there is capacity, because our financial wellbeing depends on it.

Moved by Senator Deane, seconded by Senator Oosthuizen, that Senate approve the short-term Enrolment Plan for 2010/2011 to grow undergraduate enrolment by up to 200 full-time students and to continue growth in total full-time graduate enrolment by approximately 100 students.

The Senate is also asked to empower the University Registrar to make any adjustments necessary and appropriate to specific program goals and opportunities to ensure that the total projected enrolment for 2010/2011 is achieved.

In response to senators' concerns about increasing numbers of upper-year students living off campus, Associate Vice-Principal (Student Affairs) R. Denniston-Stewart noted that there has been unused capacity in the city for several years. According to the city housing listing, between 400 and 700 beds are unused. There is room for growth, but it does need to be monitored. Maintaining residence capacity is important. Some spaces for upper-year students will be allowed, as will space for graduate students in the graduate residence and for international students in Harkness Hall, but the numbers are being squeezed. Capacity will be at the upper end, but the student lifestyle in residences, including adequate common spaces and amenities, will be maintained.

Carried 10-15

2. **Academic Procedures** (Appendix G, page 31)

a) **Policy on Scholarships and Awards Appearing on Transcripts**

Moved by Senator Welsh, seconded by Senator Deane, that Senate approve the Policy on Scholarships and Awards Appearing on Transcripts as described in Appendix G, page 31.

SCAP Chair C. Beach noted that SCAP reviewed practices at different institutions. The policy sets out formally practices that the University already follows. He noted that financial needs-based and athletic awards will not appear on transcripts.

In response to a question, University Registrar J.-A. Brady noted that students receiving external awards would have the option of including them on their resumes and job applications. Senator Cordy noted that unless a scholarship is internally adjudicated, there are many prizes offered by external companies that the University cannot validate. The administrative overhead to validate these scholarships is too high, and depending on the number, an individual could end up with a transcript several pages long.

Carried 10-16

3. **Advisory Research** (Appendix H, page 33)

a) **Five-Year Review of the GeoEngineering Centre at Queen's – RMC**

Moved by Senator Oosthuizen, seconded by Senator Diederichs that the GeoEngineering Centre at Queen's-RMC be approved to continue for an additional five-year period.

Carried 10-17

4. Nominating (Appendix I, page 40)
a) Elections

Moved by Senator Dixon, seconded by Senator Wiener, that those named in the report in Appendix I, page 40 be elected to the committees indicated, with the provision that any positions left TBA will be filled at a later date.

Carried 10-18

5. Non-Academic Discipline (Appendix J, page 43)

L. Jackson, Chair of SONAD, introduced

- a) the report on activities over the last year;
- b) cases reviewed;
- c) an action item addressing the sections of the Policy on Student Appeals, Rights and Discipline referring to academic dishonesty and recommending that they be revised using the current terminology of academic integrity.

a) Annual Report 2008-2009

b) Report on Number of Non-Academic Discipline Cases Reviewed 2008-2009

c) Revision to the Policy on Student Appeals, Rights and Discipline (SARD) Academic Integrity Terminology

Moved by Senator Wiener, seconded by Senator Dixon, that the changes to the Policy on Student Appeals, Rights and Discipline, set out in Appendix Jc, page 46, be approved by the Senate and that the Policy be updated on the Senate website for information.

Carried 10-19

The Chair thanked L. Jackson for her leadership as Chair of SONAD and thanked her for her contributions over her two years as Rector, doing a wonderful job in representing students.

6. Operations Review (Appendix K, page 51)

a) Change to Terms of Reference of the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures (SCAP)

Moved by Senator Stevens seconded by Senator Culham, that the Senate Operations Review Committee recommends that the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures outlined in Appendix K, page 51, be approved, effective immediately.

Carried 10-20

b) University Planning Committee (UPC) Proposal (Appendix Kb, page 53)

The Chair recognized Senator Stairs, the chair of SORC, who brought forward a revised proposal for Senate's consideration and two recommendations: #1 To accept the proposal; and #2 to dissolve the Senate Budget Review Committee.

Senator Stairs thanked SORC members for their hard work. She noted the need to change the name and acronym of the committee due to the pre-existence of another UPC: the University Promotions Committee. She proposed the following amendment:

Moved by Senator Stairs, seconded by Senator Culham, that the name of the University Planning Committee (UPC) be changed to the Queen's University Planning Committee (QUPC).

Carried 10-21

Recommendation #1

Moved by Senator Stairs, seconded by Senator Culham, that Senate accept the revisions to the mandate, terms of reference and composition of the QUPC.

Senators discussed the proposal at length, focusing mainly on the QUPC composition and the process to elect members.

Senator Reid said he was concerned about inconsistencies in the nomination process for committee representatives. Students, staff and deans have the right to elect their own representatives, but faculty senators have an additional filter, being elected through the Senate Nominating Committee. He suggested changing the motion to give every category the same privileges and rights of election. In his view, to give the QUPC the most legitimacy, it is important that the University community see that the QUPC structure is infused with as much choice as possible.

The Chair observed that the purpose of the Nominating Committee is to seek candidates and that its help might be needed, but agreed that senators be given the opportunity to choose their representatives.

It was moved in amendment by Senator Reid, seconded by Senator Wiener, that the fourth line under Elected, Composition (Appendix Kb, Page 56) be changed from “One Faculty senator proposed by the Senate Nominating Committee and elected by the Senate” to “One Faculty senator elected by Faculty senators.”

Carried 10-22

Senator Christie noted the function of the committee as a bridge between the Senate and the Board. She applauded the downsizing, but was concerned that there would not be true representation of the two bodies. Specifically, she noted the possibility of both student representatives coming from either the Senate or the Board. She proposed the following revised composition:

It was moved in an amendment by Senator Christie, seconded by Senator Pardy, that the composition of the QUPC be changed as follows:

Retain ex-officio members:

Principal

Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Chair of the Board Finance Committee

One student trustee

One staff trustee

One dean

One staff senator

One student senator

Two faculty senators

Total: 11.

Several senators spoke against the proposed amendments, saying that there was adequate Senate representation on the QUPC.

Senator Cordy spoke in favour of the original composition saying that Board members may not be as familiar with the internal realities as staff and student senators.

The amendment proposed by Senator Christie was defeated.

Speaking to the main motion, Senator Wiener drew attention to the position of Rector, proposing that it should be clarified as being a student member. Although traditionally held by a student (since 1969), the wording in University Council By-law K describes the position as “a Rector elected by the registered matriculated students of the University. The Rector is an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.” He moved an amendment, that the student representation be clarified to read “one student member from the Board Trustees or Senate, elected by the student members of the Board and Senate, **provided the Rector is a student.**”

Senator Stairs noted that it would be helpful to remember that the QUPC would be reviewed after a three-year period and that this provision might address Senator Wiener’s concern. Senator Wiener withdrew the amendment.

Senator Diederichs referred to the composition and noted that one important viewpoint was missing; the department head, who sits squarely between the administration and the faculty in terms of the planning process.

Once again, the “sunset clause,” that provides for a review after three years, was cited.

Moved by Senator Dimitrov, seconded by Senator Walker, that Senate close the debate and call the question on the original motion.

Carried 10-23

Vote on the original motion

Carried 10-24

Recommendation #2

Moved by Senator Stairs, seconded by Senator Medves, that Senate dissolve the current Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC) and add to Senate Procedures the requirement that annually or more frequently as required, the Principal ensure that there is a report to Senate about the development of the annual budget.

Several senators noted that the SBRC in its current form is not useful because it reviews the budget that has been approved already.

Senator Boag noted that it is difficult to establish a new senate committee. He suggested leaving the SBRC on the books until the University sees how the QUPC works. In response, Senator Stairs suggested a friendly amendment to replace the word “Dissolve” with “Suspend.”

Moved by Senator Stairs, seconded by Senator Medves, that Senate suspend the current Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC) and add to Senate Procedures the requirement that annually or more frequently as required, the Principal ensure that there is a report to Senate about the development of the annual budget.

Carried 10-25

The Chair noted that the QUPC proposal as amended would come before the Board of Trustees for adoption at its meeting on April 30.

IV REPORTS OF FACULTIES AND AFFILIATED COLLEGES

None Received

V MOTIONS

None Received

VI COMMUNICATIONS

None Received

VII MATTERS REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE (Appendix L, page 60)

1. Change of Degree Program Names for Undergraduate Degrees in Gender Studies [Referred to the Senate committee on Academic Development (SCAD)]

VIII OTHER BUSINESS (Appendix M, page 62)

1. Report of the Working Group to review the Harassment/Discrimination Complaint Policy and Procedures

Due a time shortage, the informal session to discuss the report was deferred to the April 22 Senate meeting. On behalf of the committee, the Chair asked senators to read the report and come prepared to discuss it. The working group wishes to collect broader input and a form will be posted soon on the Secretariat website at www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate