

**MOUNT ALLISON
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
17 MARCH 2010, 3:30 p.m. Tweedie Hall,**

Present: R. Campbell, P. Berry, D. Greenwood, B. Gnassi, S. McClatchie, J. Ollerhead, C. Parker, R. Summerby-Murray, J. vanderLeest, T. Craig, K. Ghandi, R. Hudson, A. Irwin, W. Wilson, S. Runge, C. Brett, G. Briand, R. Brüning, S. Claxton-Oldfield, R. Edwards, B. Fleming, R. Ireland, M. Lee, J. Mullen, L. Ricker, D. Torrance, E. Koenig, E. Wells, D. Bowes, S. Humphrey, M. Kroeker, A. Steeves, B. Turkel, N. Walker, R. Bryne, S. Carrigan-Kent, T. Davis, E. Herteis, T. Hynes, G. Jollymore, D. Stewart.

Regrets: M. Imbeault, D Thomas, W. Hunt, L. Michaelis, A. Nurse

The Chair call the meeting to order at 3:32

01.03.10 Approval of the Agenda

**Motion (Brett/Claxton-Oldfield): that Senate adopt the agenda as circulated.
Motion CARRIED.**

02.03.10 Approval of Senate Minutes of 16 November 2010

Motion (Ireland/Summerby-Murray): that Senate adopt the minutes of 16 February 2010.

Following this motion J. vanderLeest cited several changes that were made to the Academic Matters Report that were not reflected in the minutes. They included: the removal of the proposed course BIOC 3001, changing “intended” to “required” in BIOC/BIOL 3031, and the addition of the word “philosophical” to the description to RELG 4411 so that the description begins with “This course focuses on the philosophical traditions...”. There was also agreement during the debate to change the proposed wording for the Calendar Regulations for reporting grades (Section 6). The first line should be “Faculty members may not provide final grades or final exam grades to students in any form, prior to the release of results by the Registrar’s Office.” With these changes the

Motion CARRIED.

03.03.10 Business Arising from the Minutes

R. Ireland requested an update on course evaluations.

E Herties proposed to give a brief overview followed by the opportunity for Senators to ask questions. She reported that the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning (SCTL) has been

meeting every week since October and has formulated all the documents that faculty members will require. Paper copies of the evaluation form and the response forms will be delivered to the departments by March 26th. Information sessions for department secretaries will be given next Tuesday, as their efforts will be crucial to the successful implementation of course evaluations. Workshops will be given for faculty during the week of the 22nd of March. All necessary forms will be available on the Purdy Crawford Teaching Centre website, and a newsletter will go out next week with this information.

The Vice President Academic added that there will also be an opt-in form for faculty who wish to share the results of the two questions by next week as well.

04.03.10 Report from the Chair

The Chair wished an informal welcome to the student senatorial candidates in attendance.

R. Campbell informed Senate of an invitation on short notice from the premier to attend a press conference tomorrow in Fredericton. As he is unable to be there due to another travel commitment, the Vice President Academic and Research will attend.

The President highlighted the recent successful trip to the east on the 10th anniversary of the MASSIE program. He praised the support from and affection expressed by parents of students and alumni that was evident throughout this trip. He added that the trip laid foundational work to recruit top quality students and build on our relationship with our connections in China. Another purpose of the trip was fundraising, and this trip resulted in a gift which will be announced in a more formal way at a later date.

R. Campbell expects Convocation to be especially memorable as this graduating class entered when his appointment began, and it will also be the first convocation with our new Chancellor. Chancellor Manchester's recent visit was successful and the President would like to follow this up with a special Convocation. This year there will be six Honourary Degree recipients.

The meeting of the President's advisory group last week confirmed the budget items. The next step for the University Budget will be a number of open meetings. Our situation with respect to our budget is different from most universities. The budget will be balanced, with no cuts. It will meet all board targets and will make strategic investments in programs promoting sustainability and in increasing quality of our programs. The President cited the contributing factors to these budget achievements include: not overspending or overindulging in the past, getting the revenue side and the enrollment situation under control, working with governments for their support, and the success with the Jump campaign. Despite this he cautioned: vigilance on the enrollment issue, that government support and policies change, that stock markets have not bounced back, and that fundraising continues to be a challenge.

S. McClatchie reported that on his trip he had a number of academic meetings and signed a memorandum of agreement with Kwansai University on the possibility of a shared degree program. He informed Senate that he is off to Fredericton for the NB Innovation gala tomorrow

evening. Also attending will be K. Ghandi, and S. Currie (Biology) who will be honoured at the event.

The Marjorie Young Bell Committee will meet Monday to approve the applications with the letters to follow. The committee's work continues to be affected by the downturn in the markets and due to overspending last year, with one exception no one will be funded from more than one category. Details on the President's fund will be released soon. The Research and Creative Activities Committee will meet next week to have a policy discussion around these issues.

The Vice President congratulated R. Summerby-Murry on his recent appointment as Dean of Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University. He has sent out an email requesting advice on the appointment of a new Social Science Dean. He stated that he has no preconceptions of how to proceed, and invite feedback from those who have not yet sent in their views

G. Jollymore made two quick announcements. The Jump campaign topped \$ 75 million on \$ 86 million goal. Work being done in marketing research for a reputational study.

05.03.10 Report from the Committee on University Planning

S. McClatchie reported that there had been one meeting at which the committee reviewed the draft budget. It received the committee's support. He reminded Senate that the academic review site visit for Music is complete, and that there were still opportunities to meet with the team working on the Chemistry and Biochemistry review. The Library and Archives team is meeting next week. Formal responses will begin in May or June.

06.03.10 Report from Faculty Council

The report from Faculty Council was previously distributed for information.

07.03.10 Notice of Motion (A. Irwin)

Motion (Irwin/Bowes) Where instructors of multi-sectioned courses so request, final exams in all sections shall be scheduled at the same time.

A. Irwin explained that this issue arose because some of the courses in his department that had been permitted a common exam in the past, were not permitted to have one this year. He did not see that it was necessary to provide common exams in every sectioned course, but only when it was requested by the instructors.

J. Ollerhead explained that it was not easy to schedule multiple sections at the same time, as this year the scheduling of exams is being determined largely by the timetable. This makes scheduling exams easier and allows for an earlier release of the exam timetable. It also eliminates most conflicts. Accommodating multi-sectioned courses requires that extra days be

set aside in the exam period. Currently three days are being used to accommodate multi-sectioned courses that have the same instructors, and that there were nine sectioned courses that are not being accommodated this year.

L. Ricker asked if Sunday could be used to schedule exams as a possible way to deal with this.

J. Parsons replied that using Sunday in this exam period would not be much help as there is only one Sunday in this year's exam period. The number of Sundays in the exam period varies.

R. Ireland said that the most important factor is fairness to the student. He expressed the view that having two or three different exams in a course is inherently unfair, and measures should be taken to avoid this.

E. Herteis asked about the benefits of common exams and the cost of not having them. A. Irwin replied that it was difficult to set different exams that would be fair as often it is difficult to anticipate the level of difficulty of two different questions. Also, he stated that there could be some information sharing that could lead to a perception of unfairness.

R. Hudson reported that his department had a high number of multi-sectioned courses, and he did not recall many problems in the past with scheduling exams or with accommodating student conflicts.

S. McClatchie identified one change from two to three years ago, the slight increase in the number of teaching days in the term.

In response to questions from C. Parker, A. Irwin informed those present that sectioned Math courses currently have common assignments and tests. S. Claxton-Oldfield reported that the practice in sectioned Psychology courses with different instructors was for each instructor to set their own exams.

S. McClatchie asked A. Irwin and J. Ollerhead to summarize their respective positions before the vote. A. Irwin stated that he was not looking for an instant decision on this issue, but he did wish to open the debate. J. Ollerhead stated that the registrar's office was doing its best to accommodate requests, but that if this motion passed then common exams would have to be scheduled for all courses. The current system was not being done for administrative convenience, but rather to get the exam schedule out earlier.

Motion (vanderLeest/Parker): The referral of the motion to Faculty Council for discussion and a report to Senate for its May meeting.

Motion CARRIED.

08.03.10 Other Business

S. Humphrey announced on behalf of the SAC, the creation of its teaching excellence award. Nominations are open and they can be made at the SAC office.

E. Herties congratulated Dr. E. Wells on being named a 3M Teaching Fellow.

Adjournment came at 5:01

Respectfully submitted.

**Paul Berry
Secretary of Senate**