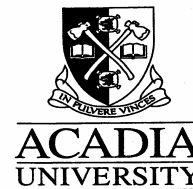


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A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Tuesday, **10 October 2006**, beginning at 4:07 p.m. with Chair Ian Wilks presiding and 44 present.

1) Minutes of the Meeting of  
11 September 2006

It was moved by R. Perrins and seconded by C. Wightman *that the minutes of Monday, 11 September 2006 be approved.*

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

- re Guests

Guests in attendance at this meeting were: L. Davidson, S. Robinson, J. Waugh, and P. Williams.

- re Membership

I. Wilks welcomed G. Iwama and R. Raeside to Senate in their new capacity as VP (Academic) and Dean of the Faculty of Pure & Applied Science, respectively. He thanked W. Bedingfield for her contribution to Senate in her role as Acting Dean of Research & Graduate Studies and H. Hopkins as he completes his term as Board of Governors representative.

- re Agenda

The Chair noted that he wished to change the order of today's agenda as follows: two items added to the agenda and distributed electronically will be placed before item 4)a). There was no objection.

-re Correspondence

I. Wilks read two pieces of correspondence received since the last meeting of the Senate:

Policy on Conflict of  
Interest (**067-09-VPA**)

From R. Nilson (**APPENDIX A**) on a policy for conflict of interest regarding the relationship between professor and student as it relates directly to academic integrity. The Chair forwarded this request to the Senate Academic Integrity Committee through the committee chair, R. Jotcham for deliberation.

Research & Graduate Studies  
Office Budget (**067-10-RGS**)

From W. Bedingfield (**APPENDIX B**) on the finances of the Research & Graduate Studies Office as a result of confusion at the last meeting of the Senate. This for information/the record and no action was required.

-re Restructuring of the  
Registrar's Office  
(**067-11-REG**)

I. Wilks raised the issue on the proposal to restructure the relationship between the Registrar's Office and the VP (Academic) Office to one which will exist in a parallel fashion between the Registrar's Office and the VP (Student Affairs) Office. He noted that there are implications to the Senate Constitution & By-Laws if this proposal is accepted. Therefore Senate would have to consider this issue carefully as there are a number of Senate standing committees which include both the VP(A) and the Registrar in their membership. This suggests

that a flow of information from the Registrar's Office is required as relevant to these committees' concerns. Motions regarding business of the Registrar's Office have traditionally been made by the VP(A); however, the VP(SA) is not a voting member of the Senate and can not bring a motion forward. Therefore this proposal could require changes to the Constitution & By-Laws. If so, this would raise a complicated issue for the Senate. Do we change the makeup of these committees? Are there other/larger issues to consider? Do we send this issue to the By-Laws Committee at this time? And if so, does this presuppose that Senate is in agreement with the proposal? How should we proceed?

G. Dinter-Gottlieb felt it was not necessary to make any change to the Senate Committees as the bureaucratic reporting relationship has nothing to do with the academic integrity which is maintained by the VP(A). She felt this proposal was an administrative one and did not need the approval of the Senate. The University's academic integrity would continue to be maintained by the Registrar. She said that this grouping is common at many Canadian universities in recognition of the breadth of the registrar's role, which is not just in the academic sphere, but also is in recruiting and retaining students. It is important that the Registrar's Office work closely with Enrolment Management to ensure a smooth operation. Two years ago, these two functions were split and it has become problematic; therefore, it is hoped to renew the closeness with the admissions process but in no way will the academic integrity of the office be endangered.

A lengthy discussion followed with the following points being made

- Seems a conflict of interest to have the Registrar's Office under the office that is in charge of enrolment.
- By sending this to the By-Laws Committee now, would indicate Senate's acceptance of the proposal. More relevant discussion is needed prior to any by-law changes. Faculty has concern about this proposal.
- The Registrar is in the purview of academics and therefore, should be under the Senate.
- The rationale of this proposal was not understood and some Senators were surprised this proposal did not come to the Senate.
- G. Iwama appreciated the concerns of Senators being brought forward and felt this proposal would not jeopardize the academic integrity of the institution. He has endorsed this mandate on the basis that the faculty as well as the students will be well served.
- This proposal should be decided upon based on how the students would be best served - no matter who holds the positions.
- One Senator felt that the move is in the wrong direction. Admissions should be moved back with the Registrar. The primary purpose of the registrar's office is academic standards and academic integrity, which are the business of Senate and the business of the VP (Academic).
- Another Senator felt this proposal, to have the Registrar report to the VP (Student Affairs), was an uncomfortable marriage between the two sectors. Rather than being seamless, was more like a firewall.
- In reply to a question, R. Jotcham confirmed that appointment to the position of registrar was the responsibility of the VP(A).

G. Dinter Gottlieb closed by saying that the level of apprehension on the part of the faculty was surprising and not anticipated. Therefore it is worth looking into and will be looked at closer. She believed this proposal was a good one and hoped these units could work in partnership with one another. She said

she would confer further with G. Iwama, R. Jotcham, and P. Cook MacKinnon and bring the proposal back to the Senate in November.

-re Re-establishment of the  
Academic Sector  
Planning Committee

In response to a question from I. Wilks, G. Iwama assured Senators that changes considered in the re-establishment of the Academic Sector Planning Committee (ASPC), would be brought to the Senate for approval.

-re Research & Graduate  
Studies Review

In response to a question from I. Wilks, R. Perrins confirmed that any changes to the R&GS office would come to the Senate for approval and the Chair reminded him that Senate has standing committees available to help with this planning process.

-re Regrets

I. Wilks concluded his remarks by noting that Regrets were received from G. Callon, D. Julien, R. Lehr, K. Rose, R. Sparkman, and G. Vaughan.

b) From the President

G. Dinter-Gottlieb welcomed G. Iwama and R. Raeside to their new roles on campus. She also thanked W. Bedingfield for her role as Dean of R&GS. She said that we are in a time of change and should look at it as a time of opportunity rather than as a time of fear. Some of these changes are a result of the BOG mandate to eliminate \$3 million from the budget over the next three years. The Presidential Commission has already begun to look at everything except curriculum. The Acadia Advantage Initiative will soon be reviewed to determine how it can be done in a more cost effective way. Computing Services is also being looked at. She encouraged all to take part and provide input to these reviews.

b) From the Vice-President  
(Academic)

G. Iwama said he looked forward to the challenges and opportunities to serve the faculty and students in the capacity of VP(A) until the end of June 2007. He thanked R. Raeside and I. Spooner for taking on new roles as well as the other Deans for the additional responsibilities they have accepted during this time.

c) From P. Abela  
-re The Learning Commons

P. Abela, as Senate representative on the Learning Commons Steering Committee, reported that this committee has met since the last meeting of the Senate and the four working committees made presentations on progress in their areas. The project is moving forward and the building itself is to be completed November 22<sup>nd</sup> and the grand opening is scheduled for January 2007. The position of Director of the Learning Commons has been posted and this is an opportunity for a faculty member to consider. He noted there are opportunities for both students and faculty to become involved.

3) Approval of List of  
Graduates for the Convocation  
of October 2006 (067-12-CON)

It was moved by G. Iwama and seconded by J. Gould *that the List of Graduates for the Convocation of October 2006 as handed out at this meeting (APPENDIX C) be approved.*

The convocation list was reviewed by section with no errors or omissions.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

G. Dinter-Gottlieb encouraged faculty members to attend this convocation.

It was moved by G. Iwama and seconded by C. Rivers *that any candidate for an Acadia degree, diploma or certificate who should receive a grade or otherwise qualify or be disqualified between this Senate meeting and the forthcoming Convocation, shall be considered by the Chair of the Admissions and Academic Standing Committee, the appropriate Dean and the Registrar, acting as an ad hoc committee of the Senate, they having the power to make consequential amendments to the graduation list.*

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

5) New Business  
a) Review of the Acadia  
Advantage Program  
(067-13-AAP)

As agreed earlier, the Chair moved to item 5)a) on the agenda. This item was circulated electronically to all Senators, one week prior to this meeting.

It was moved by C. Wightman and seconded by G. Dinter-Gottlieb *that the committee and terms of reference for said committee, described as follows, be formed.*

WHEREAS the Acadia Advantage program has been in place for ten years, and

WHEREAS the Acadia Advantage program has played a central role in the climate, culture, practice, delivery, and enhancement of the academic program at Acadia University, and

WHEREAS the Acadia Senate holds ultimate responsibility for the educational policy at Acadia, and

WHEREAS periodic review is essential to the continued relevance, quality, and desirability of all academic programs, and

WHEREAS the President has created a commission to review the operational aspects of the Acadia Advantage program and make recommendations for change, and

WHEREAS the Presidential Commission will inevitably identify pedagogical issues during the course of its work, and

WHEREAS the President has directed that all information collected by the Commission be made available to Senate

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT

*1) The Acadia Senate affirms its support for the Presidential Commission to review the operational aspects of the Acadia Advantage program and shall support and encourage the submission of information to the Commission.*

*2) An ad hoc committee of the Senate shall be struck to evaluate the impact the Acadia Advantage program has had on the pedagogy and curriculum of the university and to make recommendations to the Senate for changes to pedagogy, curriculum, and/or the Acadia Advantage program. Said committee to be composed of 8 members, as follows:*

*The Vice-President, Academic who shall chair the committee,  
1 Representative from the Faculty of Arts,  
1 Representative from the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science,  
1 Representative from the Faculty of Professional Studies,  
1 Representative from Theology,  
1 Representative of the Library,  
1 Representative of Graduate Studies, and  
1 Student Representative.*

*3) The Directors (or their designees) of Computing Services, the Acadia Institute for Teaching and Technology, and the User Support Center shall be invited to join the committee as ex Officio members.*

*4) The committee shall work closely with the Commission to identify pedagogical issues that need to be particularly addressed, and will work to avoid duplication of efforts where it is reasonable to do so.*

*5) The committee shall report back to the first Senate meeting in December to present a plan for completing its work by May 2007.*

C. Wightman spoke to this motion and felt such a review was long overdue. He believed that it is going to be difficult to change such a complex program without affecting pedagogical and curriculum issues. Adversely, how can we look at pedagogy of the AA without running into questions of its operational limitations? He felt it was appropriate that the Senate investigate/review the pedagogical aspects of the AA Program concurrently or slightly time staggered with the Presidents Commission that is reviewing the operational aspects.

G. Dinter-Gottlieb was pleased that Senate is taking on the question of curriculum issues as relates to the AA Program. This makes Acadia unique to other institutions that claim to have similar programs. It has been the engagement of the faculty and the embedding of the technology into the curriculum. The Commission will look at the cost issue of the AA and she hoped that the Senate would look at the curriculum issues related to the AA. All of the aspects of the AA Program will be looked at and it must be determined under what model we continue and what format is affordable.

Discussion followed with the following points being made:

- The Strategic Plan stressed the benefit of personalized education; however, reliance on technology could de-personalize education.
- The proposed pedagogical review lead by the Senate would address issues such as: what are we getting out of the AA and what does it bring to us as educators? What does it bring to our students?
- These two independent bodies (Presidential Commission & Senate) should work together to bring together the costs and pedagogical concerns by sharing all data gathered.
- It is important that these two bodies work together in regards to the information gathering, so we do not have competing or redundant information gathering processes. Information should be shared both ways.
- Cost benefit trade offs will have to be considered at some point.
- The Presidential Commission hopes to have its data completed within two months. The Senate committee will get underway in two months time. Therefore, there is not a lot of time for the Senate committee to respond to issues raised by the Commission.

- The Presidential Commission is attempting to have its findings in place for next year's recruitment season so Acadia can position itself more effectively for next year's tuition.
- We have the Dell computers for this year and next year and what we do after that is up in the air. We have to begin to plan now to affect any changes in two years time (i.e. the end of 2008).
- Many Senators agreed that a review of the AA Program is long overdue.
- It was hoped that this motion would not impede the operations of the Commission, but at the same time, input from the *ad hoc* committee throughout the process is important. Timing is important in regards to such issues as enrolment and we must move as quickly as possible.
- It was reported that last year, the Acadia Divinity College closed down their laptop leasing program, but kept the network infrastructure and it has been very beneficial both financially and with long-term planning.

H. Hopkins offered to bring this matter to the attention of the BOG.

Friendly amendments were accept:

- 1) *add to para 3) "the Learning Commons" as an ex officio member of this ad hoc committee (when this position is filled),*
- 2) *amend line 6 of list in para 2) to read "1 Graduate Student to be appointed by Acadia University Graduate Student Association", and 3) amend line 7 of list in para 2) to read "1 Student Representative to be appointed by the SRC".*

MOTION WAS CARRIED AS AMENDED.

The Chair referred this matter to the Senate Nominating Committee to make the membership selection for this *ad hoc* committee and then forward these recommendations, to himself as Chair of the Executive Committee. With the Executive Committee's approval, the *ad hoc* committee will be able to exist and begin to function on a proem basis until the final approval of the Executive Committee's decision is given at the November meeting of the Senate.

- 4) Business Arising from the Minutes
  - d) VP (Student Affairs) - Financial Assistance for Students Review **(067-14-VPS)**

As agreed earlier, the Chair moved to item 4) d) on the agenda. This item was circulated electronically to all Senators, one week prior to this meeting as stated below.

It was moved by P. Eirikson and seconded by G. Iwama *that whereas Senate has the responsibility "to deal with all matters arising in connection with the award of fellowships, scholarships, bursaries..." (Constitution and By-Laws of the Senate of Acadia University, page 1), it is moved that Senate strike an ad hoc committee consisting of a Senator from the Faculties of Arts, Professional Studies, and Science, two student Senators, and the Coordinator of Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Assistance to review the two programs that are currently operating and make modifications to the programs with the goal of increased student awareness and improved service delivery.*

P. Cook MacKinnon spoke to this motion and noted that it is a result of discussion at the September meeting of Senate. There are two bursary programs operating at Acadia. One that is very historic and one that is relatively new. The newer program last year was under spent which suggested that a review of this need-based program was necessary. It is under the

purview of Senate and thus this motion. It is hoped that the two programs can come together and that a more formal mechanism would be developed to keep Senate informed on how this new program operates. This program would not serve the School of Theology; therefore, a representative from that faculty would not be required.

The following friendly amendments were accepted as follows:

- 1) *Add to the end of original motion ... "improved service delivery and recommend an appropriate mechanism through which Senate can exercise its continuing responsibility for oversight in the bursary award process".*
- 2) *.. two student Senators, to be appointed by the SRC...*
- 3) *...to review the two programs that are currently operating and make recommendations to Senate regarding modifications to the programs...*

MOTION WAS CARRIED AS AMENDED.

The Chair referred this motion to the Senate Nominating Committee for the next meeting of the Senate.

a) 2005-2006 Annual Reports  
from Senate Committees  
**(056-58-REP)**

It was moved by G. Iwama and seconded by C. Rivers *that Senate remove the motion to accept the annual reports for the academic year 2005-2006 from the table. The first six reports were considered at the last meeting of the Senate.*

MOTION CARRIED.

vii) Admissions and  
Academic Standing (Appeals)  
(As attached to May agenda)

It was noted that the 36 appeals, referred to in this report, were out of 100 dismissals and these were mainly first year students who, it was felt, warranted a second chance. This committee tracked students it dealt with and it was asked that these tracking stats be shared in future annual reports.

viii) Board of Continuing  
Education (As attached  
to June agenda)

The Chair noted that this is an important report and invited this committee to have a more active role. It was noted that "Acting" should be removed from the titles of Dr. George Iwama and Dr. Bill McLeod in the list of Board Members for 2005-06.

ix) By-Laws (As attached to  
June agenda)

No Comment

x) Library (As attached to  
June agenda)

No Comment

xi) Faculty Development (As  
attached to June agenda)

The Chair noted an addition to this report. He said this committee is going to have a working relationship with the Learning Commons which should result in some activity in the coming year.

xii) Honours (As attached to  
June agenda)

D. Symons noted that the honours students' deadline is early and is a difficult one to meet; therefore, he advocated streamlining the process. The Chair

asked that he directed this concern to the Chair of the Honours Committee (H. Hemming).

W. Bedingfield said that the duties for this committee would be revised to reflect the recent restructuring of the Honours Committee after the review of the Research & Graduate Studies Office is complete.

xiii) Curriculum (As attached to June agenda)

No Comment

xiv) Executive (As attached to June agenda)

I. Wilks suggested that this body be considered as a planning committee and meet at the beginning of each term. If the President or VP(A) has seen a need for planning in the academic sector, we could meet as a committee to determine if some of the planning can be done by Senate through its committees and not have to create more University committees. If so, this committee could develop terms of reference for the relevant planning committee and bring any proposal to Senate for approval. He noted that the creation of the Academic Sector Planning Committee was approved by Senate in February 1995; therefore, it was a sub-committee of Senate. He felt that Senate did a good job of taking a plan and making it work.

xv) Academic Integrity (As attached to June agenda)

It was noted that the website "TurnItIn.com" received essays from students; however, it took the copyright as its own.

xvi) Academic Discipline Appeals (As attached to June agenda)

No Comment

xvii) Timetable, Instruction Hours, & Examination (As attached to June agenda)

No Comment

THE MOTION TO RECEIVE THESE ANNUAL REPORTS WAS CARRIED.

b) Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework in Acadia's Academic Programs Version 2 (067-08-SAG)

It was moved by C. Rivers and seconded by K. Robinson *that the item on Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework in Acadia's Academic Programs as outlined at the last meeting of the Senate be removed from the table.*

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

It was moved by C. Rivers and seconded by K. Robinson *that Senate support the Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework through strong support of its integration where appropriate into the curriculum of Acadia University's academic programs.*

This motion is a result of discussion at the September meeting of the Senate and as attached to today's agenda.

D. Symons asked if this motion has financial implications. I. Wilks felt it was clearly a motion regarding curriculum. C. Rivers advised that this framework



issue had gone to the Board of Governors and received its approval.

P. Abela reminded Senators that in the context of previous discussion, the phrase "where appropriate" covered the judgement of individual relevant instructors, not a higher body imposing either a teaching requirement or new direction in a course, on an individual instructor.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

6) Adjournment

S. Barkanova moved this meeting be adjourned. It was 6:03 p.m.

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D. Murphy, Recording Secretary