

A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Tuesday, **14 November 2006**, beginning at 4:09 p.m. with Chair Ian Wilks presiding and 34 present.

1) Minutes of the Meeting of
10 October 2006

It was moved by C. Wightman and seconded by J. White *that the minutes of Monday, 10 October 2006 be approved.*

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

2) Announcements and
Communications

a) From the Chair

- re Regrets

Regrets were received from P. Abela, G. Dinter-Gottlieb, J. Eustace, R. Gossage, B. Hagerman, A. Irving, C. Killacky, L. McDonald, J. Masterson, G. Ness, R. Perrins, C. Rivers, A. Thomson, and G. Vaughan.

- re Membership

I. Wilks introduced Board of Governors representatives Janet Kirk, beginning a three-year term; Michael Trask, completing a term begun by Sandra Phillips; and Bryan Hagerman, completing a term begun by Andrew Smith.

- re *ad hoc* Acadia
Advantage Review
Committee Membership
(067-22-AAP)

I. Wilks advised that membership on the *ad hoc* Acadia Advantage Committee has been selected by the various faculty and unit election procedures. They are G. Iwama (Chair), P. Steele, C. Place, G. Deveau, J. Saklofske, S. MacDougall, P. Williams, C. Killacky, E. Patterson, B. Demmings, and M. Masters, with Director of the Learning Commons yet to be determined.

- re *ad hoc* Need-Based
Financial Assistance for
Students Review
Committee Chair
(067-23-VPS)

I. Wilks noted that membership for this committee has not been determined; however, S. Markham-Starr would be Chair and call the first meeting. Therefore, item 3)a) of today's agenda was deferred.

- re Report from Senate By-
Laws Committee on
Recommendations from
the *ad hoc* Committee on
Students with Disabilities
that Affect Learning
(067-24-LAW)

The Chair read correspondence from P. Corkum, Chair Senate By-Laws Committee (**APPENDIX A**) on terms of reference for the Timetable, Instruction Hours, and Examination (TIE) Committee as affected by the recommendations in the *ad hoc* Committee on Students With Disabilities that Affect Learning Report, as attached to the September 2006 agenda. This communication also reminded Senate that a standing committee of the Senate was to be established to monitor the situation of students with disabilities and to conduct an annual review of the policy regarding these students.

- re Establishment of
Standing Committee on
Students with Disabilities
that Affect Learning
(067-25-SLD)

Following discussion on the need for an additional standing committee of the Senate, the Chair asked the By-Laws Committee to proceed with the establishment of terms of reference for a standing committee of the Senate on Students with Disabilities that Affect Learning.

- re Senate Executive
Committee

I. Wilks reported that following a meeting with G. Iwama, the Senate Executive Committee would be utilized in the area of potential planning issues in the academic sector.

- re Change in Reporting
Structure - Office of the
Registrar (067-26-REG)

In the absence of the President, the Chair read a memo from G. Dinter-Gottlieb (**APPENDIX B**) on change in reporting structure - Office of the Registrar. Senate's concern with this change is the role of the Vice-President (Academic) on certain Senate standing committees. The Senate By-Laws would have to be amended to accommodate this change if Senate were to approve of it.

Discussion followed with the following points made:

- Avenue for student with course concerns, marks, etc. to the registrar is through department/unit heads, which is an academic route, not a student affairs route.
- Some Senators were concerned that the memo indicated that the change had not taken place already. It seems improper that this appears to be a done deal already.
- G. Iwama indicated the change was to make the services in the Registrar's Office more accessible to students.
- At the October meeting, it was clearly expressed that such a move should come through the Senate rather than the President's Office and that did not happen even though the President agreed to bring it back to this month's meeting.
- This memo is under the assumption that other aspects of the University are not as dedicated to student services when, in fact, all faculty and academic administrators are involved in services to students.
- The Registrar's Office protects degree requirements, handles curriculum issues, and is a central conduit through which the faculty councils put forth curriculum, degree, and program changes and which is not associated with student services.
- The registrar's Office is clearly an office that has both administrative and academic responsibilities. As for a reporting structure, it could work with either. However, the memo causes some concern, in particular the statement "The Registrar will remain the authority on the maintenance of academic standards ...".
- One Senator requested more time to reflect on this memo, given this correspondence was just handed out.
- How will the relationship between the registrar and the academic sector work?

The Chair felt a motion was needed to proceed and resolve this issue. Senate is the final authority over a great deal of policy emanating from the Registrar's Office and therefore has an interest in the actual relationship between that office and other functioning parts of the University. As well, it necessitates

changes to Senate's fundamental document.

G. Iwama questioned what role Senate should play in such organization matters.

P. Cook MacKinnon confirmed this move has taken place and was effective 1 October 06.

b) From the Vice-President
(Academic)

G. Iwama said the *ad hoc* Acadia Advantage Review Committee has been formed and will meet before the next meeting of the Senate. He continues to work with the Deans on budget, the Learning Commons, Research & Graduate Studies Review, and implementing the Strategic Plan. Interviews for tenure track positions have begun.

c) From R. Jotcham
-re Fall Graduation Roll
(067-27-CON)

R. Jotcham reported that the enabling motion was used to add three individuals to the Fall Graduation List. All additions were due to late grades.

Item 3)a) of today's agenda was deferred, as indicated earlier.

4) New Business

a) Library Committee -Library
Collection Development
dated 28 Sep 06
(067-15-LIB)

Further to notice of motion as attached to today's agenda, it was moved by H. Hemming and seconded by S. Lochhead *that Senate approve the Vaughan Memorial Library's Collection Development Policy dated 28 September 2006, as attached to today's agenda.*

H. Hemming said that this policy has been a two-year project to develop and has been considered by the three faculty councils, prior to coming to the Senate.

S. Lochhead said that the Math Department's Rothberger Collection (which is housed in that department) does not come under the auspicious of the Vaughan Memorial Library Collection Policy. R. Karsten requested that a policy be developed for this collection. She also confirmed that any discontinued, online journal subscription would continue to be available.

A friendly amendment was accepted as follows: any reference to "liberal arts university" would be changed to "liberal **education** university".

MOTION WAS CARRIED AS AMENDED.

b) Biology Department -
Beginning of Winter Term
2008 (067-16-TIE)

Further to notice of motion as attached to today's agenda, it was moved by S. Bondrup-Nielsen and seconded by J. Gould *that in order to facilitate the Biology Department move from Patterson Hall to the new Biology building in late December 2007 and early January 2008, the winter term of 2008 will start one week later than normal, i.e. classes begin 15 Jan 08.*

P. Corkum felt this should have gone to the TIE committee first where consideration would be given to the overall affect of such a change. G. Iwama noted that 3,500 students would be impacted by this change.

It was moved by P. Corkum and seconded by D. Symons *that this motion be referred to the TIE Committee as it prepares its dates for the coming academic year.*

MOTION TO REFER WAS CARRIED.

c) Research & Graduate
Studies - Appointment to
the Research Ethics Board
(067-17-REB)

It was moved by G. Iwama and seconded by R. Raeside *that David Greener be appointed as a community representative on Acadia University's Research Ethics Board (REB) effectively immediately. Mr. Greener's term will expire on 31 December 2009.*

I. Wilks called for additional nominees three times and hearing none, declared nominations to be closed.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

d) 2005 - 2006 Annual
Report from Senate
Committees (056-58-REP)

xviii) Scholarship, Prizes, &
Awards (As Attached to
Today's Agenda)

It was moved by A. Mitchell and seconded by H. Wylie *that Senate receive the Scholarship, Prizes, and Awards Annual Report for the academic year 2005 - 2006.*

A. Mitchell said that this committee received an additional half million dollars for scholarship funding and a large number of free rooms for incoming students this year. He also noted that the Acadia Excellence Award has been used to recruit students in grade 11.

P. Cook MacKinnon said that there was a 6% drop in Acadia's acceptance rate of the Acadia Excellence Awards.

This committee will consolidate a list of all scholarships and awards and any policy related to each, for a ready and accurate reference. R. Raeside encouraged the committee to contact department heads who should have material and information on scholarships and awards specific to individual departments.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

e) Admission & Academic
Standing (Policy) -
International Baccalaureate
Diploma Credit Hours
(067-18-AAS)

It was moved by G. Iwama and seconded by R. Raeside *that students admitted to Acadia University with a score of 30 or higher on the International Baccalaureate Diploma will received 30 hours of credit.*

G. Iwama said this motion was an attempt to attract the best students to Acadia University and students are considered on an individual basis.

J. White noted that the maximum score is 45 and a pass is 24. This motion would bring Acadia in line with other Nova Scotia institutions.

R. Jotcham confirmed that requests are considered on an individual basis.

MOTION WAS CARRIED

f) Admission & Academic
Standing (Policy) -
General Admission and
Grade 11 Mathematics
(067-19-AAS)

It was moved by G. Iwama and seconded by R. Raeside *that the Grade 11 mathematics requirement for general admission to Acadia University be removed.*

G. Iwama felt some students were not applying to Acadia University because of the mathematics requirement. He pointed out that this motion is dealing with general admission and would not apply to programs that require grade 11 Mathematics.

Discussion was held with the following points made:

- By dropping this math requirement, what skills are being removed?
- Some Senators felt the removal of this requirement would lower the standards at Acadia University.
- Some Senators believed it was not in the students' best interest to drop this requirement.
- Acadia is one of two Maritime Universities that has this requirement.
- To make an informed decision, clarification on the level of grade 11 math (essential, foundation, academic, or advanced) is needed.
- Department of Mathematics was against this motion.
- High School level mathematics should not be taught at University, however if a student needs it to enter a program of their choice, it is available for them. Once admitted, students often want to switch programs to work their way into the desired program and many cases do not have the required Math.
- Other universities were not polled to get a sense whether their mathematics requirements are being met or if they are prepared to offer high school level mathematics.
- In the event this motion does not pass, the calendar should be edited regarding the grade 11 mark required for entrance to Acadia. As is now, prospective students can mistakenly read that a mark of 70 in grade 11 Math is required.
- This motion would admit those students who do not require a university math for the program they choose.
- Seems a contradiction of previous motion just passed by Senate.
- Foreign students are assessed with respect to the grade 11 mathematics admissions requirements.

MOTION WAS DEFEATED (15/12).

g) Acadia-NSCC Partnership
(Discussion Item)
(067-20-VPA)

I. Wilks introduced this item, regarding the Acadia University and Nova Scotia Community College partnership, for discussion and information only. This partnership was announced last month and he believed such discussion would clarify what has taken place, why it happened, how it happened, and what might be some future prospects for Acadia.

G. Iwama believed that it had been the practice for the Senate to consider agreements with other institutions; but this particular partnership did not come to Senate. He said that Business and Recreation Management programs are currently giving credit for programs at NSCC.

S. Markham-Starr noted that course equivalencies were developed through the

Registrar and each is consider case by case for acceptance. The more difficult determination is the caliber of the instructor.

R. Weherell confirmed that this agreement was developed over a number of years on an individual course basis and any such agreements go through the Registrar's Office.

R. Jotcham said this agreement was not a block transfer, but specific course by course evaluation and individual course acceptance. It was not possible to transfer more than 50% of total hours from community college.

Senators felt such agreements as this should come to the Senate for approval and asked that this be done in the future. G. Iwama reminded Senators of another memorandum of understanding with COGS which came to Senate earlier this year and said he knew of no others being negotiated at this time.

It was suggested that a formal request be sent to the President's office asking that the Senate be kept informed about program partnerships and credit equivalency.

The Chair noted that Senate is the prime authority on educational policy at Acadia University and it is incumbent on Senators to articulate what that means. Areas of Senate jurisdiction include most of the content of the University Calendar (except for fee schedule and the Board of Governors membership list), the faculty handbook, and the policies relating to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

- 5) Other Business
 - a) Restructuring of the Registrar's Office
(067-28-REG)

Notice of motion was given by K. Whetter as follows:

that the Senate formally oppose the moving of the Registrar Office to Student Affairs and ask the President to reconsider her decision.

- 6) Adjournment

J. White moved this meeting be adjourned. It was 6:10 p.m.

D. Murphy, Recording Secretary