



A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Wednesday, 23 May 2007 beginning at 2:10 p.m. with Chair Ian Wilks presiding and 31 present.

1) Minutes of the Meeting of
9 May 2007

It was moved by B. Moody and seconded by G. Iwama *that the minutes of Wednesday, 9 May 2007 be approved as distributed.*

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

2) Announcements and
Communications

a) From the Chair

-re Guests to this Meeting

I. Wilks welcomed the following guests to this meeting: J. Hanson, School of Music; C. Place, P. Williams, and S. MacDougall, of the Senate *ad hoc* Acadia Advantage Review Committee; and R. Wilson of the Faculty of Theology.

-re Membership

He acknowledged retiring Senators and noted that others are coming to the end of one term, but have accepted another term and thus will be continuing. Those retiring from Senate as of 30 June 07: P. Abela, S. Bondrup-Nielsen, G. Callon, R. Gossage, J. Gould, G. Iwama, R. Karsten, D. Kruisselbrink, L. McDonald, W. McLeod, I. Spooner, A. Thomson, G. Vaughan, and H. Wyile.

(067-78-SEN)

He reported that further to Senate's motion to increase the membership of the Senate by two members, a letter on this matter (**APPENDIX A**) has gone to the Board of Governors.

-re Executive Committee

I. Wilks reported that the Senate Executive met 15 May 07. Because of upcoming changes in the membership of the academic management team, it was difficult to prioritize Senate issues. One issue discussed was the B/D Rule, which is used each year for making final decisions about placement of names on the Graduation Role. The Executive discussed issues of confidentiality pertaining to this rule. He noted that similar confidentiality issues may arise with respect to some of the committee guidelines which the standing committees of Senate have been asked to develop.

-re Regrets

Regrets were received from P. Cook MacKinnon, P. Doerr, R. Gossage, A. Irving, E. Johnston, J. Kirk, R. Lehr, S. Lochhead, I. Spooner, S. Markham-Starr, R. Raeside, D. Symons, G. Vaughan, K. Whetter, and J. White.

b) From the President

G. Dinter-Gottlieb reported that Acadia University has a very positive review from the MPHEC after a site visit of a team of nine. They reviewed how well Acadia University implements quality control measures.

She announced that the Dean of Professional Studies position has been accepted by H. Hemming.

She suggested that Senators may wish to have a meeting in the Fountain Commons and wished Senators an enjoyable summer.

c) From the Vice-President
(Academic)

G. Iwama said farewell to Senators at this, his last meeting of Senate.

d) From the Registrar

R. Jotcham reported that two additions were made to the graduation list under the enabling motion, one due to a financial account put in order and the second upon receiving a grade from another institution.

3) Business Arising from the
Minutes

a) Academic Program
Review Committee -
Program Review of School
of Music (**067-73-APR**)

It was moved by G. Iwama and seconded by R. Perrins *that the Academic Program Review Committee Program Review of the School of Music as attached to the minutes of 9 May 07, and supplemented with an attachment to today's agenda, be received by the Senate.*

G. Iwama reviewed the material on this item, which had been distributed to Senators prior to this meeting. He noted that the School of Music embraced the review process as well as the recommendations arising from it. He said that the School has reduced the number of courses taught by instructors in part time positions by 10% because of current fiscal constraints on campus.

J. Hanson of the School of Music thought this was a good experience for the School, and an opportunity to get to know the new Dean of Arts, who has been very supportive. He said that the School is indeed prepared to implement the required changes.

G. Callon noted a spelling correction under MUSI 4993 THESIS on page 25 of the supplement attached to today's agenda. Should read "Musicology" throughout.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

The Chair moved immediately to item 3)c), just in case quorum was lost later in the meeting.

c) 2006-2007 Annual Reports
from Senate Committee

(067-71-REP)

xii) Admission & Academic
Standing (Appeals)
Supplement to Original
Report

It was moved by G. Iwama and seconded by G. Ness *that the Admissions & Academic Standing (Appeals) Committee Annual Report with a supplement (APPENDIX B), as requested at the previous meeting and as distributed, be received.*

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

The Chair moved to item 3)b) of today's agenda.

b) *ad hoc* Acadia Advantage
Review Committee Report
for Discussion
(067-74-AAP)

G. Iwama, Chair of the Senate *ad hoc* Acadia Advantage Review Committee introduced this item. He said that this committee's report, dated 8 May 2007 (as attached to the 9 May 07 Senate Minutes) was brought to this meeting for discussion. He said the committee believes that a thorough discussion of the findings in this report with Senate would be appropriate before specific recommendations for the future can be made. He introduced committee members in attendance at the meeting: S. MacDougall, P. Williams, C. Killacky, C. Place, and G. Hepburn (replacing K. Rose). Others included: J. Saklofske, E. Patterson, S. Symons, B. Demmings, M. Masters, and P. Steele.

G. Iwama invited questions and comments. The following occurred as part of a lengthy discussion:

- The Presidential Commission to review the AA Program is a good thing and should be done regularly.
- Patti McNeil has been assigned to head up work on the recommendations brought forward by the Presidential Commission on the AA Program. G. Dinter-Gottlieb asked that faculty send any input on this issue to her at patti.mcneil@acadiu.ca.
- Any change on campus impacts learning potential and we should be conscious of this.
- G. Iwama confirmed that any lists in this report are not ranked, but are in random order.
- G. Iwama clarified that AITT has become part of the Learning Commons.
- Over the life of this committee many changes in the technology sectors have occurred. The requirements of the community will determine the direction to take and how to go about achieving the recommendations which come out of this discussion.
- One Senator noted that this report was well done as a history of the development of AA, but that it contained no recommendations.
- One of the committee members said that they struggled with the fact that changes were taking place as they attempted to review and recommend changes to the AA Program. However it was felt this report captured how the community felt about the program.

- This *ad hoc* committee needs a consensus from the community on what to do.
- AITT should be expanded and enhanced to support technology at Acadia University.
- Senate's stamp of approval should be placed on any recommendations.
- Presidential Commission looked at cost and Senate Committee looked at pedagogy, and the two need to come together to determine where to go from here.
- Some use AA more than others but those that do use it consider the technology very valuable to instruction - AA is more than the laptop.
- We need to address what does not work with AA (whether it is the rental aspect, MSN in class, or something else) and fix it, but not do away with it completely.
- There is concern regarding the loss of material when accounts are purged and valuable information is lost, i.e. as with part time faculty who leave and return for another contract. Information on our website is accessible to the whole world and our resources are often used by others - when it disappears, is not good PR for Acadia. This is not addressed in the report.
- This technology is quite common at other institutions, but it is an especially significant part of life at Acadia.
- With different laptops coming on campus, how will Acadia deal with technical support? It does not make sense to have many different computers.
- It was asked whether we would need computer labs.
- G. Dinter-Gottlieb said that information gathering is taking place, which includes investigating how other schools handle support and services; then ideas will be adapted to suit Acadia. She said that the Commission is sensitive to academic needs. A report from this investigation is expected in February 2008.
- There were two issues in this matter: 1.) hardware and 2.) software/pedagogy
- One Senator said that a blended committee would not solve this huge issue as the whole campus has thoughts on this. A professional facilitator to conduct a one-day "think tank" on where to go next would be better.
- G. Dinter-Gottlieb said that a process is already in place and to add further to the process would be cumbersome.
- Faculty want to see AA in some form remain and Acadia's classrooms are so far ahead it would be sad to lose this advantage. Our technology is enabling to our pedagogy.
- We need to market AA through our website and let prospective students know how it is used in the classroom because we have an excellent product. A better marketing approach is needed and any ideas should go to Scott Roberts.
- \$26 million was raised externally for AA (wiring classrooms, equipment). It is difficult to put a cost on AA as it is not just a program for providing laptops, but a technology used in various ways.
- It is important to have a common and accurate voice during the

transition.

- AA has not been dropped, only the laptop rental.
- The *ad hoc* committee was to focus on how faculty used technology and how the computer model supplied was used.
- Senate never had voice on choosing a computer model, only on how it is used by faculty. The committee, headed by Patti McNeil, which will choose the model, has received input from faculty and students.
- G. Dinter-Gottlieb said that faculty input on pedagogy issues would be considered. The point in having the Commission make a decision is have a stable model for use by all students. The process going on is to ensure that it will work for faculty and that it will maintain the Acadia Advantage.
- One Senator noted that the last contract process included a faculty committee; however, the faculty strike did not permit much input to the final decision.
- R. Wilson noted that the Divinity College has three different platforms available and students' computers must be compatible with one.
- AA is more than a "box" - it is a cultural innovation which challenges students and faculty to try new things and without the support of the Computer Services, User Support Center, and AITT many things would not have been attempted. This technology innovation is a benefit to students and has been noted on course evaluations. No cost can be placed on AA as it is largely intangible. AA is important because people have taken the time to innovate to support learning. We need to market this, as it is no longer clear that AA is still here.
- AA is not a laptop, but a worthwhile tool to conduct learning. Not all areas of the campus are using it; therefore, students often feel short changed.
- Even though all areas of the campus are not using the technology, we should not down play those areas which are. We have a learning advantage over other institutions - we can't stop or slow down.
- The Commission has a system analysis approach to this issue and there will be an opportunity for input.
- Communication on this issue must continue.

It was agreed to convene special discussion meetings of Senate to determine what needs to be done on this issue. They would be open to the University Community and an invitation would be extended to Patti McNeil and Scott Roberts. The first such meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, 20 June 2007 at 12:00 noon, with location to be announced. The *ad hoc* Acadia Advantage Review Committee Report as attached to the minutes of 9 May 07 will be placed on the Senate homepage at <http://ace.acadiau.ca/senate/home.html>.

4) New Business

- a) Senate Membership -
Additional Student Senator
(067-77-THE)

C. Hoult gave notice of a motion to add an additional student to the

membership of Senate. The text of this motion is attached to today's agenda.

I. Wilks expressed appreciation, on behalf of all Senators, for the work done this academic year by the Senate Secretariat.

5) Adjournment

J. Gould moved this meeting be adjourned. It was 3: 55 p.m.

D. Murphy, Recording Secretary

ADMISSION & ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE (Appeals)

Annual Report for 2006-2007

May 9, 2007

Committee Members 2006-2007

G. Iwama, Vice-President Academic (Acting)
R. Jotcham, Registrar
G. Corbeil, Arts
L. Whaley, Arts
T. Weatherbee, Professional Studies
E. Callaghan, Professional Studies
J. Diamond, Science
J. Murimboh, Science
P. Eirikson, Student VP Academic

Purpose of Committee:

(1) To hear appeals against academic regulations or the interpretation of such regulations that have not been resolved at the Departmental, School, or Faculty level or through the Registrar's Office.

Business: The Committee heard 51 cases for academic dismissal since the last report to Senate in May 2006.

Thirty seven of these were permitted to return to Acadia without spending a year on dismissal but were required to participate in the Academic Support Program. Special provisions within that program were made for the 15 students whose first language is not English. Along with the regular curriculum within the Academic Support Program these students were provided with a part time assistant whose first language is Mandarin.

The Committee continues to track the success of students who are continued on appeal to assess the effectiveness of the interventions that are provided through the Academic Support Program.

Respectfully submitted by the Chair,



George Iwama
Vice-President Academic (Acting)
Chair, Admission and Academic Standing Committee (Appeals)

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SUPPLEMENT TO THIS REPORT

Supplement to the Admissions and Academic Standing Committee
(Appeals) Report to Senate
22 May 2006

In the May 9th, 2007 meeting of Senate, several Senators asked for additional information about the students who appealed their academic dismissals. Thus for this past year:

- 51 appeals were heard.
- 37 granted readmission, of these:
 - 4 did not register
 - Of the 33 that registered
 - 15 eventually were dismissed again.

The average gpa of the remaining 18 students was 1.73. This may seem very low, but this average is skewed due to 6 students who had very low gpas close to 1.0. The only reason they remained classified as registered students, i.e. not dismissed, is that their academic load was less than 15 hours. In other words, the majority, 12 of the 18 students did fairly well after returning to their studies. In fact, one student had a gpa of over 3.0.

George K. Iwama, Chair, A&AS Committee (Appeals)
