

A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Tuesday, 9 October 2007 beginning at 4:12 p.m. with Chair Ian Wilks presiding and 39 present.

1) Minutes of the Meeting of
10 September 2007

It was moved by D. Symons and seconded by R. Perrins *that the minutes of Monday, 10 September 2007 be approved as distributed.*

The following amendments were made:

p. 2 para. 2 should read "R. Perrins, Dean of Arts, and T. Herman, Acting Vice-President (Academic) and Acting Dean of Research & Graduate Studies".
p. 2 para. last line 7 should read "how AU might serve the mental and the physical health **needs** of students at AU".

MOTION AS AMENDED WAS CARRIED.

2) Announcements and
Communications

a) From the Chair

-re Regrets

Regrets were received from S. Barkanova, B. Hagerman, T. Hergett, A. Irving, J. Kirk, R. Lehr, D. MacKinnon, D. Piper, and R. Raeside.

-re Senate Membership

The Chair welcomed W. Brackney, Faculty of Theology representative and M. Trask, returning Board of Governors representative. Each appointed for a three-year term on the Senate.

-re Agenda

I. Wilks noted the following issues to come before the Senate in the near future: endowed chairs; policy on conflict of interest; procedure/policy for memoranda-of-understanding; study on students requiring assistance; the strategic alliance with Nova Scotia Community Colleges and the role of Senate in that alliance; and the future role of the Senate Acadia Advantage Review Committee.

b) From the President &
Vice-Chancellor

G. Dinter-Gottlieb spoke on enrolment and compared the current numbers (official data as of 1 Oct 07) with previous years. She noted that one issue around enrolment numbers has been non-uniformity of data and how numbers are recorded at various Atlantic Region Universities. Last year a uniform system for recording enrolment numbers was agreed to which listed the high school graduates entering university separate from others (such as transfer and B.Ed. students).

She added that the number of inquiries (expression of interest) this year was 6900 compared to 6400 last year. The applicants (paid application fee) this year was 3578 compared to 3476 last year. The offers (accepted by AU) to students this year was 2121 compared to 2123 last year. The confirmed students (accepted offer and paid tuition) this year was 940 compared to 953 last year. The enrolled first year students to AU as of October 1st this year was 908 compared 918 last year. She reminded Senators that the last four years of numbers included a double cohort as a result of a change in the Ontario educational system and that AU received more students because of the double cohort than other Atlantic universities; therefore, the outgoing numbers

impacted AU numbers more than others. She noted that there was an attempt to handle admissions differently to encourage more highly qualified students to come to AU.

The President reminded Senators of the scheduled Open House for prospective students on October 26th.

G. Dinter-Gottlieb noted that newspaper ads for AU involve an action and often an invitation to the community, rather than expensive, print media ads that most high school students do not read. Based on input from current students, untraditional means such as face book and email have been used to reach prospective students.

c) From the Vice-President
(Academic)
Admissions & Academic
Standing Committee
(Policy) - Memoranda-of-
Understand between ACU
& APCCC **(078-11-AAS)**

As Chair of the Senate Admissions & Academic Standing Committee (Policy), T. Herman reported on the transfer agreement issue. This committee was asked to review a draft memoranda-of-understanding between the Atlantic Canadian Universities (ACU) and the Atlantic Provinces Community Colleges Consortium (APCCC) and report back to the Senate. As a result he gave notice of motion *that Senate approve the memoranda-of-understanding between the ACU and the APCCC that will be brought to the November 2007 meeting of the Senate.*

R. Jotcham commented that this document was general in nature and indicated that there were many ways to acknowledge the work done at community college in terms of credit toward a university degree. It did not outline specifics on how universities should proceed.

Memorandum-of
Understanding &
Memorandum-of Agreement

On behalf of the sub-committee of the A&ASC, T. Herman spoke on the issue of memorandum-of-agreement and memorandum-of-understand that this committee had reviewed to ensure that the integrity of AU would not be compromised. The MOA and MOU cover a wide breath of topics and subjects and each agreement is different, so creating a single format for agreement or procedure for processing was difficult. A single body, working under the VP(A) office has been created to vet such academic agreements. Members included C. James, S. Garrett, G. Hepburn, and those involved in such agreements.

International Students'
Issue Committee
(078-12-VPA)

T. Herman advised that an International Students' Issue Committee had been formed to deal with issues that touch on programs and issues that affect international students. This informal group is coordinated by J. Sanford and includes T. Herman, G. Hepburn, J. Inglis, J. Snair, M. Holmes, and R. Jotcham. As a result of this group, students in the EUP program will now have that information in the system so they may be tracked.

Co-Curricular Transcripts
(078-13-VPA)

On behalf of the VP(A), R. Jotcham reported that student co-curricular transcripts would be available to graduating students next semester. Such transcripts would include on and off-campus activities undertaken by students during their time at AU, which do not appear on their academic record, i.e.

clubs, volunteer work, leadership roles, ASU, awards, etc. Development of and placement on such a transcript would be determined by Career Services and no grade would be awarded for such activities. S. Major would be giving more details at a meeting on Opportunities to Broaden the Traditional View of Entrepreneurship on October 18th.

In reply to a question from the floor, T. Herman confirmed that this was an effort to educate the student as a whole. A co-curricular transcript would make students aware that all their activities are important and a part of their total academic career.

Graduate Studies Committee
Task Force on Graduate
Programs **(078-14-GRD)**

T. Herman reported on behalf of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee that has formed a task force to explore both short and long-term strategic planning for graduate programs at AU. Senators were encouraged to contact members of this task force with any graduate program concerns. Members were J. Colton, K. Whetter, Sara Good-Avila, W. Brackney, E. Schofield, and T. Herman. As suggested by a student senator, a graduate student representative would be added to this task force.

d) From the Registrar
Enrolment Statistics
2007-2008 **(078-15-REG)**

R. Jotcham noted that actual enrolment statistics as of 1 October 2007 have been distributed for Senators information (**APPENDIX A**).

3) Approval of List of
Graduates for the Convocation
of October 2007
(078-16-CON)

It was moved by G. Ness and seconded by S. Koul *that Senate approve the List of Graduates for the Convocation of 13 October 2007* (**APPENDIX B**).

Senate considered this list by faculty.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

It was moved by T. Herman and seconded by B. Moody *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.

4) New Business
a) Students with Disabilities
that Affect Learning
Committee - Interim
Report **(078-10-SLD)**

An interim report from the Senate Committee for Students with Disabilities that Affect Learning as attached today's agenda was received. J. Davies and K. Pemberton of this committee gave an informative presentation based on the report

In reply to questions from the floor, J. Davies said that students come to the centre with self diagnosis and there are few tested after arrival. She added that in the past, students with an obvious learning disability have been referred to the centre by faculty members, and this was encouraged.

She felt that there is a percentage of students with disabilities on campus who do not come to the centre.

D. Symons, Chair of the Senate Students with Disabilities that Affect Learning Committee noted that studies have shown that mental health needs are seriously under-represented at most institutions. He hoped that the newly formed presidential commission to review the mental and the physical needs of students at AU would work with this centre on this issue of identifying such students.

In the Event of a Strike

In reply to a query on the responsibility of the Senate in regard to the academic calendar, in the event of a faculty strike at AU, I. Wilks said this issue would definitely be dealt with by the Senate following such a strike. He noted that it would possibly mean calling a special meeting of this body and therefore, Senators should ready themselves for such a situation.

5) Adjournment

K. Whetter moved this meeting be adjourned. It was 5:20 p.m.

D. Murphy, Recording Secretary