



A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday, 9 February 2009 beginning at 4:05 p.m. with Chair Ian Wilks presiding and 42 present.

1) Minutes of the Meeting of
12 January 2009

It was moved by M. Keaveny and seconded by E. Cullen *that the minutes of Monday, 12 January 2009 be approved as distributed.*

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

2) Announcements and
Communications

a) From the Chair
-re Regrets

Regrets were received from W. Brackney, H. Hemming, A. Irving, R. Lehr, D. Seamone, B. Scott and M. Trask.

-re Agenda

As there was no objection, notice of motion was waived for an addition to the agenda circulated electronically prior to this meeting: 4)c) Dean, Division of Research and Graduate Studies – Membership of the Senate Research Ethics Board. The Chair announced another addition to the agenda, not involving a motion: 4)d) Item for Discussion – Academic implications of CAUT censure.

-re Guests

I. Wilks welcomed guests J. Turner, student; J. Francis, student; F. Blair, Editor of the Athenaeum; E. Patterson, President of AUFA, to speak on item 4)d); and A. Dulhanty.

-re Correspondence of
14 Oct 08 to the
Board of Governors
(089-60-BOG)

I. Wilks reviewed a letter dated 14 October 2008 (**APPENDIX A**) to the Board of Governors regarding Senate's support for creation of a B.Sc. Nursing program at Acadia University. This correspondence noted the following limitations on this support: 1.) additional faculty would be required to implement this program in addition to the 182 minimum tenure-track faculty stipulated in the 12th Collective Agreement and 2.) any additional fiscal resources required to launch and sustain this program would be new resources and not taken from any existing programs.

This letter also expressed Senate's concern regarding leave of absence policies for Graduate Students. A motion was brought forward which stated that such leave be taken without cost to those who are on leave. As Senate voted to maintain services to such students at no cost, the matter became a financial one and thus in the BOG's jurisdiction; therefore, it cannot be regarded as coming into force if objected by members of that body.

-re Tenure-Track Teaching
Complement Allocation
Committee Membership

I. Wilks commented on the Senate Tenure-Track Teaching Complement

Allocation Committee membership and noted G. Ness would retire in 2009 and J. Hooper would accept a term until 2010.

-re Senate Executive

The Chair reported on the Senate Executive meeting held 26 January 2009. 1.) He noted that a better flow of information on bursary and scholarship data to the Senate was discussed. The Bursary Review Committee would prepare a report for next month. 2.) Discussion was held regarding the future of the Senate Secretariat. In particular he said, with regret, that the Recording Secretary, D. Murphy would retire in the next calendar year. He reminded Senators how important this position was to this governing body and that the recording secretary is the “face or the lens” of Senate to posterity because it was through the office of this person that Senate records are collected and put in order for others to pursue in future times. At this meeting discussion was initiated on the possibility of combining the BOG and Senate Secretariat Offices to create a University Secretariat.

-re Senate Secretariat

-re Board of Governors
Academic Resources
Committee

I. Wilks reported on the BOG Academic Resources Committee whose mandate was to further the mission of AU and the BOG. He felt this committee had great promise as an addition to the governance structure of this institution.

b) From the Registrar
-re Enrolment Update
(089-63-REG)

R. Jotcham distributed a report on enrolment changes between 1 Dec 08 and 12 Jan 09 (**APPENDIX B**) for information. This report showed a decrease of 2%, which was a typical drop compared to other years.

3) New Business
a) Honorary Degrees
Committee – Nominations
Report

A nominating report from the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee was distributed prior to this meeting to Senators only. The Chair noted that this report had come to Senate for the candidates named therein to be approved by vote. A 50% majority of votes cast is needed for the approval of each candidate. He clarified that the effect of an approval is to place candidates' names in a “pool” from which the President's Office would draw in the coming years. He said there was at present no statute of limitations concerning length of time a name remains in this pool.

E. Cullen, a member of this committee, confirmed that nominations in this report had gone through a vetting process by the committee. She also commented that a theme this year was the 125th anniversary of the first female graduate at AU and it was hoped that women would be well represented by receiving this honour in 2009. Nominations were made according to the achievements of nominees, not just their relationship to AU.

L. Lusby suggested the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee would be willing to review the mandate of this committee.

Honorary Degree
Nominations (089-59-HOD)

Vote by Senators accepted all nominations for Honorary Degrees as contained in the Honorary Degree Report of 27 January 09.

Professor Emeritus
Nominations (089-60-HOD)

Vote by Senators accepted all nominations for Professor Emeritus as contained in the Honorary Degree Report of 27 January 09.

c) Dean, Division of Research
and Graduate Studies –
Membership of the Senate
Research Ethics Board
(089-61-REB)

It was moved by D. MacKinnon and seconded by R. Raeside *that on the recommendation of the Chair of the Research Ethics Board and with the approval of the Senate Research Committee, Joan Boutilier be appointed as a community representative on the Senate Research Ethics Board effective 1 May 2009.*

The Chair called for further nominations three times and hearing none declared nominations cease.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

d) Academic Implications of
CAUT Censure - Discussion
(089-62-MISC)

I. Wilks introduced this discussion item about censure and its academic implications. Censure is the response threatened by CAUT in connection with a current disciplinary issue at Acadia. He said that Senate is not in a position to legislate outcomes or to dictate policy in this area, but is certainly in a position to express its views. As there were faculty members who wanted the opportunity to express their sense of the gravity of this issue, it is now presented for discussion on the floor of Senate.

In discussion the following views were expressed:

► This is indeed a matter for Senate, as it protects the academic mission of the institution and thus has the right to ask administration to take the necessary steps to protect that mission.

► Possible censure by the national body of CAUT is described in a statement on its website, and includes “asking CAUT members to not accept an appointment at any institution being censured, not to accept an invitation to speak or participate in any academic conferences held at any institution being censured, not to accept any distinctions or honours offered by any institution being censured, not to take part in an academic review at any institution being censured, not to accept reference letters from nor write reference letters for students from or applying to graduate programs involving any institution being censured and refuse to act as referee at any institution being censured”. This is serious, very real and an immediate threat, and would have lasting effect if the issue at hand is not resolved. Such a censure would be invoked the last week of April so there is still time for the Administration and the BOG to enter into discussion with CAUT to avert it. CAUT had been attempting to enter such discussion for over a year. The academic impact of a censure would affect student recruitment, this institution’s reputation, faculty recruitment and retention, and day to day academic affairs.

► There is no question a censure would affect AU academic programs. Even if Senate cannot direct the Administration, even if it does not have the power to make executive decisions on this issue, it can make requests and express its opinion.

► Censure would be imposed on BOG and Acadia, not on the Acadia University Faculty Association.

► Senate is a public body and should speak up and not simply leave this matter to the court. The decision made would affect the entire university

community.

► To this it was responded that this matter was still working its way through the legal system, so no details can be revealed at present.

► One Senator found it troubling that this matter was just now coming to Senate, after a year. Some announcement or communication on the progress of this case would be appropriate.

► I. Wilks reminded Senators they have the opportunity to ask questions of the President and VP (Academic) at each meeting, as part of the “Announcements and Communications” section of the meeting.

► In reply to the question “Is Senate a governing body or an asking body?” I. Wilks replied that depending on the issue it can be either, but that in either case its essential power is the power to embarrass. Thus whether Senate directs or asks, what is important is that it show its displeasure in a public way. But it must always be conscious of the Board’s role and not encroach upon it.

► It is clear that some matters are academic and fall under the Senate, while others fall under the BOG. However, there is a large grey area between the two jurisdictions, and this disciplinary matter falls in that grey area because of its substantial academic implications.

► To this point I. Wilks replied that the jurisdiction of Senate is in part defined by what sorts of issues it has a tradition of actually dealing with. But it has no tradition of expressing itself on this sort of disciplinary matter. Therefore he suggested moving with caution to ensure that any motion it may pass has obvious legitimacy.

► I. Wilks pointed out that the discussion thus far was around jurisdiction rather than the academic implications of censure. He suggested that Senators focus again on the latter issue.

► One Senator said that Senate should not comment or move on this matter until it was decided upon by the court, where the issue would have to be resolved. CAUT should do the same.

► Debate should be on how we could avoid censure. Failing that, what do we do to mitigate it?

► Had the Administration and BOG indicated how they would address the negative impact of a censure by CAUT on our academic programs and endeavours?

At this time, T. Herman arrived and joined in the discussion. He assured Senators that both the Administration and the BOG are acutely aware of the significance of the act of censure and the negative impacts of it and have not treated the potential censure as trivial. It was difficult for him to comment or speak of the case in question because it was before the court. He was hopeful that there was a resolution that would separate the censure from the legal action. The time lines were a great challenge, but he expected a defence would be filed in court by next week. Once that step takes place, the defence document becomes accessible in the public domain, but the impact of that is presently unknown.

► One Senator said that there is no need to rush to create a motion.

► Not only would CAUT’s censure action impact the institution, but every individual (staff and student) at this institution. Many individuals would be harmed by this censure.

► The individuals harmed will often be the ones who have the least power to influence university policy.

► While the censure would affect individuals, the impact on AU’s reputation would be a disaster. This is one of many wrongful dismissal suits against AU in current years and it is hoped that positive changes in the Administration and Human Resources will move us in a good direction in this respect.

► One Senator said that we could not change CAUT, but hopefully we could influence the Administration at AU. Does the BOG understand the effects of censure? If this case goes to court it will cause certain damage and legal costs would be substantial.

I. Wilks said that any motions on this matter will come initially to him. If there are multiple motions, he will make the movers aware of the other motions and have them harmonize their efforts.

In reply to a question from the floor, T. Herman said it was important that all sides have a voice.

6) Other Business

a) Announcements and
Communications from the
President (Acting) &
Vice-President (Academic)
-re Report from Board of
Governors

T. Herman commented on highlights of the recent Board Meeting. He said that the Board was aware of Senate's involvement in program development this past year and was very appreciative. He noted that I. Wilks was appointed to the Academic Resources Committee, which shows great promise for integrating and connecting the two governing bodies of this university.

The search for Dean of Pure and Applied Science is underway and would close February 19th. Also the search for Manager of Recruitment is at the short list stage.

The launch of the Connections Program had taken place and T. Herman encouraged Senators to check out the information on the website. He noted that the music program "Shattering the Silence" was very successful and was well received in the press.

Coming events included: Advising Day on February 26th, Experience Acadia Days on March 6, 13 and 20 and lectures by David Levy.

T. Herman spoke regarding the recent closure of the campus because of an ice storm that resulted in unsafe walking conditions on campus. He said that the last-minute announcement of closure was prompted by the sudden break-down of snow-clearing equipment.

He announced that the VP (Administration) position which would be vacated by N. Carruthers would be reported on shortly. It was an essential position and would be filled.

He said his schedule would take him to the New England States for a week of recruitment visits at 15 schools.

6) Adjournment

T. Hansen moved this meeting be adjourned. It was 5:46 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

D. Murphy, Recording Secretary

Jan 19, 2009

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am writing to inform you of decisions recently taken by the Acadia University Senate.

On Nov. 10, 2008, the Senate considered a proposal to create a B.Sc. Nursing Program at Acadia University. The motion to this effect was extensively discussed, and in the end overwhelmingly supported. But this support was forthcoming in part because of two items of amended language which were attached to the original motion of approval. These required that the proposal be accepted with a clear understanding that:

- 1) Additional faculty required to implement this program would be in addition to the 182 minimum number of tenure-track faculty stipulated in the 12th Collective Agreement; and
- 2) That any addition fiscal resources required to launch and sustain this program be new resources and not be taken from any existing program.

Senate's approval of the B.Sc. Nursing Program should therefore be regarded as conditional on the Board's providing resources for the Program in accordance with these stipulations.

On Oct. 14, 2008, Senate considered a proposal submitted by Dr. David MacKinnon for a new policy on granting leaves of absence to graduate students. One provision within this proposal required that students on Maternity/Parental leave, or leave due to illness, may "choose to maintain computer network, email, and library access during the period of the leave by paying a \$100 dollar fee." A majority of members of Senate supported changing the provision to omit reference to a fee; the effect of the amendment would be to allow students on these two kinds of leave access to the above services at no cost. I noted that Senate does not have final say on this question, since it is a financial one. While the sums of money involved are apparently small (Dr. MacKinnon noted that he was "aware of three or four occurrences of such leaves as referred to in this amendment"), this is a matter that ultimately rests within the Board's jurisdiction, and cannot be regarded as coming into force if members of the Board have any objection. The purpose of this communication is to apprise the Board of the above situation, so that it may communicate to Dr. MacKinnon any such views as it may have on this question.

Sincerely,

Ian Wilks
Chair, Acadia Senate

Enrolment Changes between December 1, 2008 and January 12, 2009

January 12 enrolment counts compared to December 1 (counts include the Divinity College):

Category	FT Dec 1	FT Jan 12	Percent Change	PT Dec 1	PT Jan 12	Percent Change	Grand Total Dec 1	Grand Total Jan 12	Percent Change
GR	130	134	3%	373	271	-27%	503	405	-19%
UG	2835	2785	-2%	148	120	-19%	2983	2905	-3%
Grand Total	2965	2919	-1.6%	521	391	-25%	3486	3310	-5%

Typical Full-time undergraduate enrolment change between December 1 and January is a decrease of 1-2%.

Of the 2835 full-time undergraduates on December 1:

2657	are still full-time
57	are potential graduates who completed in December
44	are part-time
27	have no apparent reason although many of those withdrew from some courses first term
13	requested transcripts for other institutions, 2 of which were obvious as programs we don't offer
12	are on Coop work-term
10	had a low sessional grade point averages (<1.50)
4	were here on Exchange for first term only
4	are either taking the winter session off or are taking courses through Open Acadia this term
3	were accepted into professional work (1 Air Force, 2 RCMP)
2	are away on Exchange
2	have current financial holds

Students not registered December 1, registered January 12 can be broken out as:

Category	FT January 12	PT January 12	Grand Total
GR	5	52	57
UG	90	28	118
Grand Total	95	80	175

We **lost 178** full-time undergraduate students from December 1 to either part-time or not registered (see reasons above) and **gained 90** full-time undergraduate who were not registered first term plus **38 who changed from part-time** first term to full-time second term for a **net loss of 50 full-time** undergraduates. **This is within a normal range.**

Change in International (Visa) Student Counts

Category	FT Dec 1	FT Jan 12	Percent change	PT Dec 1	PT Jan 12	Percent Change	Grand Total Dec 1	Grand Total Jan 12	Percent Change
GR	17	11	-35%	10	14	40%	27	25	-7.4%
UG	411	400	-2.6%	28	23	-18%	439	423	-3.6%
Grand Total	428	411	-4%	38	37	-2.6%	466	448	-4%