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A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University was held on Monday, April 12, 2010 beginning at 4:05 pm with Chair Ian Wilks presiding and 36 members present.

1) Minutes of the meeting of
March 8, 2010

It was moved by J. Hennessey, seconded by W. Brackney that the minutes of the meeting of Monday March 8, 2010 be approved as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

2) Announcements and
Communications

a) From the Chair
Re regrets

Regrets were received from C. Shields, A. Vibert, A. Irving, W. Elliott, T. Hergett, Kyle Power, the incoming Acadia Student Union VPA.

The Chair introduced and welcomed to Senate the new student representatives to Senate from the Faculty of Arts, Christina Muehlberger; the Faculty of Pure & Applied Science, Ashley Margeson; and from the Faculty of Professional Studies, Emma Smith.

Also welcomed were Dr. Jeff Hooper who attended the meeting to speak to the reports from the Scholarships, Prizes, Awards Committee and Dr. Bruce Fawcett who attended to answer any questions about the motion from the Acadia Divinity College concerning the Doctor of Ministry courses and course numbering.

Re: Agenda

Items 3a) and 3b) concerning the Process and Selection of members to the Research Ethics Board will be considered together. Items 3c) and 3d) will be considered with one motion to receive.

Re: Formatting of
Motions

The Chair read communication from S. Markham-Starr expressing concern about the formatting of motions and the amount of time spent introducing motions during Senate meetings. She suggested that the meeting agenda include the motion along with a one-page summary that includes the background to the issue

that led to the motion, a statement about what the motion is intended to achieve and its implications, as well as the names of the mover and seconder.

Dr. Wilks stated that the suggestions outlined in the communication from S. Markham-Starr could form the basis of a template for framing motions that would be posted on the Senate website.

b) From the President

President Ivany expressed his concern about the negative impact that federal budget cuts to the NSERC and SSHRC granting councils are having on research at smaller universities in Canada, including Acadia. He suggested that the Senate Research Committee may wish to address the issue and engage others to challenge the assumption that first-rate research cannot take place at small universities.

The President informed Senate that the draft report of the O'Neill Review may be slightly delayed until the end of May. At this time it is unknown whether the report's recommendations will be institution-specific or at the meta level so that decisions concerning specific institutions would occur post-report and through another mechanism.

D. MacKinnon added that the Tri-Council results cannot be discussed until the Industry Minister releases the report. He offered to work with the Senate Research Committee to address the funding situation.

President Ivany emphasized his concern that a change in scholarly construct is underway in Canada without a debate on the issue. Of particular concern to Acadia is that the granting council decisions may force faculty to choose between research and teaching.

In response to a comment from G. Whitehall about the possibility of an open forum for Acadia to determine how best to meet the challenge and to celebrate our research so that it is noticed beyond the Acadia community, President Ivany suggested that consultations and discussions could be facilitated under the aegis of the Senate Research Committee. He added that although the universities in Atlantic Canada do provide detailed information about expertise among Acadia faculty to the media, local experts are not often called upon by the news agencies.

D. Silver suggested that many faculty will be attending national meetings over the next few months, including a meeting with NSERC, where they could bring feedback to the granting councils.

In response to concerns from A. Quema and D. MacKinnon about the lack of prominence research at Acadia is given on the university's website, President Ivany offered to pursue the matter.

c) From the Vice-President Academic

T. Herman highlighted the recent debate held on campus about tidal power, which was part of the year-long series of events to celebrate a century of tidal energy research in the Bay of Fundy. Acadia researches have been awarded more than \$340,000 for tidal energy projects.

T. Herman and D. MacKinnon attended a meeting at the Beaubassin Field Station in March to explore a collaboration with faculty and students at the University of Moncton for conducting historical research.

A delegation from the Zhuhai Campus of the Beijing Normal University recently visited Acadia and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote academic exchanges.

The external review of the Department of Languages and Literature has taken place with the report forthcoming.

Dr. Herman expressed his thanks to all who contributed to a successful Experience Acadia Day in March.

3) New Business

a) Appointment of Research Ethics Board members

b) Process for selection of appointments to the

Research Ethics Board It was moved by H. Kitchin and seconded by D. Seamone that

the Senate By-Laws Committee review a viable nomination process for managing the appointment of Research Ethics Board (REB) members, including provisions for:

- *a staggered rotation of REB membership*
- *an open call for nominations of REB members, with final appointment being made by Senate*
- *a transparent short-list process*
- *assessing whether the Senate Research Committee or Senate Nominating Committee can assume responsibility for nominations and recommended appointments of REB members, and*
- *inclusion of a Senator through which recommendations and rationale for REB appointments can be made to Senate*

- *proposing necessary changes in language to "The Constitution and By-Laws of the Senate of Acadia University" to reflect the By-Laws Committee's recommendations regarding this motion*

Further, that the Senate By-Laws Committee present its recommendations to Senate for discussion and approval as soon as feasible.

H. Kitchin spoke to the motion explaining that the current method of selecting members to the Research Ethics Board violates both the Tri-Council Policy statement and the Constitution of Senate. She noted that the lay persons and the graduate student representatives cannot be nominated through the Faculty Nominating Committees. H. Kitchin further noted that the Senate By-Laws Committee could assess and make recommendations for policy language.

D. MacKinnon noted that four faculty members currently sit on the Research Ethics Board and that their rotation is staggered. He agreed that an open and transparent selection process should be instituted. He was unable to reply to a question from H. Kitchin about the length of the term of the current representative from the Faculty of Arts, but did note that 13 faculty members have served on the Board.

A. Quema welcomed the motion, agreed with the difficulty surrounding lay person nominations, and suggested that a public call for nominations might be a better method for these positions. She proposed that both the Senate Research and Nominating Committees jointly steer the nomination process for Research Ethics Board appointments. A. Quema noted that the By-Laws Committee can craft the wording for the By-Law but must first receive direction about the content.

P. Corkum explained that the Senate Nominating Committee handles vacancies for Senators whereas the Faculty Nominating Officers are responsible for faculty nominations to Senate committees. As the By-Laws Committee does not make policy but rather takes suggestions and works in consultation with other parties to create the wording in the By-Law, she agreed with the motion that the By-Laws Committee be charged with the review.

MOTION CARRIED

- d) Scholarships, Prizes and Awards Committee report 2007/08
- e) Scholarships, Prizes and Awards Committee

report 2008/09

J. Hooper presented the 2007/08 and 2008/09 reports of the Scholarships, Prizes and Awards Committee and highlighted recent changes. Transfer students can now access scholarship funds and co-op students can access funds to cover the co-op fees. In response to a question from A. Mitchell, J. Hooper stated that the school list has been eliminated in the determining of Acadia Excellence Entrance Scholarships.

J. Hennessy questioned the change in entrance scholarships from front-end loaded to renewable. J. Hooper explained that this was an administrative decision and is in keeping with the kinds of scholarship offers that potential students would be receiving from other institutions.

Discussion surrounded the acceptance rate of scholarships and the competitiveness of our offers.

In response to a question from P. Williams about the tracking of the performance of those students who receive scholarships, J. Hooper replied that the data does not exist for the last 10 years and that the Committee has asked that it be generated this year.

In response to a question from A. Mitchell, J. Hooper stated that there were sufficient funds in the two bursary programs.

It was moved by S. Lochhead and seconded by A. Smith that the 2007/08 and the 2008/09 reports of the Scholarships, Prizes and Awards Committee be received.

MOTION CARRIED.

e) Election of Senate representative to the Chancellor Search Committee

Two nominations had been received. The Chair called for further nominations from the floor; there being none, voting by secret ballot took place.

Dr. Heather Hemming was elected as the Senate representative to the Chancellor Search Committee. It was noted that the ballots would be shredded.

f) Report from the Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, A.Quema put forward the name of Prof. Pat Corkum for the position as Chair of Senate for the 2010/2011 academic year. This and other Senate positions, for which a report will be circulated one week prior to the May meeting, will be considered at the May meeting of Senate.

With Senate's agreement, item j) on the agenda was moved to the next item for discussion.

j) Notice of Motion re:
Process of Nomination
and Election for Faculty

P. Williams introduced the notion of motion that proposes that the Senate Nominating Committee issue a call for nominations prior to presenting a slate of nominations to Senate.

g) Motion regarding the
Budget of the Office
of the Vice-President
Academic

It was moved by G. Whitehall and seconded by A. Smith that

In the spirit of promoting greater transparency and accountability at Acadia while encouraging discussion about the direction of Acadia's academic culture, be it resolved that the budget of the academic sector will be presented to the Senate by the VP Academic in order to communicate Acadia's academic priorities. The annual reporting will occur in two parts: the first, in the fall semester so as to establish projected priorities; and the second, in the spring in order to communicate the actual disbursements of the office.

G. Whitehall spoke to the motion saying that its intent is to promote an annual discussion of priorities and values in the institution as well as a means to further transparency in governance with respect to academic priorities.

I. Wilks clarified that the motion requests information about the budget, not the ability to make budgetary decisions.

Discussion surrounded the issue of promoting transparency and the best method to provide an annual occasion for a discussion about academic priorities.

M. MacVicar explained the level of budgetary details provided to the Board of Governors and offered to work with Senate representatives to provide the appropriate level of financial information needed for the discussion and to preserve the confidentiality of this information.

The means to provide a mechanism to promote an annual discussion about academic priorities will be discussed at the next meeting of the Senate Executive.

A friendly amendment was accepted and is reflected in the motion above.

MOTION CARRIED

f) Report from the
Nominating
Committee, cont'd

A. Quema reminded Senate that Article 4.3 of the By-Laws states that Senate elects the Chair at the April meeting. I. Wilks explained that Senate practice for the last decade has been to announce the nominations at the April meeting with the election taking place in May.

With Senate's agreement, further discussion on this issue was moved to Other Business and item i) on the agenda became the next item for discussion.

i) Doctor of Ministry
courses and course
numbering

It was moved by H. Gardner and seconded by W. Brackney that

Senate receive and approve the report of Doctor of Ministry courses and course numbering.

H. Gardner informed Senate that the curriculum changes have gone through a curriculum review process and that the Senate of the Acadia Divinity College has approved the changes outlined in the document circulated with the agenda.

In response to a question from R. Raeside, B. Fawcett assured Senate that a two-day course is of sufficient duration to be assigned one credit hour.

MOTION CARRIED.

h) Discussion regarding
an alternative system
of external reading
for honours theses

Tabled to next meeting.

4) Other
a) Report from the
Nominating
Committee, cont'd

Discussion returned to the agenda item 3 f) re: issue of the timing of the vote for the Chair of Senate.

P. Corkum felt that an election in May provides Senators with a longer time period to consider the nominees.

A. Quema expressed her concerns about ignoring the procedure as outlined in the Constitution of Senate. I. Wilks said that holding

the election at this April meeting of Senate would also be a violation of the Constitution as no notice of the election had been provided to members of Senate. Rather than break with precedent and contravene the requirement for notice of motion by having the election at this meeting, the Chair suggested that Senate continue with current practice this year and that any changes to the Constitution or precedent of practice be made after studied consideration. A. Quema agreed that the wording could be addressed by the By-Laws committee.

- 5) Adjournment R. Perrins moved this meeting be adjourned at 6:00 pm.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

K. Slater Padovani, Recording Secretary