



A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday, 14 December 2009 beginning at 4:06 p.m. with Chair Ian Wilks presiding and 47 present.

1) Minutes of the Meeting of
9 November 2009

It was moved by R. Raeside and seconded by J. White *that the minutes of Monday, 9 November 2009 be approved as distributed.*

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

2) Announcements and
Communications

a) From the Chair

-re Regrets

I. Wilks noted regrets from E. Cullen, E. Elshof, J. Eustace, A. Irving, R. Murphy, J. Turner, A. Vogels and G. Whitehall.

-re Senate Website

The Chair announced that the Senate website had been updated with the latest template. He expressed appreciation to Pam Dimock in the Registrar's Office for completing this project.

-re Agenda

T. Herman noted that documents to support Item 4)a) were too lengthy for distribution in hard copy and would be distributed electronically for the January meeting.

-re Food Service at
Meetings

Further to correspondence from the Recording Secretary, I. Wilks said that the food service for each Senate meeting amounted to \$140.69. He asked Senators to consider cutting back on this service.

-re Senate Membership

The Chair thanked S. Bondrup-Nielsen, who replaced M. Snyder, and R. Raeside, who would step down as Acting Dean of Pure & Applied Science; both to leave Senate at the end of December.

I. Wilks acknowledged the departure from Senate of Recording Secretary D. Murphy and presented flowers. Donna had served in this position for 13 years and was retiring from the University.

He welcomed newly appointed Theology Student Representative, G. Monette to Senate.

b) From the President

R. Ivany spoke of a publication in the Globe Web Edition regarding the debate between smaller undergraduate and large multiversity institutions in Canada and in particular the drift away from high quality undergraduate education in this country. This publication was a joint effort of Bishops, Mount Allison, St. F. Xavier and Acadia Universities to state that high quality undergraduate education still exists in many institutions and to provoke a debate on this issue. He felt it was startling how few institutions like Acadia remain in the Canadian context.

He said that the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust was created after CFI came into effect to deliver the provincial matching component to CFI Awards and was in a serious situation. These matching monies were funded by government with surplus money and now a significant backlog to match funds because the pot was empty. In some cases the lack of provincial matching funds stopped the granting council dollars from even flowing.

He thanked Senate for naming representatives to the University Planning Committee in a prompt and efficient manner. This committee has had its initial meeting and is ready to move forward.

In reply to a question from the floor, he agreed that it was unfortunate that NSERC funding for graduate students was reduced from two to one year and this issue would be part of the anticipated debate. As well, he agreed that information on research at Acadia University should be more visible on the front page of its website. D. MacKinnon added that this had been recognized and was being addressed.

c) From the Vice-President
(Academic)

T. Herman reported that the academic program review and the seven-year accreditation review for the School of Computer Science has been completed. The external review team has completed its work and he expected their report shortly.

He said representatives from Ryerson University have visited campus to discuss possible articulation agreements between the two institutions to enable joint BSc, BEd and other degrees.

He reported that a very successful recruiting trip was made to the People's Republic of China. With the guidance of D. Silver, an agreement would be signed with the Southern China University of Technology.

3) Business Arising from the
Minutes

a) Proposed Elimination of the

“Application for Alternative
Method of Evaluation”
Form (910-10-TIE)

It was moved by R. Perrins and seconded by J. Hennessy *that changes be made to the University Calendar regarding alternative evaluation (pages 24 -26 of current calendar), as outlined in a document circulated electronically prior to this meeting (APPENDIX A) be approved.*

The chair noted that the original motion on this issue was presented in October, was deferred to November and then to December. Today’s document is an amendment to the original.

R. Perrins spoke to this motion and said it was an attempt to eliminate the need for formal examination as long as there was something else in place for evaluation and which was described in the syllabus for each course. Thus, the “Application for Alternative Method of Evaluation” form could be eliminated.

Discussion followed with the following points:

- ▶ This proposal fits most but not all models of instruction. This motion assumes there was a final examination or something equivalent to a final exam for all courses and that was not the case i.e. the School of Business.
- ▶ In the section entitled Examinations, the reference to “another graded assignment designated ...” implies it should be one assignment rather than assignments. A friendly amendment was accepted as listed below and reflected in the motion above.
- ▶ Terminology should be edited to be all encompassing

Friendly amendments included:

Under Examinations line six to read “take-home examination, or as other methods of evaluation designated as equivalent to the final examination in the course syllabus”.

Under Re-read line three to read “release of the final grade.”

Reference to “(or its equivalent)” changed to” (or the equivalent)” throughout this proposal.

MOTION AS AMENDED WAS CARRIED.

b) Vice-President (Finance) &
Treasurer – Financial
Envelope Access
(910-24-FIN)

Further to a request at the November meeting, M. MacVicar circulated electronically, a document on University budgets (APPENDIX B) prior to this meeting.

R. Cunningham felt this was not enough detail and asked that the

actual (not the proposed) budgets for those years be supplied.

M. MacVicar agreed to send this to the Senators. She noted that this budget had not gone to the Board of Governors as of this date, which meant it could change. This document contained budgets only as presented to the Board, and not the actual allotment for previous years.

c) Committee on Students
with Disabilities that Affect
Learning – Accessibility at
Acadia University
(910-32-SLD)

It was moved by D. Holmberg and seconded by E. Vaasjo *that the Senate strongly recommend that the President and the Chair of the Board of Governors make efforts to improve the accessibility of existing buildings on campus, and urge that future buildings on campus should adhere to design principles that encourages safe and accessible buildings for everyone, including those with physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities. Further, we request the development of a plan and priorities for such improvements as soon as possible.*

Furthermore, be it resolved that

Senate asks its Chair to communicate its concerns in writing to the President, the Vice President (Administration), the Chair of the Board of Governors, the Director of Facilities and any other relevant individuals.

C. Shields noted an example in the recreational facility on campus is not wheelchair friendly. Once in the building, the only washroom to accommodate a wheelchair is on the third floor, which is not wheelchair accessible and this is embarrassing

D. Holmberg noted that this motion covered accessibility as well as internal building infrastructure i.e. level of light switches, types of door knobs and level of sinks & taps for example. She said the term “Universal Design principles” was one used by architects.

D. Holmberg agreed to assist I. Wilks in composing a communication as directed in this motion.

Discussion was held with the following points brought forth:

- ▶ Are there legal implications to not accommodating such individuals?
- ▶ R. Ivany said there were building code requirements only which must be followed for buildings on campus.
- ▶ This motion was intended primarily to building renovations as they are done on campus.

- ▶ Standards of accessible design were quoted from a suitable web source.
- ▶ There are grants available for accessibility to buildings.
- ▶ This motion/request directs those who may have the ability/resources to do something to improve the situation.
- ▶ R. Ivany felt this motion was appropriate and welcome. He said the institution should be accountable for accessibility to any renovation or new construction on campus. He advised that there is no such inventory of building accessibility on hand; therefore, this project must start from scratch and would take time.
- ▶ The following URL for Canadian accessibility standards was given by D. Holmberg:
<http://www.shopcsa.ca/onlinestore/GetCatalogItemDetails>
- ▶ The original intent of this issue was to have the committee bring forth a principle and then come back with more specific language if required.
- ▶ M. Trask questioned whether it was reasonable to expect the University to prepare such a plan based on today's requirements when those requirements could change. Perhaps this request should be for the current standards at the time of renovations or construction rather than those right now.

Friendly amendments were accepted and are reflected in the motion above.

MOTION AS AMENDED WAS CARRIED.

I. Wilks reminded Senators that it is everyone's responsibility to report malfunctions or broken mechanisms in our buildings and D. Holmberg asked that the Senate Committee on Students with Disabilities that Effect Learning also be notified of such observations.

d) Tenure Track Teaching
Complement Allocation
Committee – Clarification
of Article 10.02 of 12th
Collective Agreement
(910-33-TAC)

Further to her report as attached to today's agenda, D. Holmberg, Chair of the Senate Tenure Track Teaching Complement Allocation Committee reported on this committee's current procedures in relationship to the 12th Collective Agreement. There was no contradiction.

I Wilks thanked D. Holmberg for pursuing this matter.

4) New Business
a) Academic Program Review
Committee – Departmental
Responses to the Academic

Review Panel reports for
Physics, Engineering and
Sociology **(910-30-APR)**

As alluded to earlier, T. Herman said the departmental responses to the Academic Review Panel reports as well as a summary of recommendations for Physics, Engineering and Sociology would be available electronically and before the January meeting. Senators would be notified when available.

b) Vice-President (Academic)
- University AA2.0
Committee Report
(910-31-AAP)

T. Herman expressed appreciation to the University AA2.0 Committee for the substantial and comprehensive report as attached to today's agenda. This committee will be succeeded by the Information Technologies Committee.

S. Markham-Starr felt problems such as non-working technology in the classroom and transitional difficulties from one room to another were not addressed in this report.

D. Holmberg commented on recommendation #6 of the report which states "That while it may be ideal to offer all versions of academic software on both Mac and PC environments, it is impossible to do so at this time." She believed that the new Information Technologies Committee should investigate the extent to which this ideal can be met; if it cannot be met, then information provided to students should very clearly indicate which software costs will be covered and which will not.

c) Timetable, Instruction
Hours & Examination
Committee – Proposed
2010 – 2011 Calendar Dates
(910-34-TIE)

It was moved by T. Herman and seconded by A. Quéma *that the proposed timetable for 2010 – 2011 as attached to today's agenda be accepted.*

D. Holmberg was pleased to see more time allowed between convocation and the submission deadline for graduate theses.

MOTION WAS CARRIED

d) Graduate Studies
Committee – Proposed
Curriculum Changes for
Political Science Graduate
Program **(910-35-GRD)**

It was moved by D. MacKinnon and seconded by R. Perrins *that the proposed curriculum changes for the Political Science Graduate Program as attached to today's agenda be accepted.*

In reply to a question from the floor, D. MacKinnon could not confirm if graduate studies course descriptions were to be 60 words or less – which is the case with undergraduate course descriptions. If this is the case, the description for POLS 5483 would be modified.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

5) Other Business

a) Food Service at Senate Meetings (**910-36-GEN**)

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to adjust food service for Senate meetings to coffee and water only. D. Murphy would look after this.

6) Adjournment

B. Anderson moved this meeting be adjourned. It was 5:40 p.m.

To: Dr. Ian Wilks, Chair
Acadia University Senate

From: Dr. Geoffrey Whitehall, and
Dr. Robert Perrins

Dear Ian:

Geoffrey and I are proposing that the following minor changes be made to the University calendar in order to more easily facilitate professors seeking to evaluate their students with options other than formal examinations.

MOTION: Stemming from the discussion in Senate at its October 2009 meeting, we move that the following changes to the University Calendar be made:

Proposed changes to Acadia University *Academic Undergraduate Calendar* regulations. (pages 24-26).

Evaluation

* This section needs to be checked to allow for instructors to choose between holding formal examinations, or assigning their equivalents, in all courses.

Examinations

December examinations (*or its equivalent*) are held for all first term courses, for all 1000-level courses, and may be required in any two-term course. Examinations (*or its equivalent*) are held in April for all second term and all two-term courses. Examination schedules are posted in September and January. The final examination (*or its equivalent*) may be conducted as a formal scheduled examination, or as a take-home examination, *or as another graded assignment designated in the course syllabus*. In the case of a take-home examination students are allowed the whole examination period to complete them and must submit their papers no later than the day of the last scheduled examination.

Re-read Procedure

Any request to re-read an examination paper (or its equivalent ~~in a course using an alternative form of assessment~~) must reach the Registrar within 30 days after the release of the final examination results. The request must be accompanied by a fee of \$10 which will be refunded only if the mark is raised. All requests for a re-read will be directed by the Registrar to the director or head concerned for implementation. Re-reads of examinations (*or its equivalent*) will be conducted by the head/director of the unit involved and a second faculty member who has expertise in the subject area, after consultation with the original instructor. In the event that the head/director is the instructor, the dean will designate a replacement to conduct the re-read.

Re-reads may be requested in any or all courses in which a student is registered without reference to class standing or the final grade assigned. A re-read of a mid-year examination (*or its equivalent*) will be granted only after consultation with the head of the department or director of the school concerned. A student who requests a re-read in a course forfeits the grade originally assigned.

Students have the right to review a written examination paper (*or its equivalent*) in the presence of the instructor.

Acadia University
Annual Approved Budgets
(In 000's)

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Faculty of Arts:				
Art	84	49	32	34
History and Classics	1,239	1,309	1,374	1,419
Economics	805	772	793	839
English	1,684	1,717	1,852	2,004
Languages & Literatures	1,206	1,226	1,371	1,419
Philosophy	337	356	396	449
Political Science	643	661	694	767
Sociology	955	949	1,030	1,099
School of Music	1,333	1,303	1,251	1,516
Interdisciplinary Study	29	30	30	76
Duplicating Services	38		3	3
Administrative Leaves and Retirement Allowances	110	196	-	-
Dean's Office & Discretionary (FA)	332	362	334	298
Faculty of Pure & Applied Science:				
Biology	2,223	2,305	2,369	2,500
Chemistry	1,210	1,191	1,121	1,159
School of Computer Science	1,239	1,148	1,171	1,182
Earth and Environmental Science	964	863	911	983
Mathematics & Statistics	1,348	1,266	1,370	1,529
Physics	511	544	592	639
Psychology	1,192	1,262	1,335	1,303
School of Engineering	464	466	530	567
School of Nutrition & Dietetics	601	588	675	637
Health Science Advisor	6	6	8	8
Administrative Leaves and Retirement Allowances		34	-	-
Dean's Office & Discretionary (FPAS)	572	449	363	426
Faculty of Professional Studies:				
School of Business Administration	2,401	2,410	2,558	2,596
School of Education	2,081	2,294	2,307	2,517
School of Recreation Management & Kinesiology	1,585	1,823	2,047	2,143
Administrative Leaves and Retirement Allowances		95	-	-
Dean's Office & Discretionary (FPS)	317	343	290	361
	345	569	721	
Library	3,216	3,178	2,898	2,921