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A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday, 14 February 2011 beginning at 4:00 pm. with Chair Patricia Corkum presiding and 38 present.

1) Minutes of the Meeting of
17 January 2011

It was moved by R. Perrins and seconded by B. Hagerman *that the minutes of Monday, 17 January 2011 be approved.*

The following amendment was made:
page 1, Item 2 b) should read “He confirmed that the building will contain additional **general purpose** classrooms that should be available for the 2011/12 academic year.”

MOTION AS AMENDED WAS CARRIED.

2) Announcements
a) From the Chair of Senate

The Chair welcomed to Senate Donna Sears, School of Business, who is replacing retired Senator Richard Sparkman until the end of his term on June 30, 2012.

Regrets were received from W. Brackney, N. Clarke, H. Gardner, L. Lusby, D. MacKinnon, K. Power, D. Seamone, J. Stanley, and G. Whitehall. .
Dr. Bruce Fawcett, Academic Dean, Faculty of Theology attended as a guest as W. Brackney was unable to be present.

The Chair also welcomed as guests to the meeting Colin Bell, Chair of the Curriculum Committee who attended to answer any questions that might arise from the consideration of the curriculum changes, and two student candidates in the upcoming ASU Executive elections, Sarah Sweet who was running for Science Representative and Chris Moore, a Presidential candidate.

The Chair announced that at its meeting on 28 February, Senate Executive will be reviewing the proposed structure and mandate of the new Senate Committee dealing with program viability and that it is anticipated that the proposal will come before Senate at the March meeting.

b) From the President and
Vice-Chancellor

President Ivany reported that the Nova Scotia Minister of Labour and Advanced Education recently announced a 4% reduction in the operating grant to the university sector and a 3% cap on tuition increases. MOU discussions between the province and the university sector will begin in April with December 31st as the target date for an agreement on the next MOU and a sustainability plan for the system. He explained that the MOU process will include discussions with CONSUP as well as bilateral conversations with each university. Information sessions for all faculty and staff about the funding reduction and tuition cap will be held during the first week of March.

In response to a question from A. Quema addressed to the student representatives about the student perspective on the recent announcement, A. Margeson noted that the funding to the university sector is an issue for students as well and commented on the provincial student rally held the previous week. She also spoke of the desire of the student organizations to work with the universities and the government to find a resolution that is satisfactory to all parties.

c) From the Vice President
Academic

T. Herman announced that at its winter meeting, the Board of Governors endorsed the Endowed Chairs policies that were approved by Senate in December. He encouraged those units with vacant Chairs to initiate the nomination process.

T. Herman congratulated Dr. D. Silver and colleagues on the successful Robotics Competition, an annual event that attracts students from throughout Nova Scotia and beyond. He also extended congratulations to the “Physics Dream Team”, nine students from the Acadia Physics Society who participated in the Atlantic Undergraduate Physics and Astronomy Conference at St. Francis Xavier University in early February. Acadia students Matt LeBlanc, Graham Reid and Daniel Webber won three of the five NSERC awards, with Mr. Webber being awarded first place.

3) Business arising from
the Minutes
a) Honours Committee –
Honours Survey and Forum
Update

S. Hewitt provided Senate with an update on the Honours Forum, stating that in order to assist in establishing the nature of the forum and to better understand the practices and procedures related to undergraduate honours work at Acadia, four surveys have been distributed to the Heads & Directors, faculty, honours students, and former honours students respectively. The forum will most likely take place in March.

With the agreement of Senate, Agenda item 4) d) Graduate Studies Committee – Curriculum for the Doctoral Program in Educational Studies became the next item of business.

4) New Business
d) Graduate Studies
Committee – Curriculum
for the Doctoral Program
in Educational Studies

It was moved by D. Reid and seconded by R. Cunningham *that the curriculum for the Doctoral Program in Educational Studies be approved.*

D. Reid spoke to the motion stating that the program was approved by MPHEC in May 2009. The program is a joint doctorate in Educational Studies between Acadia, Mount Saint Vincent, and St. Francis Xavier Universities. The calendar language and individual course descriptions are before Senate for approval as the program has been previously approved by the three University Senates.

In response to a question from P. Williams, L. Aylward noted that the program includes a 14-month residency requirement.

T. Herman spoke of the Interuniversity Doctoral Administrative Committee as a model of collaboration.

In response to a question from A. Quema, L. Aylward explained that students will graduate from their home institution. She noted that Acadia University will shortly be issuing offers of admittance to the program to four students, and that St. Francis Xavier University will admit four students and Mount

Saint Vincent University will admit six students. T. Herman noted that while registered in the program, students will also have student ID numbers at each institution and access to the resources at the other universities.

MOTION CARRIED

With the agreement of Senate, Agenda item 4) c) Curriculum Committee – Proposed Curriculum Changes became the next item of business.

c) Curriculum Committee – Proposed Curriculum Changes

It was noted that point 3 of the program modifications for Women’s and Gender Studies Courses should be removed and that the typographical errors will be corrected.

It was moved by R. Perrins and seconded by R. Cunningham *that the curriculum changes for the Faculty of Arts be approved.*

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by P. Williams and seconded by V. Zamlynny *that the curriculum changes for the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science be approved.*

MOTION CARRIED

As Chair of the Curriculum Committee, Colin Bell explained that the Committee was not in unanimous agreement about the proposed curriculum change concerning the required course EDUC 42C3 and was looking to Senate for direction. He confirmed that the curriculum changes have been approved by both the School of Education and the Faculty of Professional Studies.

A. Quema noted that the Curriculum Committee does not approve curriculum changes and explained that the Committee was recommending the changes proposed by the School of Education, while underlining their reservations.

M. Corbett noted that the concerns had been discussed at the School of Education and a decision taken.

It was moved by D. Reid and seconded by J. Hennessy *that the curriculum changes to the Bachelor of Education program be approved.*

Discussion surrounded the role of the Curriculum Committee. A. Quema stated that the deliberations at the Curriculum Committee focussed on the well-being of the institution, the program, and the students.

D. Reid outlined the process whereby the School of Education engaged in 1.5 years of discussions about the objectives in changing the curriculum, and that the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board was included in the process. The resulting proposals were voted upon at the School, the result of which was almost unanimous. He noted that those in disagreement possess expertise in education and that academic disagreements are reasonable. The Faculty of Professional Studies unanimously approved the proposals and they were forwarded to the Senate Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Reid explained that course EDUC 42C3 is a seminar and portfolio course

in which students develop a portfolio that indicates their learning throughout the entire program. The course was approved at Senate during its meeting in January and is before Senate for approval as a required course in the Bachelor of Education program.

Discussion surrounded the process at the Curriculum Committee when the proposed curriculum changes were considered.

J. Hennessy noted that the School of Music has a proposal for a 5-year combined Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education program, which has been approved by the Curriculum Committee and is contingent on Senate approving the curriculum changes for the School of Education.

D. Reid noted that the proposed curriculum changes will provide students with flexibility and more options within the program to pursue courses in a discipline of interest.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Bell thanked Senate for their assistance.

- a) Honorary Degrees Committee – Honorary Degree Nominations

R. Ivany reviewed the process by which nominations for honorary degree recipients were made. This was followed by a secret ballot vote and the approval with majority support of all three candidates.

- b) Honorary Degree Committee – Professor Emeritus Process

R. Ivany spoke of the importance of the Professor Emeritus distinction within the scholarly community. He stated that the Senate guidelines list November 15th as the qualifying date for nominations for the award of Professor Emeritus and that under the Early Retirement Incentive Program, January 15th was the deadline for faculty to indicate their intention to retire. Given that these dates did not align, and in order to be open and inclusive in these special circumstances, the Honorary Degrees Committee recommends that the deadline for nominations this year be extended to March 31st. The Committee would bring any further recommendations for the award of Professor Emeritus to the April meeting of Senate.

It was moved by S. Markham-Starr and seconded by R. Murphy *that the deadline for submissions for the award of Professor Emeritus be extended to March 31, 2011.*

In response to a question from P. Williams about the time frame for eligibility, R. Ivany noted that faculty become eligible for the Professor Emeritus designation in the year of their retirement and for the following three years.

MOTION CARRIED

- 5) Adjournment

On motion of L. Aylward and seconded by H. Kitchin, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

K. Slater Padovani, Recording Secretary