

Office of the Senate Secretariat

Acadia University
Wolfville, Nova Scotia
Canada B0P 1X0

Telephone: (902) 585-1617
Facsimile: (902) 585-1078



A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday, 11 April 2011 beginning at 4:00 pm. with Chair Patricia Corkum presiding and 40 present.

- 1) Minutes of the Meeting of 14 February 2011
- It was moved by D. Silver and seconded by W. Elliott *that the minutes of Monday, 14 February 2011 be approved.*

MOTION CARRIED.

- 2) Announcements
a) From the Chair of Senate

The Chair welcomed to Senate invited guest Dr. Bruce Fawcett, Academic Dean, Faculty of Theology who attended to answer any questions that might arise concerning the curriculum changes from the Faculty of Theology.

The Chair also welcomed as guests the incoming student Senators who were attending the meeting as they transition to their new roles: Emma Cochrane, Faculty of Arts representative; Sarah Sweet, Faculty of Science representative; Colin Deal, Faculty of Professional Studies representative; and Ben Jessome, President of the ASU.

On behalf of Senate, the Chair thanked those student Senators completing their terms, Christina Muehlberger, Faculty of Arts representative; Emma Smith, Faculty of Professional Studies representative; and Ashley Margeson, Faculty of Pure and Applied Science representative. She noted that Kyle Power, ASU Vice-President Academic will be returning for another term.

Regrets were received from President Ivany who was attending a meeting of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, J. Best, I. Hutchinson, E. Patterson, D. Sears, and V. Zamlynnny.

The Chair announced that if a June meeting of Senate is required, it will be held at 10:00 am on Monday, June 6th. The next scheduled meeting of the Senate Executive is on Monday, 25 April. She reminded the Chairs of Senate Committees that committee reports are due for the May meeting of Senate.

- b) From the Vice-President Administration & Finance and Chief Financial Officer

D. Youden provided an update on the accessibility issue that had previously been discussed at Senate. Building on the accessibility audit performed in 2006, eight students in the Recreation Management program with the assistance of both Dr. J. Colton and a student with a mobility challenge assessed the Beveridge Arts Centre, Acadia Student Union Building, the Biology Building, and the general campus. D. Holmberg added that Dr. R. Seaman's Kinesiology students assessed the arena complex as well. She noted that the report and presentation were well done, and that they both

highlighted problems and offered solutions. Some of the items discussed in the report do not fall under the purview of Senate. The Students with Disabilities that Affect Learning plan to meet with the faculty members involved in the project as well as the Director of Facilities to discuss the way forward.

c) From the Vice President
Academic

T. Herman spoke of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Acadia University and the Confederacy of the Mainland Mi'kmaq, in which the university has agreed to develop structures and processes to support the academic success of Aboriginal students and to create a more welcoming environment on campus.

T. Herman thanked the Honours Committee of Senate for organizing the Honours Forum that engaged both faculty and students and highlighted the centrality of research to the campus and the value placed on the honours programs.

T. Herman noted the increase in the number of returning students who have registered for courses for the next academic year compared to the same time last year.

G. Whitehall expressed concern about the ability of the bookstore to meet the academic needs of the university. T. Herman invited faculty to forward details about the issues to the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

In response to a question from J. Hennessy about the timeline for the results of the Academic Program Reviews to be presented to Senate, T. Herman stated that the Academic Program Review Committee will be meeting shortly to address the outstanding reviews and that formal meetings with Departments will be set where needed with the subsequent follow up being brought to Senate.

In response to a question from R. Cunningham about the impact on the academic sector of the 4% cut in funding from the provincial government, T. Herman noted that all sectors in the university would be affected by the decrease in funding. He noted that the university is in the middle of the budgeting process for the 2011/12 fiscal year.

3) New Business
a) Faculty of Theology –
Proposed Curriculum
Changes

It was moved by H. Gardner and seconded by B. Hagerman

That the Acadia University Senate approves the revised and new degrees, courses, and course descriptions recommended to it by the Acadia Divinity College Senate at its March 9, 2011 meeting as contained in Appendix A and the additional course codes approved on April 5, 2011.

B. Fawcett provided a summary of the curriculum changes noting that the curriculum has remained largely untouched since the founding of the Acadia Divinity College in 1968. The curriculum evaluation was carried out within the broader context of a review by the Association of Theological Schools, the primary accrediting agency for theological colleges in North America. In February 2011, the Acadia Divinity College received accreditation for another 10 years, without notation. The 18-month review process included consultation with stakeholder groups, including clergy, students, faculty and the Acadia Divinity College Board of Trustees. He noted that the revisions to

the Doctor of Ministry program were approved by the Acadia University Senate in 2010.

B. Fawcett spoke of the process for the review of the Master and Bachelor degrees, which resulted in the recommendations made by the Task Force on Curricular Renewal being approved by the Acadia Divinity College faculty on February 21, 2011 and by the Acadia Divinity College Senate on March 9, 2011.

The Faculty of Theology is proposing a 90 credit-hour Masters of Divinity degree with a variety of specializations, which is a standard degree required for ordination among most denominations. Also proposed is a 60 credit-hour Masters of Arts degree with both renewed and new specializations, which would be a first theological degree. The 30 credit-hour Masters of Arts is intended for those who already have an undergraduate honours degree, or those with a Masters of Divinity degree who wish to pursue further studies. A renewed curriculum is proposed for the current ordination-track Bachelor of Theology degree, while the broader Bachelor degree is a new degree.

B. Fawcett noted that the new curriculum offers more programs at less cost, will be taught within current faculty loads, and has generated student interest. More than half of the courses in course description document are new and the desired launch date is Fall 2011.

In response to a question from D. Seamone about the rationale for proposing a Bachelor's degree as opposed to a Diploma program, B. Fawcett explained that the Bachelor's degree currently exists within the Acadia Divinity College and has generated significant interest. The degree is not a traditional undergraduate degree in that it is primarily of interest to mature students seeking ordination. He also noted that the degree is offered at the request of the sponsoring denomination.

H. Gardner noted that the Association of Theological Schools does not accredit the Bachelor's degree but that the Acadia Divinity College has a relationship with the University in offering that degree. The Bachelor's degree is at the request of the Baptist denomination and in response to the needs of mature students entering the ministry who desire the experience gained through an undergraduate degree.

H. Gardner explained that the Acadia Divinity College also offers diploma and certificate programs for those who prefer one year of study. Previous educational background is also considered when admitting students to the Masters of Divinity degree, although students are strongly encouraged to obtain a full undergraduate degree prior to entering program.

In response to a question from A. Quema about the process whereby the new curriculum is able to offer more programs at less cost, B. Fawcett explained that many courses are cross-listed and serve several areas of specialization simultaneously. As well, not every course is required to be delivered every year; some are offered once every two years and some once every three years.

In response to a question from J. Hennessy about the duration of the Bachelor of Theology degree, B. Fawcett confirmed that the Bachelor of Theology is a 3-year degree, if taken on a full-time basis, comprised of one year of arts and

science, one year of academic theological studies, and one year of ministry studies.

In response to a question from R. Cunningham about the course load involved in launching the new curriculum in the Fall, B. Fawcett explained that although more than half of the courses are new to the Acadia Divinity College, no one faculty member will be teaching entirely new courses.

In response to a question from R. Perrins, B. Fawcett confirmed that the curriculum changes would take place only at the Acadia Divinity College and would not affect the programs delivered in Hong Kong and Nigeria.

G. Whitehall noted that a question had previously been raised in Senate concerning contemporary issues within the Faculty of Theology curriculum, including interfaith issues and issues of concern to the gay/lesbian/transgender community, and asked whether such contemporary issues have been incorporated within the curriculum changes. B. Fawcett noted that the changes in society were among the driving questions when examining the curriculum changes. A new required course is Christian Theology in a Pluralistic Context, which addresses such issues and that these discussions are also contained in a variety of courses within the curriculum.

MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Curriculum Committee – Proposed Curriculum Changes for the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Pure & Applied Science, and the Faculty of Professional Studies

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

R. Perrins spoke to that aspect of the motion concerning Women's and Gender Studies stating that the intent is to enhance Women's and Gender Studies and include it as a part of the Arts core. The motion also states that Co-operative Education be formally recognized as a degree. He confirmed that the co-op options will remain the same.

J. Hennessy spoke to that aspect of the motion dealing with the School of Music stating that the purpose is to establish a concurrent degree so that following five years of study, students can graduate with both a Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree and a Bachelor of Education degree. Because Senate approved a new curriculum for the School of Education that provided a greater degree of flexibility and permitted electives, the School of Music is able to cross-list some courses and both Schools have reduced overlap in course offerings. The first admission point of entry into the Music and Education Integrated Program is after the first year of study in the Bachelor of Music in Music Education program.

J. Hennessy clarified that the course codes listed as 4xx3 and 4xy3 in the proposed curriculum changes will be 43A3 and 43B3 respectively.

MOTION CARRIED

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

D. Silver noted the change is in the title of the course COMP 2853.

MOTION CARRIED.

It was moved by H. Hemming and seconded by R. Murphy *that the curriculum changes for the Faculty of Professional Studies be approved.*

H. Hemming spoke to the motion stating that the School of Business is creating two new majors with four new courses to support the program, as well as the removing four courses and modifying one course.

R. Murphy spoke to the motion stating that the School of Recreation Management and Kinesiology is introducing a new degree with an honours component for the existing Bachelor of Recreation Management with Environment and Sustainability Studies. R. Jotcham confirmed that once approved by Senate, new degree programs are submitted to MPHEC for approval.

L. Lusby expressed concern that the Bachelor of Recreation Management with Honours with Environment and Sustainability Studies does not include a course in science, and that there is an apparent lack of coordination in environmental courses. A. Quema noted that the Curriculum Committee had considered the concern when reviewing the Bachelor of Recreation Management in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. R. Murphy clarified that the Honours applies to the Recreation Management component of the degree.

In response to a question from G. Whitehall concerning the listing of Political Science courses dealing with politics of environment, H. Hemming confirmed that students will be able to select these courses depending on their choice of degree concentration.

MOTION CARRIED

c) Honorary Degrees
Committee – Nominations
for Professors Emeriti

On behalf of the Honorary Degrees Committee, S. Markham-Starr introduced the recommendations for Professors Emeriti.

P. Corkum noted that the procedures and criteria for the Professor Emeritus designation, as approved by Senate in 2005, state that the designation be awarded within three years of retirement. One of the retired faculty members recommended by the Committee is outside the approved time frame.

S. Markham-Starr responded that the Honorary Degrees Committee encouraged the nominating department to submit the nomination as Senate made a similar exception last year in awarding a Professor Emeritus status to a faculty member who had retired many years previous. In addition, the status of Professor Emeritus had not been well-advertised or considered in recent years.

In order for Senate to consider the nomination, it was moved by S. Markham-Starr and seconded by R. Perrins

*THAT the procedure for nomination of Professor Emeritus be amended to read "Nominations will **normally** be received by the Committee during the final year of the faculty member's appointment to the university, or for three years after the date of their retirement."*

Concern was expressed about amending the procedures without notice and full discussion in Senate. As there was not unanimous agreement to waive the seven-day notice of motion, the motion was withdrawn.

The Chair will suggest to the Chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee that the Committee bring to the May meeting of Senate a recommendation for amending the procedures for Professor Emeritus in order to consider the nomination that falls outside the current criteria.

It was confirmed that all candidates are full professors.

A vote by secret ballot resulted in majority support for the approval of Professor Emeritus status for the remaining three candidates.

d) Nominating Committee
i. Nominations for Chair and Deputy Chair

J. Hennessy reported that a call for nominations for the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of Senate had been issued to all Senators and the Faculty Councils. There were two nominations for Donna Seamone for Chair and the Nominating Committee is putting forth Diane Holmberg as a nomination for Deputy Chair. At the May meeting of Senate, three calls will be made for further nominations from the floor and a vote held.

ii. Call for nomination – various positions

J. Hennessy announced that nominations for the following vacancies on Senate Committees will be received until April 26th: Faculty Elections Officer; Chair, Library Committee; a representative from each of the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Pure & Applied Science, and the Faculty of Professional Studies on the Senate Executive; lay representative on Senate; Senator representatives on the By-Laws Committee, the Students with Disabilities that Affect Learning Committee; and Chair of the Tenure-Track Teaching Complement Allocation Committee.

e) Vice-President Academic – Deans' List

As Senate did not receive the full seven-day notice for the motion, the Chair asked whether there were any objections to entertaining the motion. There were no objections.

It was moved by T. Herman and seconded by P. Williams

That the Deans' List includes those full-time students (or those students with 9 hours or more with a Fall or Winter co-op placement) whose average falls in the range of the top 5% of non-graduating students in their degree, by faculty or school (based on those registered in and completed 30h or more in each academic year of undergraduate study of their first undergraduate degree).

T. Herman spoke to the motion stating that the intent is for the Deans' List to be more inclusive so that those students who are required to take a reduced course load, for example those serving on the SRC and students with disabilities, would be eligible.

J. Hennessy questioned the rationale for limiting inclusion on the Deans' List to those students studying for their first undergraduate degree.

It was moved by J. Hennessy and seconded by W. Slights that the motion be amended as follows:

(based on those registered in and completed 30h or more in each academic year of

undergraduate study of their first undergraduate degree).

AMENDMENT CARRIED.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.

- f) Vice-President Academic –
Course descriptions in the
print version of the
academic calendar

As Senate did not receive the full seven-day notice for the motion, the Chair asked whether there were any objections to entertaining the motion. There were no objections.

It was moved by T. Herman and seconded by H. Hemming

To retain full “Course Descriptions” section of the academic calendar online, and remove detailed course descriptions from “Course Descriptions” section of the print version, retaining and reorganizing necessary program notes.

T. Herman spoke to the motion stating that it is intended to reduce the size and cost of the print version and to ensure the currency of information regarding courses and course offerings as the calendar is printed just once/year. The online version of the calendar can be updated as needed to maintain currency. When the print and online versions do not agree, confusion results. As the print version of the calendar lists all courses, there is some misinterpretation that all courses are taught every year.

Eliminating the course descriptions in the print version would cut the size of the calendar in half, reduce the University’s carbon footprint, and lower printing costs.

P. Williams suggested that eliminating the course descriptions would create an opportunity to include more interesting components in the print calendar.

In response to a concern from D. Seamone about the inability of the online version to cross-link course descriptions so that they appear as fulfilling course requirements in different programs of study, R. Jotcham noted that the feature could form part of the online calendar but that the capability does not exist within the online timetable.

Several concerns were expressed about the motion, including:

- the print calendar may be preferred by secondary school guidance counsellors as well as prospective students and their parents when comparing course offerings between different universities
- difficulties in locating desired information online
- the availability of resources to create the online version

G. Whitehall suggested that the University transition to an online version. Offering the online calendar while retaining the print version would allow an opportunity for an evaluation of the online calendar.

R. Perrins suggested keeping the course descriptions for the 1st year courses.

T. Herman withdrew the motion, stating that the suggestions provided will be considered and that the topic will return to Senate at a later date.

g) Academic Planning and
Priorities Committee

As the meeting had reached the established end time of 6:00 pm, the Chair suggested that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee be deferred until the May meeting of Senate. There was no dissension.

5) Adjournment

On motion of P. Doerr and seconded by G. Whitehall, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

K. Slater Padovani, Recording Secretary