



Minutes of the Senate meeting of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

A meeting of the Senate of Acadia University occurred on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 beginning at 4:00 p.m. with Chair Paul Doerr presiding and 38 present and 1 guest.

- 1) Approval of Agenda **Motion to approve the agenda, moved by R. Perrins, seconded by R. Worvill.**

MOTION CARRIED.

- 2) Minutes of the Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 **Motion to approve the Minutes of Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 as distributed. Moved by P. Williams, seconded by J. Banks.**

The Chair asked for any errors, omissions or changes to the Minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES CARRIED.

3) **Announcements**

a) **From the Chair of Senate**

Regrets were received from D. Seamone, D. MacKinnon, H. Hemming, S. Hewitt, J. Guiney Yallop, H. Gardner, D. Green, C. Lathem, H. Rode, S. McCullough, and A. Biro.

The Chair welcomed A. Robbins from the Acadia Divinity College (attending Senate in H. Gardner's absence).

The Chair expressed thanks from Senate to B. Hagerman who was completing his three year term as a Board of Governor representative on Senate.

b) **From the VP Academic**

R. Perrins updated Senate on events that had occurred in the three Faculties.

In the Faculty of Arts L. Dalton had been appointed to the Board of the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council; a partnership between the cultural sector and the government of Nova Scotia designed to foster better understanding and decision-making. The Council provides advice and leadership to government through the department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

The Acadia Theatre Company production of "Sunday on the Rocks", directed by A. Migliarisi, would be opening in November.

In the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science C. White, Adjunct Professor at Acadia and Senior Geologist at the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources was awarded the 2014 Provincial and Territorial Geologists Medal. The winner of this medal was selected by an independent evaluation committee consisting of a representative from industry, academia and the Geological Survey of Canada.

In the Faculty of Professional Studies School of Education, M. Corbett and D. Beck from the University of Tromso, Norway, co-taught a course in 'Rural Education Internationally' to students on both campuses, making use of Adobe Connect technology. Two Acadia students travelled with M. Corbett to Tromso during the Study break and the following week two students visited from Tromso and spent time on the Acadia campus.

The Department of Community Development and Student Services were sponsoring a performance by The Park Bench Players on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup>. This was an award winning theatre group of people recovering from schizophrenia and other mental illnesses. Their theatre performance shares the stories of their lives and promotes a message of inclusion and community building around mental health issues. This evening was the keynote event for a two-day B-Well Conference organized by the Community Development Student Society with support from the ASU, Residence Life and Student Services.

J. Slight's requested information about 2 + 2 credit arrangements between Community Colleges and Acadia that were being discussed.

R. Perrins stated that these were being discussed and that once they were fully developed, information would be forthcoming.

D. Benoit stated that if the question referred to students transferring into Acadia from another institution, there were several arrangements in place both in Computer Science (with institutions in China), and that also Business and Community Development operated with formal 2 + 2 agreements in place.

R. Perrins agreed that individual transfer students may have their transfer courses evaluated, and that also formal arrangements were in place. Any new formal agreements would come to Senate for approval.

**c) From the President**

President Ivany spoke about the ongoing process with the Memorandum of Understanding and the Bi-lateral relationship with the Province, noting that the Department of Labour and Advanced Education had been conducting a consultation process over the last month relative to the university sector. President Ivany reminded Senators that in his previous briefing to Senate he had indicated that the themes of sustainability and accountability would figure prominently and this had proven to be the case.

President Ivany reported that Dr. Mario Pinto, the incoming President of NSERC, was on campus recently. There was a consultation session with representation from the Acadia faculty and also with an external partnership group. One issue that was discussed was a request for changes in the granting councils to make it more well-aligned to an institution with a mission such as Acadia. In particular, the discussion focused on the particular issues regarding the research endeavour in a primarily undergraduate institution. There seemed to be greater recognition of the ecosystem argument that Acadia had been making around the particular niche that the institution occupied. President Ivany was hopeful that a substantial conversation could be held on this issue during consideration of his Annual report at the December meeting of Senate.

J. Slights requested financial information from President Ivany with respect to costs being incurred by the University during the current contract negotiations with the Faculty Association.

The Chair ruled that the question was out of order because it dealt with a bargaining issue.

L. Aylward asked whether the consultations with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education were purely of an information session nature or whether there had been an opportunity to respond in a two way manner to issues such as sustainability and accountability with the Province.

President Ivany responded that the consultation session that he had attended had been limited to a prescribed set that had been prepared as part of the consultation process. President Ivany noted that meetings had been held with other groups such as Student Union bodies, and Faculty Associations.

President Ivany noted that at the system level, discussion tended to focus narrowly, around the financial conundrum faced by the Province in terms of how much money it had available for universities compared with the current cost structure amongst the Nova Scotia universities. The Province had indicated that there was a \$50 million gap between the two and was now focusing on how to close that gap.

President Ivany expected that the Province would come out of this consultation phase and move into a more focused phase that concentrated on how to close the funding gap.

Lyndsay Sprado asked whether any possible solutions had been discussed with relation to the funding gap.

President Ivany stated that one of the problems was that in general the costs of institutions in Nova Scotia had escalated at a rate higher than the CPI for several years. This was untenable over time. It was recognised that institutions needed to do something to prevent their operation costs increasing faster than the rate of CPI but President Ivany recognised that a much more detailed discussion would need to be carried out to determine what would be required to make each institution sustainable in the long run.

President Ivany noted the significant challenge that the Province of Nova Scotia faced, along with the historical development of the university sector in the Province, which was large on a per capita basis. The Federal Government transfers money to the Province on a per capita basis, rather than on a per student basis. This policy alone puts Nova Scotia into a difficult situation in terms of funding higher education.

L. Murphy explained that at the consultation sessions with students the government was gathering information from a student perspective about the Province as a whole and not specific to Acadia. Discussion was therefore very theoretical and not institution specific. L. Murphy expected that the same consultations would be going on with other universities and student unions throughout the Province, and that once the input was gathered; the government might meet again with students to discuss their findings.

President Ivany agreed and also pointed out that this round of discussion had the potential to result in decisions that could have a dramatic effect on the

post-secondary system in the Province. The issue of differentiation remains prominent and President Ivany again asked that the work of the Academic Planning Committee to be factored into the work of Senate.

- 4) Priority Items
  - a) Report from By-laws Committee

B. Anderson reported with a further follow up to the Annual Report from the By-laws committee that was presented to Senate in June 2014. B. Anderson noted that the committee had mapped all of the committees of Senate and had created 'clusters' because in several cases the mandates overlapped one another or had similarities. B. Anderson noted that the intention was now to meet with representatives of those clusters to discuss how people could work together more effectively and also how they might manage the work load if it was proving to be too much. There were opportunities for overlap and for consolidation. Invitations had been sent out to all of the cluster groups and the By-laws committee had so far met with two of them. The Planning group cluster meeting had resulted in a robust conversation which provided them with information to use when meeting with the other clusters.

B. Anderson felt that the more people that agreed to provide input and feedback, the more opportunities would be opened up for committee members to work together. B. Anderson reminded Senators that the mandate of the By-laws committee was to recommend options for a more effective and efficient Senate committee structure, keeping as a foundation of their work the Senate terms of reference. The By-laws committee was hearing that streamlining the committee process was an important outcome to Senators as long as the work of Senate could still be achieved. Senators were encouraged to accept the invitation to meet with the By-laws committee.

B. Anderson expected that the By-laws committee will have a good sense of where they are going by the December meeting of Senate.

- b) Strategic Research Plan

The Chair noted that D. MacKinnon was not able to attend but had submitted a brief report which was read out. The Senate Research Committee had prepared a draft of the Strategic Research Plan and initiated campus consultations. The alternative strategy proposed to and agreed by Senate in December 2013 involved an analysis of a 5-year period of grant and contract activity through Research and Graduate Studies, as a means of identifying research theme or capacity areas.

Information was gathered through the winter of 2014 but in addition, D. MacKinnon met with all Heads and Directors on an individual basis to discuss research in their units. Using the information gleaned from Research and Graduate Studies, and the individual meetings, the Senate Research committee met in the spring in a workshop to identify research themes or capacities. The document was written over the summer and subject to some changes resulting from feedback from the campus consultations, the committee plans to bring a draft of the Strategic Research Plan to Senate in December 2014.

- 5) New Business
  - a) Motion from the Academic Planning Committee  
(Attached)

***Motion that Whereas the Academic Planning Committee (APC) is currently conducting a campus-wide consultation as directed by the Senate on the position-request ranking process, and***

***Whereas this initiative will not be completed before early January 2015, and***

*Whereas the APC also wishes to ensure that departments, schools, programs, the Faculties, and the Library, have an appropriate amount of time to prepare their submissions,*

*The APC moves that the submission date for the ranked Faculty and Library submissions be changed from 15 February to 15 April, and that the APC will present its recommendations at the May meeting of Senate.*

**Moved by R. Perrins, seconded by P. Williams.**

R. Perrins spoke to the motion and stated that the approach was rushed last year. This would allow departments, schools and the Library more time to make their recommendations. The APC would now have less time and bring their recommendations to Senate at the May meeting, thus allowing Senate longer to deliberate.

L. Aylward asked what affect these date changes would have on the hiring process.

R. Perrins pointed out that there would be no negative affect because in the past the decision of the APC had come to Senate in June with the approval to hire from the VP Academic coming out in the fall. This would allow Senate to consider the hiring process in May and in June if more time was needed.

H. Wylie asked which month the recommendations had usually been brought to Senate.

R. Perrins stated it was normally June.

H. Wylie felt that during May and June many faculty were away at conferences and that this was one of the more important decisions made by Senators.

R. Perrins noted that in fact the May meeting of Senate was one of the best attended because it was held shortly before Convocation.

MOTION APPROVED.

6. Any Other Business

There being no other business there was a Motion to Adjourn at 4:40 p.m., moved by J. Banks.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

---

R. Hare, Recording Secretary

**Motion from the Academic Planning Committee**

Whereas the Academic Planning Committee (APC) is currently conducting a campus-wide consultation as directed by the Senate on the position-request ranking process, and

Whereas this initiative will not be completed before early January 2015, and

Whereas the APC also wishes to ensure that departments, schools, programs, the Faculties, and the Library, have an appropriate amount of time to prepare their submissions,

The APC moves that the submission date for the ranked Faculty and Library submissions be changed from 15 February to 15 April, and that the APC will present its recommendations at the May meeting of Senate.