

SENATE MINUTES

The regular meeting of Senate was held on April 9, 2002, at 5:00 p.m. in Room E5004, Education Building.

81. PRESENT

The President, Dr. E. Simpson, Dr. C. Loomis, Professor A. Fowler, Interim Dean J. Black, Acting Dean A. Collins, Mr. G. Collins, Mr. R. Ellis, Dr. S. Birnie-Lefcovitch, Dr. T. Gordon, Interim Dean C. Jablonski, Dean R. Lucas, Dr. C. Orchard, Dr. P. Fisher (for Mr. L. O'Reilly), Dr. M. Haddara (for Dean R. Seshadri), Dean L. Walker, Ms. D. Whalen, Dr. J. Ashton, Dr. G. Bassler, Dr. M. Brosnan, Dr. C. Couturier, Professor M. Coyne, Dr. J. deBruyn, Mr. E. Durnford, Dr. D. Goldstein, Dr. R. Gosine, Mr. M. Kara, Professor K. Knowles, Professor V. Kuester, Ms. K. Lippold, Dr. D. McKay, Dr. M. Mulligan, Dr. M. Murray, Dr. D. Neville, Dr. H. Pike, Ms. D. Rehner, Dr. V. Richardson, Dr. D. Rideout, Dr. G. Sabin, Dr. W. Schipper, Dr. C. Sharpe, Dr. P. Sinclair, Dr. M. Skipton, Dr. D. Thompson, Dr. D. Treslan, Mr. J. Tucker, Dr. J. Usher, Professor D. Walsh, Dr. B. Watson, Ms. R. Vernescu, Mr. S. Sullivan, Mr. J. Clements, Ms. J. Morgan, Ms. C. Powell, Mr. M. Spencer.

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr. C. Higgs, Dr. R. Adamec, Dr. G. Clark, Dr. J. Evans, Professor M. Hackett, Dr. D. Kimberley, Dr. J. McLean.

83. MINUTES

The Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 12, 2002, were taken as read and confirmed.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SENATE

It was agreed by separate motion where necessary, the report of the Executive Committee be approved as follows:

84. Report of the Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial

Senate moved into a closed session for this item of business in accordance with Section IV.E.2. SENATE MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES of the Handbook of Senate By-Laws and Procedures which reads:

Matters of a confidential nature, including honorary degrees, shall be discussed in closed session; observers are not permitted to attend closed sessions.

The President advised Senators with regard to the current status of honorary degree recipients for the Spring Convocations to be held at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College and the St. John's campus.

85. Report of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

85.1 Faculty of Education

Page 278, 2001–2002 Calendar, under heading Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Education (Primary/Elementary), subheading Focus Areas: English, amend last line to read as follows:

"–Six credit hours chosen from 2150, 2151, 2152...3155–3158"

85.2 School of Human Kinetics and Recreation

Page 320, 2001–2002 Calendar, under the headings Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Kinesiology Honours (Co-operative) and Regulations for the Degree of the Bachelor of Kinesiology Honours, delete Clause 3.a) and replace with the following:

"3.a) an overall average of 75% or better in the Kinesiology, Physical Education or Recreation courses required for the degree; and"

86. Report of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies

86.1 Master of Education – Teaching and Learning Program

Page 474, 2001–2002 Calendar, under heading 2. Teaching and Learning Studies, following subheading a) Admission Requirements, delete Clause i) and renumber Clauses ii) and iii) as i) and ii).

87. Scheduling the Fall Semester

At a meeting held on November 13, 2001, Senate reviewed recommendations from the Senate Advisory Committee on the University Timetable that, as of Fall Semester 2001, the fall semester break be discontinued and the fall semester scheduled as follows:

1. Classes shall start on the Thursday following Labour Day
2. No classes shall be held on the Thanksgiving Day and Remembrance Day holidays
3. Two weekdays and two weekend days shall elapse between the last day of classes and the first day scheduled for final examinations.

In light of the ensuing discussion, during which there were several calls for an examination of other possibilities and further consultation before deciding on this important question, it was agreed that a motion to approve these recommendations be tabled.

Subsequently, the Vice-President (Academic) asked the Senate Advisory Committee on the University Timetable to identify "other possibilities particularly those designed to enhance student success at Memorial" and to "consult widely, particularly with student leaders".

A memorandum has now been received, dated 15 March 2002, to the Vice-President (Academic) from the Senate Advisory Committee on the University Timetable advising that following consultation with the leaders of MUNSU, the Grenfell College Student Union and the Graduate Students' Union, the following new possibility has been identified:

Classes would start on the Wednesday following Labour Day

The Thanksgiving holiday would be extended by one day and would become the Fall semester break (i.e. no classes would be held on Monday and Tuesday)

No classes would be held on the Remembrance Day Holiday

Classes would end on a Friday and exams would commence on the following Wednesday giving students four days of review and preparation

It was moved by Dr. Simpson, seconded by Dean Lucas and carried that the original motion be lifted from the table.

Mr. Collins advised Senate that since the new proposal does not eliminate the fall semester break, no action is required by Senate, and the proposal falls within the purview of the Senate Advisory Committee on the University Timetable and the Vice-President (Academic).

It was then moved by Dr. Simpson, and seconded by Dr. Mulligan and carried that the original motion of November 13, 2001 to approve the previous proposal be withdrawn from consideration.

Dean Walker commented that when the original proposal was discussed in November, 2001, several Senators expressed their concern that many students, particularly rural first-year students who may have difficulty making the transition from high school to first year, would be unable to return home for the mid-term break. However, students are supportive of the new proposal. Dean Walker noted that Memorial has to be an inviting place for the social and academic development of students and orientation is a critical part of this. The challenge now is to incorporate orientation into University life in a more integrated way, and creativity must be shown in encouraging students to do well both academically and socially.

It was noted that the previous motion which was tabled at the meeting of Senate held on November 13, 2001 consisted of two parts, the second of which was the formal inclusion of an end-of-semester study break of at least two working days in the definition of a semester.

It was agreed that the Senate Advisory Committee on the University Timetable be asked to prepare a motion for the consideration of Senate amending the 1974/02/12 resolution of Senate by formalizing the practice of holding a study break between the end of lectures and the start of exams for Fall and Winter Semesters.

88. Remarks from the Chair – Questions/Comments from Senators

The President reported to Senate as follows:

* The Faculty of Business Administration has just been advised that it has obtained accreditation from the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business. The Faculty is the only school of business in Atlantic Canada and one of only eight business schools in Canada to be accredited by AACSB. Senate congratulated the Faculty and all who helped in presenting the case to the AACSB.

* The Advisory Board for the Atlantic Investment Fund met in April in St. John's when most of its work was completed. The recommendations have been forwarded to the Minister and decisions are expected in the near future.

* The announcement to proceed with the White Rose project by the owners, principally Husky Oil, includes provision for \$12 million for education, training and development before first oil. In this regard the President met with Mr. John Lau, President of Husky Oil to acquaint him with Memorial.

* The Speech from the Throne and the Budget speech in March were both favourable to the University with recognition of the importance of increased funding support for the University. Government is to approve money which should enable the University to have a balanced budget or a budget with a shortfall which is pleasingly small

* Government also announced that \$3.5 million will be made available to help students, but this money will not be automatically applied as a tuition reduction. Instead, the Government has asked that roundtable discussions be held to determine how that money can best be used for the benefit of students. Memorial will be advised of any recommendations which result from those discussions. The President suggested that student Senators should make their opinions known since the Minister is interested in hearing opinions regarding how the money should be used. While no date has been set for the round table, it will occur in the near future.

* Included in the Speech from the Throne was an announcement by the Government regarding plans to establish a new Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science. Although no decision has yet

been made on where this is to be located, there have been some suggestions that it should be located in the Corner Brook area, because of the programmes offered at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College and the Bonne Bay facility. While not an institute of the University, Memorial will be asked to participate at some stage.

* There will be a meeting on April 11 for those interested in petroleum research and development and environmental issues, to discuss the creation of an Atlantic Canada R & D organization.

* The President thanked the members of the University in general and the School of Music in particular for having participated in very large numbers in African Sanctus and the nationally televised Easter service at Gower Street Church which were both well attended.

89. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5.25 p.m.