

SENATE MINUTES

A special meeting of Senate was held on April 9, 2002, at 4:00 p.m. in Room E5004, Education Building.

77. 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.

Dr. Michael Collins, Associate Vice-President (Academic) was also in attendance.

The President noted the election of the following members of the GSU Executive and welcomed them as members of Senate:

Ms. Roxana Vernescu, President

Ms. Sonja Allen, Vice-President Academic

The President also advised Senate that the term of office for graduate student Senator, Mr. Shannon Sullivan, has been extended until March 31, 2003 and the term of office for the following undergraduate student Senators has been extended until May 1, 2002:

Mr. Jamie Baker

Ms. Gail Bell

Mr. Chad Blundon

78. 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.

79. The Impact of Internationalization on Memorial University

Dr. Michael Collins, Associate Vice-President (Academic), led the discussion by giving a presentation entitled The Impact of Internationalization on Memorial University.

Dr. Collins introduced the following individuals who were in attendance for the discussion:

Ms. Susan Vaughan, Centre for International Business Studies

Dr. Brian Johnston, Director of Housing, Food and Conference Services

Dr. Peter Fisher, Head, Division of Degree Studies and Research, Marine Institute

Ms. Lillian Beresford, International Student Advisor, Student Affairs and Services

Dr. Anthony Dickinson, Acting Director of the International Centre, and Ms. Janet Benger, Director, English as a Second Language Programme, were unable to attend.

Following the presentation, Dr. Collins invited questions and comments from Senators.

A broad ranging discussion involving a large number of Senators then took place. The following is a list, illustrative but not exhaustive, of the questions asked and the comments made:

* How does internationalization fit in with the Strategic Plan which appears to call for localization? How will curriculum development as an integral part of internationalization be supported in the present financial climate?

While final plans have not been made, it is anticipated that part of the international student fees will go to units to fund the internationalization process.

Projections show that student numbers in Newfoundland are declining and it is unlikely those places can be filled by Newfoundland students or by students from other parts of Canada. If Memorial can achieve its target of 1200 international students we will have increased funds available each year to invest in the support of our international students and students generally.

With regard to localization of programmes, it was suggested that emphasis should be placed on topics of local relevance, but also where possible on topics which have international significance as well. The development of the oil and gas industry was cited as an example where our own students may want to work in that industry here, but may then be able to work elsewhere in the world as well. Similarly international students would also be able to work here or internationally.

It was noted that there are many generous scholarships for good students, including among others, government scholarships and industry scholarships. For example, it is a practice in Kuwait to identify the best undergraduate students and recruit them to earn doctorate degrees abroad to then return to Kuwait to take up junior faculty positions. However, it was also recognized that many students who come from developing countries may not be able to afford the fees, and perhaps Memorial should consider awarding scholarships or research assistantships for some of these students.

* It was noted that Eastern Europe does not appear to be included in the regions in which recruitment will take place.

A decision has not yet been made as to the countries where our recruitment efforts will be focused. Memorial is open to all countries but will focus on some countries in particular. The President noted that he would be pleased to receive suggestions from Senators.

* Will graduate students be funded with international fellowships or will they be funded by faculty research grants etc.?

In addition to the funding possibilities noted above, a number of grants, such as Commonwealth Fellowships, are available to students that have relationships with other countries. When application packages are sent to Commonwealth students, information on how to apply for such funding could be included in the packages.

* While a large number of Memoranda of Understanding with other universities are in place, information regarding these is not well promulgated to the University community.

A catalogue listing these agreements would be useful.

Similarly information regarding funding for students wishing to attend universities in other countries should be available to students in a central location.

* If a faculty member in the Faculty of Medicine treats a foreign patient in a non-emergency setting, unless they have previously signed a waiver, any litigation would reside in the country of the patient. What coverage does the faculty member have from the University?

Information will be sought from legal counsel regarding malpractice insurance for Faculty of Medicine faculty members.

The President then thanked Dr. Collins for leading this discussion on the impact of internationalization on Memorial. He noted that the challenge of deciding which of the very wide range of activities should be undertaken will be examined in the coming months and a further report will be made to Senate.

Copies of the slides used in Dr. Collins' presentation are appended to these Minutes.

80. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.