

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
SENATE

The regular meeting of Senate was held on January 12, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in Room E5004, Education Building.

58. PRESENT

The President Pro Tempore, Dr. R. Tremblay, Dr. H. Pike, Dr. M. Abrahams, Mr. G. Blackwood, Ms. L. Busby, Dr. A. Card, Mr. G. Collins, Dr. N. Golfman, Dr. T. Gordon, Dr. L. Hensman, Ms. K. Kennedy, Professor E. Oliver, Dr. J. Quaicoe, Dr. N. Roy, Dean L. Walker, Dean W. Zerbe, Dr. S. Abhyankar, Professor M. Beaton, Professor D. Carroll, Dr. J.J. Connor, Dr. J. Connor, Dr. D. Foster, Dr. S. Ghazala, Dr. G. George, Dr. D. Haynes, Dr. D. Kelly, Dr. S. Kocabiyik, Dr. C. Kovacs, Professor V. Kuester, Dr. P. Marino, Dr. D. McKay, Dr. K. Mearow, Dr. W. Okshevsky, Dr. D. Peters, Mr. B. Riggs, Professor G. Riser, Mr. R. Roche, Dr. A. Rose, Professor W. Schipper, Dr. C. Sharpe, Professor D. Walsh, Dr. E. Warkentin, Dr. P. Wilson, Dr. J. Wyse, Mr. S. Despres, Ms. C. Jalbert, Mr. C. Campbell, Mr. B. Evoy, Mr. R. Marshall, Ms. H. Morris, Mr. T. Randell, Ms. A. Hannaford, Ms. R. Winsor.

Dr. Loomis welcomed Dr. Wilfred Zerbe, the new Dean of Business Administration effective January 1, 2010, and thanked Dr. Dale Foster for performing the role of Acting Dean over the past few months.

Dr. Loomis welcomed Dr. Sharon Peters, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, effective January 1 - April 30, 2010.

Dr. Loomis welcomed Ms. Ann Marie Vaughan, Director of Distance Education and Learning Technologies, as an observer as agreed by Senate at its last meeting.

Dr. Loomis noted that since our last meeting, Dr. Shelly Birnie-Lefcovitch resigned as Director of the School of Social Work effective December 1, 2009, and the process for the establishment of a Search Committee for a new Director is underway. Ms. Ellen Oliver has agreed to accept an extension of her appointment as Acting Director of the School of Social Work until a permanent Director is appointed.

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr. R. Gosine, Dean D. Dibbon, Dr. J. McFetridge-Durdle, Dr. S. Peters, Dr. F. Balisch, Dr. J. Brunton, Dr. A. Fiech, Dr. G. Jenner, Dr. D. Kimberley.

60. MINUTES

It was moved by Dr. Foster, seconded by Dr. Gordon and carried that the Minutes of the special meeting held on November 17, 2009, and the regular meeting held on December 8, 2009 be taken as read and confirmed.

61. REPORT OF THE SENATE 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:

Report of the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial (cont'd)

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

The names of 12 candidates recommended by the Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial were presented to the Senate for awarding of doctoral degrees honoris causa. Members were given the opportunity to discuss the merits of each of the candidates before voting. Upon voting by a show of hands, each candidate was approved by at least a two-thirds majority vote.

It was agreed to ask the Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial to examine and comment on the status of abstaining from voting in the context of regulation V.A.6 of the Criteria and Procedures for Honorary Degrees which reads as follows:

“At a meeting of the Senate held in-camera, the Report will be considered, provision will be made for a discussion of the merits of each candidate before voting takes place; the names of those recommended by the Committee shall be voted on individually by show of hands and no degree shall be conferred unless the recommendation is given the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of all members present.”

Several Senators suggested that abstaining from voting in this context is in effect a negative vote. Since in the case of some nominations, individual Senators may genuinely wish to abstain from voting, the procedures should be amended to allow for this possibility without impacting negatively on the nomination.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Professor Walsh, seconded by Dr. Golfman, and carried that the consent agenda, comprising the items listed in 62 below, be approved as follows:

62. REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

62.1 Medieval Studies

Page 144, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.23.1 Major Program, amend clause 2 to read as follows:

“2. Six credit hours from Medieval Studies 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004 and 3006.”

Page 144, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.23.2 Minor Program, amend clause 2 to read as follows:

“2. Six credit hours from Medieval Studies 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004 and 3006.”

Page 145, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.23.3 Course Descriptions, change Medieval Studies 3004 from an inactive course to an active course and insert the following course description:

Medieval Studies (cont'd)

“**3004 Medieval Philosophy** (same as Philosophy 3760). Developments in Philosophy from Augustine to Ockham.”

Page 145, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.23.3 Course Descriptions, delete “3005 Medieval Latin - inactive course.”

Page 145, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.23.3 Course Descriptions, following the entry for 4000-4020, insert the following new course:

“**4021 Medieval Latin** (same as Classics 4202)”

Page 145, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.23.3 Course Descriptions, List A: Other Courses Approved for Inclusion in Medieval Studies Major and Minor Programs Subject to the Foregoing Regulations, delete Classics 2205 and 2305 from the list of 2000-level courses and add the following courses to the list of 3000-level courses:

“Classics 3200, Classics 3300 and Philosophy 3790”

Page 145, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.23.3 Course Descriptions, List A: Other Courses Approved for Inclusion in Medieval Studies Major and Minor Programs Subject to the Foregoing Regulations, add “History 4695” to the list of 4000-level courses.

62.2 Department of Anthropology

Page 94, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.2.2 Honours Degree, amend clause 2 to read as follows:

“2. Students intending an Honours program are required to complete 60 credit hours in Anthropology following the requirements for the Major Option, including Anthropology 4995 (or 4996). Students must also meet the requirements of the **Regulations for the Honours Degree of Bachelor of Arts.**”

Page 94, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.2.3 Regulations for Joint Honours, Anthropology and another Major Subject, amend clause 2.d. to read as follows:

“2.d. Fifteen credit hours in Anthropology courses at the 4000 level, with a grade of 70 or better. These must include Anthropology 4410 and one of 4000 or 4412.”

62.3 Department of French and Spanish

Page 124, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.16.9 Course Descriptions, amend the prerequisites of the French versions of 4100, 4101 and 4120-4129 to read as follows:

“Préalables: Français 3100 et 3101 ou Français 3102 et 3103”

Page 124, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.16.9 Course Descriptions, amend the prerequisites of the English versions of 4100, 4101 and 4120-4129 to read as follows:

Department of French and Spanish (cont'd)

“Prerequisites: FREN 3100 and 3101 or FREN 3102 and 3103”

62.4 Department of Political Science

Page 150, 2009-2010 Calendar, under the heading 8.27.2 Previous Calendar Regulations, amend to read as follows:

“In accordance with.....such as Minors and concentrations, the corresponding renumbered course.....for 2710.”

Page 151, 2009-2010 Calendar, following the heading 8.27.5 Minor in Political Science, add the following new section 8.27.6 Concentrations and re-number subsequent sections accordingly:

“8.27.6 Concentrations

While meeting the requirements for a B.A. (Hons) or a B.A. (Major) in Political Science, candidates may optionally select courses in one of two formal concentrations which, if completed, will be noted on the student’s transcript. A possible course pattern is presented in Table 4: Course Pattern for Optional Political Science Concentration.

1. Political Science (Canadian Government)
As part of their course selection, candidates opting for a Canadian Government concentration will complete a minimum of 24 credit hours in POSC courses emphasizing public policy (second digit is “6”) and/or Canadian politics (second digit is “8”). These POSC x6xx and/or x8xx credit hours must include 2600 and 2800, and at least 6 credit hours at the 4000 level.

2. Political Science (Global Studies)
As part of their course selection, candidates opting for a Global Studies concentration will complete a minimum of 24 credit hours in POSC courses emphasizing international politics (second digit is “2”) and/or comparative politics (second digit is “3”). These POSC x2xx and/or x3xx credit hours must include 2200 and 2300, and at least 6 credit hours at the 4000 level. Up to 6 credit hours from Political theory POSC courses (second digit is “1”) at the 31xx and/or 41xx level may be included among the 24 credit hours.

Table 4: Course Pattern for Optional Political Science Concentration

Concentration	Courses for Honours or Major (POSC)
No concentration	Honours: see Table 1 Major: see Table 2
Canadian Government	Follow applicable Table 1 or 2, choosing 2600, three 36xx/38xx and three 46xx/48xx courses.
Global Studies	Follow applicable Table 1 or 2, choosing 2200 and 2300, three 32xx/33xx and three 42xx/43xx courses. Up to two 31xx and/or 41xx courses may be included.”

REGULAR AGENDA

63. Student Appeals Policy

A memorandum dated December 18, 2009, was received from the Secretary, Executive Committee of Senate, with a document prepared by a member of the Committee recommending that a faculty or school should not have the right to appeal decisions made by a Senate Committee in the student appeals process. The Executive Committee of Senate approved the following motion:

The Executive Committee of Senate agreed to support in principle the arguments outlined in this document and forward the matter to Senate for discussion.

During a lengthy discussion which then ensued the following points were made:

- Precedent already exists in that Senate has heard several appeals from academic units over the past number of years against decisions made by committees of Senate granting student appeals.
- Neither the current appeals regulations nor the new appeals regulations approved by Senate on December 8, 2009, reference the right of academic units to appeal decisions of Senate Committees. As a result students involved in the appeals process are not made aware of this possibility.
- Senators suggested that legal advice be sought on the application of administrative law to the practice of academic units appealing decisions of Senate Committees. It was also suggested that a review of practices in other Canadian universities be sought.

It was moved by Dr. George, seconded by Professor Schipper, that the existing practise of allowing both parties (i.e. the student and academic units) to challenge the decisions of academic appeal bodies be upheld and that the regulations be amended by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies and the Academic Council of Graduate Studies to provide for this practise.

It was then moved by Dr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Ghazala, and carried by majority vote to table the motion pending advice from legal counsel as well as review of practices at other Canadian universities.

64. Senate Committee on Academic Appeals - Membership and Terms of Reference

Mr. Bert Riggs, Chair of the Committee on Committees, advised Senate that the Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, to discuss this item.

It was moved by Mr. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Collins, and carried to empower the Executive Committee of Senate to approve the membership and terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Academic Appeals should it receive a recommendation from the Committee on Committees.

65. Appeals to Senate

Dr. Loomis noted that several members of Senate have had previous involvement in the following student appeals by virtue of membership on the

Appeals to Senate (cont'd)

Executive Committee of Senate, on the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, on the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies or its committees or as members of academic units. In this regard, he observed that one of the principles of natural justice and fairness is that there should be no individual sitting in judgement on an appeal at a higher level who has already been a party to the decision at a lower level. In the interests of fairness and natural justice he suggested that those Senators who have had previous dealings with these cases be available to provide information pertinent to the case and to answer questions raised by Senators but should not be making motions or voting on motions regarding these appeals.

- A. ECS 2009-10: #3 - Appeal against the decision of the Executive Committee of Senate, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies and the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science to deny the student promotion to Academic Term 3.

At the last meeting of Senate, it was agreed to give this student the option of having his/her appeal:

- 1) considered under the new regulation as approved by Senate on December 8, 2009, in which case the student would have the right to appear in person before the Senate Committee on Academic Appeals, and have the right to be accompanied by another person to assist them with their presentation. The student was advised that the new process could take several months before he/she would know the final decision of Senate.

or

- 2) considered under the old regulations in which case the written appeal would be considered by Senate at this meeting, following which the student will be advised of the outcome.

The student has informed Senate that he/she wishes to have the appeal considered under the new regulations. It was moved by Dr. McKay, seconded by Mr. Campbell, and carried to forward the appeal to the Senate Committee on Academic Appeals noting the student's request that the appeal be dealt with "before April as to be able to plan effectively for future semesters".

- B. ECS 2009-10: #6 - Appeal against the decision of the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies not to allow the student to proceed to an oral examination of their thesis.

At the last meeting of Senate, it was agreed to give this student the option of having his/her appeal:

- 1) considered under the new regulation as approved by Senate on December 8, 2009, in which case the student would have the right to appear in person before the Senate Committee on Academic Appeals, and have the right to be accompanied by another person to assist them with their presentation. The student was advised that the new process could take several months before he/she would know the final decision of Senate.

or

Appeals to Senate (cont'd)

- 2) considered under the old regulations in which case the written appeal would be considered by Senate at this meeting, following which the student will be advised of the outcome.

The student has informed Senate that he/she would like the appeal considered by the Senate at this meeting.

It was moved by Dr. Foster, seconded by Dr. Hensman, to deny this student's appeal.

Following careful consideration of this student's case, the motion to deny the appeal was carried by a majority vote.

Because of their involvement at an earlier level of the appeals process, a number of Senators abstained from voting.

- C. ECS 2009-10:#7 - The Faculty of Business Administration is appealing the decision of the Executive Committee of Senate that this student's appeal be approved.

At the last meeting of Senate, it was agreed to give this student the option of having his/her appeal:

- 1) considered under the new regulation as approved by Senate on December 8, 2009, in which case the student would have the right to appear in person before the Senate Committee on Academic Appeals, and have the right to be accompanied by another person to assist them with their presentation. The student was advised that the new process could take several months before he/she would know the final decision of Senate.

or

- 2) considered under the old regulations in which case the written appeal would be considered by Senate at this meeting, following which the student will be advised of the outcome.

The student has informed Senate that he/she wishes to have the appeal considered under the new Regulations. It was agreed to forward the appeal to the Senate Committee on Academic Appeals noting the student's email message to Senate which read as follows: "I wish to attach the greatest amount of urgency on my case seeing as it affects my tentative graduation in April of this year. Due to this I am requesting that my case be processed by no later than the end of March as to allow time for my report to be graded."

66. Items for Information

- 66.1 The Executive Committee of Senate denied the following appeal:

ECS 2009-10: #9 - Appeal against the decision of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, with respect to an allegation of academic misconduct brought against the student with regard to the final examination of Engineering 1010, a course for which the student was registered during the Spring Semester 2009.

67. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR - QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM SENATORS

Dr. Loomis reported on several of his major activities during the last month as follows:

- On December 11, 2009, Dr. Loomis travelled to Corner Brook for a visit/tour with the new President designate, Dr. Kachanoski.
- On December 15, 2009, met with Mr. Morgan Cooper regarding MUNFA bargaining. A tentative agreement with the Faculty Association has been reached and will go to vote this month.
- On December 16, 2009, Dr. Loomis travelled to Corner Brook for an announcement from the Provincial Government regarding Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. The following are the seven points which Government has asked the Board of Regents to consider:
 - Rename Sir Wilfred Grenfell College to Memorial University of Newfoundland - Corner Brook to enhance its unique identity within the university;
 - Submit a separate budget to the Provincial Government for Grenfell through the Board of Regents to allow independent budget process and priority setting;
 - Position the Principal of Grenfell on Memorial's Senior Executive Committee reporting directly to the President of the University.
 - Establish a Sir Wilfred Grenfell Secretariat located in Corner Brook to work collaboratively with the Board of Regents and Grenfell and to support the re-branding, marketing and recruitment efforts.

The Provincial Government also announced increased funding for Sir Wilfred Grenfell College as follows:

- Funding of \$1.76 million will be allocated for local, national and international student recruitment, as well as funding to brand and market the Corner Brook campus as a university and to recruit students to the campus.
- Funding will be allocated in the amount of \$1.6 million to support five new positions to attract increased research funding for Grenfell. The funding will also support additional positions in student support services and administrative support at Grenfell, to support growth in both research and student enrolment.
- Annual funding in the amount of \$1.6 million to eliminate Grenfell's existing operating deficit.

Dr. Loomis noted that he is aware that for some people this announcement did not go far enough but in his view it positions Grenfell to be able to grow and restore its enrollments and then make the case for greater independence.

- On December 21, 2009, Dr. Loomis did a year-end interview with VOXM. In spite of the uncertainty on many fronts at the beginning of the year, he noted that we have ended the year with greater clarity on autonomy, on Sir Wilfred Grenfell College governance, on the

Remarks from the Chair - Questions/comments from Senators (cont'd)

Presidential search, and with a new and positive relationship with government.

- On January 12, 2010, Dr. Loomis met with Holly Pike, Bill Iams, Reeta Tremblay and Glenn Collins to consider ways to implement the recommendations regarding Sir Wilfred Grenfell College announced by government. Dr. Loomis noted that he has a meeting with the Board Chair tomorrow.
- Dr. Loomis noted that the Minister of Education visited Harlow this week as part of a conference which he attended in London. The visit reinforced for the Minister the experience that Harlow brings to our students and for us.

68. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY