

Minutes

MEETING OF THE SENATE

A meeting of the Senate was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 in Robert Sutherland Hall, Room 202 at 3:30 p.m.

Present: D. Woolf (Chair) Senators: Abdollah, Adams, Bevan, Blennerhassett, Bowers, Brouwer, Burt, Caird, Campbell, Chapman, Cheng, Chowdhury, Cole, Culham, De Souza, Dimitrakopoulos, Dimitrov, Egnatoff, Elliott, El-Rahimy, Fachinger, Flanagan, Foo, Garvie, Harrison, Hart, Hillmad, Johnson, LaFleche, Lamoureux, MacDougall, MacKinnon, MacLean, Maurice, McIntire, Medves, Morelli, Murray, Newcomb, Oleschuk, Oosthuizen, Parker, Reid, Remenda, Reznick, Saunders, Shearer, Sienna, Sullivan, Tierney, Tripp, Walters, Wang, Whitehead, Woodhouse, Dickey Young, Young, G. Moore (Secretary), C. Russell (Associate)

Also Present: T. Alm, M. Alquire, A. Arauz, S. Aziz, W. Cairncross, C. Christie, P. Cohoe, R. Coupland, R. Denniston, Stewart, M. Dineen, I. Duchaine, A. Eagan, H. Everson, N. Francis, R. Garcia, J. Grimoldby, E. Hanson, M. Heeler, E. Hollenbeck, J. Holmes, H. Jien, M. Jones, D. Kelly, E. Kent, R. Lemieux, G. Lessard, L. Long, G. MacAllister, S. Marlin, K. McInnis, K. Julien, Michels, K. Moran, S. Murphy, K. O'Brien, K. Owsik, L. Peterson, I. Reeve, S. Rigden, K. Sellars, T. Sherman, K. Slobodin, M. Smallridge, G. Smith, H. Smith, C. Sumbler, S. Tanner, P. Taylor, A. Vrabec, Bradwin, K. Wallace, P. Watkin, J. Whittaker, Winton, D. Woodward, M. Zeng, E. Zielke

I OPENING SESSION

3. Business Arising from the Minutes
None

4. Principal's Report

The Principal wished students good luck in their exams and thanked staff and faculty for their valued contributions and dedication. He encouraged people to attend the annual Staff Appreciation Reception on Monday, December 5.

Other topics included:

- x The John Orr Dinner November 19 in Toronto honouring former Principal Tom Williams. The usual Queen's Bands performance was cancelled. Extremely offensive Bands membership materials were brought to the University's attention earlier in the month. Conditions placed on the Bands by the University and the AMS include the cancellation of performances for the rest of the fall term. The University and the AMS are working with the Bands on a positive path forward and resumption of performances in the New Year
- x Lieutenant Governor David Onley's November 22 Throne Speech at Queen's Park citing health care and education as the province's most important issues
- x A Memorandum of Understanding announcement that Queen's and St. Lawrence College will develop new opportunities for teaching and research partnerships
- x The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada meeting in Montreal
- x The second Forum on Military and Veteran Health Research hosted by RMC and Queen's to explore ways to enhance the health and well-being of military personnel, veterans and their families
- x A new book entitled *Academic Reform* by Ian Clark, former President of COU, and colleagues has added to the media commentary on the value of a university education in today's world
- x Thanks to all those who participated in a 28-month, broadly consultative process leading to the creation of the University's Academic Plan, including the extensive contribution of the rest of the University community

In the Dean's opinion, no Faculty or Senate policies have been violated and thus Senate's responsibility to "approve university level policies" is not impugned. In the case of the decision made several years ago, following discussions with the relevant departments and in accordance with Faculty Board policy, changes to the programs in question were subsequently brought before Faculty Boards for discussion and approval.

University Counsel D. Kelly stated that the Dean does have the authority to make administrative decisions of this nature. The decision itself is operational, not one of policy, and therefore falls outside the jurisdiction of the Senate.

Question 2

a) The Dean of Arts and Science has said that the Faculty will work with the Fine Arts program to examine options for the future. What are these options and do they include provisions to avert closure of the program?

The Dean noted that discussions with the BFA program have just begun and it would be premature to discuss options available. For many years it has been a Faculty policy to offer a broad range of choices to its students and this has to be balanced against the resources available. This is the perspective within which discussions will take place.

A committee including faculty, staff and students has been set up to make recommendations on the BFA program's future. The co-chairs are the Director of the BFA program Kathleen Sellars and Associate Dean Gordon Smith; members are the Undergraduate Chair of the BFA Program, Jan Winton, Acting Associate Dean (Studies) David Pugh, and one BFA student from each year of the program. The first meeting took place on Nov. 22 and the committee plans to meet weekly.

The Dean thanked students and alumni who have written offering support. The committee and faculty will try to engage the student body.

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Question 3

Will the Principal convey:

- a) the concerns of many Senators and others about this decision to the Board of Trustees, and;
- b) explain that the Board's directive for a balanced budget is causing a serious deterioration of academic quality at Queen's?

a) The Principal noted that it is a function of the Chair of Senate to communicate Senate's concerns to the Board and the Board's concerns to the Senate and that he would do so. He also noted that he frequently speaks to Board members not only in formal reports to the Board and its committees but also in conversations with the Chair and individual Board members.

b) The Principal said he understood and would convey Senate's concerns about the Board's directive for a balanced budget in his next report to the Board. However, he observed that the Board's directive for a balanced budget is not the cause of the University's financial crisis. The thJTJ 09h6() l(t)784()35 thfrs

(b) that the Senate publish and disseminate these documents as a guide for the entire academic community: the students, the staff, the faculty, alumni and friends;

(c) that the Senate encourage the academic leadership, including the Provost, the Principals, the Deans and the Department Heads, to be guided by the principles of the Plan in planning decisions and to implement the recommendations when possible and practicable within the resources available.

(d) that the Senate endorse a continuous cycle of Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring under the leadership of the Provost.

Senator Remenda noted that extensive consultation that took place in the creation of the Academic Plan and that the Task Force is unanimous in its support of the Plan.

Professor M Jones presented to the Senate printouts of two electronic petitions requesting that Senate not approve the Academic Plan as presented by the APTF:

- x "Friends of Queens' Petition concerning the Academic Plan (62 signatures)
- x "Petition concerning the Academic Plan" (787 signatures, of which 65 were not entirely verified)

He also presented a related "Petition concerning Admission Freezes and Closures" (580 signatures).

M. Jones observed that he and the petitioners supported an alternative proposed by Senator Morelli (Agenda item V, Motions, Appendix I2, page 88). While recognizing that the APTF had accomplished much, he made the following objections to the APTF motion:

- (i) striking each fall a task force of students, staff, and faculty who, using the consultation process established by the 20-2011 APTF, shall consider a new planning issue or set of issues to be recommended by the task force of the previous year. As a starting point for the 20112012 academic year the 20102011 APTF recommends that consideration be given to the issues of (1) virtualization and online learning, and (2) faculty renewal.
- (ii) each such task force shall submit its Report, including recommendations and observations concerning the implementation of previous recommendations, to Senate for approval.

Senator Walters proposed a ~~sub~~ amendment to section (d) in the amended motion.

Moved by Senator Walters, seconded by Senator Flanagan, that item (d) be changed to the following: "that the Senate endorse a continuous cycle of Planning, Implementation and Monitoring under a process to be determined by the Senate Operations Review Committee (SORC)."

Senator Morelli urged senators to vote against the ~~sub~~ amendment. In his view, the process should not be put in the hands of the Senate Operations Review Committee (SORC). Senator Flanagan ~~seconded~~ the amended motion she and Senator Morelli propose addresses the issue of ongoing academic planning.

Several senators discussed the advantages of and drawbacks of involving the Senate Operations Review Committee in striking a standing ~~commite~~

The Chair observed that Senator Walter's ~~amte~~ amendment did not propose that SORC take on academic planning. Instead, the motion states that SORC should be asked to render an opinion on what type of body should do this work. He cautioned Senate against departing from current procedures regarding establishment of committees and task forces.

Senator Remenda expressed concern with the amendments to (d) (i), because the Task Force did not discuss some of the points listed. Its mandate was to create an academic plan, not to create a means by which planning would continue; this is the job of Senate.

The ~~sub~~ amendment was defeated (25).

The Chair invited Senator Morelli to speak to the main motion as amended. In his view, his amendment reflects the views of the majority of the University community at large. The job given to the Task Force

Moved by Senator Morelli, seconded by Senator ~~ER~~Rahimy, that the Agenda be amended to proceed to V MOTIONS, 1. Official Grading System, that Motion 2. Academic Plan be withdrawn and that Motion 3. on the BFA program submitted by Senator Campbell be considered.

Carried 11-72

2. Nominating (Appendix E, page 73)

a) Elections

Moved by Senator Oosthuizen, seconded by Senator MacLean, that Senate approve the election of those named in Appendix E, page 73, be elected to the committees indicated.

Carried 11-73

3. Operations Review Committee (Appendix F, page 74)

a) Report to Senate update on ~~Senate~~ Senate Committee Review Project
There were no questions.

4. Orientation Activities Review Board (Appendix G, page 76)

a) Annual Report to Senate on Orientation 2011

In answer to a question about academic content during Orientation Week, Dr. Coupland clarified that the intent was to prepare students for classes by describing to them how academic programs are structured. It is an opportunity to reflect the type of social, academic and personal balance students can expect during their time at Queen's.

IV REPORTS OF FACULTIES AND AFFILIATED COLLEGES (Appendix H, page 79)

1. Orientation Reports

- a) Education
- b) Graduate Studies
- c) Law
- d) Medicine

There were no comments or questions.

V MOTIONS

1. Research Report
There were no questions.

2. Exit Poll Survey 2011 <http://www.queensu.ca/registrar/aboutus/reports/exitpoll.html>
There were no questions.

VII MATTERS REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEES
None received

VIII OTHER BUSINESS
None received