

**MINUTES OF SENATE MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2007**

Members Present:			
<u>Ex-Officio:</u>	<u>Faculty:</u>		<u>Students:</u>
K. Alnwick	P. Albanese	D. Mason	S. Abdelgadir
S. Boctor	D. Androutsos	A. Matthews David	G. Alivio
C. Cassidy	M. Antony	A. Mitchell	A. Bahadur
G. R. Chang	I. Baitz	Z. Murphy	O. Falou
M. Dewson	D. Checkland	J. Norrie	T. Hassan
Z. Fawaz	T. Dewan	D. Rose	H. Kere
U. George	D. Elder	S. Rosen	M. Levine
L. Grayson	P. Goldman	C. Stuart	S. Omer
K. Jones	M. Greig	D. Sydor	H. Otieno
S. Levy	R. Hudyma	D. Tucker	R. Rose
A. Shepard	R. Keeble		R. Sadjadi
A. Shilton	J. Lassaline		M. Stanton
P. Stenton	D. Lee		T. Schwerdtfeger
M. Yeates			T. Whitfield
<u>Regrets:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>		<u>Alumni:</u>
J. P. Boudreau	A. Aseltine		A. Walker
V. Chan			S. Dhebar
P. Corson			
D. Doz			
C. Farrell			
S. Ghebresslassie			
A. Kahan			
M. Lefebvre			
M. McAllister			
M. Panitch			
R. Ravindran			
A. Singh			
F. Song			
A. Venetsanopoulos			

1. **President's Report** – The President thanked everyone for their participation at Convocation, which went very well. He welcomed and thanked Chancellor Chang. As reported last meeting, there was a Board retreat in October and there will be a special meeting of Senate on January 15 to present the same information and for a discussion of academic planning. The President also reported on a successful Nelson Mandela Children's Fund event and asked the Secretary to read a letter from Nelson Mandela.
2. **Report of the Secretary of Senate:** D. Schulman informed Senate that, in the future, all materials to be distributed to Senate should be given to the Secretary in advance to be left at the front table, and not distributed during the meeting.
3. **Good of the University:** A. Mitchell chaired.
D. Mason stated that a number of years ago, an issue was raised about timetabling. A committee was struck which reported to Senate, and another committee was created to actualize the report. He has spoken to the chair of that committee today and the report will hopefully be submitted by the December meeting. He will be presenting a motion in December with respect to exam period and the marking times.

H. Kere commented that over half of the student residents on campus voted in the October election. She also reported that the educational issues committee of RSU is working on an oppressive textbook content project. Instead of students making complaints on an individual basis, there will be a survey about oppressive content in textbooks, and a list will be assembled. An informal report will be presented to the next Senate meeting.

L. Janzen spoke from the floor. She raised the issue of accessibility particularly related to the elevator in the Podium building that gives access to disabled persons and to the library. The sign asks that the elevator be solely for the use of the disabled, but this is not being honoured. This has caused considerable pain to a disabled faculty member who relies on the elevator as she has to wait to use the elevator, and she is subjected to comments when she points out the sign. L. Janzen hopes that there can be an educational program to point out these inequities. The President stated that he will discuss creative ways to address this issue with L. Grayson.

4. Minutes

Motion: That Senate approve the minutes of the October 2, 2007 meeting.

D. Mason moved, G. Alivio seconded.

Minutes approved.

5. **Business arising from the minutes** – The President had asked that the Provost set up a process to review the Senate. A. Shepard reported that D. Checkland agreed to chair an *ad hoc* committee to review the Senate, and A. Mitchell has also agreed to serve. There will be student representatives on the committee He invites suggestions on others who should serve to be sent to him by next week. The report would be due to Senate by June.

6. **Correspondence** – No correspondence.
7. **Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departmental and Divisional Councils**
- No reports
8. **Reports of Committees**
 - 8.1 Nominating Committee Report (#F2007-2)
 - 8.1.1 **Motion: That Senate approve the list of representatives to the Senate Standing Committees as presented.**

I. Baitz moved, J. Norrie seconded.

It was noted that Gregory Murray is a student in Retail Management.

Motion approved.

8.2 Academic Standards Committee Report (#F2007-2)

A. Shepard moved all of the following, and P. Goldman seconded. The Provost commended the Academic Standards Committee for its work, and stated that he was impressed with its thoughtful and careful work.

All of the following motions were approved:

8.2.1 Motion #1: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Politics and Governance program.

8.2.2 Motion #2: That Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Minor in Politics.

8.2.3 Motion #3: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Information Technology Management program.

8.2.4 Motion #4: That Senate approve the discontinuation of the Minor in Information Systems and the Minor in Management of Information Systems and Telecommunications.

8.2.5 Motion #5: That Senate approve the new Minor in Information Technology Management.

8.2.6 Motion #6: That Senate approve changes to curriculum requirements of the ITM Advanced Standing programs.

8.2.7 Motion #7: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Aerospace Engineering program.

8.2.8 Motion #8: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Chemical Engineering program.

8.2.9 Motion #9: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Civil Engineering program.

8.2.10 Motion #10: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Computer Engineering program.

8.2.11 Motion #11: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Electrical Engineering program.

8.2.12 Motion #12: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Industrial Engineering program.

8.2.13 Motion #13: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Mechanical Engineering program.

8.2.14 Motion #14: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Biology program.

8.2.15 Motion #15: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Chemistry program.

8.2.16 Motion #16: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Medical Physics program.

8.2.17 Motion #17: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the International Economics and Finance program.

8.2.18 Motion #18: That Senate approve the proposed revisions to admission requirements for the Direct Entry (full- and part-time) program in Early Childhood Education.

8.2.19 Motion #19: That Senate approve the proposed curriculum changes in the Early Childhood Education program with the condition stated in the ASC Evaluation section.

The President commented that the confidence that Senate has in the quality of the work of the Academic Standards Committee is what allows its recommendations to be approved so quickly.

- 8. New Business** – A motion was presented in the agenda regarding the Accommodation of Student Religious Observance Obligations policy. R. Rose presented a new version of the Resolutions in the motion.

T. Whitfield seconded.

The President stated that there is already a scheduled review of the Policy in the Fall, and that what is being proposed is that there be a task force to do some background research.

R. Rose stated that at the last meeting there was a discussion of blocking off time on Fridays for Juma prayer. The current motion grew out of that motion following a meeting of students with Z. Fawaz. There was a lot of consultation with students and administration and the proposed motion was announced at the Multi-Faith Council meeting where it was supported. The composition of the task force is to be determined by the President. Muslim students are specifically stated as these are the cases with which she is most familiar. She is not aware of the conflicts with other religions, and the task force would explore all religions. She also understands that there are friendly amendments that will be made by other students on Senate.

S. Abdelgabir stated that he recommends an *ad hoc* committee be established instead of a task force and that the President establish the membership of the committee. He asked that there be one student from each religion, but the President stated that this would be difficult and that he would have as broad a representation as possible.

It was clarified that there would be members from outside Senate. The committee that will be struck to look at the policy in the Fall will not be the same as the *ad hoc* committee. It was suggested that perhaps they should be the same committee.

The President noted that the original issue was about one particular religion, but the current motion is about research for all religions that will go to the committee that will review the policy. R. Rose noted that this motion will speed the review process as the research will be done this year.

Based on friendly amendments, the final motion was as follows:

Be it resolved that the Senate strike an *ad hoc* committee to look at the issues and needs of students from all religious groups in relation to the Accommodation of Student Religious Observance Obligations policy, and that this committee present a report to the Secretary of Senate by the May Senate meeting; and

Be it further resolved that the President appoint members of the *ad hoc* committee who will include a broad representation of students; and

Be it further resolved that the report of the *ad hoc* committee be forwarded by the Secretary to the committee struck in Fall 2008 to review the Accommodation of Student Religious Observance Obligations policy.

Z. Fawaz commended the students on their consultation and work on this motion.

D. Mason asked why the review of the policy cannot be moved up a year. The President responded that the *ad hoc* committee will be one that provides a broad range of research to the committee. The Secretary commented that the number of people and the large student representation on the *ad hoc* committee would not be a normal policy review committee.

D. Mason asked that the committee be more broadly constituted to review the policy and not just serve to get the research. There was discussion of the size of the task force that would review the policy.

There was no seconder for the revised motion.

A. Mitchell stated that her notion is to commission the committee as part of its work, and move that the main committee be moved forward. She moved that the normal review process be moved up a year. There was no seconder.

Motion approved.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane R. Schulman, Ph.D.
Secretary of Senate