Minutes of the Third Meeting of Senate  
Held Friday, November 09, 2007  
ITEC Lecture Theatre, Robertson Library, 3:00 p.m.


Regrets: R. Kurial, A. López, J. MacAulay, G. Pike, D. Ryan
Absent: G. Bradshaw, D. Davetien, S. Gillis, J. Nimmo, W. Peters, W. Rankaduwa

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order. He asked that agenda item #8 Professor Emeritus Committee be moved to item #6. The agenda was approved as amended.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

Moved (R. MacDonald/D. Seeler): that Senate approve the minutes.

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, OCTOBER 12, 2007

Moved (J. Moran/D. Dahn): that Senate approve the minutes.

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 14 AND OCTOBER 12, 2007

No business arising

5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- The Maclean’s universities issue was released earlier this week and, once again, the University of Prince Edward Island has placed in the top ten, ranking 8th in the primarily undergraduate competition. This is the fifth consecutive year that UPEI has been in the top ten. There will be an analysis of where the major shifts in our ranking occurred, including how we can address improvements.
- Student Symposium and Special Convocation received a good deal of positive media coverage and reports. High School students from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island attended the event.
- UPEI and Holland College co-hosted a successful Atlantic Educators Conference. Educators from across Atlantic Canada met in Charlottetown from October 25-27th. The theme of this year’s conference was Embracing Diversity in Canadian Education Communities.
- UPEI was involved as a partner in hosting INNOVET, an international veterinary business conference, October 14-16. The 2007 conference theme was Emerging Bioactives & Biologics. Innovative Solutions of Animal Health.
- UPEI students are doing very well in national competitions. For the second consecutive year, UPEI mathematic students brought home top prizes from the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences’ 31st Annual Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Conference held in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Additionally, Wade Sweet, a fourth year AVC doctoral candidate of veterinary medicine, was recently awarded an International Stockmen’s Educational Foundation Travel Fellowship.
Three decanal searches are underway. Education and AVC are advertising national and internationally, while Arts is coming to a decision. The Search Committee for the Dean of Business has unanimously re-elected Dean MacDonal for a three-year extension of her term.

The Friends of UPEI gathered November 03 in Calgary. Since its inception in 1998, the group has raised over $600,000 for UPEI student scholarships and bursaries. The scholarships are invested through the Calgary Foundation that funds them in perpetuity. The group has awarded almost $150,000 in scholarships to students attending UPEI. More than forty students from Alberta or PEI have studied here with support from The Friends of UPEI.

President MacLauchlan will give his annual University Update address on Thursday, November 22, at 3:30 p.m. in the W.A. Murphy Centre (McMillan Hall). He will speak about the challenges facing UPEI in a highly competitive and risky environment for Atlantic Canadian Universities.

The semi-annual Research Breakfast will occur on the morning of November 28th. All university faculty are encouraged to attend. Speakers will be Blake Jelly (Business) and Janet Bryanton (Nursing).

6. PROFESSOR EMERITUS COMMITTEE

Ian Dowbiggin initiated the deliberations on the professor emeritus committee. The document presented to Senate was not the final revised document, so the discussion is postponed until the December 04 meeting.

7. REPORT OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

(i) Academic Review and Planning Committee (ARPC)

Moved (V. Timmons/ R. MacDonald): Senate approve a Certificate (for non-business students) and Specialization (for business students) in Entrepreneurship and Small Business.

Carried

R. MacDonald explained the objective of the program. Primarily, it provides students with both the knowledge and the experiential learning for starting a business in an entrepreneurial manner. She cited that there are no resource implications (in answer to D. Dahn) because all courses would be taught by current faculty (in response to M. Murray).

(ii) Annual Report of the Academic Planning Facilitation Committee

V. Timmons introduced the Annual Report of the Committee, including the program of activities over the past twelve months and plans to engage the university community in the Academic Planning Facilitation process for the coming year. Over the past year, there has been an emphasis on enhancing student engagement, notably for first year students.

M. Murray raised the issue of whether the APFC “guiding principles” have been adopted by Senate. His concern is with particular pursuits found in the document, but in referring to this as a “plan” when it was simply approved as “Guiding Principles”.

V. Timmons responded that earlier APFC reports, first brought to Senate in late 2005 and considered again last year, support the work of the committee and the program of activities envisaged for the coming year. There was further discussion re the merits of bringing the guiding principles to Senate for review during 2008.

N. Etkin suggested that a change of terminology, without parting from the spirit of the document, was in order, proposing that “Objectives” should be changed to “Activities” on page one. W. Shilton suggested that the principles should be presented as a continuing process of development. V. Timmons reiterated that these principles were created after extensive consultation with the university community and approved at all levels.
W. MacLauchlan commented that the underlying debate is about how to carry out this task. He proposed that, based on extensive campus community consultation and with some 2.5 years of APFC process, it would be beneficial for Senate to confirm or review the guiding principles. V. Timmons agreed that the principles need to be solidified at Senate. D. Dahn warned that trying to establish a rigid set of guidelines would stalemate the process, and that even without establishing principles, APFC could still do much good work.

W. MacLauchlan noted that D. Ryan, who was unable to attend Senate, wrote a letter expressing concerns about the report. F. Gray read the letter to Senate, indicating D. Ryan’s concerns regarding the First Annual Report of the Academic Planning Facilitation Committee, in that, he feels the process and results do not reflect the input that was provided. As this is a Committee Report to Senate, at this stage Senate receives the Report, with the understanding that the discussion will come back to Senate when the APFC Committee next reports. The Report was received.

(iii) Report on Internationalization at the University of Prince Edward Island

V. Timmons presented the report to Senate. She noted that although this is not technically a Senate Committee, she wanted Senators to be aware of the workings of the committee. She welcomed comments and suggestions.

(iv) Nominating Committee

Moved (J. Moran/ D. Seeler): Senate approve the nominees advanced in the report.

Carried

Search Committee for the New Registrar
Jeanette C MacAulay (Centre for Life Long Learning)
Heather Ann Keoughan (Registrar’s Office)
Shannon Murray (Arts)
David Sims (AVC)
Stephen Howard (President’s Nominee)
Justin Belanger (Student)

Honorary Degree Committee
Janelle Pitre (Arts)

Student Academic Appeals Committee
Will Macdonald (Student)
Kathryn Harrison (Residence Student)

V. Timmons noted that she is the Chair of the Search Committee for the new Registrar. She also informed J. Moran that APFC needs a replacement of C. Keen (who retired earlier this year).

(v) Third Report on Curriculum

Moved (T. Ogilvie/ D. Seeler): Senate approves AVC Calendar Dates for 2008-9

Carried

D. Seeler noted that 4 holidays are missing from the calendar dates. The suggestion was accepted as a friendly amendment and will be added accordingly.
6. **ENROLLMENT STATISTICS & STRATEGY**

V. Timmons led a discussion and introduced guests Cathy Gillan and Yuqin Gong. She noted that there is an overall decline in eastern Canada but UPEI is doing fairly well. The number of courses (per term) that students are enrolled in is declining, and retention is a concern as is first year success. C. Riley asked what are the key issues. V. Timmons responded by highlighting targeted programs, the issue of gender (why are boys not succeeding), and retention in first year. C. Riley wondered if mentorship programs were being discussed. V. Timmons was unsure and asked whether faculties had mentorship programs, and most did have them. C. Song noted that more support could be given to out of province students, and Y. Gong reiterated this same point by noting that retention rates are higher for Island students, and that Island students may have to make more of an effort to make others feel welcome. J. Sentance claimed that first year retention results from classes that are too large and the first question should be: **what is our optimal enrolment?** W. MacLauchlan noted that all of the numbers indicate that our class sizes are among the lowest. J. Velaidum noted that class size may be a red herring in the question of retention rates. N. Etkin noted that students do not declare a major in the Arts and Sciences in first year, so a different process of evaluating retention may be required. M. Murray wondered why Arts suffers from the biggest retention issues, and V. Timmons postulated that perhaps Arts students have too many choices and there needs to be more of a connection between the disciplines. C. Riley added that perhaps students see fewer career opportunities in Arts degrees (but stressed that this does not reflect the reality of the situation, only the perception of students).

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

**UPEI Scholarship and Awards Committee**

V. Timmons noted that in the past, scholarships and awards have not worked as well as required. She noted that Tamara Leary is leading the changes towards a new mandate for scholarships and awards. M. Murray wondered why this committee was removed from the Registrar’s Office. V. Timmons answered that scholarships are about outreach and therefore belong in the Student Engagement Office, and the Registrar’s Office will still be a part of the process. W. MacLauchlan encourages all faculty to visit the scholarship website. S. MacDonald opposed the omission of two students from the committee composition; omission reinstated.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Name]
Acting Secretary