Minutes of the Second Meeting of Senate
Held Friday, October 3, 2008
ITEC Lecture Theatre, Robertson Library, 3:00 p.m.


Regrets: G. Bradshaw, B. Davetian, G. MacDonald, W. Rankaduwa, J. Stewart, A. Trivett

Guests: T. Leary, Y. Gong

1. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked to combine Items 9 and 10 as they both deal with enrolment related statistical information.

 Moved (P. McKenna/K. Schultz): to approve the agenda with the minor change.

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes, September 5, 2008

 Moved (M. Morrison/P. McKenna): to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Carried.


No Business Arising.

4. President’s Report

- Canadian Student Leadership Conference hosted by Three Oaks. UPEI received more than 700 delegates from high schools across Canada for lunch and a Friday evening dance.
- There were 2800 visitors for AVC Open House on Saturday, September 27.
- Dedication on September 26th Founder’s Day of three new plazas in the Main Quadrangle, honouring Dr. Ronald J. Baker, Dr. Peter P.M. Meincke, the late Dr. C.W.J. Eliot, 2008 Founders were Sheila Winters and Buddy Quinn. Green Hat Recipients were Dr. Dennis Howell and Jean McDonald
- As of October 1, 2008, UPEI has second largest first year class ever with 1031 registered compared to 1055 in 2003, and highest ever overall enrolment.
- September 10 - First Annual Employee Long Service Awards were presented to support staff. There were 8 employees recognized for 35 years or more for service. More than 340 were recognized with 5 years of service or more.
- Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon honored Billy Mulligan (PWC ‘65); Emery Leger (DVM ‘94), Kara Grant (B Sc ’02), Ted Tam (SDU ’69)
- There were 46 Academic All Canadian Athletes honoured for their work last year. It represents 25% of the athletes at UPEI.
- UPEI was awarded a Sustainability Innovator Award from the US based Sustainable Endowments Institute for its advancement of sustainability initiatives.
- Dr. Steven Casper, Director of the Master of Bioscience program at the Keck Graduate Institute in Claremont, California, will be the inaugural Fulbright Visiting Chair in Nutrisciences and Health at UPEI beginning in April 2009. Dr. Casper was keynote speaker of a September 30 Symposium sponsored by the
Fulbright Foundation.
• AVC Honours and Awards Ceremony was held on October 1
• Deans’ Honours and Awards Nights will be held on October 6 - Faculties of Arts, Education and School of Business; October 7 - Faculty of Science and School of Nursing
• Board of Governors met on September 26. The Board is committed to work closely in liaison with Senate, including, through the Board/Liaison Committee.

5. Reports of Senate Committees

(i) Nominating Committee

Moved (S. Thomas/J. Velaidum): that Senate approve the First Report of the Senate Nominating Committee.

Senate Research Advisory Committee
Miles Turnbull (Education)
Nebojsa Kujundzic (Arts)
David LeBlanc (Science)
John Van Leeuwen (AVC)
Richard Raiswell (Arts)

Research Grants Committee: Sub-Committee of the Research Advisory
Sandy MacAuley (Education)
Blake Jelley (Business)
Udo Krautwurst (Arts)
Nasser Saad (Science)
Pedro Quijon (Science)
Jo-Ann MacDonald (Nursing)

Academic Appeals Committee
Doug Dahn (Science)

University Writing Council Committee
Andrew Trivett (Science)
Jo-Ann MacDonald (Nursing)
Andrew Zink (Arts)
Linda Meggs (Writing Centre)
Sandy MacAuley (Education)
Meghan Landry (Arts Student)
Heather Hunter (Science Student)

Senate Committee on Enhancement of Teaching (SCENT)
Nasser Saad (Science)
Janet Bryanton (Nursing)

Nominating Committee
Andrew Trivett (Science)

Board-Senate Liaison Committee
Michael Shaver (Science)
David Seeler (AVC)
Wade MacLauchlan

Honorary Degree Committee
S. Thomas is checking the two committees that J. MacDonald is on, as she is on sabbatical for 2008-2009.

(ii) Academic Review and Planning Committee

Moved (R. Herbert/C. Lacroix): that academic regulation #1 d) be amended to read as follows:

Students may declare to the Registrar’s Office their major area of study at any time up to the end of their second year (after completing 48 to 60 semester hours of course work). Forms are available from the Registrar’s Office.

However, in the Faculty of Science, students are required to declare a major by the beginning of their second year (after completing 21 to 45 semester hours of course work). Students can change their major at any time by submitting the appropriate form to the Registrar’s Office, but they are encouraged to speak to an academic advisor in the appropriate department before doing so.

Carried.

Moved (R. Herbert/C. Lacroix): that the University discontinue the practice of using an “F” on student transcripts in courses where students have failed to meet the requirements.

Students will be given the actual grade that they earned in the course. The clause in Academic Regulation 10 which reads “Departments/Schools should not use internal equivalencies of 30% or 40%” will be deleted”.

With the exception of courses that offer only a pass/fail option, students will be given a grade of the actual mark they have earned in the course for calculation. The rationale for this is to allow consistency around the selection of recipients for scholarships and awards.

There were a number of questions around the implementation of this policy, including the grading of lecture/lab courses, the impact on other regulations like academic dishonesty and academic probation, and the potential of awarding both an F and a mark. The Registrar is to bring back to the December Senate meeting the details for the implementation of this motion.

Carried with 32 for and 4 against.

Moved (R. Herbert/R. Kurial): that the University approve and offer, through the Faculty of Arts in the Department of Modern Languages, a Minor in Acadian Studies.

Carried.

6. Annual Reports
(i) Academic Appeals Committee

G. Evans introduced this report and spoke to the number of appeals received over the past few years. The question was asked if there were any reoccurring themes arising as a basis for appeal and G. Evans explained it is difficult to quantify appeals in this manner when every case is assessed based upon its individual merit. The Registrar is currently looking at the academic regulation and if we can improve on the process. It was noted that the Committee works very closely with the Webster Centre and the Registrar’s Office.

The Chair commented that maybe Senate could devote some time at a future meeting to the array of programs offered through the Webster Centre.

Report received.

(ii) Scholarship & Awards Committee

T. Leary spoke to the report. She noted with the recent move of scholarships and awards to the Student Services area, the Scholarship and Awards Committee was renamed and they have been working on their mandate.

Report received.

7. VP Academic Development - Mandate and Search

The Chair introduced this item and spoke on the creation of the Vice President, Academic Support position in 1995. In 2001, the position title was changed to Vice President, Academic Development to better reflect the role. This senior administrator role is responsible for Athletics, Centre for Life Long Learning, Library, Registrar’s Office, Student Services, and the Webster Centre for Teaching and Learning. The Vice President chairs the Academic Review and Planning Committee and the University Review Committee, and is a member of the Senior Management Group.

There was much discussion about the naming and the mandate of the position as well as the Canadian context for other vice president positions. Some Senators were favorable to maintaining the current structure while others questioned whether a revision in structure would better reflect the complexities of the position and the needs of the University. The Chair commented that we are not moving to vote at this meeting. He thanked Senators for the discussion and indicated that the Board will be discussing the position of Vice President, Academic Development, and that there will be a future report at the December meeting of Senate.

8. Professor Emeritus Committee Process Issues

Moved (C. Lacroix/K. Critchley): that Senate approve the following recommendations for the Committee:

- amend the criteria to include a firm deadline of February 1 for nominations
- formalize length of term of committee members
  - initial 2 year term for half the members on the committee (3 year term for the other half)
  - 3 year term for all members thereafter

Carried

9. Enrollment Comparison Analysis/NSSE Report

R. Herbert introduced this item. She commented that UPEI did well in 5 key indicator areas. We are ahead of our 2006 NSSE results, in 8 of the 10 areas, and compare favourably with other schools in the Atlantic Region and across Canada. There was 53% participation from first and fourth year students. Compared with the best performing schools, UPEI is showing growth and going in the right direction. It is good news around recruitment as it is a very
competitive environment.

J. Velaidum has accepted a two-year appointment as Coordinator of Student Retention and Engagement. He will work closely with the Registrar’s Office, Library, Student Services and Student Union. At present, we do not have a formal retention policy but as this is developed it will show us where our optimal efforts should be directed. We need a clear communication plan for faculty, deans, etc., connecting with students.

J. Douglas noted that the Student Union is evaluating the first year student events, introducing a speakers’ series, and organizing a “meet the prof” night. Their priority is communicating to students, with priority on the need to engage students that are not currently engaged. Student Union had a problem in contacting students and they worked that out.

It was noted that some students are at risk for depression and this should be a concern for all involved.

There was extensive discussion around this agenda item.

Yuqin Gong will be invited to give a presentation to Senate on the NSSE results at a future meeting.

Statistics that were reported to Senate -
• Largest student body in history of UPEI for 2008 - 4,180
• Highest level of graduate students registered - 276
• Highest number ever of International Students registered - 359

10. Other Business

F. Gray mentioned that she didn’t get her package through interoffice mail until Tuesday. The Chair commented that it may be useful to consider electronic distribution of Senate materials.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Kielly
Registrar and Secretary to Senate