

SENATE MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2007

The 500th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, January 12, 2007, at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. D. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr. Dodds, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Butler, Dr. Vessey, Dr. Naulls, Dr. Linney, Dr. Power, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Rand, Dr. MacKinnon, Dr. Russell, Dr. Bjornson, Dr. Dawson, Dr. Stinson, Dr. Stretton, Mr. Hotchkiss, Ms. Lefebvre, Dr. Van Proosdij, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Mitch Gillingwater, Mr. Jarda, Mr. Steeleworthy, Mr. Churchill, Dr. Van Esch, Dr. Bernard, Dr. Crocker, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Cameron and Ms. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate.

REGRETS: Dr. Enns, Dr. Wicks, Dr. Konopasky, Dr. McCalla, Dr. Pe-Piper and Miss Lopez,

Meeting commenced at 2:39 P.M.

06049 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted.

06050 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

.01 Minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2006, were *circulated* as *Appendix A*.

Moved by Dr. Rand and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2006 are approved as circulated.”**
Motion carried.

06051 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Dr. Naulls advised that there was one item arising from the previous minutes. The item 06039-01 - SMUSA proposal for a "Work Stoppage Policy".

The “Senate Policy on the Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes” was submitted to Senate (99005.01- 15 Jan/99) as a draft proposal. It was withdrawn and was to be presented at later date. On investigation it was discovered that the policy was not resubmitted.

Moved by Dr. Murphy and seconded, **“that the Senate Policy on the Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes” be referred to the Senate Committee on Academic Regulations for consideration and presentation to the Senate for approval.”**

Motion carried.

06052

JANUARY GRADUATION LIST

Documentation circulated at the meeting as *Appendix B*.

Key Discussion Points:

➤ Dr. Dixon distributed copies of the graduate list to members. He reiterated how important receiving a parchment was for students who complete their degree requirements in the Fall and are pursuing international job opportunities.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix B) and to invite graduates to participate in the Spring Convocation”**.

Motion carried unanimously.

06053

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

.01

Academic Planning

.0101 Final Report of the Working Group on Student Success attached for information as *Appendix C*

Key Discussion Points:

- Dr. Murphy advised that during the development of the current Academic Plan, retention of undergraduate students was identified for work under the priority of Undergraduate Learning and Teaching. In 2004 a task force was developed to study this situation. The report submission is intended to start discussions on this subject due to the fact that the Plan is due for review, and feedback on this would be beneficial.
- Dr. Van Esch presented and Task Force members were on hand to answer questions.
- Key Presentation Points:
 - The same concerns and problems were identified by all individuals and groups that were consulted and the same solutions were suggested.
 - The results outlined in the report are consistent with the current literature on this subject and what is happening in other institutions.
 - Student success depends on the whole experience and making the successful transitions into University, through Academic Programs and then out of University.
 - The first year is the most important place to focus attention.
 - The social side of the university experience is as important as the academic.
 - 30% of first year students leave and 26% are on probation.
 - Question: What percentage would be asked to leave? The following information was offered: The Faculty of Arts asks approximately 230 students to withdraw on an annual basis. The registrar advised that last spring 1500 students did not return for the next semester; 300 of those were asked to leave, and 1200 decided not to return that semester.
- Recommendations:
 - Develop a comprehensive first year strategy including faculty based for-credit transitional courses.

- The university needs a mentoring program with faculty, staff and senior student involvement especially for the students in first year and in other high-risk situations.
 - More resources are needed in first year courses that are high-risk.
 - Develop a coordinated ‘one-stop’ student success centre.
 - An early warning system is needed to identify students experiencing difficulties. The approach to these students needs to be positive and helpful. A required non-credit course on academic probation was suggested.
 - Members were advised that most schools are abandoning the approach of asking students to withdraw and alternatively addressing the situation proactively with the student remaining within the university. The majority of students go on to succeed under this approach.
 - Promote student excellence and encourage more public activities with students that are doing well.
 - Increase counseling services.
 - Adopt a curriculum transparency – so students know what they are doing, why it fits and how it contributes to the student’s overall degree.
 - Introduce a student centre for academic technology.
 - Facilitate the transition from the University with a coordinated senior year program.
 - Systematically collect data on these statistics for monitoring and analysis and feedback.
 - Develop a first year strategy and a senior year program. Monitor and assess the outcomes of the programs.
- The Student Representatives stated their approval of the report. A number of these issues were brought up during the recent Café event.
 - The report did not mention the work the library was doing in this area. The reference on page 29 of the report refers to something the Writing Centre is doing but it is actually the library that has been doing that for many years.
 - A member identified that the report was based on the 1998 cohort and that there was no mechanism for identification of an inter-year figure. The committee responded that we need this data collected routinely for analysis.
 - Mr. Hotchkiss advised members that Student Services was already initiating some of the recommendations from the report and congratulated the committee on their work.
 - Members were advised that this report was a first step in initiating a broader discussion across the campus.

There being no objection, the above report was accepted into record.

.0102 .02 Name Change proposal from the Graduate Women’s Studies Program attached as **Appendix F**

Key Discussion Points:

- Members were provided with a brief background.
- MSVU Senate has approved this change.

- This reflects changes that have already occurred in the field but there has been no major change in the program.
- The change to the name of a degree name requires this type of approval process.

Moved by Dr. Murphy, and seconded, **“that Senate approves the program name change proposal of the Women’s Studies Program from “Joint Graduate Program in Women’s Studies” to “Joint Graduate Program in Women and Gender Studies”.**
Motion carried unanimously.

.02 Curriculum Committee

.0201 Semi-Annual Curriculum Committee reports was circulated as *Appendix D*

Key Discussion Points:

- The Registrar advised members that the separation of the Academic Calendar into a separate undergraduate and a graduate calendar was done for clarification as well as to demonstrate the importance of graduate studies to the institution.
- The following break down of changes was presented:
 - Arts changes include 14 new courses and editorial changes. Only two subject areas; Linguistics and Religious Studies were of concern, because required subjects were being offered on a rotational basis and that may have staffing implications.
 - Science changes include 10 new courses but 3 of those have been offered under special topics for a number of years.
 - Commerce submitted one new course. The primary change was revision to the entry and exit requirements for Majors. They have introduced a standard to bring them into line with other faculties.
- It was noted that in the semi annual report under Philosophy changes, on page 14 the report indicates that 2380.0 [6680.0] Philosophical Issues in Feminism is to be deleted from the calendar. This course was broken up into two new courses which do not appear later in the course [PHIL 2385.1(.2) and PHIL 4585.1(.2)/6585.1(.2)].
 Action Item: Barb Bell will follow up on this.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“that the Senate approve the revised text as presented in the Semi-Annual Report for publication in the 2007-2008 Academic Calendar.” Motion carried unanimously.**

.0202 Proposal for a separate Graduate Studies Academic Calendar in the 2007-2008 Academic Year

Key Discussion Points:

- The registrar advised that a separate Graduate Studies Calendar will help clarify the regulations applicable to graduate studies and will consolidate the graduate level courses together with the structure and regulations that relate to them. Members were advised that one significant change was in the point values for grades and come changes to the descriptors for these point values. Another significant change is a definition of a thesis committee and standardizing what they do.
- 4514.1(.2) Philosophy of Biology should also be identified as a 6000 level course. Dr. Dixon asked for an enabling motion for the committee to make changes to the report as are identified here and may be identified between this meeting and publication of the Academic Calendar.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the publication of a separate Graduate Studies Academic Calendar in the 2007 – 2008 Academic Year.”**

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“that the Senate approves the revised text as presented in the draft of the separate Graduate Studies Academic Calendar for the 2007 – 2008 Academic Year.”**

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Dr. Butler, and seconded **“to enable the Curriculum Committee to make additional changes to the Academic Calendar as may be identified subsequent to this meeting.”**

Moved unanimously.

06054

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Dodds advised of the following:

- A tentative agreement was reached with the faculty union. 86.6% voted in favour of the tentative agreement. The contract will go before the Board of Governors at this month’s meeting.
- The guest speaker presentations have been very popular. Stockwell Day will be doing a presentation on campus soon.
- The team from the Sobey School of Business came in 2nd in the MBA national games.
- A tier one application to CIDA has been accepted. We are down to five competitors and two will be picked. The project is in Vietnam.
- The President commended all sides for their contributions to the faculty negotiations and acknowledged that the SMUSA representation had a very responsible attitude in their role in the negotiations.
- The student representatives thanked both sides for reaching a resolution. They also thanked the administration and faculty.
- Negotiations continue with NSGEU, CUPE, Boiler Operators and Custodial Staff Unions.

06059

QUESTION PERIOD

- None.

06060

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate