

BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE 441st MEETING OF SENATE

The 441st meeting of Senate took place on Monday 19 November 2001, at 7:00 p.m., in Tomlinson Hall, McGreer 100.

Members present: Mrs. J. Hodder, in the Chair; Ms. V. Angell, Dr. S. Black, Dr. R. Brewster, Mrs. R. Cavanagh, M. P-L. Chicoine, Dr. M. Childs, Ms. S. Doran, Dr. A. Drumheller, Mrs. W. Durrant, Mr. M. Furrow, Dr. A. Johnson, Dr. K. McLean, Ms. A. Montgomery, Ms. G. O'Rourke, Dr. J. Rittenhouse, Prof. B. Robson, Dr. C. Rose, Dr. M. Scarlete, Mr. L. Sowerby, Dr. V. Stroehrer, Dr. L. Thomas, Dr. G. Wickens, Dr. B. Willms, Dr. R. Yeats, Dr. L. Zubieta.

Absent: Dr. A. Ibrahim, Dr. N. Jones, Prof. L. McRae

Mrs. Hodder opened the meeting with a welcome to Dr. Richard Brewster, who will replace Dr. Hull as Natural Sciences Senator for the balance of the academic year.

1/441 AGENDA

The following was added under 8/411 Brief Information:

- iv) New Instructors in Natural Sciences and Mathematics
 - a) Biology: Nuria Basora (Ph.D.)- BIO 131, BIO 326, BIL 326; Christina Reynolds (M.Sc.) - BIO 116, BIO 117

It was moved by Ms. O'Rourke, seconded by Prof. Robson, that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

2/441 MINUTES

It was moved by Dr. Childs, seconded by Mr. Furrow, that the minutes of the 440th meeting of Senate be approved.

Motion carried.

3/441 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Mrs. Hodder said that the universities have been asked by the Ministry of Education to submit a report by 30 November on the progress they are making towards the goals set last year in the Performance Contracts. The report will include both qualitative and quantitative data, according to a format provided by the Ministry. The timing of the report does not permit prior approval by either Senate or Executive Committee, however

copies of the report will be circulated to both groups.

The Principal reported that since the new provincial budget was brought down earlier this month, the universities have received indications that changes are to be made to their funding. In particular, it is apparently the intention of the government to spread funding for Year 3 of the Contract over two years, with 60% paid in the first year and 40% in the second. In addition, consideration is being given to changing the funding formula established last year, by re-adjusting the weighting given to course registrations in particular disciplines in favour of technical and business areas – a change which could adversely and disproportionately affect Bishop's, and make it difficult if not impossible to meet the objectives of our Performance Contract.

Mrs. Hodder said that some of the universities are hoping to persuade the government not to change the formula two years in a row, or at least to spread the changes over a longer period. In the meantime, we are not able to proceed with budget planning for 2002-03; the situation should be clearer by our December meeting.

4/441 BUSINESS ARISING

4/440/ii Senators received a document describing the scholarship programme for the current year. There was some discussion about the way recruitment priorities are reflected in the scholarship policy. Senators were advised that the policy is revised annually before the recruiting season, and that the Academic Standing/Admissions Policy Committee would welcome their comments before the next cycle begins.

5/411 COMMITTEE ITEMS

i) SPARC

It was moved by Dr. Rittenhouse, seconded by Mr. Sowerby, that Senate approve the list of reviewers and alternates for the SPARC review of the programme in Psychology, scheduled for Winter 2002.

Motion carried.

ii) Nominating Committee.

Dr. Zubieta presented a revised list of the memberships of Senate Committees, indicating that Dr. Brewster's name should replace Dr. Hull's. Ms. Doran also noted that the student on the Student Appeals Committee was Michael Johns.

It was moved by Dr. Zubieta, seconded by Ms. Durrant, that the revised list be approved.

Motion carried.

6/441 OTHER MATTERS

i) Cheating during Examinations.

It was moved by Dr. Yeats, seconded by Dr. Zubieta, that Senate move into Committee of the Whole for discussion of this item.

Motion carried.

Dr. Yeats indicated that he had brought this matter forward because of a perception that cheating on examinations was increasing at Bishop's, especially as a result of the availability of electronic aids. Several members of faculty indicated that they had seen no evidence of this in their own courses. It was pointed out that instructors bear responsibility for the conduct of their examinations, and have the means at hand to prevent cheating. Some of the student Senators reported seeing instances of cheating; however it was agreed that we do not have enough data to indicate whether or not this is a real problem.

It was suggested that information about the handling of examinations be sought from institutions similar to ours, so that some comparisons could be made. A survey of Bishop's students on this question was also proposed.

It was moved by Mr. Furrow, seconded by Ms. O'Rourke, that Senate move out of Committee of the Whole.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Dr. Yeats, seconded by Dr. Brewster, that the Vice-President Academic of the SRC and the student Senators investigate this issue, with assistance from the Principal and the Ombudsman, and report back to Senate at its February meeting.

Motion carried.

ii) Sessional Dates for 2002-03.

It was moved by Dr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Sowerby, that Senate approve the proposed sessional dates for the 2002-03 academic year.

Motion carried.

iii) Golden Key Honour Society.

Ms. Doran informed Senators that a chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society was to be established at Bishop's, having been approved by the Executive

Committee last week. She described the conditions and benefits of membership for students eligible to join. The top 15% of students in each Division will be issued an invitation to become lifetime members, for a one-time fee of \$80. Members will have access to a number of undergraduate and graduate scholarships, employment information, activities and publications, and an international network of Golden Key members.

Some Senators were concerned about both the concept and the amount of the membership fee, as well as the possibility that students could feel pressured to join. Others queried the eligibility criterion, noting that a student need achieve academic excellence in only one semester to qualify.

It was moved by Ms. Doran, seconded by Dr. Yeats, that Senate support the establishment of a chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society at Bishop's University.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Dr. Black, seconded by Dr. Childs, that the letter of invitation from the University for students to join the Golden Key Society should indicate that each student must determine for him/herself whether it is beneficial for the student to join, and that the invitation should not explicitly endorse membership.

Motion carried.

iv) Report from the Ombudsman.

Dr. Rose presented a summary of the Ombudsman's annual report for the first year of his mandate, noting that the complete document was available on the University's web site. He reminded Senators that the mandate of the Ombudsman had been changed last year to permit him to act for both students and faculty as an interpreter of the regulations, investigator, and mediator, rather than only as a student advocate.

In the course of his activities, Dr. Rose has identified areas in which he thought action was needed, and has directed recommendations to a number of University bodies. Some of these areas are: student academic appeals; admission of Bishop's students to programmes in Education; electronic transfer of course materials; and academic advising.

Mrs. Hodder reminded Senators that the Ombudsman's mandate calls for his annual report to be made public, and that one of his responsibilities is to identify systemic problems so that these can be properly addressed.

7/441 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Williams School of Business and Economics

There were none.

7.2 Division of Humanities

Dr. Childs noted that the Liberal Arts programme, now in its fourth year, had been reviewed by the programme committee. Several changes had been recommended, notably to strengthen the Liberal Arts component by including 6 more credits in Liberal Arts. At the same time, requirements for Social Science and Humanities courses were reduced. The programme remains at 63 credits, of which 9 credits are now Liberal Arts core courses and 12 credits are Liberal Arts Foundation courses.

It was moved by Dr. Childs, seconded by Mr. Furrow, that Senate approve the proposed changes to the Major programme in Liberal Arts.

Motion carried.

7.3 Natural Sciences and Mathematics

There were none.

7.4 Division of Social Sciences

i) It was moved by Dr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Furrow, that Senate approve a new course POL 131 Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics.

Motion carried.

ii) It was moved by Dr. Johnson, seconded by Prof. Robson, that Senate approve modifications to the Major in Political Economy.

Motion carried.

7.5 School of Education

It was moved by Dr. Thomas, seconded by Prof. Robson, that admissions to the Master of Arts in Education and the Master of Education be suspended.

Dr. Thomas said that the faculty of the School of Education were not able to support these two Master's-level programmes with the resources available. She noted however that the three graduate-level certificates were to be maintained, and that those currently enrolled in the Master's programmes would be given the opportunity to finish their studies.

After some further discussion, it was moved by Dr. Rose, seconded by Dr. Drumheller, that this motion be tabled pending the provision of additional information about the students in these programmes and the financial implications of discontinuing them.

Motion carried.

7.6 Continuing Education

There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Janyne M. Hodder, Chair

Ann Montgomery, Secretary