

BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE 456TH MEETING OF SENATE

The 456th meeting of Senate took place on Monday 28 April 2003, at 7:00 p.m., in Tomlinson Hall, McGreer 100.

Present: Dr. J. Rittenhouse, in the Chair; Dr. S. Black, Dr. R. Brewster, Dr. M. Childs, Dr. A. de Man, Dr. A. Drumheller, Mrs. W. Durrant, Dr. K. McLean, Ms. A. Montgomery, Ms. V. Newman, Prof. B. Robson, Dr. C. Rose, Dr. M. Scarlete, Mr. I. Stephens, Dr. V. Stroehrer, Ms. J. van Horssen, Ms. C. Viens, Ms. S-L. Ward, Dr. G. Wickens, Dr. B. Willms, Dr. R. Yeats.

Regrets: Ms. A. Campbell, Prof. P. Cunningham, Mr. E. Favelle, Mrs. J. Hodder, Mr. R. Jaggi, Prof. L. McRae, Mr. G. Stephens, Dr. L. Thomas.

1/456 AGENDA

delete: 4/456/i Fall Term Reading Week

add: 5/456/i (a) SPARC: Dean's Report on the English Department

It was moved (Wickens/Ward) that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

2/456 MINUTES

The minutes of the 455th meeting were adopted as presented (Drumheller/Childs).

3/456 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Rittenhouse drew Senators' attention to the list of proposed meeting dates for 2003-04 under 8/456, reminding those present of the change to Thursday afternoons at 4:00.

4/456 BUSINESS ARISING

ii) Ad Hoc Committee on the Performance Contract.

Dr. Rittenhouse reported that feedback was still coming in to the committee from the Divisions.

iii) Task Force on Student Success.

Dr. Childs reminded Senators that, in September 2002, Senate had adopted a series of recommendations from the Task Force, and had referred them to the Divisions for consideration. One of these recommendations concerned the establishment of a standing committee to oversee the promotion of student academic success, which to date has not been acted upon by Senate. He urged that this committee be formed as quickly as possible, noting that its initial mandate could be drawn from that of the Task Force and from the substance of the recommendations.

It was noted that there is already a standing committee on Teaching Evaluation, whose mandate could perhaps be expanded to encompass these issues.

There was a brief discussion on Recommendation 5, regarding the voluntary remedial course which had been offered in W2002 and W2003. Most students identified as candidates for the course had not completed it. It was felt that the course was valuable for students at risk academically, and that the question of how to present it should be looked at again. Student Senators thought the course should not carry an additional fee, and also noted that some students felt uneasy being identified as needing remedial help.

It was moved (Rose/Willms) that the Divisions be asked to consider the recommendations of the Task Force, in particular Recommendation 5 (remedial course), Recommendation 6 (probation) and Recommendation 11 (Standing Committee), and report back to Senate at its September meeting.

Motion carried.

5/456 COMMITTEE ITEMS

i) SPARC.

Dr. Willms deposited the Dean's report on the Department of Physics, one year after the SPARC review. He said that the recommendations within the Department's jurisdiction had been met, though two remained to be implemented: a 3rd tenure stream position, and dedicated study space for Physics students.

a) Dr. Childs submitted the Dean's report on the programmes in English. He indicated that the Department had complied with such recommendations as were within its power, but that staffing increases called for in the review had still not been met.

ii) Senate Planning Committee.

It was moved (Rose/Stroeher) that, whereas one member of the Computer Science Department will be taking a full-year's leave of absence in 2003-04, this individual be

replaced by a three-year temporary appointment for the period 2003-06.

It was noted that this measure was necessary in order to attract highly-qualified candidates for the temporary position, and that any additional funding necessary to support the position would be found through teaching load reductions.

Motion carried.

6/456 OTHER MATTERS

i) Report on Plagiarism Detection.

Dr. Black spoke briefly to his report to the Principal on this issue, which had been provided to Senators. He said that the plagiarism detection service Turnitin.com has been tried out with mixed results at other institutions. It seems to be most effective where classes are large, and where there is the possibility of papers being recycled by students. It can trace sources available on the Internet, but cannot identify papers provided by private “paper mills”. In addition, there are legal and ethical issues connected with submitting student work to the service.

Dr. Black suggested that a few interested faculty could try the service for a year, and based on their experience recommend whether the University should continue its use.

It was moved (Rose/de Man) that Senate recommend to the Principal that the sum of \$2700 be made available to purchase a University-wide license for unlimited use of Turnitin.com, for one year.

Motion carried.

7/456 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Williams School of Business and Economics

i) It was moved (Robson/Viens) that Senate approve two new courses BMG 318 The Successful New Venture: Feasibility Analysis and the Management of Risk, and BMG 328 Business Planning and Startup Strategies.

Motion carried.

ii) It was moved (Robson/Viens) that Senate approve a changed course description for BMG 214 Introduction to Entrepreneurship: New Venture Creation.

Motion carried.

7.2 Division of Humanities

i) It was moved (Childs/Willms) that Senate approve a new course FIN 207 Introduction to Holography. Dr. Childs indicated that this course would be cross-listed in the Physics Department (PHY 112).

Motion carried.

ii) It was moved (Childs/Newman) that Senate approve a new course REL 312 Independent Study in Performance, Liturgy, and Music, cross-listed as MUS 312.

Motion carried.

7.3 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

i) a. It was moved (Willms/Brewster) that Senate approve the removal from the Calendar of the course BIO 471 Independent Studies in Biology. Dr. Willms pointed out that this course would be replaced by two others.

Motion carried.

i) b. It was moved (Willms/Stroeher) that Senate approve two new courses BIO 371 Independent Studies in Biology I and BIO 372 Independent Studies in Biology II.

Motion carried.

i) c. It was moved (Willms/Scarlete) that Senate approve modified course descriptions for BIO 462 Honours Biological Problems and BIO 463 Advanced Honours Biological Problems.

Some Senators expressed concern that the high pass requirement in Part I of this course would prevent a significant number of students from continuing in the Biology Honours programme. Dr. Stroeher said that a high level of competency in research was fundamental to the programme, and for students going on to graduate work, and the bar had been set very high for this reason.

Motion carried.

ii) It was moved (Willms/Stroeher) that Senate approve the new course PHY 112 Introduction to Holography, which, as noted above, is to be cross-listed with FIN 207.

Motion carried.

iii) It was moved (Willms/Stroeher) that Senate approve changes in the requirements for

entry to Biochemistry Honours programmes and to Honours programmes in the Department of Biological Sciences.

With regard to Biochemistry, it was noted that no eligibility requirement had previously been specified; and that the 70% minimum in each course would not apply to the Honours Thesis courses BCH 482 and BCH 483. In Biology, the requirement is raised from 70% to 75%. The new rule will be effective for students entering these programmes in Fall 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Dr. Jonathan Rittenhouse, Chair

Ann Montgomery, Secretary