

**Bishop's University**

**MINUTES OF THE 473<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF SENATE**

The 473rd meeting of Senate took place on Monday 21 February 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in Tomlinson Hall, McGreer 100.

**Present:** Dr. Robert Poupart was in the Chair, Dr. H. Agourram, Mrs. C. Beauchamp, Ms. P. Cove, Prof. P. Cunningham, Dr. A. deMan, Mr. E. Desrosiers, Prof. R. Drolet, Mr. E. Favelle, Dr. C. Grogan, Mr. C. Leveille, Ms. J. Molineux, Dr. J. Rittenhouse, Dr. C. Rose, Prof. S. Sheeran, Mr. R. Sowerby, Dr. W. Stephan, Mrs. S. Teasdale, Ms. C. Viens, Dr. M. Vigneault, Dr. G. Wickens, Dr. B. Willms, Dr. Yeats

**Absent:** Dr. A. Drumheller, Dr. K. Hull, Ms. V. Liston, Prof. B. Robson, Prof. J. Wilson

1/473 AGENDA

5/473 ii Dr. Rittenhouse requested that the SPARC – Political Studies Review be deferred until the March meeting of Senate.

The agenda was approved as amended ( Léveillé/Viens )

2/473 MINUTES

The Minutes of the 472<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Senate were approved as presented ( Léveillé/Agourram )

3/473 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

- Dr. Poupart reported on his visit to the Parliamentary Commission on February 8 2005, an opportunity which presents itself every three years. As Bishop's has met its performance objectives and in fact exceeded expectations, the discussion did not centre on the performance contract with the province. Instead, the team from Bishop's focused on financial matters such as the province's recurring deficit of \$375 million in higher education and ways of overcoming this serious problem. They also discussed the pension solvency issue at length. Dr. Poupart discussed with the Commission the difference between solvency, actuarial and contribution deficits and pointed out that it is critical to encourage legislation that will do away with the solvency test. The commission was very interested in these issues and asked for

further information. It is important that we keep pressing these concerns with the government.

- Dr. Poupart reported on a regional / local project which is gaining momentum. It concerns the Master Plan and the Sustainable Development of the St. Francis River and surrounding area. Dr. Poupart has spoken with the Mayor of Sherbrooke, local engineering firms and members of the Bishop's community in an effort to solicit *pro bono* assistance with this project. It would then be a joint project.
- Dr. Poupart reported on another regional initiative, this one under the aegis of the Sherbrooke Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has created *working groups* to examine various regional issues of interest. Dr. Poupart is chairing the working group on Infrastructure and Urban Development. Another working group of interest is the one exploring the Knowledge Society. Members of the Pole Universitaire and the Pole Technologique are expected to play a significant role here.

Dr. Poupart will keep Senate current on these two regional initiatives.

Senator Léveillé asked Senate to observe a Minute of Silence out of respect for student Michel Fontaine who lost his courageous battle with cancer.

#### 4/473 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

#### 5/473 COMMITTEE ITEMS

##### i) Senate Planning Committee

Dr. Rittenhouse asked Senate to approve the report of the Senate Planning Committee on Sessional Appointments and Part-time Credits as presented. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Questions were asked about the basis on which courses had been allocated to the various divisions and similarly, how had the funds been allocated. There was also some question about whether courses allocated were to cover course reductions or to provide extra courses. It was pointed out that overall academic costs are going up and that any money released was quickly used up covering these increasing overall costs.

Further, the replacement for course reductions was built into the budget but, the University is facing a larger number of sabbaticals and as per the Collective Agreement, there is an increased demand for course relief for researchers and replacements for Committee work.

A number of other comments and queries were department specific so it was suggested that these queries be taken up directly with Dr. Rittenhouse and that the request be approved as presented. Dr. Rittenhouse pointed out that the SPC had approved all requests that had come before it.

It was moved by Dr. Rittenhouse, seconded by Dr. Wickens, that Senate approve the Senate Planning Committee's report as presented. **Motion carried**

ii) Item deferred until March

iii) Reconstitution of the Art Gallery Committee

It was noted that a consultant has been working with the Foreman Gallery and perhaps we should wait for the consultant's report before moving forward with this proposal. Prof. Sheeran indicated that he had asked that specific question of the consultant and had been told that it would be a good idea to move forward with the Committee. He also mentioned that this Committee has not been active over the years and that there was a general feeling that the Foreman Gallery and its staff needed more guidance.

There was a query as to where the proposed faculty representative would come from. It was noted that the faculty representative should be nominated from Faculty Council and that it was for a full time faculty member.

It was moved by Prof. Sheeran, seconded by Dr. Yeats, that the Art Gallery Committee be reconstituted as per the recommendation before Senate. **Motion carried**

## 6/473 OTHER MATTERS

i) Mid-term exams

Dr. Agourram brought to Senate's attention that mid-term exams are being held in classrooms and he felt that this was totally unacceptable and that a solution must be found. Dr. Poupart agreed with him and stated that this would have to be rectified.

ii) Course outlines

Dr. Agourram asked Senate to approve standardized course outlines for every division and every department. He felt that this would be of benefit in a number of ways. It would assist students in easily reading the content of each course; it would encourage faculty to clearly state the major components of course outlines such as the objectives, the evaluation system, the readings; it would help department Chairs and Deans analyse the course contents in terms of their consistencies, continuity and relationships. Dr. Agourram further noted that the teaching

professor must approve any course modification with the professor who is responsible for the course.

It was noted that this would infringe intellectual rights as reflected in the Collective Agreement. Further, the problem was not with standardization but that faculty doesn't follow policies in any case. Others noted that they would object to having one member of faculty determine what another faculty member might wish to teach. Dr. Poupart referred this issue to Dr. Rittenhouse, asking him to work on reconciling policy with practice.

## 7/473 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.2 Division of Humanities

#### i) Change to course description

It was moved ( Sheeran/Cunningham ) that Senate approve changes to the Calendar description for ENG342ab Revolution and Romanticism as outlined in the document circulated. **Motion carried**

#### ii) New Course in History

It was moved ( Sheeran/Rittenhouse ) that Senate approve the following new History courses; History 278ab The Middle East before 1900; History 283ab A History of Chinese Civilization; History 284ab Twentieth-Century China and History 450ab Public History as outlined in the document circulated. **Motion carried**

#### iii) Changes to Liberal Arts

It was moved ( Sheeran/Cove ) that Senate approve a new Section 3 and LIB Thematic Seminar courses as outlined in the document circulated. **Motion carried**

It was moved ( Sheeran/Cunningham ) that Senate approve changes to the course titles and descriptions of LIB 203ab Medieval Europe: Monks, Popes, and Emperors and LIB 205 ab Absolutism to Revolution as outlined in the document circulated. **Motion carried**

#### iv) Program requirement changes

It was moved ( Sheeran/Cove ) that Senate approved the program requirement changes to SPA 321 and SPA 325. **Motion carried**

#### v) Course name changes

It was moved ( Sheeran/Léveillé ) that Senate approve Calendar copy changes to MUS 333ab, MUS 335ab, MUS 238, MUS 338 and MUS 438 as outlined in the document circulated **Motion carried**

vi) Changes to Course Description

It was moved ( Sheeran/Wickens ) that Senate approve course description changes to REL 233b Philosophy of Religion II and REL 253b Christian Thought II as outlined in the document circulated **Motion carried**

7.3 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

i) New Courses

It was moved ( Willms/Yeats ) that Senate approve new courses in Biology; BIO 101 Introduction to Biodiversity and BIO 132 The Human Body in Health and Disease as outlined in the document circulated. **Motion carried**

ii) Changes to Prerequisites

This change to the prerequisite for BIO 131 was brought to Senate as an information item as outlined in the document circulated.

7.4 Division of Social Sciences

i) Required Course

It was moved ( de Man/Viens ) that Senate approve Sociology 290, Contemporary Theory, as a required course for all Majors and Honours Sociology. **Motion carried**

ii) New Course Descriptions

It was moved ( de Man/Molineux ) that Senate approve new course descriptions for POL 231b European Union: History, Institutions and Policies and POL333a Internationalization of European Public Policies as outlined in the document circulated. **Motion carried**

7.6 Continuing Education

i) Certificate in Cultural and Media Studies

It was moved ( Rittenhouse/Agourram ) that Senate approve the entire Certificate program in Cultural and Media Studies as outlined in the document circulated. **Motion carried**

8/473 BRIEF INFORMATION

Senate reconfirmed M. Durocher as the Instructor for FIN 185 Landscape

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Dr. Robert Poupart, Chair

Sylvia Teasdale, Secretary