

**SENATE OF BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY
530th SENATE MEETING**

Date: Monday, December 13th, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place Tomlinson Hall, McGreer #100

AGENDA

- 530/ 1 Approval of Agenda
- 530/ 2 Approval of Minutes –
529th Senate Meeting
- 530/ 3 Communications from the Chair
- 530/ 4 Business Arising
 - 4.1 Note to Senate re. ENG 294: Film Comedy / M. Childs
- 530/ 5 Committee Items
 - 5.1 Senate Nominating Committee / R. Sheeran
 - 5.2 SPARC report / M. Childs
 - 5.3 Graduate Studies: New course CSC 527 / M. Childs
 - 5.4 Senate Planning Committee Report / M. Childs
- 530/ 6 Other Matters
- 530/ 7 Recommendations
 - 7.1 Williams School of Business / S. Harvey
 - 7.2 Arts and Science
 - 7.2.1 Division of Humanities / J. Crooks
 - 7.2.2 Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics / J. Crooks
 - 7.2.3 Division of Social Sciences / J. Crooks
 - 7.3 School of Education / C. Beauchamp
 - 7.4 Continuing Education
- 530/ 8 Brief Information

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**MINUTES OF THE 530TH MEETING OF THE SENATE
OF BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY**

The 530th meeting of Senate took place on Monday, December 13th, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., in McGreer 100.

Chair: Principal Michael Goldbloom

Present: Dr. Madjid Allili, Dr. Catherine Beauchamp, Dr. Claude Charpentier, Dr. Michael Childs, Dr. Jamie Crooks, Dr. Gilbert Gagné, Prof. Chad Gibbs, Dr. Rebecca Harries, Dr. Steve Harvey, Mr. Félix Hivon-Vaillancourt, Dr. JoAnne Kingsley, Dr. Elisabeth Levac, Dr. Daniel Miller, Mr. Dale Miner, Dr. Ross Osmun, Dr. Elizabeth Prusak, Ms Elizabeth Robichaud, Mr. Nicholas Seebruch, Ms Ruth Sheeran.

Regrets: Ms Hazeline Delos Trinos, Mr. Yves Jodoin, Dr. Walter Marcantoni, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Dr. Darren Millington, Dr. Cranmer Rutihinda, Ms Jenna Smith, Dr. Lourdes Zubieta.

Secretary: Ms Victoria Meikle

ITEM 530/1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as proposed.

ITEM 530/2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 529TH MEETING OF SENATE

[The Vice-Principal Academic assumed the chair for this item.]

Dr. Jamie Crooks moved approval of the minutes of the 529th meeting of Senate and Dr. Steve Harvey seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

ITEM 530/3 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Rencontre des partenaires de l'éducation, December 6th, 2010

Principal Goldbloom reported on the *Rencontre des partenaires de l'éducation* that took place on December 6th, 2010, in Quebec City. Over 100 representatives of different sectors – student associations, universities, government, employers and unions had participated. The Principal, the Vice-Principal Academic and the Vice-Principal Government Relations represented Bishop's University.

Three topics were addressed:

1. improving funding to universities without raising taxes;
2. enhancing access to university; and
3. measures to make universities more accountable for the use of the funds they receive.

There was significant consensus among participants that Quebec universities are under-funded in comparison with universities elsewhere in Canada. They also agreed that ensuring access to a quality university education for those who have the capacity to undertake it, regardless of financial means, is a critical priority for Quebec. In addition, there was agreement that what more reporting would not enhance accountability; rather, we need more effective and strategic use of the information already conveyed to the Ministry of Education.

The representatives of student associations and unions were firmly opposed to tuition increases. They withdrew from discussions shortly after the lunch break, on the grounds that a decision had already been made to increase fees. Quebec Universities presented a consensus position recommending an increase in tuition fees for Quebec students, suggesting that they rise by \$500 a year for three years beginning in 2012, which would bring them to \$3600. The argument in support of this position is one of 'inter-generational equity', that students today should be pay fees equivalent to those paid in 1969, indexed to the cost of living.

The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education indicated that they would proceed with a tuition increase, but they did not indicate how or when.

Appointments

The Board of Governors reappointed Dean Catherine Beauchamp of the School of Education and Dean Steve Harvey of the Williams School of Business. The Principal congratulated Drs. Beauchamp and Harvey, and thanked them for their willingness to serve the University.

He closed his remarks by reminding Senators that Dr. Jackie Bailey, our new Dean of Student Affairs, would arrive at Bishop's on January 4th, 2011.

ITEM 530/4 BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Approval of English 294, Film Comedy - M. Childs

The Vice-Principal Academic explained that some confusion had arisen in the course codes for English courses on Sports Writing and Film Comedy, with the result that the Sports Writing course was listed under the wrong course code, and the Film Comedy course had not actually been approved by Senate.

The Vice-Principal moved that Senate retrospectively approve ENG 294, Film Comedy, as described in the 2010-11 Calendar, and that the Sports Writing course be numbered ENG 296. Professor Gibbs seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

ITEM 530/5 COMMITTEE ITEMS

5.1 Report of Senate Nominating Committee – R. Sheeran

Ms Sheeran moved that Dr. Ross Osmun be appointed as the humanities representative to the Ad Hoc Committee on Education for Sustainable Development, and Dr Rebecca Harries seconded the motion.

The motion carried

5.2 Senate Programme Academic Review Committee reports

5.2.1 SPARC Review of Bishop's University Physics Department – M. Childs

The Vice-Principal Academic moved that Senate accept the Senate Programme Academic Review Committee Report on the Physics Department, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, and Dr. Jamie Crooks seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

5.2.2 External review of the Library – M. Childs

The Vice-Principal reported that the Senate Programme Academic Review Committee recommended the following librarians as members or alternates on the Committee to review the Library:

Committee:

- ♦ Marie de Young, Chief Librarian at St. Mary's University
- ♦ François de la Chevrotière, Chief Librarian at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Alternates:

- ♦ Gwen Ebbett, Chief Librarian at the University of Windsor, formerly a Librarian at Mount Allison University.
- ♦ Sylvie Belzile, Chief Librarian at the Université de Sherbrooke.

The Vice-Principal moved that Senate approve SPARC recommendations, and Mr. Nicholas Seebruch seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

5.2.3 Modification of the Programme Review schedule - M. Childs

The Senate Programme Academic Review Committee recommended the postponement of the review of the Environmental Studies and Geography Department from the winter term, 2011, to early in the fall term 2011. The review will be carried out in September and early October, so that the reviews of other departments planned for the same fall can go ahead as scheduled.

Dr. Childs then moved that Senate approve the postponement of the review of Environmental Studies and Geography, and Mr. Dale Miner seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

5.3 Report of the Graduate Committee - M. Childs

The Vice-Principal Academic moved approval of the course Advanced Topics in Algorithms, coded CSC 527, and Dr. Madjid Allili seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

5.4: Report of the Senate Planning Committee - M. Childs

The Vice-Principal Academic introduced the report of the Senate Planning Committee setting out priorities for the allocation of tenure-stream positions for 2011-12, and indicated that recommendations regarding part-time positions would come to Senate in January. In relation to tenure-stream positions, Senate Planning Committee is operating within a framework established in 2007 to meet severe financial constraints. The framework gives significant weight to a series of quantitative criteria, but was modified in 2009 to give some weight to considerations relating to programme viability.

Senate Planning Committee had received requests from 14 departments and Schools for a total of 17 ½ positions. Applying the quantitative criteria, and taking into account programme viability considerations, the Committee had developed a list of priorities for the allocation of tenure stream positions:

1. one position in Education

2. one position in Psychology
3. one position in Political Studies
4. one position in Williams School of Business
5. one position in Education
6. one position in Hispanic Studies
7. one position in Classics/Liberal Arts
8. one position in Williams School of Business
9. one position in Psychology
10. one position in Sociology

The Vice-Principal reviewed the reasoning of Senate Planning Committee in each case, and moved the approval of the Committee's recommendations for ten tenure stream positions in the order of priority set out above. Dr. Gilbert Gagné seconded the motion.

The motion carried, with one member opposed.

During the course of discussion, the Vice-Principal noted that the decision to give sixth priority to a position in the Modern Languages Department, in the area of Hispanic Studies, was founded on an analysis that also led to the conclusion that the future of the teaching of Italian is in doubt. Given the small number of students registering for a minor or a concentration in Italian, and in a context in which the University must make choices among the modern languages that it supports, the Committee suggested that the resources devoted to the teaching of Italian might be better placed in supporting languages that more consistently attract students. The Senate Planning Committee therefore recommended that the University cease to admit new students to the minor and concentration in Italian.

Speaking against the recommendation that the minor and concentration in Italian be closed, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Jamie Crooks, questioned the continuing appropriateness of the criteria adopted in 2007, noting that they would not apply beyond 2011 in any event, and argued that the teaching of Italian is central to the notion of a Liberal Arts University and therefore critical to our mission. Dr. Claude Charpentier and Dr. Daniel Miller endorsed Dean Crooks' position.

The Chair recognised a number of visitors who spoke in favour of the retention of Italian programmes at Bishop's. Fr. Giancarlo Fentucchi emphasised the contribution of the Italian culture to the culture of the western world, and of the Italian language to other programmes, and presented a petition signed by more than 200 students. He noted that the Université de Sherbrooke does not offer a programme in modern languages.

Dr. Stephen Sheeran spoke to the submission he had circulated to Senators earlier that day. He argued that Bishop's had come back from the brink several times over the course of our history, and asked that the Senate Planning Committee recommendation on the teaching of Italian be revisited while moving forward on the recommendation for a tenure-track position in Spanish.

Dr. Cristiana Furlan requested that Senate reconsider the SPC recommendation that the Italian programme be closed. She emphasised that, despite the lack resources to support more than a very small number of courses in Italian since the retirement of Professor Gianni Di Lullo, registrations had doubled. The rebuilding of the Italian programme has not been completed. There are currently 10 courses a year offered. She asked for additional time to formulate a response that would address the issues raised in the SPC report.

Dr. Bruce Gilbert, Director of the Liberal Arts Programme, also questioned the criteria applied by Senate Planning Committee, arguing that the teaching of Italian is an essential if Bishop's is to aspire, as he argued it should, to being the foremost Liberal Arts College in Canada. While the number of students attracted to programmes is a factor that must be considered, others, including the traditional and essential elements of a Liberal Arts tradition, should receive at least as much weight, and should be incorporated into the criteria for assigning priority to tenure-stream positions.

Ms Tucker, a part-time student in modern languages, noted that Bishop's library has a very strong collection of Italian works, including Italian cinema, and asked that part-time students be taken into account in the process of determining what resources would be allocated to Italian.

The Vice-Principal Academic acknowledged that a legitimate question about the role of Italian in the Liberal Arts tradition had been raised, while noting that Bishop's existed for 120 years as a Liberal Arts University without offering Italian courses. On the data available, Modern Language programmes were attracting fewer students during the years since the recent crisis period.

During the course of discussion, Dr. Miller suggested that the fact that the two positions in the humanities figure in the bottom half of the priorities set by Senate Planning Committee is an outcome that would bear further examination. Dr. Childs noted that the two recommendations were made for reasons of programme integrity, despite the fact that the arguments on the numbers alone were not as strong as in some other cases. He would not recommend abandoning the analysis of numbers altogether.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Vice-Principal moved that Senate Planning Committee examine the document circulated on December 13th, 2010 by Modern Languages Department in response to the Committee Report, that the Committee meet with Professor Stephen Sheeran, and that it come forward to the January Senate meeting with a recommendation as to the level at which Italian programmes will be funded and the criteria on which that funding will be based. It was understood that the recommendation may be for a level of funding that will see Italian programmes out. Dr. Crooks seconded the motion.

The motion carried, none opposed, one abstention.

ITEM 530/6 OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters

ITEM 530/7 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEANS

7.1 *Williams School of Business*

Dean Harvey had no recommendations.

7.2 *Arts and Sciences*

Dean Crooks had no recommendations.

7.3 *School of Education*

Dean Beauchamp had no recommendations.

There being no further business, the 530th meeting of Senate adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Michael Goldbloom, Chair

Victoria Meikle, Secretary