

Minutes of the Second Meeting of Senate

Friday, October 14, 2016

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Rooms AVC 286A and 287 North

- Present:** A. Abd-El-Aziz (Chair), R. Bissessur, A. Braithwaite, L. Chilton, G. Conboy, M. Doyle, L. Edwards, N. Etkin, R. Gilmour, K. Gottschall-Pass, N. Hood, G. Irvine, Z. Jarvis, G. Jiwani, K. Kielly, J. Krause, G. Lindsay, N. Kujundzic, S. Lee, R. MacDonald, A. MacFarlane, D. MacLellan, T. Mady, D. Moses, M. Murray, S. Myers, J. Preston, J. Rix, C. Ryan, N. Saad, M. van den Heuvel and S. Wilfeard
- Regrets:** B. Awosile, G. Keefe, C. Murray, J. Podger, J. Sentance, and S. St. Hillaire
- Absent:** J. Doiron, P. Foley, C. Kamunde, and C. Parker
- Recorder:** D. MacLean, Administrative Assistant to Senate

President Alaa Abd-El-Aziz called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. He thanked Senate members for attending the meeting with the Search Committee for the Vice President Academic and Research position which was held from 2:30 – 3:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION (L. Edwards/R. Bissessur) to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (R. Bissessur/L. Chilton) to approve the minutes of September 16, 2016 as presented. CARRIED

3. Business Arising

None

4. President's Report

President Abd-El-Aziz spoke to the message he forwarded to campus earlier today related to enrollment numbers for this academic year. He thanked faculty and staff for their hard work in recruiting students and thanked our current students for being such great role models. UPEI is currently the top university in the Atlantic region with an overall increase in enrollment numbers at 2.8%. Acadia University was second with a 1.8% increase. The President noted as well that our graduate student numbers have increased by 3%.

The President informed Senators that we were successful in acquiring SIF funding for three of the four projects that were submitted and details are noted below:

- i) Dalton Hall will be undergoing renovations to create a new student e-HUB. This will allow students to access all student supports from one location. The Federal and Provincial Governments were on campus recently to make the funding announcement. Renovations are expected to start in the near future.
- ii) Memorial Hall will be receiving over \$1M in renovations for the Psychology Lab. This project

will commence next summer.

iii) Steel Building will have renovations performed on the first level to create much needed lab space for the Kinesiology program. Development and Alumni Engagement (DAE), who are vacating the space, will be relocating to 618 University Avenue in early November. This move will allow more convenient and easier access for donors and alumni.

A request for funding to assist with renovations to the AVC was not approved; however, the President, VPs and the Dean will meet to reassess opportunities for additional supports. Approximately \$5M is required to necessary upgrades to the infrastructure.

The President also informed Senators that the Board of Governors unanimously approved at its October meeting the new School of Graduate Studies. The Vice President Academic and Research, along with the Deans, will work on this new initiative to galvanize research and graduate studies across UPEI. It will focus on innovative and interdisciplinary programs.

A question arose regarding resources for the library, particularly now with more emphasis on graduate studies. There have been fiscal challenges of late with the exchange rate, an increase in publisher's fees, and no new dollars coming into the library budget. The President noted that the library at UPEI is one of the top five libraries in Canada in terms of innovation. A tremendous acknowledgment to the important work being done. On a go-forward basis, there is a need for a strategic vision as the library is a very important component of a research driven and academically excellent university. The Student Union stated that they have also approached the provincial government for additional funds for library resources.

5. Senate Reports

a) Steering and Nominating Committee Report

The following report was circulated to Senators for information:

Senate Membership

Student Union representative, Owen Shaw, resigned from Senate in late September. The Student Union will be holding elections later in October to select a replacement.

Senate Research Advisory Committee

Owen Shaw resigned as the senior undergraduate student representative on this committee. The Student Union will appoint a replacement to complete his term, to April 30, 2017. Brittany Jakubiec resigned as the Graduate Student Association (GSA) representative on this committee. Kate Rundle has agreed to sit as the GSA representative until April 30, 2017.

i) Request to change membership – Senate Committee on Enhancement of Teaching (SCENT)

MOTION: That the composition of the Senate Committee on the Enhancement of Teaching be changed from Director (or Assistant Director) of Faculty Development to the Director (or equivalent) of Faculty Development. **TABLED** The Chair of SCENT was unaware of the request for membership change and will follow up with the Vice President Academic and Research who made the motion.

b) Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards Report

The report was circulated to Senators for information.

6. **Other Business**

There was no further business.

7. **Adjournment**

MOTION (L. Edwards/R. MacDonald) that the meeting adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathleen Kielly
Secretary of Senate