

**UNIVERSITY  
of GUELPH  
SENATE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 2, 2007**

ROOM 1714, LIFETIME LEARNING CENTRE, OVC

18:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair Alastair Summerlee. The following were in attendance:

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Brian	Allen	Adam	Kristoferson	Al	Sullivan	Ana	Sniderhan
Jim	Atkinson	Nathan	Lachowsky	William	Teesdale	Stefanie	Nagelschmitz
Darryl	Bannon	Theresa	Lee	Patricia	Tersigni	Jeff	Sheppard
Michael	Berg	Michael	Lockhart	Henry	Thille	Jonathan	McGillivray
Carolyn	Borsy	Taylor	Lougheed	Jack	Trevors	Shea	Henderson
Erin	Britnell	Jan	MacInnes	Patricia	Turner	Mike	Bokor
Robert	Brooks	Maureen	Mancuso	David	Van Dam	Kailyn	Fullerton
Leonid	Brown	Harvey	Marmurek	Glen	Van Der Kraak	Bill	Maloney
Mary	Buhr	Dominic	Marnier	Anthony	Vannelli	Jon	Siemko
Dominique	Bureau	Judith	McKenzie	Jade	Visser	Ann	Wesltese
David	Calvert	Ross	McKitrick	Divya	Viswanathan		
John	Cassidy	Kelly	Meckling	Pamela	Wallin		
Chris	Charles	Shana	Menkis	John	Walsh		
Najam	Chaudhary	Richard	Moccia	Andrew	Wayne		
Daniel	Chouinard	Ruediger	Mueller	Brenda	Whiteside		
Eleanor	Chu	Coral	Murrant	Chris	Whitfield		
Anthony	Clarke	Lucy	Mutharia	Ann	Wilson		
Scott	Colwell	William	Nickling	Alicia	Wind		
Peter	Conlon	Vern	Osborne	Joel	Wood		
Kerry	Daly	Paulette	Padanyi	Nonita	Yap		
Robin	Davidson-Arnott	Cecelia	Paine	Ted	Young		
Rod	Davies	Donna	Palmateer Pennee	<b>GUESTS</b>			
Myrna	Dawson	Peter	Pauls	Laurie	Schnarr		
Massimo	De Simone	Brian	Pettigrew	Greg	Beneteau		
Serge	Desmarais	Derek	Pieper	Andrew	Cromwell		
Jordi	Díez	Heather	Pollock	Josh	Sinka		
Shari	Dorr	John	Prescott	Joel	Harnest		
Jacqueline	Doyle	David	Prescott	Neil	Prince		
Icy	D'Silva	Erin	Preiss	Katie	Corden		
Michael	Emes	Michael	Ridley	Geoff	Smith		
Mark	Fortier	Beren	Robinson	Nicole	Moore		
Christine	Garneau-Scott	Brad	Rooney	David	Evans		
Terry	Graham	Saba	Safdar	Erin	Kasperek		
John	Greenwood	Adam	Schneider	Marc	Cousineau		
Genevieve	Gundy	Frans	Schryer	Tareq	Abu Ceoura		
David	Heppenstall	Michael	Schumaker	Matt	Pettipher		
Laura	Hilliard	Adrian	Schwan	Catherine	Brown		
Kendra	Holliday	Omid	Shabani				
Tom	Hsiang	Judy	Sheeshka				
Brian	Husband	Byron	Sheldrick				
Alun	Joseph	Norman	Smith				
Jonathan	Kelso	David	Sparling				
John	Kissick	Deborah	Stacey				
Ron	Stansfield	Shannon	Wedge				
Catherine	Steeves	Erin	Sue				
Warren	Stiver	Kelsey	Corbett				
Elizabeth	Stone	Sarah	Needham				

## I APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Whiteside/Chaaban

**MOTION: that the agenda for the meeting of October 2, 2007 be approved. Carried.**

## II REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed new and returning Senators to the 2007-08 session of Senate. A list of new senators was circulated for the information of members.

### Thanks and Congratulations

The President congratulated all involved in another successful move-in, orientation week, and semester start-up. There were absolutely no complaints received by his office this year – an unusual occurrence. He expressed thanks on behalf of the university to all involved, and in particular to the Orientation volunteers. Senate responded with a round of applause. In addition, congratulations were offered to the football team for recent successes, to the organizers of the Homecoming Weekend, to the volunteers who participated in the launch of the United Way campaign, and to all those participating in the Ontario Universities Fair on behalf of the university. Senators were also invited to join him and the Chancellor at the In Motion Walk – a world-record event held in conjunction with the City of Guelph- on October 3, 2007.

The President was also pleased to report that Professor Chris Whitfield has been elected to the Royal Society of Canada. This is a distinct honour for the university and he offered his congratulations on behalf of Senate.

### Condolences

With great sadness he noted the recent deaths of Professor Jay Newman, Professor Terry Beveridge, OVC student Tammi Weekes and staff member Cecelia Paik. On behalf of the university community, he expressed sympathies to their families and colleagues.

### Election Advocacy

During the provincial election period, the University is participating in advocacy campaigns coordinated through the Council of Ontario Universities regarding funding for post-secondary education. Advocacy activities include op-ed articles submitted jointly by Guelph, Waterloo and Laurier to the local press. In addition, COU has coordinated ads from the Chairs of the Boards of Ontario universities that will appear in major newspapers across the province. He will continue to work with COU to help raise the issue of post-secondary funding and keep it on the political agenda.

### OMAFRA Contract

The University is currently in discussions regarding the renegotiation of the OMAFRA Agreement. It is unlikely that the final result of the negotiation will be confirmed until the provincial budget is released, expected in 2008. The discussions are reported positive, and he particularly acknowledged the continued leadership and hard work of Rich Moccia, Associate Vice-President Research (Agri-Food & Partnerships).

### Structural Deficit/ Budget

The President reminded Senators that last year ended with a significant structural deficit. While he has been asked by the Board to come forward with a plan to address this deficit, he will not do so until there is more information available regarding the budget for the upcoming year.

### Enrollment Update

The President asked the Provost to provide an update on enrollments for Fall 2007.

The Provost reported that 4,400 new semester one students have been admitted. That is approximately 400 over target. Factoring in the large number of double cohort graduates, however results in a total undergraduate enrolment that is down approximately fifty students from last year. The University of Guelph-Humber has

increased enrollment by 9%. Graduate enrollments are very close to target; currently there are 1,642 eligible graduate students. She commended the recruiting and admission teams in the Registrar's office and Graduate Program Services for their hard work to achieve these enrollment goals.

#### Africa

The President reported that he spent much of the summer working in Africa with support from the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) and the government of Botswana. There are unique opportunities for development with University of Guelph.

#### Welcome to Chancellor

The President welcomed Dr. Pamela Wallin, newly installed Chancellor of the University to the first meeting of Senate. Since her installation she has been awarded the Order of Canada. and he offered Senate's congratulations on that honour. In an address to Senate, she expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as chancellor and commended Guelph on its ability to combine education and research with real-world issues.

### III READING AND DISPOSING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING OF JUNE 5, 2007

Teesdale/Pettigrew

**MOTION: that the minutes of the Senate meeting of June 5, 2007 be approved. Carried.**

### IV BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was none.

### V READING OF ENQUIRIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

There was none.

### VI QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question about when Senate will be updated regarding the work of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Curriculum Committee, the Provost responded that once a new Associate Vice-President (Academic) has been named, an update on progress would be presented to Senate by the end of the year.

### VII CAUCUS REPORT

Student Senators were introduced. Mr. Nathan Lachowsky presented the Caucus Report. Caucus hopes to engage all students in the work of Senate by raising awareness on campus of the role and responsibilities of Senate. The number of student guests at today's meeting is an example of how students can be engaged. Among the initiatives that Caucus hopes to undertake this year are the "branding" of Caucus, a review of the Caucus *Modus Operandi*, and the development of an updated web-site and portal.

### VIII REPORTS OF THE STANDING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Given the number of guests requesting speaking privileges, the Chair proposed the following motion:

Summerlee/Pettigrew

**MOTION: that all guests in attendance be granted speaking privileges.  
Carried.**

#### 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair John Walsh presented the report from the Senate Executive Committee.

Walsh/Pennee

**MOTION: that Senate approve the revised Terms and Conditions of the John Bell Award.  
Carried.**

## 2. COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS & MEMBERSHIP

Chair Peter Conlon presented the report of the Bylaws & Membership Committee for information.

- a) Update on the Review of the Senate Standing Committees

P. Conlon reported that final report of the review of the Senate standing committees is almost complete. The working group has completed the consultation process and is now finalizing recommendations. He thanked Senators for their input last year, and noted that the recommendations are organized around themes of membership, communication and integration, and mandate and structure. The final report will be presented at the November Senate.

## 3. BOARD OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Chair Jim Atkinson presented the report from the Board of Undergraduate Studies.

- a) Program Additions

A new major in Environmental Governance is proposed for the B.A. degree program.

Atkinson/Sullivan

**MOTION: that Senate approve the addition of the Environmental Governance Major to the Bachelor of Arts Specialization. Carried.**

- b) Proposed Change to Schedule of Dates

J. Atkinson reported that the Board has discussed this proposal over the past year. Last December, the Board received a letter from a faculty member regarding the loss of one teaching day in the Fall semester, due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday. As well, the Board received a memo from the Associate Vice-President (Academic) and the Associate Vice-President (Student Affairs) proposing that Fall classes begin on the Thursday of the first week of the semester in order to engage students sooner in the academic culture.

While the Board recognized that an earlier start to classes would impact Orientation Week activities, the responsibility of the Board is to address the academic concerns raised by the loss of the teaching day. Currently the Fall semester has 59 teaching days, versus 60 in the Winter semester. Students scheduled in 3 hour classes on Mondays lose the equivalent of one week of classes. At the BUGS meeting, there were opinions by both faculty and students in support and against the motion, but the motion carried.

The Board considered several models to restore the missed teaching day to the semester schedule. After some discussion, including consultation with program committees, it was agreed that the last Thursday in the week of classes would be used as the make-up day for the missed Monday. The final Friday of the week will be used as an extra study day.

The motion was ready for presentation at the June Senate, but given that so many students were not on campus at that time, the Board felt it was important to postpone the item to the first meeting of the new Senate session to allow for maximum student input. Professor Atkinson expressed thanks to the Registrar's office for agreeing to delay planning and scheduling processes in order that the motion could be presented at this meeting. Professor Atkinson presented a chart with the class start dates of other universities. The University of Guelph, Queen's University and Trent University have the latest class start dates in Ontario; other universities successfully combine Orientation Week activities with an earlier class start. The proposed change to the Schedule of Dates is for the Guelph campus only.

Atkinson/Schryer

**MOTION: that Senate approve the proposed change to the Schedule of Dates.**

The following points were raised in the discussion:

- Student Senators canvassed students across campus on their reaction to the proposal. Caucus reported that the majority of students responding to their survey are against the proposal. Caucus also created an on-line survey and compiled the responses into a chart presented to Senate.
- The proposal reinforces the notion that the only way to deliver curriculum is through traditional methods such as classroom instruction. The University should consider alternate methods of curriculum delivery.
- The proposal should not be considered strictly on an academic basis; the impact on Orientation Week must also be considered. Orientation Week is crucial to the culture of the University. Shortening undercuts its effectiveness and is detrimental to new students.
- Students will not be able to use the full week to finish summer employment and this will impact their summer earnings.
- Some programs hold field trips during Orientation Week; there are three OAC field courses that would be affected.
- The shortened Orientation Week may impact the adjustment of international students?
- Losing Thanksgiving Monday in the teaching schedule means that those instructors who teach a three hour class on Mondays lose the equivalent of a week of instruction time. This has been a concern for some faculty for many years.
- Graduate teaching assistants who currently receive training in Orientation Week may be impacted.
- Loss of instructional time resulting from one less teaching day in the Fall semester can negatively impact accredited programs.
- Orientation Week allows students to adapt to university studies. With the elimination of grade 13, first year students from Ontario now enter university a year younger. These students need more time to adjust.
- Lab assignments have been problematic in the Thanksgiving week. If some students miss a lab due to the holiday Monday, their learning experience is diminished. The issue has been managed but at the expense of teaching.
- Associate Vice-President Student Affairs Brenda Whiteside reported that discussions and consultations with Student Life staff, Residence Life staff, Orientation Team members, and student leaders have been in process over the past year. The proposal is not to return to the “Special Class” schedule of years ago; instead the full class schedule will commence on the Thursday and Friday of the first week of the Fall semester. Instructors must use these first two days of class time effectively. There is no evidence to support assertions that a five day versus three day Orientation provides better results. Current literature, including NSSE survey data, suggests that students are better supported by being engaged sooner in the academic culture.
- The addition of the extra day balances the numbers of Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Fall semester.
- Orientation activities can and should continue through the first six weeks of the fall semester; they should not be confined to one week only.

Senate was asked to vote on the motion. **The motion carried\*.**

The Chair thanked all who attended the meeting, especially the guests for their interest and participation, and commended members for the reasoned and reasonable debate. He noted that it is critical that Senate engages in such discussion and debate as part of a collegial process of decision-making.

#### c) Calendar Review Committee Report

The Report of the Calendar Review Committee was presented for information.

\*Motion carried on a vote of 53 in favour, 49 against.

#### 4. BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Chair R. Brooks presented the Report from the Board of Graduate Studies.

- a) New Graduate Diploma in Leadership  
This new graduate diploma is offered by the College of Management and Economics.

Brooks/Clarke

**MOTION: that Senate approve the new Graduate Diploma in Leadership in the College of Management and Economics. Carried.**

- b) New Master of Bioinformatics, Graduate Diploma in Experimental Bioinformatics, and Graduate Diploma in Computational Bioinformatics  
This Masters program and the two new certificates will be supported by three colleges. Most course offerings are from the College of Physical and Engineering Sciences.

Brooks/Penne

**MOTION: that Senate approve the New Graduate Programs, Master of Bioinformatics, Graduate Diploma in Experimental Bioinformatics, and Graduate Diploma in Computational Bioinformatics in the College of Biological Science, College of Physical and Engineering Sciences and the Ontario Agriculture College. Carried.**

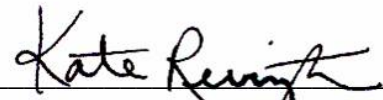
The Appointments to Graduate Faculty List (May – June 2007), and graduate course additions, deletions and changes were presented for information.

#### IX OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

#### X ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



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*Kate Revington, Associate University Secretary*