The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

MAY 13, 2011

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1R40, Richard Ivey School of Business.

SENATORS: 56

J. Aitken Schermer
I. Ajiferuke
D. Bartlett
J. Bend
I. Birrell
L. Briens
T. Carmichael
A. Chakma
J. Corrigan
R. Coulter
J. Deakin
J. Doerksen
W. Dunn
D. Dutrizac
L. Elliott
J. Etherington
C. Farber
N. Ferris
T. Fulton
K. Galil
J. Garnett
K. Goldthorp
R. Graham
N. Heapy
T. Hewitt
I. Holloway
B. Hovius
M. Jones
G. Keller
R. Klassen
S. Lofts
S. Lupker
S. Macfie
M. Machado
R. Macmillan
J. Matthews
P. McKenzie
M. McNay
M. Milde
B. Neff
S. Nemirovsky
J. Polgar
C. Rice
B. Sherar
S. Sims
M. Singh
A. Slivinski
C. Stephenson
D. Sutherland
D. Sylvester
B. Timney
D. Ulbrych
G. West
J. White
C. Wilkins
M. Wilson

Observers: L. Gribbon, G. Tigert

S.11-85 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2011 were approved as circulated.

S.11-86 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The report of the President consisted of the following topics: Hellmuth Research Prize winners, international rankings, Western's "Canadian Meteor Orbit Radar", Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery, External Relations: 2010-11. Overhead slides used to highlight his presentation are attached as **Appendix 1**.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE [Exhibit I]

S.11-87 **Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University**

It was moved by T. Carmichael, seconded by S. Sims,

That Senate approve the following addition to the *Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University*:

Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International Education)

Composition of Selection Committee

A committee to select a Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International Education) shall consist of:

(a) the Provost & Vice-President (Academic), who shall be Chair
(b) the Vice-President (Research & International Relations)
(c) 3 faculty elected by Senate, one of whom shall be a Dean
(d) 1 Student Senator elected by Senate

Procedure

1. The Chair shall convene the Committee
2. The Chair shall undertake negotiations with prospective appointee
3. The Chair shall report to Senate through the President & Vice-Chancellor

CARRIED

S. 11-88 **Convocation Week – 2012 and Future**

Senate received for information the order of convocation for 2012 and future as detailed in Exhibit I, Appendix 1.

S.11-89 **Officers of Convocation**

The following Officers of Convocation have been appointed/reappointed (terms to June 30, 2013):

Donna Peterson - Director of Convocation
Phil Doyle - Associate Marshal
Julie Aitken Schermer and Debra Jared - Esquire Bedels
Alan Mills - Chief Public Orator (Emeritus)
John Thorp - Assistant Chief Public Orator
Deb Coward - Assistant Chief Usher

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE [Exhibit II]

S.11-90 **Decanal Selection Committee – Faculty of Arts and Humanities**

M. Davison, M. Kellow and B. Timney were elected to the Decanal Selection Committee – Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

S.11-91 **Decanal Selection Committee – Faculty of Information and Media Studies**

A. Bowlus, A. Hrymak and S. Roland were elected to the Decanal Selection Committee – Faculty of Information and Media Studies.

S.11-92 **University Research Board**

C. Bornbaum was elected to the University Research Board for a one-year term (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012).

S.11-93 **Senate Review Board Academic**

K. Marshall was elected to the Senate Review Board Academic for a one-year term (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012).

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS [Exhibit III]

S.11-94 **Faculty of Law: Revision of "Grading Rules"**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by B. Sherar,

> That effective September 1, 2012, the "Grading Rules" in the Faculty of Law be revised as highlighted in Exhibit III, item 1.
>
> CARRIED

S.11-95 **Faculty of Science: Introduction of a Major in Applied Statistics**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by J. Aitken-Schermer,

> That a Major in Applied Statistics, detailed in Exhibit III, item 2, be introduced in the Faculty of Science, effective September 1, 2011.
>
> CARRIED

S.11-96 **Faculty of Engineering and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Introduction of a Software Engineering and Medicine Option in the Combined BESc/MD Degree Program**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by J. Bend,

> That a Software Engineering and Medicine Option, detailed in Exhibit III, item 3, be introduced in the Faculty of Engineering as a concurrent BESc/MD degree program with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, effective September 1, 2011.
>
> CARRIED

S.11-97 **Huron University College and the Richard Ivey School of Business: Introduction of a Combined Honors Psychology and Honors Business Administration Degree Program**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by C. Stephenson,

> That a combined BA Honors Psychology and BA Honors Business Administration (HBA) degree program detailed in Exhibit III, item 4, be introduced by Huron University College and the Richard Ivey School of Business, effective September 1, 2011.
>
> CARRIED

S.11-98 **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Dual PhD Program between the West China School of Medicine, Sichuan University, and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by J. Bend,

That effective September 1, 2011, a dual PhD degree program leading to the "PhD in Life Sciences" from the West China School of Medicine, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China and the "Doctor of Philosophy" from programs offered by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry be introduced as detailed in Exhibit III, item 5.

CARRIED

S.11-99 **Revision to the Policy on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students**

Senate was advised that the Policy on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students has been revised as highlighted in Exhibit III, item 6.

S.11-100 **New Scholarships and Awards**

SCAPA has approved on behalf of the Senate, the Terms of Reference for the following new scholarships and awards, for recommendation to the Board of Governors through the President & Vice-Chancellor:

W. Donald R. Eldon Scholarship (Faculty of Social Science)
MM Entrance Award in Law (Faculty of Law)
David S. Edmondson Memorial Award (Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Medicine)
Men's Basketball 1968 Team Award (Any Undergraduate, Graduate or Affiliated University College Student - Athletic Award [Basketball])
Dr. Clement W. Bowman Award for Energy Innovation (Faculty of Engineering)
Dr. Samuel A. Martin HBA '90 Scholarship (Richard Ivey School of Business)
Professor David G. Burgoyne HBA'90 Scholarship (Richard Ivey School of Business)

S.11-101 **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE**

The Report of the Academic Colleague, covering the meetings held April 7 and 8, detailed in Exhibit IV, was received for information. Topics covered in the report included Postsecondary Education Mental Health and Addiction Issues and Teaching Stream Positions.

S.11-102 **ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS** (Exhibit V)

Announcements & Communications, detailed in Exhibit V, was received for information.

ENQUIRIES AND NEW BUSINESS

S.11-103 **Value of an Undergraduate Degree**

The Chair noted that Senator Etherington had provided notice of a question with respect to the value of an undergraduate degree, prompted by recent articles in the *Globe and Mail*, and asked Mr. Etherington to speak. Mr. Etherington said that the recent *Globe and Mail* article had caused him to reflect on the changing nature of the job market, the requirements of employers and the expectations of students and their families with respect to the career and earnings impact of a Bachelor of Arts degree. With increased competition in the job market, BA graduates are not as readily employable as they once were and many are opting to transfer to post-degree community college professional programs. He wondered whether a review of how Western delivers its BA programs is warranted and feasible. He was aware that a great deal of work has been done to accommodate change in undergraduate education at the University but wondered if enough is being done, whether we are proceeding at the right pace and whether we are being sufficiently innovative and progressive in our approach.

Vice-President Deakin remarked that there is a great deal of variability in the immediate marketability of an undergraduate degree. She pointed out that even within the article, data was cited that clearly showed that long-term earnings and opportunities for those with an undergraduate degree continue to outstrip those without degrees. Many successful business people attribute the

success they have had to the critical thinking and communication skills they gained in their undergraduate years. With respect to a review of the BA program, she noted that in response to the Province's IQAP initiative, Western has put in place a comprehensive process of review that will be carried out for each program on a seven-year cycle. One of the key issues covered by the review process is student outcomes.

Vice-Provost Doerksen added that the undergraduate program review process was focused on curriculum mapping and learning outcomes. Departments that have participated to date have found the exercise very helpful. In addition, the University has greatly expanded its academic and career counselling services over the last few years. The Student Success Centre provides a full range of academic counselling and students can participate in group seminars or meet with a counsellor one-on-one; the level of student satisfaction with career services counselling has increased substantially.

The President remarked that it was important to look at all of the University's programs on an ongoing basis to ensure that we continue to offer high quality programs. In his conversations with alumni business leaders, they frequently noted that graduates with bachelor degrees were too green and PhD graduates too specialized for their needs. This spoke to the need for more training at the Masters level. However, universities also needed to make sure that they did not lose sight of allowing students to pursue their dreams rather than focusing on training for specific jobs, and it was important for Western that the core BA remain one of our signature programs. The Province is in the process of adding 60,000 more post-secondary spots, which is a laudable goal, but there needs to be discussion as to how those seats are most appropriately allocated between the universities and the community colleges.

Professor Coulter expressed her appreciation to Mr. Etherington for providing the opportunity for discussion of such a substantive academic policy issue. Her view was that too often, discussion of the value of higher education did not look at the long-range issues and implications. Her own research has shown continually that what young people want from a university is not a job but a better understanding of how the world works. Universities need to hold the line as places focussed on the education of the whole person. She found it curious that whenever the economy is at a low point, institutions of higher education get blamed, usually through the media. There are larger societal problems at play that need to be recognized. Education is about creating good citizens who can participate meaningfully in and contribute to their communities, not just about creating jobs.

Acting Dean Milde said that education is good in itself and noted that if graduates from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities went on to more education that was a positive thing. There was often a failure of imagination on the part of those who wondered what could be done with a BA. The answer, as demonstrated by many successful individuals, was that BA graduates could go anywhere and do anything; it is a building block for many careers. He believed that Western and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities had no reason to be apologetic about the quality of the BA programs offered; the review processes now in place only provide opportunities to make the programs better.

Senator Machado agreed that higher education, in any discipline, in and of itself is of value. However, she pointed out that students and their families spend a great deal of money to obtain a degree. The perspective of students who come from families with means is very different from those who come from families for whom a university education represents a significant investment in their future prospects. There was not enough sense in university classes of the real world application of what was being learned and what skills were being acquired. Senator Keller added that many students do come to university with the expectation that their education will lead to jobs. He pointed out that given the relatively few jobs in academia, graduate student training places emphasis on transferable skills. The same should be done for undergraduates. Professor Matthews reported that at a recent Workforce presentation, she had heard from employers that they were not confident in the transferable skills of university graduates. She believed that this was a misconception that needed to be addressed, perhaps with more focus on service learning, group learning, etc. Senator Ulbrych pointed out that there are skills that can only be learned on the job and the change from school to the work environment is often difficult. Focus on that transition would be very helpful.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

A. Chakma Chair	I. Birrell Secretary

The University *of* Western Ontario

President's Report to Senate

Friday, May 13, 2011

Western

The University *of* Western Ontario

Hellmuth Research Prize

Ann Chambers
Department of Oncology
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

Michael Groden
Department of English
Faculty of Arts & Humanities

Western

The University *of* Western Ontario

International rankings

Social Science

- 82nd in *HEEAC* ranking
- 96th in *QS* ranking (4th in Canada)
- Top 100 in *Academic Rankings of World Universities*

Ivey Business School

- 17th in *Financial Times* ranking for open enrolment Executive Education (1st in Canada)

Western

The University *of* Western Ontario

Western keeps astronauts safe

- Final mission of *Endeavour* schedule to launch May 16
- Debris and meteors pose significant threat to orbiting space shuttle and crew
- Western's ***Canadian Meteor Orbit Radar*** has served NASA since 2004, providing technology, know-how and data that evaluates risk
- Kudos to Peter Brown and his colleagues @ Centre for Planetary Science & Exploration

Western

The University *of* Western Ontario

Surgeons honour Dr. Kennedy

- 25 Schulich Medicine faculty donated $1.5M
- Establishes endowed Chair of Othorpaedic Surgery, named to honour Division founder, the late Dr. J.C. (Jack) Kennedy
- Matched funding provided by Western as part of endowed chair campaign

Western

The University *of* Western Ontario

External Relations: 2010-11

Fund raising: 117% of annual goal

- $63M actual vs. $54M goal
- $234M raised campaign to date

272 alumni events

- 22,288 alumni and friends attended

Notable gifts:

$3.5M: Ian Ihnatowycz
$1M: Cec and Linda Rorabeck
$1.5M TBA Surgery
$0.25M: Nan Shuttleworth
$0.2M: Wilfred Ng

Western