



The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

October 15, 2004

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

SENATORS: 67

T. Adams	R. Harris	J. Nash
M-A. Andrusyszyn	J. Haywood-Farmer	J. Nisker
M. Bartlett	N. Heapy	S. Osborn
F. Berruti	S. Hill	R. Parks
L. Bowman	I. Hramiak	A. Pearson
C. Brown	E. Johanssen	A. Percival-Smith
E. Cairns	W. Kennedy	A. Pitman
M. Carroll	G. Killan	N. Rhoden
N. Crowther	P. Klein	C. Ross
K. Danylchuk	D. Kneale	R. Secco
P. Davenport	M. Kreiswirth	A. Sells
P. Dean	G. Kulczycki	L. Ste. Marie
J. Doerksen	B. Laserson	J-L. Suarez
R. Dunn	G. Lee	J. Tennant
C. Essex	M. Lennon	B. Timney
A. Esterhammer	F. Longstaffe	S. Usprich
J. Etherington	D. MacNeil	J. Van Fleet
W. Flintoff	S. Majhanovich	J. Weese
A. Forbes	A. Margaritis	J. White
J. Garland	D. McCarthy	L. Williams
J. Garnett	L. Miller	M. Witen
J. Harrington	B. Morrison	B. Wood
		J. Zhu

Observers: A. Gedalof, L. Gribbon, D. Jameson, A. Weedon

S.04-174 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2004, were approved as circulated.

S.04-175 **Farewell to Senators**

On behalf of Senate, Dr. Davenport thanked Senators whose terms on Senate end October 31st for their time and contributions to the work of Senate.

S.04-176 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President reported on his Priorities for 2004-05, the Rae Review Discussion Paper, the Speech from the Throne, Student/Faculty and Staff Ratios, Unfunded BIUs and the Globe and Mail survey. Overhead slides used to highlight his presentation are attached as [Appendix 1](#).

Dr. Davenport took under advisement the suggestion that in his Priorities for 2004-05 he reorder the groups listed in the last bullet in *I. Setting Directions: Making Choices* to read: building a sense of common purpose in changing times among faculty, students, staff and administrators.

Professor Gedalof observed that there is no mention of the humanities and social sciences in the President's Priorities for 2004-2005. Dr. Davenport stated that Western continues to be a supporter of the humanities and social sciences and assured Senators that as President, he will do all he can to get more support from SSHRC.

OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE [Exhibit I]

S.04-177 **Constitution of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry**

On behalf of the Operations/Agenda Committee, it was moved by A. Pearson, seconded by E. Johanssen,

That the Council of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry recommend to the Senate, through the Senate Operations/Agenda Committee, that the Constitution of the Faculty be amended as follows:

1. The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry shall consist of the following:
 - (A) The Schulich School of Medicine consisting of the departments of: Anatomy and Cell Biology, Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Biochemistry, Clinical Neurological Sciences, Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Family Medicine, History of Medicine, Medical Biophysics, Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Paediatrics, Pathology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Physiology and Pharmacology, Psychiatry, Surgery and
 - (B) The School of Dentistry

Requests to establish, dissolve or change the name of a Department/School shall be initiated by the Council of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and submitted to Senate for approval.

CARRIED

S.04-178 **Candidates for Degrees and Diplomas - Fall Convocation 2004**

On behalf of the Senate the Provost approves the list of Candidates for Degrees upon the recommendation of the Registrar [S.96-124]. The list of Candidates approved by the Provost is appended to the Official Minutes this meeting.

S.04-179 **Convocation Officers**

The Operations/Agenda Committee reappointed the following individuals as Convocation Officers for two-year terms (to October 31, 2006):

Donna Peterson - Director of Convocation
Jerry White - Assistant Director of Convocation
Jane Toswell - Marshal
Dan Shrubsole - Associate Marshal
Alan Mills - Chief Public Orator
John Thorp - Assistant Chief Public Orator
Richard Semmens - Assistant Chief Public Orator
Melissa Broadfoot - Chief Usher
John Palmer - Esquire Bedel

ACADEMIC POLICY AND AWARDS [Exhibit II]

S.04-180 **Scholar's Electives Program**

On behalf of SCAPA, it was moved by B. Timney, seconded by M. Wilson,

That effective September 1, 2005, the Scholar's Electives Program be revised as outlined in Exhibit II, item 1.

Senators accepted as a friendly amendment to the revised calendar copy the deletion of BMSc in the first paragraph under Admission Requirements.

Professor Carroll presented several concerns about the Scholar's Electives Program which are detailed below, along with Dean Timney's response to each:

- The proposal does not provide flexibility for students to develop an idiosyncratic program which is a strength of the existing program. The Scholar's Electives Module must be built around a four course Minor and a six course Major which is more restrictive.

Response: The background information on Exhibit II, page 4, is incorrect since SCAPA had changed the wording. The first sentence should read: "These modules could be taken as an Honors Specialization or a major."

- The proposal requires Scholar's Electives students to take more than 20 courses, i.e., up to 3.5 additional courses over the course of their four years. Requiring students take more courses does not make the program more appealing. Were the students in the Scholar's Electives program asked how important it is to be able to develop an idiosyncratic program?

Response: The basic structure of the Scholar's Elective degree with a themed module requires only 20.5 courses. Historically it is not unusual for a scholar's elective student to take 1 extra course per year.

- Who is going to teach the 2.0 courses in Intellectual Origins and Concepts and who has committed to run the seminars?

Response: The course proposals will come forward as they are developed and development of these particular courses is ongoing.

The question was called and CARRIED.

S.04-181 **Reciprocal Articulation Agreement: Environmental Science Graduates of UWO or Fanshawe College**

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

That effective September 1, 2004, advanced standing be granted to UWO Environmental Science students who are graduates of Fanshawe College, and Fanshawe College students who are graduates of Environmental Science modules at UWO, as outlined in item 2, Exhibit II.

CARRIED

S.04-182 **Guidelines for Scheduling Convocation Dates in the Structure of the Academic Year**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by P. Dean,

That the Policy on the Structure of the Academic Year be revised as detailed in Exhibit II, item 3 to include guidelines for scheduling of June and October convocation ceremonies.

CARRIED

S.04-183 **Policy on Degree Diplomas**

S.04-183a **Degree Diplomas Officially Conferred at Convocation Ceremonies**

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by L. Bowman,

That degree diplomas be officially conferred only at convocation ceremonies, as outlined in the following policy:

DEGREE DIPLOMAS

Degree diplomas will be officially conferred at the appropriate convocation ceremony following successful completion of the degree requirements and an application to graduate, if required, or will be available for pick-up by the graduate subsequent to the ceremony.

Degree diplomas will **not** be awarded in advance of convocation ceremonies. Students who require notice of confirmation that their program has been completed (in addition to an official transcript) may apply to the Office of the Registrar with a request for a letter attesting to the fact that they have completed the requirements of their program.

CARRIED

S.04-183b Degree Diplomas for MD Graduates

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by L. Bowman,

That effective January 1, 2005, the degree diplomas for students graduating with a Doctor of Medicine degree state the following:

“The Senate, on the recommendation of the Schulich School of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, has conferred upon (graduate’s name) the degree of Doctor of Medicine with all its rights, privileges and obligations.”

CARRIED

S.04-184 King’s University College: Withdrawal of the Bachelor of Administrative Studies Specialization Module in Finance, Administration and Computer Science

It was moved by B. Timney, seconded by G. Killan,

That effective September 1, 2005, admission to the BACS Specialization Module in Finance and Administration with Computer Science at King’s University College be discontinued,

That students currently enrolled in the module be given four years from their date of admission to complete the module, and,

That effective September 1, 2008, the BACS Specialization Module in Finance and Administration with Computer Science at King’s University College be withdrawn.

CARRIED

S.04-185 Report on New Scholarships and Awards

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

Western’s 125th Anniversary Alumni Awards (Any Undergraduate Faculty)
Lloyd W. Bracewell – Bracewell Engineering Inc. Award (Faculty of Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering)

S.04-186 ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Announcements & Communications, detailed in Exhibit III, were received for information.

ENQUIRIES AND NEW BUSINESS

S.04-187 Timetabling Software [S.04-141]

Professor Carroll stated that this week faculty received the results of the first simulation of the new centralized timetable using the software program. A comparison with the existing timetable generated negative reactions in the Department of Sociology. Professor Carroll raised the following concerns:

- 1) Could more time be given to provide feedback?
- 2) Guidance should be provided as to what is an acceptable constraint/preference because some will be accepted and some will not. Examples should be obtained from McMaster where the timetabling software has been in place for some time.
- 3) Faculty have been given no rationale or evidence that the result of using the software produced anything that is better than what is currently used.
- 4) Given Western's commitment to research excellence, the interplay between the simulation and time available for research is an issue. One of the only constraints built into the simulation was that every faculty should have 1 day free for research. He asked the Registrar what has happened to the distribution of research days using the simulation.

Dr. Harris, with the aid of overhead slides, attached as [Appendix 2](#), provided the following response:

The centralized timetable system as it now exists combines all the local information into a master timetable. This system has served Western well for many years. However, in the last three to four years, particularly in the Faculty of Science, increased enrolment in the upper years has placed severe demands on the timetable system. Enough sections must be scheduled to meet the demand in the upper years and particularly in program areas where a highly structured sequence of prerequisite courses must be completed in order for a student to complete the program of study.

Students are switching from what was a common pattern of enrolment in three-year programs to four-year programs. The current timetabling system matched up the instructors and the course requirements and the programs into the master timetable. This system is starting to crumble and problems will be exacerbated as a result of the move to the New Academic Choices (NAC). The New Academic Choices structure means a significant number of students will be enrolled in program modules that are offered across Faculties. In order to ensure that students will avoid timetabling conflicts that would prevent them from completing their programs in a timely way, a new mechanism of scheduling the timetable must be implemented.

From the intent to register information collected in March 2004, and from the current pattern of student enrolment as of September 2004, it is known that 65% of the students in second year have selected NAC modules. Of these, half have chosen more than one module and one quarter are enrolled in program modules that are offered in different Faculties. Next year there will be more than 3,000 students who are enrolled in modules that take them into more than one Faculty. The local programming knowledge for putting the programs and course schedules together will not be sufficient to avoid chaotic conflicts in the schedule. These are the reasons behind the urgency in requesting faculty members to respond in a short time frame.

Dr. Harris noted that the urgency is not as visible in the Faculties of Arts and Social Science as it is in the Faculty of Science. Dean Longstaffe concurred, stating that through the months of July and August he deals with approximately 300 students with "emotions which range between anguish and rage" because they cannot get into the courses they need to graduate and they cannot understand why Western cannot organize the system so that the timetable can accommodate their needs.

Dr. Harris stated that the first iteration of the timetable using the software was not brilliant because the Registrar's Office did not have complete information from all the departments. A second attempt

will be made incorporating additional information provided by Department Chairs and Associate Deans. It is important that all the courses are accounted for and that scheduling conflicts are reduced.

Dr. Harris reassured Senate of the commitment to the Faculty Association that probationary and tenured faculty, unless individuals are on an Alternative Work Load arrangement, will have one day off from teaching for research activities.

Beginning September 2005, classes start at 8:30 a.m. Scheduling algorithms are used to avoid the use of early class times, late class times and Friday afternoons. Data about geographic zones is included so that faculty do not have to travel long distances from their home base in order to teach and to ensure that the instructors have access to the teaching environment that is appropriate to the course. The timetable will be produced again using all the data provided by the departments and it will be distributed for faculty to review. The intent is to minimize the conflicts in the course schedule. Instructors who have special needs regarding their teaching schedules that are supported by the Department Chairs and Deans will be accommodated. It is urgent that Faculties provide feedback on the next timetable iteration within a short time frame because normally the manual timetable is drafted in November. Another perceived difficulty for the Registrar's office is that it must anticipate where the greatest demand for enrolment will be when the enrolment patterns shift as students start the new program modules. Commencing in 2006 a system of "pre-registration" will begin where students actually sign up and register for their courses before they leave in the Spring. If the implementation of the timetabling software is delayed for another year, the situation will become dire.

Professor White asked that faculty carefully review the draft timetable to determine if it provides greater flexibilities for students. He questioned the interface with graduate teaching and if the timetable fits with the research mandate.

Mr. Dunn asked if students will be consulted on this project. Dr. Harris stated that the use of software is not normally something students would be consulted about. She asked that Mr. Dunn contact her directly with any concerns.

Dr. Harris reiterated her commitment to UWOFA which is that if it appears that the project is so chaotic that the implementation of timetabling software can not move forward, it will be held off for another year. She stressed, however, that in doing so it should be clear that it will pose severe problems for some colleagues who currently face formidable difficulties.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

P. Davenport
Chair

J.K. Van Fleet
Secretary

President's Report to Senate

- Priorities for 2004-05
- Rae Review Discussion Paper
- Speech from the Throne
- Student/Faculty and Staff Ratio
- Unfunded BIUs

Dr. Paul Davenport
October 15, 2004

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President's Priorities 2004-05

- Setting Directions: *Making Choices*
- Putting Academic Priorities First: Supporting Excellence in Teaching and Research
- Ensuring Open Administration and Effective Communication
- Strengthening Ties with the External Community

Approved by the Board of Governors, September 30, 2004

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Rae Review Discussion Paper

Released October 1, 2004

Quotes from Mr. Rae's Introduction:

"I think education is the bedrock of modern society"

"I also think our system of higher education is in serious jeopardy"

"Focus on other priorities...has meant that we have paid too little attention to the future of higher education"

"Student aid is badly broken"

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Rae Review – 5 Key Themes

- Accessibility: How can we increase participation and success in higher education?
- Quality: How should we improve the quality of higher education?
- System Design: How can we make sure that our institutions constitute a coherent, coordinated system to meet Ontario's goals for higher education?
- Funding: How do we pay for higher education to ensure opportunity and excellence?
- Accountability: Do we have the right structures in place to know our system is achieving the results we want?

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Speech From the Throne and PM's Address

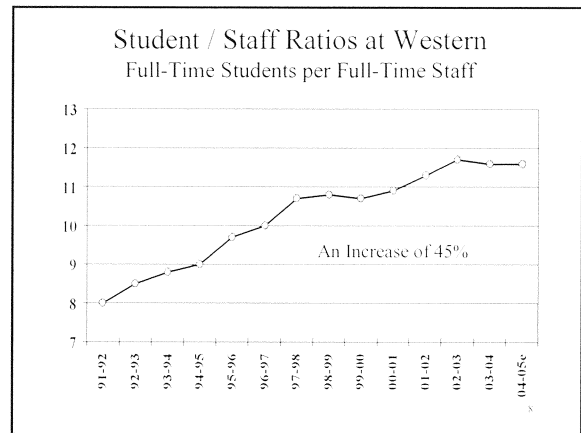
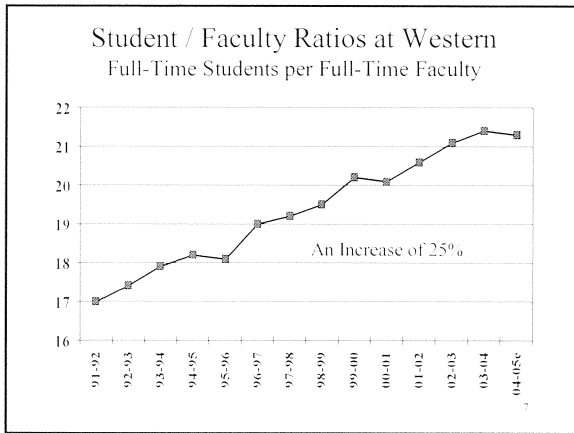
- Ensure competitiveness in global economy
 - Funding innovation, research and development – CFI and other initiatives
 - Fostering key "enabling technologies": biotech, information & communications, advanced materials as "drivers of innovation and productivity"

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Speech From the Throne and PM's Address

- Canadian Academies of Science (\$35 M over 10 years) - to establish an interdisciplinary National Academy parallel to the Royal Society
- Learning Bond - to help low income families save for postsecondary education

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- ### Unfunded BIUs
- Total for Western: approximately 4500
 - About 70% undergraduate, 30% graduate students
 - At \$4000 per BIU, about \$18 million

- ### President's Report to Senate
- Priorities for 2004-05
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