



# The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

MAY 16, 2008

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

SENATORS: 60

M. Adamson	T. Fulton	J. Nash
Z. Armstrong	J. Garnett	K. Okruhlik
A. Awaysheh	C. Gibson	J. O'Sullivan
J. Barron	T. Gorski	A. Sauer
I. Birrell	R. Harris	L. Short
M. Broadfoot	E. Heersink	S. Sims
T. Carmichael	T. Hewitt	D. Spencer
A. Chan	B. Hovius	R. Stainton
J. Corrigan	M. Johnson	M. Steele
R. Coulter	C. Keep	T. Timney
C. Crinklaw	G. Knopf	T. Topic
P. Davenport	G. Kulczycki	J. Toswell
B. Diemert	W. Lehmann	M. Usselman
N. Dyer-Witheford	S. Lofts	M. Van Gaalen
N. Ecclestone	F. Longstaffe	R. Van Gaalen
C. Ellis	R. Macmillan	A. Weedon
H. El Naggar	P. Mahon	J. Weese
J. Etherington	M. Milde	A. Willson
M. Fan	L. Miller	B. Wood
J. Floryan	M. Naish	G. Zeni

Observers: K. Clark, J. Doerksen, G. Tigert, D. Jameson, T. Stevenson

S.08-100 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2008, were approved as circulated.

S.08-101 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President reported on the G-13 meeting with Minister Jim Prentice, the Research Park announcement, the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing and the Graduate Student Teaching Awards. Overhead slides used to highlight his presentation are attached as [Appendix 1](#).

**REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE** [Exhibit I]

S.08-102 **Senate Membership: Faculty Constituency**

It was moved by T. Carmichael, seconded by J. Weese,

That Phil Doyle (Communications Sciences and Disorders), elected representative on Senate for the Faculty of Health Sciences constituency, be granted a leave of absence from Senate and,

That Susan Ray (School of Nursing ) be elected to serve as his alternate (term from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009).

CARRIED

S.08-103 **Senate Meeting Dates 2010**

It was moved by T. Carmichael, seconded by H. El Naggar,

That the following Senate meeting dates be approved for 2010, with all meetings being on Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

January 22  
February 26  
March 19  
April 16  
May 14  
June 25

CARRIED

S.08-104 **Alternate/Replacement Student Senators for the May and June 2008 Senate Meetings**

The policy on Senate Elections states:

“If a vacancy occurs for both the May and June meetings, prior to the commencement of new terms in July, the Senator-elect in the constituency will be invited by the Secretary of Senate to assume the vacant seat. In the case of undergraduate constituencies wherein there is more than one Senator-elect, the invitations will be extended to candidates in an order determined by their plurality in that election.”

S.08-104a **Undergraduate Student At Large Constituency**

Christopher Busch, elected representative on Senate for the Undergraduate At Large constituency, has asked for a leave of absence from Senate for the May and June meetings. On behalf of Senate, the Secretary has invited Michelle Fan (BScN II), Senator-elect in the At Large constituency, to attend as his Alternate for those meetings.

S.08-104b **Graduate Student Constituency**

Kate Graham, elected representative on Senate for the Graduate Student constituency, has resigned from Senate, effective May 1, 2008. On behalf of Senate, the Secretary has invited Rolina Van Gaalen (MSc Applied Mathematics I), Senator-elect in that constituency, to attend for the May and June meetings.

S.08-105 **Autumn Convocation 2008 - Order of Ceremony**

Senate received for information the Order of Ceremony for Autumn Convocation 2008 as follows:

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 - 3:30 P.M.**

Faculty of Graduate Studies\*  
Faculty of Education  
Faculty of Engineering  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
Faculty of Law  
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry  
Don Wright Faculty of Music  
Richard Ivey School of Business

\* = students in programs hosted by the Don Wright Faculty of Music, Faculties of Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, and Law, the Richard Ivey School of Business and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 - 10:00 A.M.**

Faculty of Graduate Studies\*  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Faculty of Science  
Faculty of Science and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry (BMSc)  
Brescia University College  
Huron University College  
King's University College

\* = students in programs hosted by the Faculties of Arts and Humanities, and Science

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 - 3:30 P.M.                      INSTALLATION OF NEW CHANCELLOR**

Faculty of Graduate Studies\*  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies  
Faculty of Social Science

\* = students in programs hosted by the Faculties of Information and Media Studies and Social Science

S.08-106 **Senate Election Schedule for September/October 2008**

Senate received for information the Senate Election Schedule for September/October 2008, detailed in Exhibit I, item 5. Since Senate terms are in transition so that they start in July, rather than November, the terms for the representatives elected in the Fall will run from November 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

S.08-107 **Senate Election Schedule for January/February 2009**

Senate received for information the Senate Election Scheduled for January/February 2009, detailed in Exhibit I, item 6. The terms for Faculty and Administrative Staff will run from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010, and for Graduate and Undergraduate Students the terms will run from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

S.08-108 **Notice of Motion - Divestment from Darfur** [S.08-99]

The Operations/Agenda Committee agreed to place the notice of motion on the agenda for the May Senate meeting. Background documentation is attached as Exhibit I, Annex 1. Discussion of the matter will follow the reports of the standing committees.

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

S.08-109 **PhD Program in Family Medicine**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by S. Sims,

That Senate approve that a new PhD program in Family Medicine, detailed in Exhibit II, item 1, be established in September 2008.

CARRIED

S.08-110 **UWO Diploma in Public Administration Program at Xiamen University**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by R. Wood,

That Western's Diploma in Public Administration Program be offered at Xiamen University in the Fujian Province of the People's Republic of China under the terms outlined in Exhibit II, item 2, effective September 1, 2008.

CARRIED

S.08-111 **Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Withdrawal of the Major in Mediterranean Studies**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Okruhlik,

That admission to the Major in Mediterranean Studies be discontinued by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities for September 2008; that students in the module be required to complete their course requirements by May 1, 2011; and, that the module be withdrawn, effective July 1, 2011, or prior to that time if there are no students registered.

CARRIED

S.08-112 **Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Policy on Direct Admission to the Bachelor of Fine Arts**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by K. Okruhlik,

That the admission requirements for the Bachelor of Fine Arts, Honors Specialization in Studio Arts, be revised as set out in Exhibit II, item 4, effective July 1, 2008.

With Senate's agreement, the phrase "within a 100 kilometer radius of London" was deleted from the first sentence in "Portfolio Interviews" contained in the Background information. The revised sentence will read: "Rather than submitting an electronic portfolio on February 1, students could request an optional portfolio interview be scheduled in early February."

The question was called and CARRIED

S.08-113 **Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students**

Editorial revisions to the item "Accommodation by Instructor for work worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course" had been distributed to Senators via email prior to the meeting.

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by T. Fulton,

That the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students, as outlined in Exhibit II, item 5, be approved to replace the Policy on Medical Excuse Slips, effective September 1, 2008.

Responding to Professor Loft's concerns about General Practitioners (GP) diagnosing mental health illnesses, the stigma associated with this matter and self-induced stress due perhaps to a student's lack of organizational skills, Professor Milde said that the document is submitted from the doctor's office to the Dean's office where it is held in confidence in order to protect the student's privacy. He added that GP's in Ontario diagnose mental health concerns as a matter of course, and if a student goes to a doctor or walk-in clinic because of self-induced stress a doctor must assess the situation and provide a diagnosis.

Questions arose as to how work worth exactly 10% of the overall grade in a course would be categorized. To clarify, with Senate's agreement the fourth paragraph in "Accommodation by Instructor for work less than 10% of the overall grade in a course" was revised (*as shown in italics*):

In all cases where accommodation is being sought for work totalling 10% *or more* of the final grade in a course, students will be directed to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office.

Along with the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students, an educational process directed towards professors, students and physicians will be undertaken. Information will be given to the academic counsellors, the University Students Council and posted on the Registrar's website.

The question was called and CARRIED.

S.08-114 **New Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries**

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:

- HBA '74 Scholarships (Richard Ivey School of Business)
- Cogeco Inc. Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Faculty of Graduate Studies, Information and Media Studies)
- Jack Cowin Football Scholarships (Any Undergraduate, Graduate or Affiliated University College Student - Athletic Award [Football])
- Bizmo Award for Volunteerism (Faculty of Engineering)

**REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING** [Exhibit III]

S.08-115 **Arthur Labatt Family Nursing Research Chair in Human Resource Optimization**

It was moved by F. Longstaffe, seconded by J. Weese,

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors through the President & Vice-Chancellor, establishment of the Arthur Labatt Family Nursing Research Chair in Human Resource Optimization in the School of Nursing in the Faculty of Health Sciences, detailed in Exhibit III, item 1.

CARRIED

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BOARD** [Exhibit IV]

S.08-116 **2008-2009 Academic Development Fund New Research and Scholarly Initiative Award Major Grants Competition**

Senate received for information, detailed in Exhibit IV, Appendix 1, the results of the 2008-2009 Academic Development Fund New Research and Scholarly Initiative Award Major Grants Competition (Successful Projects by Group).

The question regarding the success rate for the major grant competition was taken under advisement.

Secretarial Note: The total budget for the Academic Development Fund in 2008-2009 is \$1.5 million. Of this, \$200,000 is required to support the Small Grants competition for 2008-2009. This year SUPAD reviewed 44 applications for funding for Major Grants under the ADF, a decrease over the previous year when 58 applications were received. Of the 44 applications, 24 were recommended for funding. The total amount requested by these 44 applicants was \$3,032,282 for 2008-2009.

S.08-117 **ADF Small Grants Competition Results, Spring and Fall 2007**

Senate received for information the funding recommendations for the Spring 2007 and Fall 2007 Small Grant competitions detailed in Exhibit IV, Appendix 2 and 3 respectively.

**NOTICE OF MOTION** [Exhibit I, Annex 1]

S.08-118 **Divestment from Darfur** [S.08-108]

Dean Carmichael reported that at its April meeting Senate received a notice of motion from Mr. Van Gaalen, on behalf of STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) seeking discussion at the May Senate meeting of the issue of divestment relating to Darfur with the intent of referring a recommendation to the Board of Governors. Senate's rules of order provide that notices of motion be referred to the Operations/Agenda Committee or to another appropriate committee. As the University's investment policies fall within the responsibility of the Board, not Senate, there is no Senate committee to which the motion can be referred for substantive discussion. The Operations/Agenda Committee determined that the motion should be placed on the May 16, 2008 agenda for discussion in accordance with paragraph 30(f) of The University of Western Ontario Act:

- 30(f) The Senate may pass resolutions and make recommendations to the Board with respect to any matter connected with the administration of the University and the promotion of its affairs but this clause shall not be construed to subtract from the powers and duties conferred on the Board elsewhere in this Act.

Dean Carmichael noted that the motion as submitted did not provide an explicit recommendation to the Board. Passage of the motion would simply allow Senate to discuss the issue. It was suggested, therefore, that a vote be taken on the motion immediately after it is put. He stressed that a vote for the motion would in no way pre-suppose the nature of the advice to be conveyed to the Board. Assuming the motion to permit discussion passed, the Chair would accept substantive motions with respect to Senate's advice to the Board during the course of the debate. The Secretary will provide a detailed minute of Senate's discussion to the Board.

It was moved by M. Van Gaalen, seconded by A. Alwaysseh,

That Senate discuss the issue of divestment relating to Darfur with the intent of referring a recommendation to the Board of Governors on the issue, and, that the President and Vice-

Chancellor be charged with the task of presenting the opinion of the Senate to the Board of Governors at the next meeting where a discussion regarding Darfur and investment is to be held.

CARRIED

Speaking in support of STAND's mission regarding divestment from Darfur, Mr. Van Gaalen noted that the proposal had significant student support - over 1,000 students had signed a petition for divestment. He remarked that the situation in Darfur is intolerable, that the human rights violations cannot be justified by anyone, that many governments and universities have dealt with motions to divest, that the movement has significant student support and that STAND is a successful organization globally, nationally and locally. In his view, it was not appropriate to look at this from the perspective of a fear of setting a precedent. Rather, he was concerned about the type of precedent that would be set if the University did not support divestment. What would that say about the University? Would we accept these kind of atrocities if they were happening in Europe? If not, why would we accept them happening in Africa?

Professor Coulter pointed out that Canadian universities have a long history of deciding not to become involved at important points in history. She cited as an example the situation in the 1930's when Jewish academic scholars were not able to obtain refuge at Canadian universities - Canada accepted only six such applicants. Universities make political decisions every day in everything they do. In this case, the students have afforded the University an opportunity to take a strong ethical and moral position - at little risk, since the University has no funds invested in offending companies at the moment. She stated that not taking a stand on every issue was not a justification for not taking a stand on this issue. The situation in Darfur is dire and she would like to see her university take a stand.

Professor Dyer-Witheford noted that he too supported the proposal, both for its intrinsic merits and for the universal impact such a decision would have on the ability to have discussion of other issues of concern. Once this motion passed, the University could no longer take the position that it did not have the moral authority to raise questions and engage in discussions about corporate responsibility for other disasters around the world. He thought this proposal should be approved, and approved mindfully.

It was moved by K. Okruhlik, seconded by G. Zeni,

That the Senate provide advice to the Board of Governors, through the President & Vice-Chancellor, that the Board issue a public statement announcing its commitment to remaining un-invested in any company on the Sudan Divestment Task Force's "Highest Offender" list.

While not disagreeing with the sentiments raised about the horrors occurring in Darfur nor with the idea that a stand needed to be taken, Dr. Hewitt questioned whether divestment is the strategy that works best, or indeed at all, and whether it caused hurt to victims in the country who might benefit by investment. He asked if there were other means that could be considered in order to take a stand and to put The University of Western Ontario on record with respect to the crimes against humanity occurring in Darfur.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, speaking privileges were accorded to Ms. Jennifer Epp, Co-VP Divestment, STAND Western. Ms. Epp stated there is evidence that divestment pressures are effective. Decisions to divest by reputable institutions draws media attention. That media attention has caused a number of companies to change their business practices in order to get off the "Highest Offenders" list. There may be many other things that universities could do to have an impact. This is just one thing that they can do.

Ms. Kulczycki noted that there was no argument that the situation in Darfur was anything but outrageous. The issue is determining the most effective way of responding to the situation in the Sudan. STAND's suggestion to divest from the worst offenders is not simple to put into operation. There are real difficulties in managing pooled investments and adding restrictions will make the investment managers' jobs more difficult. In some cases, the University does not have access to what investments a manager is holding (hedge funds, for example). The mandates given to managers are reflective of pre-set performance standards. Adding screens to those mandates will make investment more complex and more costly. It is a matter of concern as to how Western will distinguish the situation in Darfur from any number of other atrocities occurring throughout the world - how to draw the line on such requests since many groups will have views on divestment in support of a wide variety of causes.

Professor Milde asked for clarification of how the proposal would be implemented if approved by Senate and accepted by the Board. Ms. Kulczycki explained that Western would have to remove its funds from pooled investments and create segregated funds in order to ensure that the fund managers do not purchase stocks offered by the worst offender companies. Currently, only two fund managers would be affected since all of the worst offender companies are non-North American companies. However, there is no guarantee that would continue to be the case. Professor Stainton suggested adding the phrase "avoid knowingly and directly investing in" to the motion to address concerns. Ms. Kulczycki pointed out that this amendment would not resolve the problem because the University does not buy individual stocks directly.

Commenting on the letter from the President of the University of Chicago that had been provided with the background documentation, Professor Lofts noted that he was very much in favor of the decision of that institution to provide funding to support the work of faculty and students - both in terms of scholarly work and real world experiences for students - to advance human rights. He suggested that Western should do the same.

It was moved by S. Loft, seconded by A. Awaysheh,

That the motion be amended by the addition of a recommendation that a fund, initially in the amount of \$200,000 to be administered by the Provost, be established to support faculty and student work on activities to advance human rights and address other atrocities throughout the world.

A member expressed concern that the amendment was quite different from the issue that had been presented in the materials provided for meeting and suggested that more time would be needed to consider its ramifications.

It was moved by J. Toswell, seconded by R. Stainton

That the amendment be tabled.

CARRIED

Returning to discussion of the main motion, Mr. A. Awaysheh said that Western should be taking a leadership role on this issue. Implementing the proposal might not be the simplest thing to do, but it is the right thing to do. He noted that the Society of Graduate Students had passed motions in support of this move and had forwarded correspondence about its decision to the Board. Part of having the "best student experience" meant listening to students and their concerns.

The main motion was called and CARRIED.

S.08-119      **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE** [Exhibit V]

The Report of the Academic Colleague on the 285<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Ontario Universities, detailed in Exhibit VI, was received for information.

S.08-120      **ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS** [Exhibit VI]

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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P. Davenport  
Chair

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I. Birrell  
Secretary

## **President's Report to Senate**

- G-13 Meeting with Minister Jim Prentice
- Research Park Announcement
- Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing
- Graduate Student Teaching Awards

**Dr. Paul Davenport**  
**May 16, 2008**



## **G13 Meeting with Minister Jim Prentice**

- Ottawa, April 25
- With DM Richard Dicerni and senior officials Paul Boothe, Iain Stewart, and Stephen Kelly
- Key issues for Industry Canada and the Universities:
  - Support for the Knowledge Economy and the Science and Technology Strategy
  - Fundamental research and advances in technology
  - Expansion of graduate studies
  - Institutional costs of research



## **New Research Park Development**

- 60,000 square feet, \$20 Million investment, 120 new jobs – “Green Building”
- Advanced polymer research – LANXESS, Inc. multinational chemical leader -21 countries annual sales \$9.7 billion in 2007.
- Complements LANXESS butyl rubber plant in Sarnia.
- Surface Science Western – analytical labs with over 200 industry clients
- Completion Fall 2009



## **Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing**

- Announcement Monday, May 12
- \$10 Million gift to Western
- Scholarships, Endowed Chair, Nursing Education and Research Fund, Facilities Renewal
- Follows \$5 million gift to Faculty of Health Sciences in 2005, naming of Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building
- Arthur Labatt: Western's Chancellor 2004-2008



## **Graduate Student Teaching Awards**

- Ceremony Tuesday, May 13, Great Hall
- Honouring Western's best graduate student teachers.
- Awards created by SOGS, TA Union, and Faculty of Graduate Studies to celebrate future scholars and teachers
- Presented by Margie Davenport, (SOGS, VP Academic) and Ruchi Bhalla (GTA Union President) with Acting Dean Alan Weedon.

