



The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE

April 20, 2007

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

SENATORS: 70

N. Abbas	C. Dunbar	K. Okruhlik
D. Abelson	D. Dutrizac	M. Oliva
M. Adamson	N. Dyer-Witthof	E. Paulson
M.A. Andrusyszyn	C. Ellis	A. Pearson
Z. Armstrong	J. Etherington	J. Plug
D. Barclay	J. Floryan	R. Rajakumar
F. Berruti	T. Fulton	C. Ross
I. Birrell	J. Garnett	A. Sells
L. Bowman	T. Garrard	P. Senra
M. Broadfoot	J. Gordon	D. Shrubsole
C. Brown	K. Graham	P. Simpson
C. Brown	R. Harris	S. Sims
C. Callander	S. Hatibovic-Kofman	C. Stephenson
T. Carmichael	C. Herbert	J. Tennant
A. Chan	T. Hewitt	B. Timney
A. Clark	M. Johnson	S. Usprich
J. Cole	R. Keirstead	T. Vandervoort
J. Corrigan	G. Killan	D. Wardlaw
R. Coulter	P. Klein	J. Weese
K. Danylchuk	G. Kulczycki	M. Wilson
P. Davenport	W. Lehmann	B. Wood
P. Dean	F. Longstaffe	X. Zou
B. Diemert	R. Macmillan	
P. Doyle	M. Milde	

Observers: R. Chelladurai, K. Clark, L. Gribbon, D. Jameson, G. Tigert, A. Weedon

By Invitation: R. Campbell, J. White

S.07-69

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

[Dean Pearson assumed the Chair]

The minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2007 were approved as circulated.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING [Exhibit I]

S.07-70

Robarts Research Institute Integration into UWO

It was moved by F. Longstaffe, seconded by C. Herbert,

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the integration of the Robarts Research Institute into The University of Western Ontario as a Research

Professor Coulter asked how many staff will be dedicated to support Robarts' external relations activities and at what cost. Dr. Davenport replied that two full-time fundraising professionals and one full-time communications officer will be at Robarts. Funding for these positions comes from existing Robarts related resources and is not part of the \$1.8 million base budget transfer. The budgets for those positions previously existed at Robarts.

Professor Coulter asked whether fundraising for Robarts would detract from the amount flowing to Western. Mr. Garrard stated that there are unique areas of research being conducted at Robarts that will attract particular donors who might normally not consider donating to Western. Dean Herbert stated that Western has collaborated with Robarts on fundraising initiatives in the past and believed that the integration would, overall, have a positive effect on fundraising.

In response to questions from Professor Clark about the impact of current Western scientists moving from departments to Robarts and vice-versa, Dean Herbert stated that there is no intent to denude existing faculties or to interfere with the operations of other departments. Dr. Weedon added that there is concern that faculty members at Western would not be able to become Robarts scientists of their own volition, leaving gaps in their own departments. The credentials committee would have to agree to the transfers and the credentials committee would include the Chair of the affected department and the Dean in any discussions.

The question was called and CARRIED.

S.07-71

2007-2008 University Operating and Capital Budgets

It was moved by F. Longstaffe, seconded by C. Stephenson,

That Senate provide advice to the Board of Governors, through the Vice-Chancellor, recommending the approval of the 2007-08 University Operating and Capital Budgets (Exhibit I, Appendix 2 - *green cover*).

Dean Pearson reminded Senate that the operating and capital budgets and setting of tuition fees are in the purview of the Board of Governors. The Senate may provide its advice to the Board under the authority of Section 30.(f) of the *UWO Act*.

Dr. Longstaffe presented the 2007-2008 University Operating and Capital Budgets detailed in Exhibit I, Appendix 2, including the planning and budgetary context, priorities for the next 4 years, new initiatives in 2007-08, operating revenues, faculty and support unit budget recommendations, student aid, a summary of the operating budget and the capital budget. Overhead slides used to highlight his presentation are attached as [Appendix 2](#).

Professor Coulter asked for an update on the Research Park budget. Mr. R. Campbell, Manager, Financial Analysis and Budget Administration, noted that some major developments that would have an impact on the Research Park budget were underway but were not yet ready to be reported. Dr. Hewitt said that Senate would receive information on the Research Park budget as soon as it is available, but because the Research Park is an ancillary operation, no funding is allocated from the operating budget.

It was moved by N. Abbas, seconded by M. Wilson,

That Senate recommend the 2007-2008 Operating Budget to the Board of Governors with the following amendment:

That Western Bursaries be increased by \$550,000 in order to raise the total financial aid to 4% aligning it with the tuition fee increase.

Ms. Abbas stated that it is in Western's best interest to continue prioritizing needs-based student assistance to ensure tuition revenues are able to grow in the future. Total revenue derived from tuition fees, undergraduate and graduate combined, is budgeted to increase by 3.9% in 2007-08. Due to the continued underinvestment in the university system by the government it is recognized that annual inflationary increases to tuition fees remains a reality in the foreseeable future. Student financial aid from the province has not kept pace with increasing tuition fees. Offsetting debt, particularly for students in high-cost programs, is important.

Dr. Longstaffe stated that the recommendation in the budget is to add \$200,000 to the University's bursary funds. This amount was determined as a result of discussions with the Financial Aid office which estimates the amount of additional funding needed annually to meet Western's guarantee that no qualified student will be unable to attend or continue because of access to insufficient funding. If the estimate of \$200,000 of additional funding proves insufficient, this would be the first draw on resources to cover any shortfall. In addition to the operating budget funds available, an additional \$300,000 is provided through fundraising. It is estimated that in 2007-08 this source will provide another \$300,000 in additional income to be used for student bursaries. The fundraising response from the donor community providing aid-based support for the students continues to be strong and over the last three years an additional \$1.8 million has come in for needs-based support. Mr. Garrard stated that over the last three years, Western's donors have contributed, together with matching funds from the Ontario government, \$39 million that is now endowed at the University and the income of \$1.75 million of which is directed to student aid. The pace of growth for scholarships and bursaries that is being generated from private donors is going to continue to represent a significant contribution to meeting student financial needs. Dr. Longstaffe pointed out that the overall impact of amending the budget to incorporate the \$550,000 over the four years would be a change in Western's ability to meet the Board mandated operating reserve of \$2.5 million. Funds would have to be redirected from current operating budget commitments (such as hiring new faculty) to student aid.

Dr. Harris stated that in the administration of financial aid budget for undergraduate students in first and second entry programs the Registrar's office works with the faculties to have a clear understanding about what individual students will need in order to complete their programs of study. When working with individual applicants to programs who have expressed concern about whether they are going to be able to meet those financial obligations, individual assessments are done that take into account whether students have accumulated debt, dependent children, special needs, etc. These factors are used to calculate the unmet financial need. In the last seven years there has not been a single student who has qualified under the plan at the University and who has come forward to Financial Aid, who has not been able to be supported with a plan that takes into account their needs to allow them to enter the program of their choice or to continue in their program.

Ms. Cole stressed that student debt is an issue and that a contribution of \$550,000 to student bursaries is not unreasonable in light of the fact that the over the last three years the average operating surplus is \$47.6 million. Ms. Kulczycki explained that the surplus includes dollars allocated to faculties that have not yet been expended including faculty appointments and funds are set aside for capital expansion.

Dr. Harris noted that the administration is aware of the issue of student debt load. The amount of debt with which a student might graduate varies across the faculties. Over the past few years the University has instituted programs of support to students whose are unable, upon graduation, to carry the interest on their debt.

Mr. Armstrong queried whether the University was attracting primarily students from more affluent economic backgrounds and who might not need as much support. In response, Dr. Harris reviewed the measures the University has put in place in recent years to reach out to potential students in disadvantaged groups and rural communities to help them understand what support is available.

Mr. Wilson said, with regard to "needs assessment" that a re-evaluation may be needed of the actual cost of university education at Western. The increased funding is needed to lower student reliance

on repayable forms of student aid since many Western students graduate with a high debt load. Students must first go to re-payable aid sources before turning to bursaries.

Professor Dyer-Witheford noted that the key to the argument is that the budget increase to student aid should parallel that of the increase in tuition revenue and asked why the gap exists. Dr. Harris stated that because the Strategic Plan set a flat enrolment, the net enrolment change is declining which makes a difference in terms of the draw down on that fund.

Professor Tennant asked if Senate votes in favor of the increase does it compel those who administer financial aid to put the money in students pockets or bank accounts or can a possible consequence of the increase be simply a surplus in the budget that could be allocated elsewhere. He was concerned about the criteria that would be applied in the allocation of the increased funds. Dr. Longstaffe clarified that Senate provides advice to the Board regarding the budget. If Senate's advice to the Board is consideration of the increase then the whole financial aid model would become part of the discussion. The financial aid model currently used is well-managed and organized and sympathetic to the needs of students.

Dr. Davenport acknowledged that the University has a vital interest in maintaining the guarantee of access. The administration is satisfied that the funds in the financial aid budget can deliver that guarantee of access. Should, further into the year, additional funds be required for financial aid, these funds would be drawn from contingencies. The other area of common interest is the concern about the quality of education and it should be noted that expenditures in the future are lean. There is a need to balance a range of interests within the budget.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the definition of "access" be reviewed. He queried whether graduating with significant deb can truly be considered "access". Perhaps students were deselecting themselves because of perceptions of costs and available financial support. Because of limits on bursaries, students have to turn to commercial loan services to fund the gap between what OSAP provides and the real cost of attending Western. Dr. Harris stated that no limit is set on the amount of bursary funding available to particular students and that individual circumstances are taken into account.

Professor Simpson stated that it would be helpful to know where the funds would come from should Senate vote in favor of the amendment. Dr. Longstaffe said that if the amendment is approved by the Board the budget would require a re-evaluation and the funds would likely be drawn during years two through four of the budget plan.

The amendment was called and DEFEATED.

It was moved by N. Dyer-Witheford, seconded by J. Gordon,

That Senate recommend the 2007-2008 Operating Budget to the Board of Governors with the following amendment:

That Western Bursaries be increased by \$250,000.

Professor Dyer-Witheford spoke in support of the amendment for the reasons presented by the students during the previous discussion. He was particularly concerned about the self-selection of students and debt load upon graduation. An amount of \$250,000 was the middle ground.

The amendment was called and DEFEATED.

Ms. Paulson asked how the \$500,000 fund for interdisciplinary studies would be allocated. Dr. Longstaffe stated that the interdisciplinary funds will be distributed on the basis of a competition. The call for proposals was issued in March. The letters of intent for the first competition have been

received and will be examined by a committee that will make a recommendation on which proposals should receive funding.

Responding to Ms. Paulson's question about graduate student funding (Table 2, line 5), Dr. Longstaffe stated the funds would be allocated to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities to be distributed. Dean Okruhlik stated that scholarships will be created to allow the Faculty to be more competitive in recruitment of graduate students.

Ms. Paulson asked if the modernization of office space and study space for graduate students is included in the capital budget (item 4, page 61). Dr. Longstaffe confirmed this point.

The main motion was called and CARRIED.

OPERATIONS/AGENDA COMMITTEE [Exhibit II]
[Dr. Davenport resumed the Chair]

S.07-72 **Official Observer Status for Deans of Affiliated University Colleges**

It was moved by A. Pearson, seconded by L. Bowman,

That Senate approve, in cases where the Academic Dean of an Affiliated University College has not been elected to Senate to represent that College, that the Academic Dean be accorded Official Observer status.

CARRIED

S.07-73 **Richard Ivey School of Business Constitution**

It was moved by A. Pearson, seconded by C. Stephenson,

That the constitution of the Richard Ivey School of Business be revised to read as shown in Exhibit II, Appendix 1.

Responding to Professor Coulter's question regarding the inclusion of six directors of the School of Business on the Faculty Council, Dean Stephenson stated that these directors, who are not faculty, are included on Council because of the importance of the participation of staff. Quorum is such that staff cannot carry a vote. Quorum is 35 with a minimum of 25 being faculty.

The question was called and CARRIED.

S.07-74 **Change in Names of Units**

The change in names of the following units was reported to Senate for information.

S.07-74a **Continuing Studies**

The Western Centre for Continuing Studies has been renamed Continuing Studies at Western.

S.07-74b

Writing Program (with Editorial Change to Faculty of Arts and Humanities Constitution)

The Writing Program, resident within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, has been renamed the “Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication”. This change is intended to capture more precisely the activities of this unit. The Director of the Program will also have a corresponding change in title which will be reflected in the constitution of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities. The list of ex officio members of the Faculty Council, item 3 a vi, will be revised to read, “The Director of ~~Writing~~ the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication.”

S.07-83 **Policy on Recording Names on Academic Records and Degree Diplomas**

It was moved by M. Milde, seconded by M. Wilson,

That effective September 1, 2007, the Policy on Recording Students' Names on Academic Records and Degree Diplomas be approved as detailed in Exhibit III, item 8.

CARRIED

S.07-84 **New Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries**

Senate received for information the Terms of Reference for new scholarships and awards, for recommendation to the Board of Governors through the Vice-Chancellor as outlined in Exhibit III, item 9 of the SCAPA report.

Creport.

wide diversity of people. He would meeting with the President's Standing Committee on Employment Equity in the very near future to get its members' views on the next steps that Western needs to take. In addition, the Caucus on Women's Issues, the leaders of student and employee groups, and others will be engaged immediately to determine the most effective ways to achieve fully the University's equity goals. Dr. Longstaffe advised that Senate will receive regular reports on this matter.

Mr. Armstrong noted that the issue of mental health and its relation to safety on campus also needed to be addressed. He asked what the administration is doing to address issues of mental health and to ensure that every student is supported during his/her studies. Dr. Davenport replied that this issue is on the senior team's agenda. The problems of mental health among university students is rising significantly over North America. The waiting list to get a first appointment and continuing counseling at Western is distressing. Dr. Harris stated that Western is concerned about having adequate support in place for students who are in search of assistance. Student Development Services staff does provide an on campus service which includes an elaborate triage that assures that if an individual is identified as being in a difficult situation he/she will be seen immediately. The waiting list for ongoing service is caused partly by the heavy call on the community infrastructure and partly by the inability to refer students out for service and have it delivered in a timely way. Different options are being explored, including finding resources to increase the level of service provided and collaboration with the De5(t)8.1(e)2 ii

Food Court. Ms. Kulczycki indicated that she would respond to Professor Coulter on both questions once she had investigated.

S.07-90

Budget Process

Mr. Armstrong asked if there is a formal avenue for students to provide input during the development of the annual budget. Dr. Longstaffe explained that students are involved at the departmental and school councils levels that feed into the development of a faculty budget. The budget process includes meetings between the administration and student leaders regarding tuition recommendations. SCUP, which does include student representation, reviews the preliminary budget document as does Senate in February. Ms. Kulczycki noted that the Student Services Committee provides input into the budget process including student priorities and areas of need.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

P. Davenport
Chair

I. Birrell
Secretary

