



A meeting of the Senate was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in Robert Sutherland Hall, Room 202 at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Senator Oosthuizen in the Chair **Senators:** Archibald, Baker, Boag, Brien, Brinkworth, Brock, Brown, Bruno-Jofre, Ceci, Christie, Deakin, Deane, Dixon, Flanagan, Hills, Horton, Jahanbakhsh, Kisilevsky, LaFleche, Leichner, MacLean, McCormack, McGrath, Minnes, Norman, Remenda, Rouget, Rowe, Ryan, Santeramo, Saunders, Staples, Stevens, Tam, Walker, J. Welsh, Whitney, Wiener, G. Moore (Secretary), P. Watkin (Associate Secretary)

Also Present: C. Beach, J-A. Brady, R. Coupland, S. Kemp, T. Lin, J. Medves, K. Montgoermy, K. O'Brien, H. Smith, C. Sumbler, B. Teatero, M. Whitehead.

Senator Oosthuizen expressed Principal Williams and Senator Stairs, Vice-Chair of Senate, regrets for not being present at Senate. Both were out of town on University business.

I OPENING SESSION

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Senator LaFleche, seconded by Senator Brien, that the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried 09-35

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of 23 April 2009 (Appendix A, page 1)

Moved by Senator Deakin, seconded by Senator Br

Carried 09-36

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no Business Arising from the Minutes.

4. Chair's Report

Financial Update

Senator Oosthuizen reported that the Board of Trustees approved the 2009-2010 budget at its meeting

Performing Arts Centre

Senator Oosthuizen reported that recent funding announcements would bring the University very close to the estimated \$65M needed to build the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts on the former Tett Centre site. The federal and provincial governments are contributing up to \$30M. Drs. Alfred and Isabel Bader have given \$18M and the City of Kingston has confirmed a funding contribution of \$6M.

5. Other Reports

a) **Research Report** (Appendix B, page 8)

Senator Rowe, Vice-Principal (Research), made the following announcements:

- Dr. J. Smol, Department of Biology, has won a Killam Prize and the Premier's Discovery Award for 2009;
- Dr. W. Kymlicka, Department of Philosophy as also won a Premier's Discovery Award for 2009;
- Dr. A. McDonald, Department of Physics, has been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, the national academy of science of the UK and the Commonwealth.

b) **Board of Trustees Meeting, May 2, 2009** (Appendix C, page 16)

Senator Oosthuizen drew attention to the report on the Board of Trustees Meeting of May 2, 2009. There were no questions or comments.

c) **Presentation by Senator Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic) on "Contexts and Imperatives for Reviewing the Curriculum – A Discussion Paper"**

<http://www.queensu.ca/vpac/curriculumdiscussion.html>

Senator Deane, Vice-Principal (Academic) provided a PowerPoint (attached) presentation on his discussion paper entitled "Contexts and Imperatives for Reviewing the Curriculum". The

- By 2011 it is anticipated that a new quality assurance regime will be introduced by the Ontario government which will replace the current internal academic review process for both undergraduate and graduate level programs. The new process will encompass both undergraduate and graduate programs and is envisaged as self-regulatory. The new process will be organized by the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents (OCAVP) and implicit in the new process will be an outcome based model of assessment.

Senator Deane stressed that it is unrealistic to think that the quality of a Queen's education can be preserved by tinkering with the curriculum. Failure to take note of academic currency will result in Queen's being marginalized. Senator Deane concluded his presentation by encouraging Senate to return to basic thinking, preserving essential values and remember that curriculum renewal is an open-ended process.

Senator Walker, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, thanked Senator Deane for his provocative paper which promotes more accountability to stakeholders. He noted that the University is challenged by its current structures which are not keeping pace with the evolving learning environment.

II QUESTION PERIOD (Appendix D, page 17)

1. **From Senator Christie, QUFA President, requesting a written report of the Legal Counsel's opinion about the role of the Deans and Senate. Oral response to be provided by Principal Williams**

On behalf of Principal Williams, Senator Oosthuizen responded that the Senate Minutes of April 23, 2009 (page 3), accurately reflected Legal Counsel's opinion about the bicameral governance model and the role of the Deans within that model. For this reason, Principal Williams will not be releasing a report on the legal opinion he obtained on this subject. Senator Christie confirmed that the response satisfied her concern.

2. **From Senator Christie, QUFA President, regarding the Board of Trustees and changes to the governing structure of Queen's University. Oral response to be provided by Principal Williams**

On behalf of Principal Williams, Senator Oosthuizen responded that the issue of a governance review was raised at the University Council Annual Meeting on May 1, 2009. It is anticipated that a review will be initiated this fall by the Principal and will include representation from the Senate, Board of Trustees, and the Council.

III REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. **Academic Development (Appendix E, page 18)**
 - a) **Proposed change to degree name designation: Master of Applied Science in the Faculty of Applied Science.**
Moved by Senator Deane
seconded by Senator Deakin
that Senate approve the change of degree name designation for the Master of Science (Engineering) (M.Sc. [Eng]) and the Master of Science (M.Sc.) to the Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.) in the School of Graduate Studies and Research. This change will take effect for all new students eo

- b) Proposal to introduce QBridge: Proposed Queen’s University English Bridging Program
Moved by Senator Deane
seconded by Senator MacLean
that Senate approve the proposal to introduce QBridge, the Queen’s University English
Bridging Program, to commence for students applying for admission in September 2010,
and to be reviewed after a three-year pilot.**

Carried 09-38

There were no questions or comments.

- c) Governing framework of the School of Graduate Studies
Moved by Senator Deane
seconded by Senator Deakin
that Senate rescind the Constitution of the School of Graduate Studies and Research,
Queen’s University at Kingston established in 1971. Furthermore, SCAD recommends that
Senate endorse the Governing Framework for Graduate Studies, which describes the overall**

d) Motions from Senators Rouget and J. Welsh – Oral report from Senate Deane, Vice-principal (Academic) [Original referral can be

Dr. Beach responded that SCAP heard directly from the Commerce students and was aware of the particular concern that allotting an “A-” grade for marks between 80% - 84% would discourage students from working towards the higher range of the grade. However, in SCAP’s opinion, there is no evidence to support this argument. Dr. Beach noted that the majority of students outside of the Commerce program were in favour of the proposal. With regard to the suggestion of instituting a blended grading system, Dr. Beach confirmed that it would be very costly to the University and the expense would be incurred each time the system was upgraded. Dr. Beach confirmed that there was consensus amongst the members of SCAP to propose a grading system based on letter grades and GPA. J-A. Brady added that there is potential to work with the School of Business and the programmers to develop a reporting system based on percentage grades. However, the official transcript will record a letter grade with a GPA.

Senator Whitney reported that a number of concerns were raised at the Arts and Science Faculty Board and asked if solutions have been found to address these concerns. In particular, how will students be assessed for admission into, and progress through, competitive programs such as Life Sciences where there is a distinguishable difference between a 77% and a 78%? Secondly, how will students be assessed for the awarding of scholarships? J-A. Brady responded that solutions to these challenges will be the next step in the process. SCAP plans to deal with these issues in the Fall and will examine best practices at other universities before making any major e(a)-e23 02 T r2vhat ther e(a)-

6. Library (Appendix J, page 76)

a) Annual Report

Senator Oosthuizen drew attention to the annual report of the Senate Library Committee. There were no questions or comments.

7. Nominating (Appendix K, page 80)

a) Election

Moved by Senator Dixon

seconded by Senator Brown

that the student named in Appendix K, page 80, be elected to the Committee indicated.

Carried 09-44

There were no nominations from the floor.

IV REPORTS OF FACULTIES AND AFFILIATED COLLEGES

None Received

V MOTIONS

None Received

Senate Committee on Academic Procedures
Report to Senate – May 20, 2009

**OFFICIAL CREDIT UNIT WEIGHTING AND GRADING
AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**

Proposed Official Grading System

	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage (%)	Descriptor
Queen's	A+	4.0	90-100	Exceptional; significantly exceeds the highest expectations for course work.
	A	4.0	85-89	Outstanding; meets the highest standards for the assignment course.
	A-	3.7	80-84	Excellent; meets very high standards for the assignment or course.
	B+	3.3	77-79	Very good; meets high standards for the assignment or course.
	B	3.0	73-76	Good; meets most standards for the assignment or course.
	B-	2.7	70-72	More than adequate; shows some reasonable command of material.
	C+	2.3	67-69	Acceptable; meets basic standards for the assignment or course.
	C	2.0	63-66	Acceptable; meets some of the basic standards for the assignment or course.
	C-	1.7	60-62	Acceptable; while falling short of meeting basic standards in several ways.
	D+	1.3	57-59	Minimally acceptable.
	D	1.0	53-56	Minimally acceptable; passing grade.
	D-	0.7	50-52	Minimally acceptable; lowest passing grade.
	F	0.0	0 -49	Failure
	P			Pass; no grade assigned
H			Pass with honours; meets the highest standards for the assignment or course.	
AUD			Audit	
TR			Transfer Credit; no grade assigned	