

Meeting # 10

APPROVED

DALHOUSIE FACULTY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING held on Tuesday, 2 March 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the DFA Conference Room, 6280 South Street

Present: T. Mitchell (President, in the chair), S. Adl, C. Dawson, D. Mensink, D. Tindall, S. Budge, T. Jukes, G. MacNairn, C. Penney and, by invitation, B. MacLennan, L. Purves and R. Ilson.

Regrets: J. Adams, T. Bishop, S. Gadbois, N. McAllister-Irwin, P. Stevens and R. Whyte

T. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

10.1 Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 10.1 “That the agenda be adopted as circulated.” (Mensink/Budge) **CARRIED**

10.2 Minutes of 12 February 2010

There were two corrections to the circulated minutes of 12 February 2010.

MOTION 10.2 “That the minutes of 12 February 2010 be approved as amended.” (Mensink/Dawson) **CARRIED**

10.3 Matters Arising

10.3 Item 9.4.1 Report from Treasurer. T. Mitchell clarified for the Executive that the amortization figures for the office computer equipment on the financial statements was the historical cumulative computer cost since the DFA existed.

At this point, R. Ilson and G. MacNairn joined the meeting.

10.4 Environmental Health & Safety

R. Ilson, Director of the University Environmental Health & Safety Office, explained the significance of the changes to the provincial legislation with regards to breach of Health and Safety regulations, as it applies to Dalhousie. He referred to several newspaper articles and the DalNews article. He stated that the PowerPoint presentation is available if anyone wants to see it. Provincial inspectors will now give a penalty (like a parking ticket) to supervisors of individuals violating the legislation. In addition the Department of Labour may impose a fine on the university.

S. Adl pointed out complications with accounting for post-doctoral fellows and certain visitors on campus. He noted that there is a difficulty with Dalhousie being responsible for individuals using university facilities whom you do not know are here. There was also discussion of poor security in some buildings. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with S. Adl, Nick Robichaud (University legal counsel who has been working on this matter with S. Adl), B. MacLennan and R. Ilson.

At this point, R. Ilson left the meeting.

10.5 Navitas

MOTION 10.5.1 “That we move in camera.” (MacNairn/Penney) **CARRIED**

At this point, T. Juckes joined the meeting.

There was nothing to report out of camera on this matter.

MOTION 10.5.2 “That we return to normal procedures.” (Mensink/MacNairn) **CARRIED**

10.6 President’s Report

T. Mitchell reported that the lunch information session arranged on “voluntary separation” by the DFA was very popular and there were not enough seats in Rowe Room 1007.

T. Mitchell raised the Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) topic. There was discussion of the results of the eight questions from CLT being available publically. Issues were raised regarding the interpretation that parents and students would make of the data. There was concern about pre-tenure faculty evaluations being public. There were standard issues raised regarding the quality of the evaluations. More serious reservation was raised regarding the wording of some questions that imposed a normal distribution on the data. For example, some faculty may be ranked as poor, but may in fact be good teachers, only less good than their peers. It should be clearer where the bar is for adequate teaching standards, instead of comparing to others in a qualitative measure. It was noted that if departments are switching to online evaluations, then what constitutes an electronic signature needs to be clarified.

T. Mitchell reported that she would be requesting a meeting with T. O'Neil (appointed to review Post Secondary Education in Nova Scotia). Representatives from ANSUT were meeting with him but, because the DFA does not belong to ANSUT, she would like the opportunity to share the perspective of the Dalhousie Faculty Association with him.

10.7 DFA Renewal

T. Mitchell reminded the Executive that K. Neves agreed to work on improving the website. T. Mitchell referred to the draft communication strategy prepared last year. S. Adl agreed to lead a small sub-committee on this, as suggested in the document, to enact the recommendations.

10.8 Nominating Committee for 2010-11 Executive

MOTION 10.8 "That C. Dawson, P. Gratzner and a third nominee to be named be appointed to the Nominating Committee for the 2010-11 Executive." (Budge/Mensink) **CARRIED**

10.9 Next Meetings of the Executive Committee

The next Executive Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, 16 March 2010 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. and Friday, 26 March 2010 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. There will be a discussion on pensions at the meeting on 16 March.

10.10 Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 27 April from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Room 1007, Rowe Building.

10.11 Any Other Business

C. Penney brought to the attention of the Executive that she had attended only one meeting of the Health & Safety Committee due to the timing of the Committee meetings. Representation on the Health & Safety Committee was discussed and this issue will be addressed.

The meeting adjourned on motion (Adl/MacNairn) at 10:35 a.m.