

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 10, 2014, at 4:00pm in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Lloyd A. Fraser in the chair were the following: Ali, Baylis, Barrett, Beale, Boran, Boudreau, Bourne-Tyson, Burton, Byers, Cochrane, Cooper, Cross, Cunningham, Denike, Dionne, Doman, Eldridge, Florizone, Gibson, Goodday, Grant, Gruzd, Hoyle, Johnston, Kesselring, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leon, MacLennan, Macy, Mansour, Marrie, Matte, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Persaud, Pinder, Ross, Shukla, Stadnyk, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Taylor, Watters, Webster, Woodman, Yiridoe.

Regrets: Baur, Becke, Brooks, Cox, Crago, Killham, MacDonald, Mazzanti, McLarney, Packer, Stanish, Treiger.

Absent: Habib, Harman, Hartigan, Hewitt, Hughes, Khan, Manion, Pegg, Shepherd, Smirnov, Wach.

Guests: Åsa Kachan, Ron O'Dor

2014:22

Approval of Agenda

The March 10, 2014 revised agenda was **adopted** with the following changes:

- The draft February 10, 2014 meeting minutes were moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda.
- Item 6.2 was deferred.
- Addition under Other Business: Nomination for the Search Committee - Vice-President Finance and Administration.

2014:23

Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of the Minutes of January 13, 2014

THAT Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of January 13, 2014.

Approved by Consent.

2.3 Senate Planning and Governance Committee Nominations

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

THAT Senate appoint Mo El-Hawary, Faculty of Engineering, to the Senate Nominating Committee for the term of March 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

Approved by Consent.

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED:**

THAT Senate appoint Bruce Manion, Faculty of Management, as a Senate faculty representative to the Search committee for the Vice-President, Finance and Administration.

Approved by Consent.

2.4 Senate Nominating Committee Nomination

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED:**

THAT Senate appoint Andrew Warkentin, Faculty of Engineering, to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term of March 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

Approved by Consent.

2014:24

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2014 Senate Meeting

The draft February 10, 2014 Senate meeting minutes were **approved** with one amendment: 2014:16 President's Report, second last paragraph, "...In light of Dr. Smith's plans, and the lack of a Search Committee recommendation for the appointment of a new Dean, Dr. Tom Marrie has agreed to postpone his retirement and remain as Dean until June 2015..."

2014:25

Matters Arising from the Meetings of January 13 and February 10, 2014

A question was raised about the status of the report for the Schulich School of Law regarding the funding of 18 Indigenous, Black, and Mi'kmaq students within the IB&M program. Ms. Watters, Vice-President, Academic & Provost, stated that the report is expected in the next few weeks and she will report to Senate at that time.

2014:26

Chair of Senate Report

Mr. Fraser extended condolences on behalf of Senate, on the passing of Dr. Ruth Ellen May.

The process to nominate a new Chair of Senate is underway; a number of suggested names have been received including past and present members of Senate. The Senate Nominating Committee will approach nominees, provide them with information on the position, and determine if they are willing to have their name go forward for consideration.

Mr. Fraser highlighted the strategic directions plans arising from the *100 Days of Listening Report*. Recently the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) had a productive session with Deans to discuss the vision for Dalhousie, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for next week. An update of the outcome of these sessions will be brought to Senate on March 24th for discussion.

Mr. Fraser noted the items attached to the agenda for information, including the approval of graduands

between convocations and the 2012-13 annual reports for the Law and Technology Institute and the Norman Newman Centre.

2014:27

President's Report

Mr. Florizone reported that discussions on strategic directions are underway, with gratitude extended to the SPGC and Deans for their engagement. At the March 24th Senate meeting the committee will present background material for discussion of a new vision statement for Dalhousie. Continued work is being done on the feedback from the *100 Days of Listening Report*, focusing on the emerging priorities, including undergraduate research, and faculty recruitment and retention. Mr. Florizone noted that student enrolment for Fall 2014, as of March 6th, was positive. The Federal Government Budget release on February 11th highlighted the newly developed Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF), designed to support Canadian post-secondary institutions in global research excellence. Finally, the changes to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) were noted with respect to the potential impact on success rates among the U15 universities. Mr. Florizone stated that the issues are understood and work is being done to address them, noting that the head of CIHR will be meeting with the U15 Presidents.

2014:28

In-Camera: Senate Honorary Degree Committee

Mr. Fraser announced that the Senate session would go *in camera*, and asked that all non-senators leave the meeting. When Senate returned to open session, Mr. Fraser announced that the slate of Honorary Degree nominations had been approved.

2014:29

Senate Nominating Committee: Re-Election of Senate Vice-Chair (Student Affairs)

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED:**

THAT Senate re-elect Alan Pinder, Faculty of Science, as the Senate Vice-Chair (Student Affairs) for the term July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2014:30

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Advanced Graduate Standing

The Senate welcomed Alan Pinder, Chair, Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, and Åsa Kachan, Assistant Vice-President, Enrolment Management and Registrar, to provide background and respond to questions on the proposed provisions for advanced placement within graduate degrees. Mr. Pinder and Ms. Kachan noted that the proposed change would enable honours undergraduate students, with approval of the academic department, to complete up to six credit hours of study at the graduate level and use such credits toward the requirements of their undergraduate degree. This would subsequently reduce the overall course requirements for a graduate degree by up to six credit hours. The proposed sections in the undergraduate and graduate calendars, covering this provision, were provided as part of the meeting package.

In discussion it was noted that advanced placement allows flexibility in degree requirements within strict limits, allowing undergraduate students to test their interest and competency in up to six credit hours at a graduate level, resulting in a smoother transition to graduate studies. It was noted that the number of classes required for a graduate program is not consistent across programs; therefore, each Department has discretion in authorizing the courses taken by undergraduate students and how they can be applied to graduate degrees. Finally, Ms. Kachan noted that similar policies are in place at other universities and adopting this proposal would provide an advantage to certain programs, assisting them to attract strong students who may wish to take a graduate course within their undergraduate program, to later apply to a graduate program at Dalhousie.

On behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Mr. Pinder **MOVED:**

THAT Senate approve Advanced Placement within Graduate Degrees, as presented, effective immediately.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2014:31

Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Review of the Faculty of Health Professions

The Senate welcomed Ron O’Dor, Faculty of Science and Chair, Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Health Professions; and William Webster, Dean, Faculty of Health Professions, to report on the Senate Review of the Faculty. Mr. O’Dor expressed the hope that the review would assist the Faculty in tackling the complex and intertwined challenges in learning and teaching, research, administration, and relations with the community the Faculty serves. In its report, the review committee focused particularly on eight areas: Interprofessional Health Education; space; relations with other Faculties; clinical placements; the proposed PhD program; research environment; financial constraints, program integrity and innovation; and relations with external stakeholders. Mr. Webber thanked the committee for their report and summarized the initiatives being taken by the Faculty in response to the recommendations. In discussion, it was noted that, in spite of some scaling back of plans based on cost, the physical facilities available to the Faculty would be significantly improved through the construction of the new Interprofessional Health Education Building. In response to a question, Mr. Boudreau, Dean of Graduate Studies, noted that the proposal for a PhD program in Health was currently being reviewed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and, he anticipated, soon would be forwarded to the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee for its consideration. It was also noted that, with the support of the provincial Department of Health and Wellness, progress is being made in addressing the challenges of organizing clinical and fieldwork placements. Finally, there was discussion of the expanded use of distance education, particularly for professional development programming.

Mr. Fraser extended sincere appreciation to the Senate Review Committee and to the Faculty for their engagement in the review process.

2014:32

Budget Advisory Committee LI Report

Ms. Watters, Vice President, Academic & Provost, and Chair, Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) reported on the Draft Operating Budget Plan for 2014-2015. The process undertaken by the BAC was explained, stating its purpose in preparing a balanced budget. The budget process had been revised, with extensive consultation, beginning in October, taking place with a variety of stakeholders including Deans, service

units, and students, prior to budget preparation. The result has been a balanced budget with recommendations, identifying shortfalls. During March, feedback and advice will be acquired and reflected in changes to the budget to fine-tune its details. The context of the budget was provided, specifically a 1% increase in government funding; continued salary adjustments; contributions to pension shortfalls; increased student enrolment resulting in an increased tuition revenue of \$4 million; and, overall increased university operating costs. A net shortfall of \$10.1 million was noted. Closing the gap will depend on increased revenue, decreased expenditures, topping up strategic initiative funds, and limited use of one-time surplus funds. Next steps include acquiring written feedback by the end of March and making revisions based on feedback, resulting in a proposal to the President by mid-April, and to the Board of Governors on June 19th.

Subsequent discussion brought attention to:

- The revenue from residences: the intention is for residences to be self-sustaining, therefore, revenue goes to the operating cost of the residences with surplus going to auxiliary projects.
- The chart of multi-year projects highlights an increase in revenue, influenced by the government grant increase of 1% and the University tuition increase of 3%.
- Concern was expressed of budgetary reliance on growth and how the budget is distributed across Dalhousie.
- Concern was also expressed about tuition rates, highlighting Dalhousie's rank as one of the most expensive undergraduate arts programs. Careful examination of the capacity of programs was noted to be a focus.
- Student concern about tuition cost in comparison with other universities and what is being offered; specifically, the value given the increased cost. A changed model for using scholarship money was noted to be a priority for students applying, taking a needs-based approach.
- The Faculty of Agriculture is not included in the current figures since its budget is initially to remain separate following the merger; it will be blended into the process by 2018.
- A significant issue for Dalhousie is that the grant funding per student, a major source of revenue, is the lowest in Canada. This creates a dilemma in offering competitive salaries for faculty, which results in pressure on tuition. Lobbying for a greater share was noted to be difficult, highlighting that a 1% increase is a positive turnaround from previous years.

Overall, discussion explored the complexity of the budget, noting a continued focus to reaching the best solution. Appreciation was extended to members of the BAC for engaging in budgetary discussion in light of the difficult challenges it presents.

2014:33

Question Period

There were no questions.

2014:34

Other Business

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED:**

THAT Senate appoint Jure Gantar, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, as a faculty representative on the search committee for the Vice-President, Finance and Administration.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Florizone brought attention to the ongoing discussion of the Faculty of Medicine funding. A report had been completed by KPMG and a meeting was held with the Deputy Minister on February 27th. An additional \$5 million was secured for 2014-15. This does not meet the funding gap long-term but it is a partial solution for this year.

2014:35

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6pm.