



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, October 27, 2014, at 4:00pm in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Alan Pinder in the chair were the following: Ali, Aziz, Barrett, Baur, Bodorik, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Bucci, Burton, Calladine, Cochrane, Cooper, Cunningham, Cutler, Doman, Erdman, Gahagan, Goodday, Grant, Habib, Harman, Holmes, Hoyle, Hughes, Kesselring, Kirk, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leon, Letendre, Ma, Macdonald, MacLennan, MacRae, Mansour, Mazzanti, Meynell, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Noble, Quinn, Ross, Roy, Shukla, Skiptunis, Smit, Stadnyk, Stanish, Stone, Summerby-Murray, Tennessen, Watters, Webster.

Regrets: Baylis, Becke, Boran, Byers, Crago, DasGupta, Florizone, Herder, Hewitt, MacDonald, Marrie, McLarney, Packer, Quraishi.

Absent: Gray, Khan, Leonard, Macy, Shepherd, Smirnov, Steeves, Wach, Wright.

Guests: Fiona Black, Dwight Fischer, Suzanne Sheffield

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Approval of Agenda

The October 27, 2014 agenda was **adopted** with the addition of Government of Nova Scotia discussions under Other Business.

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Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of September 15, 2014 Senate meeting

THAT Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of September 15, 2014.

Approved by Consent.

Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nominations

THAT William Currie, Faculty of Medicine; Abdel-Aziz Farrag, Faculty of Computer Science; and William Lahey, Schulich School of Law, be elected to the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee for the term November 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

THAT Valerie Chappe, Faculty of Graduate Studies, be elected to the Senate Appeals Committee for the term October 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

Approved by Consent.

Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Nominations

THAT Carolan McLarney, Faculty of Management, be elected to the Senate Nominating Committee for the term October 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

THAT Jennifer Adams, Law Librarian, be elected to the University Tenure and Promotions Appeal Panel for the term October 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

Approved by Consent.

2014:110

Matters Arising from September 15, 2014 Senate Minutes

One senator requested that the minutes identify senators who raise questions during the meeting. It was noted in response that the currently-accepted best practice for minute-taking is to record decisions and actions. The practice of the University Secretariat is to find a balance by providing a brief summary of the main discussion points, but without attribution.

October Graduation Ceremonies day and time shift

There was a question regarding the shift in day and time of the October graduation ceremonies to a weekday from the weekend. The intent of switching to a weekday was to improve faculty attendance at ceremonies and to reduce conflicts with other on-campus weekend events such as Homecoming. Faculty attendance has improved with the change and general feedback has been good. There are no plans at this time to revert back to weekends.

Ms. Watters also spoke to the IB&M scholarship issue and she noted that the small committee struck for this purpose was in the process of conducting a review for all of Dalhousie's programs and, as a result, has been looking at other disciplines and scholarship funding. However, it was agreed in the last several weeks that, in order to have a report back by December, the IB&M group of scholarships would be pulled out of this broader review.

Senate Values Motion

At the recent Senate Planning and Governance Committee it was agreed that a small work group be formed to consider the development of a statement on general principles and values for Senate as a follow-up to two motions passed by Senate in 2011 in regards to the new Senate Constitution. The Work Group will be co-chaired by Mr. Mitchell, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Mr. Hewitt, Faculty of Science, both from the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC).

2014:111

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Pinder reported on various items for information, including the 2013-2014 Annual Reports for the Senate Discipline Committee, Senate Appeals Committee, and Faculty Discipline Process. Mr. Pinder noted that he recently wrote to each Dean and the University Librarian to ask how faculty Senators could have direct communication with their respective Faculties regarding Senate business. As the

mechanism for communication differs among Faculties, Deans will contact Senators about the best approach for their respective Faculty. Mr. Pinder noted condolences on the recent passing of Mr. Rueben Cohen, former Dalhousie University Chancellor.

2014:112

Provost's Report: Provost Model Update

Ms. Watters presented on the Provost model, speaking particularly to the roles and structure under this model. She noted that this approach is intended to rebalance responsibilities to include a more holistic view of the university with a vision to first improve institutional decision making with input across Vice President portfolios and, secondly, review academic and non-academic considerations simultaneously to aid and improve student success.

Following the presentation, Ms. Watters responded to several questions on the role of Senate with respect to approval of the Provost model and structure. It was noted that this is not within Senate's jurisdiction and this would properly reside within the jurisdiction of the administration which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the University and is accountable to the Board of Governors for decisions on these matters.

The differences between the Provost Committee and the President's Executive Committee were also noted; the Provost Committee deals with a broader range of issues and provides recommendations to the Board of Governors directly or through the President's Executive.

2014:113

DSU President's Report

Mr. Aziz reported on various matters, including student involvement in recent consultations on the student retention strategy and the review for a Learning Management System; ongoing discussions regarding planning of the Student Union Building renovation and expansion; and a proposal with respect to a renewed Ombudsperson position. Ms. Skiptunis, DSU VP Academic-External, also reported briefly on student involvement in the current consultation process of the Nova Scotia government around the development of a new Memorandum of Understanding with universities.

2014:114

In Camera: Senate Honorary Degrees Committee: Nominations

When Senate resumed the open session, Mr. Pinder indicated that Senate had approved the Honorary Degree candidates contained in the October 20, 2014 memorandum from the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee.

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Senate Planning and Governance Committee

Provost Model related Policy changes

Mr. Pinder noted that one of the changes associated with the new Provost model is the re-alignment of the Vice-President Student Services position to now be the Vice Provost, Student Affairs. Three Senate policies need to be adjusted accordingly: Hazing, Code of Student Conduct, and Student Accommodation.

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

THAT Senate approve the following proposed changes to be contained within the Code of Student Conduct, the Hazing Policy and the Student Accommodation Policy – all references to the “Vice-President Student Services” be substituted and replaced with the “Vice-Provost, Student Affairs”, with the exception of any reference to authority or sponsorship for these policies, which authority and sponsorship shall rest with the Provost.

The motion CARRIED.

Review Committee for the Provost & Vice-President, Academic: Faculty Senator Appointments

Ms. Watters, Mr. Pinder and Ms. Harman left the Senate meeting for the discussion this item. Mr. Hoyle, Vice-Chair, Academic Programs, assumed the Chair.

Mr. Hoyle noted that under the policy *Senior Administrative Appointments and Procedures*, Article F.1(5b) states that “In the case of Vice-Presidents with term appointments, there shall be a minimum of one external Board-appointed member, a minimum of one Senate-appointed member, a minimum of one student appointed by the Dalhousie Student Union, and other members of the University community who would be able to provide an informed perspective relevant to the scope of the position’s responsibilities.”

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

THAT the Senate approve the appointment of Alan Pinder, Chair of Senate, and Katherine Harman, Senate Vice-Chair, Student Affairs (Acting), to the Review Committee of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

Senate thoroughly discussed the two appointments nominated and the question was then called.

The motion FAILED.

Several senators noted that while they had no issue with the two individuals nominated, they felt that it would be useful to have at least one of the nominees be an individual who has a greater degree of distance from the person under review. From a perception perspective, Mr. Pinder and Ms. Harman, as Senate officers, work closely with the Provost.

Ms. Kozey **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Stanish:

THAT the Senate approve the appointment of Alan Pinder, Chair of Senate, to the Review Committee of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

The motion CARRIED.

Ms. Stone **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Meynell:

THAT the Senate approve the appointment of Brian Noble, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, to the Review Committee of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

The motion CARRIED.

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Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Revised Teaching Awards Terms of Reference

Senate approved revised and newly created new teaching awards in June 2014. At that same meeting, Senators noted areas to further enhance the awards and a review began in early Fall. Ms. Sheffield, Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching, reported on the revisions, noting that the first revisions were to ensure terms were consistent with the already established awards. The second revision was to explicitly state how often the same recipient could win the same award. Each award now stipulates that an award can only be awarded once to a single recipient over his or her career. However, there are three exceptions: the Education & Leadership Award (once for a single collaboration, but can be awarded more than once to the same Faculty group), the Academic Innovation Award (once for any single innovation), and the Award of Excellence and Diversity (once for any single initiative, but can be awarded more than once for a specific individual). The intent of these revisions is to allow room for exceptional circumstances. It was discussed that the emphasis of awards will be on the professor's teaching profile and not research profile.

In response to a question on whether there is a funding plan in place for these award, Ms. Watters confirmed that this has been considered and approved.

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

THAT the Senate approve the revised Dalhousie University Teaching Awards Terms of Reference.

The motion CARRIED.

2014: 117

Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee: Draft Certificate and Diploma Framework

Ms. Fiona Black, Associate Vice-President, Academic, presented the draft certificates and diplomas framework which was developed during the review of Dalhousie's policies and procedures with respect to certificates and diplomas. The draft framework will now go to the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee on November 17, 2014. It is anticipated that the framework will come back to Senate on November 24, 2014 for approval and, if approved, the framework will be reviewed after two years of implementation.

2014:118

Learning Management System (LMS) Update

Ms. Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian, and Mr. Dwight Fischer, Assistant Vice President – CIO – ITS Services, provided an update on the LMS review. Since the inception of the LMS, Dalhousie University has used Blackboard and its precursor Web CT. Neither had been reviewed. The review is being done with a consortium of universities and there is an investigation into the possibility of purchasing an LMS as a consortium. A Sandbox platform has been created, which can be shared across the university and is an opportunity to receive direct and indirect feedback. If a number of universities used the same LMS it

would provide students with flexibility to take courses at different universities, as it would be a shared service.

It was discussed that the Provost Committee will be collecting information from users to inform the decision for the University. Feedback from colleagues as well as professional criteria and technical capabilities will be weighed in the decision. The Committee is also mindful of the tradeoff of moving to a new system versus staying with BBLearn, which faculty has already had to learn over the past few years.

It was noted that there is a lack of faculty members on the LMS steering committee. Additional faculty will be appointed for the committee.

It was raised whether Dalhousie should be using a publicly accessible system such as Open Source. The three responses to the RFP were proprietary systems. Moodle, an Open Source alternative, did not respond in time to the procurement deadline.

Detailed information will be provided in the coming weeks regarding how faculty can participate in the LMS review and how to provide feedback.

2014:119

Question Period

In reference to discussion earlier in the meeting, it was noted that the Provost model has been controversial at some institutions because of the linkage to program assessment and several models for undertaking this exercise (for example, the activity budget model). In response, Ms. Watters confirmed that there is no intention, as part of the Provost model or otherwise, to do institution-wide program assessment at Dalhousie. She requested some patience with the implementation of the new structure and some time to assess what comes through the Provost Committee; this will be reviewed later in the spring.

2014:120

Other Business

It was noted that the Government of Nova Scotia is holding consultations on how the province's universities can work more closely with the private sector to grow the economy, and help more young people to live and raise families in Nova Scotia. The Chair of Senate will inquire how faculty Senators can be involved in the discussions.

It was also noted that faculty members are not on the Provost Committee and, if they are not on the Committee, how do they add input. Ms. Watters will provide more detail at the next Senate meeting noting that there will be a review of the Provost model in spring 2015.

2014:121

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.