



SENATE

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, February 10, 2020 at 3:00pm**

Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, February 10, 2020 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present: K. Hewitt (Chair), A. Abawajy, G. Adolphe-Nazaire, D. Anderson, F. Annan, T. Balsler, D. Bourne-Tyson, T. Cyrus, B. Davis, P. Doyle- Bedwell, O. Dryden, T. Duck, Y. El Hiani, H. El Nagggar, M. Fournier, D. Grujic, A. Habib, A. Haiye, S. Holmes, V. Howard, N. Isaac-Pictou, I. Joseph, D. Kelley, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, S. Kirk, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, J. Macedo, N. Maymandi, D. McKeen, B. Nassar, P. Nnoka, R. Orji, P. Owen, M. Pacurar, L. Perez, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, H-S. Ro, K. Rosen, D. Saini, G. Scherkoske, S. Seth, A. Siegel, H. Sinan, L. Spiteri, F. Taheri, P. Tyedmers, G. Warner, E. Welsh, D. Westwood, D. White, S. Wildeman, E. Wunker, A. Yahia, I. Yakovenko

Regrets: A. Aiken, P. Allen, V. Allen, J. Blustein, C. Cameron, M. Campbell-Yeo, C. Diallo, B. Foster, L. Goldberg, D. Gray, J. Hall, K. Harman, F. Naghibi, V. Nams, J. Phinney, S. Ponomarenko, B. Rathgeber, A. Sarhan, S. Stackhouse, D. Tyers, J. Penney, S. Yurgel

Absent: R. Agu, M. Aston, N. Blinn, K. Brooks, A. Doucette, F. Harvey, G. Horne, J.S. Kim, W. Lahey, B. Merritt, C. Moore, J. Newhook, C. Sandham, D. Silvio, S. Stone, I. Waldron

Guests: Heidi Lauckner (Assistant Professor, School of Physiotherapy); Marilyn Macdonald (Chair, Senate Nominating Committee); Lynn Shaw (Professor and Director, Assistant Dean Citizenship, Faculty of Health); Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate); Sundari Pashupathi (Associate Secretary of Senate); Joseph Behl (Student Minute Taker)

The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that this meeting is taking place in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

1. Approval of Agenda

A senator proposed the addition of an item to the beginning of the agenda regarding a solidarity statement with the hereditary chiefs of Wet'suwet'en Nation.

Discussion ensued among senators regarding this proposed item. Some senators commented that while the issue is of urgent importance, it may not be pertinent to the academic business of the university, and therefore beyond the scope of Senate. Another senator noted that a solidarity statement of this type can help make indigenous students feel more welcome in the community at Dalhousie, which is in line with Senate's goal of fostering an inclusive environment.

Moved by Senator Yahia, seconded by Senator Dryden:

THAT a new item be added to the agenda before the consent agenda titled "Solidarity Statement."

The motion **CARRIED**.

The agenda as amended was **approved**.

2. Solidarity Statement

Senators Isaac-Pictou and Yahia presented this item. Senator Yahia noted the importance of such solidarity statements and how this relates to the academic mission of the university.

Senators discussed how such statements relate to Dalhousie students and the university's academic mission.

Moved by Senator Yahia, seconded by Senator Sinan:

THAT Senate recommend to the President to issue a solidarity statement with Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and Nation, advocating for social and environmental justice for and with Indigenous peoples on their unceded land.

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

3. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of January 13, 2020 Senate Meeting

Approved by **CONSENT**.

4. Matters Arising from the January 13, 2020 Senate Meeting Minutes

A senator asked a question relating to a previous Senate meeting, as to whether the classroom recording protocol will return to the agenda in a future meeting. Senator Bourne-Tyson answered that additional consultations have been taking place, and the item will return to Senate in March or April.

There were no other matters arising.

FOR APPROVAL:

5. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

5.1 Election of Vice-Chair, Student Affairs (Term: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023)

Marilyn Macdonald, Chair of SNC introduced this item, noting that there had been two nominees prior to the current meeting: Dr. Audrey Steenbeek and Dr. Maria Pacurar.

Seeing no additional nominations from the floor, M. Macdonald invited each nominee to speak.

Having heard from both nominees, senators moved to a vote by ballot. Senator Pacurar received the majority of votes cast. .

MOVED by M. Macdonald on behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee:

THAT Senate appoint Dr. Maria Pacurar as the Senate Vice-Chair (Student Affairs) for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023.

The motion **CARRIED**.

5.2 Election of Interim Vice-Chair, Academic Programs (Term: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

M. Macdonald introduced the position of Interim Vice-Chair (Academic Programs), noting that the SNC had been charged with bringing forth a name, and has recommended Senator Louise Spiteri out of four nominees.

MOVED by M. Macdonald on behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee:

THAT Senate appoint Senator Louise Spiteri as the Interim Vice Chair of Senate (Academic Programs for the term July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

The motion **CARRIED**.

6. Senate Honorary Degrees Committee (SHDC)

6.1 Revised SHDC Criteria and Procedures Document

Senator Saini provided an overview of the proposed revisions. He noted that the document includes a provision speaking to whom is excluded for consideration for honorary degrees. A question had been raised as to whether Indigenous Band Chiefs would be included for consideration, and whether they are considered as part of Canadian political life as listed under section 3.1.3. of the criteria. After research conducted by the Legal Counsel Office, SHDC approved amendments to the document that move to addressing the matter of exclusions more directly on the basis of real or perceived conflict of interest.

MOVED by Senator Saini on behalf of the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee:

THAT the Senate approve the revised SHDC Honorary Degree Criteria and Procedures as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Hewitt confirmed that the revised document will be added to the Senate's website.

7. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC):

7.1 New Program Proposal: Master of Occupational Science, Faculty of Health

Guests Heidi Lauckner and Lynn Shaw presented the program proposal for the new Master of Science in Occupational Science in the Faculty of Health. H. Lauckner described the existing programs within the School of Occupational Therapy, and provided the rationale for creating a new MSc. in Occupational Science. The proposed program is intended to take the place of an existing online post-professional degree, with the goal of expanding the scope beyond OTs.

H. Lauckner went on to explain the interdisciplinary social science of occupational science, noting that while it informs occupational therapists, it is a distinct discipline.

In response to a senator's question about what doors the program will open for graduates, L. Shaw described some of the potential options both within and beyond health including public sector work. H. Lauckner added that occupational science can bring a unique perspective to disciplines like architecture and urban planning.

A senator asked about the roll-out and duration of the new program, noting that three years seems to be a rather short completion time, and that there is only a one year difference between the part-time and full-time program durations listed in the proposal document. H. Lauckner replied that this is related to the cost structure for the program. She added that in an ideal situation, part-time students would take three years to complete the program, but continuing fees would be implemented after that point depending on how long individual students take to complete all the requirements.

In response to a senator's question about how decolonization and EDI would be incorporated into the program, H. Lauckner commented that this is currently in the early stages, and that they are working with colleagues to start the conversation on this subject, and will be sharing what is being done to incorporate new ways of learning and knowing in the classroom, particularly in an online context.

MOVED by Senator Hewitt on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:

THAT the Senate approve the new program proposal for the Master of Science in Occupational Science, Faculty of Health as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

FOR INFORMATION

8. DSU Recognition of Senators – Profile in Courage Award

Senator Yahia presented this item. This will be a DSU award given annually to recognize senators for their commitment to Dalhousie, furthering the academic mission of the university and displaying courage with the best interest of the institution in mind.

In response to further questions from senators, Senator Yahia noted that student senators would not be eligible for the award, since they would be part of the decision-making process. He added that the objective is to have the achievements of senators more widely recognized in the university.

FOR DISCUSSION

9. Reports:

9.1 Chair of Senate's Report

In light of African Heritage Month, Senator Hewitt shared a poem which was part of an exhibit he encountered during a recent visit to the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. The poem is entitled "Don't Shoot: An Opus of the Opulence of Blackness," by Melonie Green and Melorra Green.

9.2 President's Report

Senator Saini presented the President's Report. He commented that his conversations and meeting with students during his first few weeks at Dalhousie have filled him with optimism for the future of the

institution. He requested the student senators to reach out to the President's office regarding their solidarity statement with the hereditary chiefs of Wet'suwet'en Nation.

Senator Saini provided an update on the work taking place at the university in response to the Flight 752 tragedy in January. A fundraising campaign, which is still ongoing, has now surpassed the target of \$50,000, thanks to the contributions of over 200 supporters. Senator Saini also noted that the university is working hard to support the families of Dalhousie community members directly affected by the tragedy.

Senator Saini also provided a brief update on the university's strategic planning process which is now in phase 3. The emerging thought paper from this process will be used to finalize the strategic direction of the institution during the fourth phase. Senator Saini also provided some figures related to increases in student enrolment.

Senator Saini commented on the successful launch of African Heritage Month, thanking the Human Rights & Equity Services office for its work in the launch of this event. He added that there are three milestone anniversaries being celebrated this year: the Transition Year Program, the Indigenous, Black, & Mi'kmaq Initiative and the Black Students' Advising Centre, all of which are celebrating three decades of service in supporting people of African descent pursuing higher education.

9.3 Questions for Reports

In response to a senator's question about potential starting points from which to work during his time as President, Senator Saini commented that through conversations, his thoughts on this subject are developing. He added that based on his personal values, some of his overarching goals are achieving academic excellence and developing foci of excellence for the university, improving the student experience starting with the academic experience and forming successful citizens, and establishing EDI as a driving force for achieving academic excellence.

10. Question Period

There were no other questions.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.