



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, December 8, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Alan Pinder in the chair were the following: Baur, Baylis, Becke, Bodorik, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Burton, Byers, Calladine, Cochrane, Crago, Cunningham, Doman, Erdman, Gahagan, Goodday, Harman, Herder, Hewitt, Holmes, Hoyle, Hughes, Kesselring, Kirk, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leonard, Letendre, Ma, Macdonald, MacLennan, Mansour, Marrie, Mazzanti, McLarney, Meynell, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Noble, Quraishi, Ross, Shukla, Skiptunis, Smirnov, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Stone, Summerby-Murray, Watters, Webster, Wright.

Regrets: Ali, Aziz, Barrett, Brooks, Bucci, Cooper, Cutler, DasGupta, Florizone, Habib, Leon, MacRae, Macy, Packer, Roy, Smit, Tennessen, Wach.

Absent: Grant, Gray, Khan, Quinn, Shepherd.

2014:136

Approval of Agenda

The December 8, 2014 agenda was **adopted** as presented.

2014:137

Consent Agenda

There were requests to remove Items 2.1 and 2.2 from the Consent Agenda. Item 2.3 – Termination of the Eco-Efficiency Centre was presented for approval by consent.

Termination of the Eco-Efficiency Centre (EEC)

THAT Senate approve the termination of the Eco-Efficiency Centre (EEC), Faculty of Management, effective immediately.

Approved by Consent.

2014:138

Approval of Draft Minutes of November 24, 2014 Senate Meeting

There was a request to clarify on page 1 of the minutes that the report to be available in December refers only to the IB&M scholarship funding and not the review of funding for Indigenous, Black and Mi'kmaq students in various Dalhousie programs; that full review work will not be completed in December. Ms. Watters confirmed that it is just the IB&M element of the work and she will speak further to this.

THAT Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of November 24, 2014 with the clarification noted.

The motion CARRIED.

2014:139

Termination of the Nova Scotia Health Policy Research Centre (NSHPRC)

Ms. Crago, Vice-President Research, responded to a question on the reasons that the Nova Scotia Health Policy Research Centre did not become active. She noted that although there was considerable interest initially from the Provincial government, funding was not secured. Research in this area will continue to be conducted, just not through this particular mechanism.

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

THAT Senate approve the termination of the Nova Scotia Health Policy Research Centre, effective immediately.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2014:140

Matters Arising from the Meeting of November 24, 2014

Learning Management System Review Update

Mr. Wuetherick, Executive Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching, provided an overview of the process and timeline for selecting a new Learning Management System, noting that the various areas conducting evaluations are progressing and the technical review should be completed with a report available in January. Three systems are being reviewed - Desire 2 Learn, Canvas and Blackboard. The Institutional Steering Committee (ISC) will receive a final summary of the evaluation and make recommendations to the Provost Committee. The Cross-Institutional Steering Committee will receive final recommendations from all institutions and make a final decision. Interuniversity Services Inc. (ISI) will officially sign on behalf of the consortium, if an agreement is possible. Dalhousie is committed to working with other universities, as well as with the government in hopes that there will be a common LMS. He noted that there are cost benefits to being part of a consortium, as well as benefits to faculty and students who teach or take classes at more than one institution.

Mr. Wuetherick confirmed that faculty are involved in the decision making process. He noted that there are currently two Associate Deans on the Steering Committee. Additionally, Katherine Harman, Vice-Chair of Senate (Student Affairs) and faculty member in the Faculty of Health Professions, has joined the ISC, and a faculty member is also serving on the technical review team.

IB&M Scholarship

Ms. Watters reported that funding for the 18 IB&M scholarships will be covered from strategic initiatives funding. The funding is estimated to be around 70-80K per year, and will cover students' tuition. Details are under discussion with the Dean.

Graduate Scholarship

Ms. Leonard reported that a decision was made in early 2014 to reduce the spending on some funds that support graduate scholarships, resulting in a 30% decrease in funding for scholarships. Following

this decision, the former Dean worked with the Vice-President Finance & Administration to find funding to fill most of the resulting gap for the next 5-6 years.

During discussion it was noted that the reduction in funding has subsequently affected the recruitment of highly qualified graduate students and there is concern that the lack of funding could damage Dalhousie's reputation, competitiveness and the availability of qualified TAs for undergraduate courses. Ms. Leonard noted that the decision to reduce funding was made by the Killam trustees, not Dalhousie or Graduate Studies, and this was not within the University's control in this instance. She does not anticipate this situation arising again.

In response to a question on whether the Provost Committee would have a role in preventing this type of situation in the future, Ms. Watters noted that the Provost Committee is not intended to solve general issues in Faculty budgets. In this circumstance, the issue went to the appropriate person, the Vice-President, Finance and Administration; however, if this were to become a longer standing issue, where, for instance, a reallocation of resources might need to be considered, then it likely would come to the Provost Committee and Senate.

2014:141

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Pinder highlighted several items included for information in the meeting package, including a call for Honorary Degree nominations for spring 2016 and fall 2016 convocations, and the final report of the Dalhousie University Board Investment Committee on fossil fuel divestment. He reminded senators that the Senate Planning and Governance Committee had struck a working group to review Senate principles and values. Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Mitchell, Co-chairs for the work group, reported that the group has met and agreed to undertake a broad consultation, to identify the principles and values consistent with past Senate practice and to guide Senate responsibilities. The work group has identified a number of constituencies to be approached as part of the consultation, including the DFA, Black faculty collective, Board of Governors, first nations/aboriginal collective, Provost Committee, University of King's College, Alumni Association, and the NS Department of Education. Consultations will begin in late January and it is anticipated that a report will go to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee in June 2015. Senators were asked to submit to Mr. Hewitt or Mr. Mitchell suggestions for any additional individuals or groups who might be consulted.

2014:142

Provost's Report

Ms. Watters provided an update on work on the strategic priorities under Dalhousie's Strategic Directions document, reporting that the 25 project charters are now being reviewed and will be publicized once completed. Each charter is connected to a Dalhousie priority, with distinct plans including a project team, project plan, milestones and timelines. While ten of the priorities are the initial focus, Ms. Watters noted that there are many interconnections between all 25 priorities, and these will all continue to move forward.

Ms. Watters reported that the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) had its final consultations last week with groups including FASS, the DSU and international students, and it is anticipated that the Committee should have a budget model to put out for discussion by late January. She noted that the universities have not yet received confirmation of funding from the Nova Scotia government, so BAC will need to make some assumptions in developing the model. Ms. Watters also reported on a recent discussion by the Provost Committee on entrepreneurship and innovation, and, in response to a question, confirmed

that her concept of innovation includes social innovation as well as innovation in the areas of market enterprise. Lastly, Ms. Watters noted her recent trip to Chile and Columbia as part of the Governor General's state visit; the focus of the trip was education, innovation and trade.

2014:143

Senate Nominating Committee: Re-appointment of Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs)

Mr. Pinder reported that the Senate Nominating Committee conducted an assessment of the Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs), Jeff Hoyle, Faculty of Agriculture, as per the Senate Constitution regarding the re-appointments of senate officers.

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

THAT Senate appoint Jeff Hoyle, Faculty of Agriculture, as Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) for a second term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2014:144

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Approval of Academic Dates for 2015-16

Mr. Pinder reported that the SLTC has recommended the academic dates for 2015-2016 to Senate for approval, and that these follow the current Academic Schedule Principles. He noted that the task force for the review of academic dates will continue to review the academic schedule and report back to SLTC in early 2015. The 2015-16 academic year will have one study day in the Fall semester as per the Principles.

A concern was noted that the September 10th start date for the 2015 academic year is quite late (as a result of the Labour Day holiday falling later than is sometimes the case), and this also results in a late finish to the exam period in December; this may impact the five days for submitting grades at the end of term. It was agreed that there be a report back at the next meeting of Senate confirming the date for the receipt of final grades for fall 2015.

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

THAT Senate approve the 2015-2016 academic dates, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2014:145

Senate Planning and Governance Committee: New Centre Proposal - Canadian Center for Vaccinology

Mr. Scott Halperin, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, presented the proposal for the Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCfV). The CCfV is a multi-faculty centre and is made up of 3 groups: Discovery Group, Evaluation Group and Health Policy & Translation Group.

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

THAT Senate approve the proposed Canadian Centre for Vaccinology (CCfV), effective

immediately.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2014:146

Senate Planning and Governance Committee

New Centre Proposal: Centre for Transformative Nursing and Health Research

Mr. Webster and Ms. Kathleen MacMillan, Director, School of Nursing, reported that the School of Nursing has been going through a transformation over the past few years and, as part of this process, it was recommended that the School focus on the development of its infrastructure to enhance the culture of research and scholarship. The Centre for Transformative Nursing and Health Research aligns well with the school's strategy to respond to the recommendation, as well as with the recently created PhD of Health and the rejuvenated PhD of Nursing programs. Following the presentation, Ms. MacMillan responded to a question on the need to establish a centre which seems to encompass primarily the School of Nursing, noting the activities that are already underway and the importance of having a Senate-approved designation to continue to expand these activities.

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

THAT Senate approve the proposed Centre for Transformative Nursing and Health Research, Faculty of Health Professions.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2014:147

Strategic Directions 1.1 Increase Retention & Degree Completion

Ms. Anne Forrestall, Acting Vice-Provost (Student Affairs), provided an update on the student retention project which is one of the key priorities under the Strategic Directions document. The goal of the initiative is to improve student success year over year and increase first year student retention rates as well as degree completion rates. A steering committee is working with external consultants to assess data for Dalhousie and examine best practices at other institutions. In response to a question, Ms. Forrestall confirmed that retention of international and aboriginal students will be a component of the review, although Ms. Forrestall noted that the perception that the main issue with retention concerns international students appears not to be accurate in terms of the data that is being compiled.

Discussion following the presentation focused on the need to involve faculty, and particularly faculty who teach first and second year classes. Ms. Forrestall agreed that faculty spend the most time with students and that this contact is very important for retention issues. She encouraged faculty to attend the sessions with the consultants and noted that faculty will be part of the strategy teams moving forward. Other discussion focused on strategies at other institutions (University of Arizona, for example) where innovative approaches appear to be addressing retention issues; Ms. Forrestall confirmed that the consultants are looking at best practices elsewhere as part of the process.

2014: 148

Discussion of Motion: Divestment

Ms. Baylis presented a motion to Senate with respect to divestment at Dalhousie, noting that the point in bringing this forward is that divestment has potential implications for the University's academic mission. She noted that although the Board of Governors has made a decision not to divest from fossil fuels at this time, this does not mean that Senate should not have a discussion to become more informed about the issue. It is her view that Senate would benefit from more facts on the issue and that it has a responsibility to be informed on this and other similar issues. By bringing the motion, she would like to spur discussion at the grassroots level.

Ms. Baylis **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Wright:

THAT (i) there be a renewed, well-informed discussion of Divest Dal at an October 2015 meeting of Senate, (ii) to ensure that the discussion is well informed, that all academic units that self-identify as potentially affected by Divest Dal be invited to submit a maximum two page summary statement outlining opportunities and threats of proposed divestment to an ad hoc committee of Senate, no later than September 15, 2015, (iii) that an ad hoc committee of Senate composed of no more than 5 knowledgeable persons be charged with receiving these reports and preparing a summary document collating the opportunities and threats of proposed divestment, (iv) this document be brought to Senate for review and discussion in October, 2015 and, in the interests of transparency, be made available to all Dalhousie faculty members and the DSU.

Initial discussion focused on the need to replace the words "Divest Dal" in the proposed motion with "fossil fuel divestment", as the discussion concerns the issue of fossil fuel divestment and not the group known as Divest Dal. Other discussion focused on the proposal for an ad hoc committee of five knowledgeable persons and how these individuals would be chosen. Ms. Baylis proposed that a student should be included as well as others who are not senators (including potentially someone in the investment industry who knows the fossil fuel industry).

Mr. Leach **MOVED, seconded** by Ms. Meynell:

THAT Senate amend the motion to replace the words "Divest Dal" with "fossil fuel divestment".

The motion **CARRIED**.

It was noted that Divest Dal took this issue to the Board of Governors last February, as the Board is the governance body responsible for the financial affairs of the university, including investment policy. There was a comment that where issues have academic implications, it is important that Senate have a look at these through an academic lens.

Ms. Baylis **MOVED, seconded** by Ms. Halliday:

THAT the Senate meeting be extended by 15 minutes.

The motion **FAILED**.

Ms. Baylis **MOVED, seconded** by Mr. Summerby-Murray:

THAT the question be called on the amended motion.

The motion **CARRIED**.

The amended motion now reads:

THAT (i) there be a renewed, well-informed discussion of fossil fuel divestment at an October 2015 meeting of Senate, (ii) to ensure that the discussion is well informed, that all academic units that self-identify as potentially affected by fossil fuel divestment be invited to submit a maximum two page summary statement outlining opportunities and threats of proposed divestment to an ad hoc committee of Senate, no later than September 15, 2015, (iii) that an ad hoc committee of Senate composed of no more than 5 knowledgeable persons be charged with receiving these reports and preparing a summary document collating the opportunities and threats of proposed divestment, (iv) this document be brought to Senate for review and discussion in October, 2015 and, in the interests of transparency, be made available to all Dalhousie faculty members and the DSU.

The motion **CARRIED**.

The membership of the ad hoc committee will come back to Senate at the next meeting for consideration.

2014:149

Discussion of Motion: Strategic Priorities: 2.2 Attract and Retain Outstanding Professors

Due to time constraints this item was deferred.

2014:150

Question Period

Due to time constraints this item was deferred.

2014:151

Other Business

Due to time constraints this item was deferred.

2014:152

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.