



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2014, at 4:00pm in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Baur, Baylis, Beale, Boudreau, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Byers, Cochrane, Cox, Cross, Cunningham, Dionne, Eldridge, Florizone, Gibson, Goodday, Grant, Gray, Gruzd, Hoyle, Hughes, Johnston, Kesselring, Killham, Kozey, Leach, Leon, MacDonald, MacLennan, Macy, Mansour, Matte, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Packer, Persaud, Pinder, Ross, Shepherd, Shukla, Smirnov, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Taylor, Treiger, Wach, Watters, Woodman.

Regrets: Ali, Becke, Boran, Crago, Habib, Langille, McLarney, Yiridoe.

Absent: Barrett, Burton, Cooper, Denike, Doman, Harman, Hewitt, Jha, Khan, Manion, Marrie, Mazzanti, Pegg, Webster.

2014:01

Adoption of Revised Agenda

The January 13, 2014 agenda was **adopted**.

2014:02

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Fraser expressed condolences to family and friends on the passing of Dr. Ian Bennett, former Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry. He then reported briefly on the consultation workshop on certificates and diplomas, indicating that a full report would be available soon. He anticipated that a working group would be formed by the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee to develop recommendations for policy and procedure. Mr. Fraser advised that the next Senate meeting, on January 27th, will focus primarily on the *100 Days of Listening: Final Report*, with the subsequent meeting on February 10th dealing with regular Senate business.

2014:03

President's Report

Mr. Florizone indicated that the primary focus of his report would be covered later in the meeting when he would provide a brief introduction to the *100 Days of Listening: Final Report*. He noted that he has had several meetings with Minister Regan and Premier McNeil and is pleased with the positive relationship with the provincial government. There has been considerable discussion of additional funding for graduate scholarships. Overall, applications for the 2014-15 academic year are up and this is a very positive sign for the University.

2014:04**DSU President's Report**

DSU Vice-President, Academic and External, Aaron Beale, provided an update on current DSU initiatives—specifically the vision for the executive of the DSU, advocacy and discussions with government officials, Student Union Building renovations, the issue of the lack of an ombudsperson, and the DSU budget.

2014:05**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Common Undergraduate Grade Scale**

Mr. Pinder presented the Common Undergraduate Grade Scale for the conversion of numerical grades to official letter grades. Up to this point, there has been considerable inconsistency across departments and Faculties in the scales used to convert numerical grades. Following extensive consultation with Faculties, the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee is recommending a common grade scale to provide consistency and transparency to the internal grading process. It is proposed that the common undergraduate grading scale be effective as of September 1, 2014 and that it apply to all undergraduate programs with the exception of professional programs in Dentistry, Law, and Medicine.

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

THAT Senate approve the proposed Common Undergraduate Grade Scale, Option 7, as presented in the December 4, 2014 discussion paper, with an effective date of September 1, 2014.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2014:06**Information Technology Services (ITS): Annual Update**

Dwight Fischer, Assistant Vice-President, Information Technology Services, provided an annual update on Information Technology Services, including the current and future focus on: learning analytics; proposed shared ITS services across universities; the network renewal project to meet the demands on the campus wireless network; upcoming business partnerships; and, the transformation of the ITS organization to move to data analytics to drive technology decisions in support of Dalhousie.

There was discussion about the responsibility for equipment maintenance and technical support capability. As well, the reliability of the data network was discussed given the increasing demand placed on the network by multiple devices simultaneously using network bandwidth. The data network has redundancy to help ensure consistency in network service. Further discussion focused on the options available for purchasing computers, specific to individual needs; concern regarding outsourcing service contracts; and, learning analytics to understand current trends.

2014:07**Facilities Management Annual Update**

Jeff Lamb, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management, provided an annual update on Facilities Management, indicating the current and future focus to be: a multiyear capital plan; a comprehensive

planning process to meet operational demands; the current status of projects including the Ocean Science Building, LeMarchant Mixed-Use Building, Collaborative Health Education Building, and the proposed addition to Dalplex; internal heating plant renewal project, focusing on the tri-generation option, and renovating existing energy systems; and, space management of existing facilities including event bookings and current policies.

In the discussion following, it was noted that the increase in enrolment will give rise to an increased need for teaching and learning space. It was noted that there is a Classroom Planning Committee that is engaging in an integrated academic planning process in assessing the need for classrooms; additionally, there are new teaching spaces being built to accommodate growth.

2014:08

An Introduction to the *100 Days of Listening: Final Report*

Mr. Florizone provided an introduction to the *100 Days of Listening: Final Report*, addressing the objectives for undertaking the project and the insight it provided into what makes Dalhousie distinct, and what issues are emerging as priorities on which to focus. He made reference to the mission of Dalhousie in teaching and learning, research, and service, and noted the proposed timeline for clarifying emerging priorities, and defining strategic directions.

There was discussion that explored the ranking of Dalhousie; the effect a collaborative research environment could have on Dalhousie's reputation; the function of the report in identifying issues and potential strategic objectives; and, the success of the report in describing the current state of Dalhousie. Moreover, the report provided an opportunity for the university community to explore common themes and positive trends, in order to enhance the collaborative learning experience.

2014:09

Question Period

There were no questions.

2014:10

Other Business

There was no other business.

2014:11

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.