



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2015, at 4:00pm in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Alan Pinder in the chair were the following: Ali, Aziz, Bannerman, Barrett, Baur, Baylis, Bodorik, Bourne-Tyson, Bucci, Burton, Byers, Cochrane, Cooper, Crago, Cutler, Doman, Erdman, Gahagan, Goodday, Grant, Gray, Habib, Herder, Holmes, Hoyle, Hughes, Kesselring, Kozey, Langille, Leon, Leonard, Ma, M. Macdonald, MacLennan, MacRae, Marrie, McLarney, Meynell, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Noble, Roy, Shepherd, Shukla, Skiptunis, Smirnov, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Wach, Wright.

Regrets: Cunningham, DasGupta, Diepeveen, Florizone, Harman, Hewitt, Kirk, Leach, C. MacDonald, Mazzanti, Quinn, Smit, Watters.

Absent: Becke, Brooks, Calladine, Denike, Khan, Letendre, Macy, Mansour, Persaud, Quraishi, Tennessen, Watt, Webster.

2015:63

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Pinder began by thanking all student Senators for serving their terms ending on May 1, 2015: Mr. Ramz Aziz, Ms. Jacqueline Skiptunis, Ms. Alissa Calladine, Mr. Dylan Letendre, Mr. Taylor Quinn, Mr. Andrew Bucci, and Mr. Mitchell Watt.

Mr. Pinder then called for approval of the agenda.

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

THAT item 7.1 - Nominations: ad hoc Committee of Senate on Fossil Fuel Divestment, be removed from the April 13, 2015 Senate agenda and that a new item - Review of the mandate for the Senate Ad Hoc committee on Fossil Fuel Divestment – be added as Item 11.2.

In discussion of the motion, it was noted that the composition of the ad hoc committee should not be presented until the mandate of the committee is further discussed and clarified.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Ms. Baylis then **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Skiptunis:

THAT item 7.2 Nominations: Senate faculty representative on Board of Governors, Term 2015-2018, be removed from the April 13, 2015 Senate agenda.

In discussion of the motion, it was noted that the vote for the Senate faculty representative should not proceed until the Senate Planning and Governance Committee has addressed the question raised last spring regarding the number of terms that a faculty senate representative can serve on the Board of Governors.

The motion **CARRIED**.

The April 13, 2015 Senate agenda was **adopted**, as amended.

2015:64

Provost's Report

Ms. Watters provided an update on enrolment projections for fall 2015, noting a projected 1% overall increase in enrolment from 2014-15. Current data indicates a 21% increase in international high school applications and a 7% decrease in Canadian applications from high school. At this point, Agriculture, Science and Computer Science are showing the most growth.

In regards to the Nova Scotia government's recent budget announcement, Ms. Watters reported that the anticipated increase in funding for the NS Graduate Scholarship program did not materialize. As a result, the Faculty of Graduate Studies is developing a plan to smooth the funding shortfall over the next several years. The 3% cap on undergraduate tuition has been retained, but removed for graduate programs; this will not impact proposed tuition fees at Dalhousie for 2015-16. The government has also allowed a one-time market adjustment to tuition on an individual program basis, after which it will reinstate the 3% cap on tuition increases for Nova Scotia undergraduate students. Dr. Watters noted that she expects that the Budget Advisory Committee will look at this next fall, but she anticipates that it would be a small number of programs, if any, where Dalhousie would consider this.

Ms. Watters provided an update on the Dentistry matter noting that all 13 suspended students have returned to clinic, conditional on continuing participation in the restorative justice process and other professional activities. The Academic Standards Class Committee (ASCC) will meet with each student in the fourth year, as they do each year, to determine whether each student has met the requirements to graduate. Ms. Watters also noted that the Task Force on Misogyny, Sexism and Homophobia in the Faculty of Dentistry is targeting to report with recommendations by June. Lastly, Ms. Watters noted that the Faculty is working through its own process for developing an action plan for tackling issues that underlie the culture giving rise to the Facebook incident.

2015:65

Consent Agenda

The Draft Senate meeting minutes of March 9, 2015 were removed from the consent agenda.

2015:64

Approval of Draft Minutes of March 9, 2015 Senate Meeting

There was a request to add the following sentence to the end of the Provost's report: "In response to a question about what was being done to recruit and ensure the University's equity policy was being applied in the various Dean searches that were/are ongoing on campus, the Provost replied that she is working closely with the Equity Office and will provide language so that when she introduces candidates that is made clear."

THAT Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of March 9, 2015, as amended.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2015:66

Matters Arising from the March 9, 2015 Senate Minutes

There were no matters arising from the March 9, 2015 Senate Minutes.

2015:70

Chair of Senate Report

Mr. Pinder highlighted the items attached to the Senate meeting package for information: Faculty Discipline Process quarterly report ending March 31, 2015 and one Approval of Graduand Between Convocations dated March 27, 2015. The April 27th meeting will take the form of a Senate Forum to discuss the Strategic Direction Report: 5.2 Foster a collegial culture grounded in diversity and inclusiveness. The Secretariat is exploring whether the June 8th Senate meeting could involve piloting a videoconference option. The Senate and Senate Standing Committee feedback survey will be distributed in late April and the results will be discussed at Senate in June; the survey includes an opportunity to comment on the table set-up at Senate meetings.

Mr. Pinder reported that the one item approved by the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, on behalf of Senate, was the continued suspension of enrolment for the Bachelor of Arts, Italian Studies for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Lastly, the four nominations received for the Chair of Senate (Acting) 2015-16 are: Peter Bodorik, Faculty of Computer Science; David Burton, Faculty of Agriculture; Kevin Hewitt, Faculty of Science and Letitia Meynell, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Mr. Pinder then called (three times) for further nominations for Acting Chair of Senate from the floor of Senate. No nominations were received. The election of the (Acting) Chair of Senate will take place by secret, preferential ballot at the May 11 Senate meeting.

2015:71

Senate Honorary Degrees Committee:

***In Camera* – Nominations for Spring and Fall 2016**

Mr. Pinder 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. Pinder announced that the slate of Honorary Degree nominations for Spring and Fall 2016 had been approved.

Revised Criteria and Procedures for Nomination of Honorary Degree Candidates

Ms. Cheryl Hubley-Kozey, member of the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee, presented the revised Criteria and Procedures for Nomination of Honorary Degree Candidates, which were first approved by Senate in February 2014. There was a desire to enhance the wording of the criteria for honorary degree nominations to be reflective of Dalhousie's commitment to equity and diversity. The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee have recommended wording to this effect to Senate.

On behalf of the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee, Ms. Hubley-Kozey **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the revised Criteria and Procedures for Nomination of Honorary Degree Candidates, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

In response to a question on the impact of this change, Ms. Hubley-Kozey noted that the language makes the commitment to diversity more explicit. She noted as well that next steps include providing greater support to assist those who are preparing nomination packages, which may help to generate a more diverse range of nominations.

2015:72

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Revised Academic Term Dates Principles

Ms. Barry, Acting Registrar, presented the revised Academic Term Date Principles (formerly called the Academic Schedule Principles). A series of consultations were held to gather different requirements by a task force of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee. The proposed changes in the packages are fairly significant changes to how the academic term dates are set. A summary of the key proposed changes are:

- switching from the traditional number of 61-63 days in a term to instances of days/week that is equivalent to 12 instances per term;
- a fall break around Remembrance Day;
- start the academic year on the Tuesday following Labour Day; and
- resume classes for the Winter Term 3-4 days after the University opens as students need time to adjust their registration and for faculty members to wrap up the previous semester.

It was clarified that as Senate has already set the academic term dates for 2015-2016, these changes would take effect in 2016-2017. It was noted as well that these are the principles on which the academic schedule is based; the dates for each year will continue to come forward for Senate approval.

The concept of a Fall Break week is relatively new in Ontario and other provinces and, as such, there is little information as to the impact of its implementation. The task force is asking that the Academic Term Dates Principles be in place for 4 years with a review in 3 years.

THAT Senate approve the Academic Term Dates Principles, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2015:73**Budget Advisory Committee Report LII (April 6, 2015)**

Mr. Nason, Vice President, Finance and Administration, spoke to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) report, highlighting the BAC process and principles established for its work this year and the assumptions used in developing the 2015-16 operating budget plan.

In discussion of the BAC Report, it was noted:

- With respect to reconciling overall compensation increases of 3.7% in the budget while most salary scale increases in collective bargaining agreements are 2% or less, the compensation provision in the budget includes salary scale and progression as well as pension, benefits, and annualization of compensation adjustments awarded as of July 1 of the previous year.
- Reserve funds come from 2 sources: surpluses earmarked for budget operating pressures (5.9 million) and the period of years the university had set aside a university pension stabilization fund. Heading into the 2015-2016, reserve funds total about \$9 million, but the University has been drawing down on reserves and so has not been adding to this amount.
- Thought could perhaps be given to a forum or other mechanism to bring faculty, staff and students together to discuss ideas and other potential budget models. The first open DSU consultation occurred 2-3 weeks ago and there was an impression that a fall consultation would occur. Conversations with student union executives should be undertaken earlier in budget development in future.
- It was discussed that ERBA may not be effective for a period of decreasing enrolment and it was requested that it be reviewed. It was acknowledged that ERBA has been modified 3-4 times in the last 25 years and that the BAC was currently reviewing the ERBA mechanism. Specific issues around ERBA should be reported to the BAC for consideration.
- The reason for the greater, 2.5%, reduction recommended in the budget for each Faculty relative to the 2% reduction for administrative units was clarified. Academic units have had overall ERBA-associated increases in operating budget and some have also launched initiatives for introduction and delivery of full cost recovery programs. There are no similar revenue generation opportunities for administrative and support units.
- There was a discussion that the updated mortality tables, which gauge the lifespan of Canadians, implies that the University pension contributions should increase by \$6M per year.

2015:74**Question Period**

There were no further questions.

2015:75**Other Business****Graffiti at Dalhousie University**

Ms. Baylis noted that since the last Senate meeting, there have been a number of instances of hateful graffiti on campus. These offensive threats have no place on campus and, while the Library and others have responded, she believes that it is also important for Senate to respond to this behaviour.

Ms. Baylis **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Baur:

THAT Senate, on behalf of Dalhousie University, expresses deep regret for the harms experienced by those targeted by hateful graffiti, condemns all hateful speech (including the racist and misogynist graffiti recently exposed), and commits itself to working to provide everyone with a safe and supportive learning environment.

Mr. Shepherd **MOVED**, Ms. Baylis seconded:

THAT the main motion be amended by removing the phrase “recently exposed”.

The amendment **CARRIED**.

Ms. Gahagan proposed a second amendment to include the word “homophobic” after the word “misogynist”.

Mr. Aziz proposed a third amendment to include the word “islamophobia” after “homophobic”.

During discussion of these two amendments, it was recommended that the parentheses and the words between the parentheses be removed from the amended motion.

Mr. Shepherd **MOVED**, seconded by Ms. Crago:

THAT Senate, on behalf of Dalhousie University, expresses deep regret for the harms experienced by those targeted by hateful graffiti, condemns all hateful speech, and commits itself to working to provide everyone with a safe and supportive learning environment.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Ms. Skiptunis asked that it be noted in the minutes that, in her view, the descriptors proposed are important.

Senate Ad Hoc committee on Fossil Fuel Divestment – Mandate

Mr. Pinder read the motion that was passed at the December 8, 2014 meeting regarding the mandate of the Senate ad hoc Committee on Fossil Fuel Divestment.

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.

Ms. Wright noted that section (iii) is not intended for members of the ad hoc committee to simply collate information, rather, they should also be evaluating the information received.

Ms. Wright **MOVED**, seconded by Mr. Burton:

THAT Senate approve that section 3 of the mandate of the Senate ad hoc Committee on Fossil Fuel Divestment state *that an ad hoc committee of Senate composed of no more than 5 knowledgeable persons be charged with receiving **and providing critical evaluation of** these reports and preparing a summary document collating the opportunities and threats of proposed divestment.*

The motion **CARRIED**.

It was discussed that individuals nominated for the ad hoc committee should understand clearly the mandate of the committee. The Senate Planning and Governance Committee will review the amendment to the mandate and determine what the next steps will be regarding recommending nominees for the ad hoc committee.

2015:76

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.