



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2015, at 4:00pm in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. A. Pinder in the chair were the following: Ali, Aziz, Baur, Baylis, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Bucci, Burton, Byers, Calladine, Cochrane, Cooper, Cunningham, DasGupta, Denike, Doman, Florizone, Gahagan, Goodday, Grant, Gray, Harman, Hewitt, Hughes, Kesselring, Kirk, Langille, Leach, Leon, Letendre, Ma, C. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, MacRae, Mansour, Marrie, Mazzanti, Meynell, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Noble, Persaud, Quraishi, Roy, Shepherd, Shukla, Skiptunis, Smirnov, Smit, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Wach, Watters, Webster, Wright.

Regrets: Becke, Crago, Cutler, Diepeveen, Erdman, Kozey, Leonard, MacLennan, McLarney, Quinn, Tennesen.

Absent: Barrett, Bodorik, Habib, Herder, Holmes, Khan.

Guest: Mairead Barry, Chris Hartt

2015:01

Approval of Agenda

The January 12, 2015 agenda was **adopted**.

2015:02

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of December 8, 2014 Senate Meeting

THAT Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of December 8, 2014.

Approved by **Consent**.

2015:03

Matters Arising from the December 8, 2014 Senate Minutes

Academic Dates 2015-16 Follow-up

Ms. Mairead Barry, Assistant Vice President Enrolment Management & Registrar (Acting), stated that as Labour Day in the 2015-2016 academic year falls late in September, the examination period for the fall term will run until December 20, 2015. Final grades are due seven calendar days after an exam is written and, therefore, for exams written on December 18, 19 and 20, grades will not be due until the first week

of January. She noted, however, that faculty members have the ability to submit grades online over the December holiday break. In response to a question, she noted that the Registrar's Office works to post grades as soon as possible and to assist any students with issues around prerequisites or other matters that need to be addressed in a timely way for the winter term. A task force by the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) has been struck to review academic scheduling principles and the start date for the academic year is one of the considerations.

Motion re: Fossil Fuel Divestment

Due to time constraints at the December 8, 2014 Senate meeting, the composition of the proposed ad hoc committee of Senate on fossil fuel divestment was deferred to the next Senate meeting. Ms. Baylis, as the presenter of the motion, proposed that the composition of the committee be referred to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee and that this return to Senate on February 9, 2015.

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

THAT the composition of the ad hoc committee of Senate on fossil fuel divestment be referred to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2015:04

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Pinder reported that the October-December 2014 Faculty Discipline Process Report was available for information in the meeting package. He noted that the next regular meeting of Senate will be on January 26, 2015.

2015:05

President's Report

Mr. Florizone focused his report on the Dentistry Facebook incident noting that it has been a challenging time for the women at the centre of the issue who have been harmed and for the Dalhousie community as a whole. He noted that the comments that are the subject of this incident are unacceptable and offensive, that these have caused harm, and that it is an indication of how far the University still needs to go on these issues. He stated the five key principles guiding Dalhousie's actions: 1) that the behaviour is unacceptable; 2) that there must be significant consequences for this behavior; 3) that the University must follow a just process to determine consequences that is consistent with the law and University policy and upholds the rights of all involved; 4) that there be a commitment to the safety of Dalhousie's students and staff, and 5) that the University take steps to address the broader culture of misogyny, sexism and sexualized violence. Based on Dalhousie's policies and principles, there are four actions currently: 1) the restorative justice process continues; 2) the 13 Facebook members will no longer attend classes with the rest of their classmates as a result of the suspension imposed by the Academic Standards Class Committee (ASCC) in the Faculty of Dentistry; 3) the launch of the Taskforce on Misogyny, Sexism, and Homophobia in Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry, led by Professor Constance Backhouse of the University of Ottawa, and 4) under Dalhousie's Strategic Directions, Dean of Law, Kim Brooks will lead the strategic initiative on diversity and inclusiveness (Priority 5.2), in partnership with the Dalhousie University senate.

In closing, Mr. Florizone asked for Senate's help and leadership to move forward on these matters, commenting that Dalhousie can and must do better.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Florizone responded to a number of questions on the incidents at the centre of this matter and the actions that have been taken as a result of these events. The 13 students identified as part of the Facebook group were the number of students involved when the material was discovered and there will be a fact-finding investigation. With respect to the suspension from clinical practice, this was made with the advice of professionals working with the women and men in the restorative justice process that they not be notified when the decision was made on December 22, 2014 as the risk of self-harm was high. The decision made by the Academic Standards Class Committee (ASCC) was for the 13 men to attend the remaining classes remotely or work together at a different location on campus. The ASCC will also consider mitigation and remediation for the males of the class who were not members of the Facebook group. It was discussed that a broader campus investigation will follow an investigation into the current culture within Dentistry.

2015:06

Provost's Report

Ms. Watters provided an update on the strategic initiatives, reporting that nine project charters are complete, with the remaining 16 in progress and due to be completed by the end of January; the completed charters are now available on the website. Regarding Priority 1.1 (Increase retention and degree completion), the consultants will return to campus on January 21st to 23rd and Ms. Watters encouraged senators to attend the open sessions scheduled during this visit. As noted earlier, Priority 5.2 (Inclusiveness and Diversity), will be led by Kim Brooks, Dean, Schulich School of Law.

Ms. Watters reported that the Provost Committee has not yet met since the December break, but the two issues that will be discussed later in the week are the report on the Learning Management System (LMS) and the final plans for the fitness centre.

2015:07

Senate Nominating Committee: Election of Senate Vice-Chair (Student Affairs)

Mr. Hartt, Chair, Senate Nominating Committee (SNC), reported that the SNC issued a call for nominations for the Senate Vice-Chair, Student Affairs, which closed on December 5, 2014. A nomination for Ms. Katherine Harman was received and recommended to Senate by the SNC on December 19, 2014.

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

THAT Senate elect Ms. Katherine Harman, Faculty of Health Professions, as Senate Vice-Chair, Student Affairs, for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2015:08

Discussion of Motion: Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry Matter

Ms. Meynell presented a motion to Senate with respect to the Faculty of Dentistry matter.

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

THAT i) an independent committee of inquiry on Gendered Violence and Related Forms of Discrimination on campus be appointed, ii) The mandate of the Independent Committee of Inquiry shall be:

1. To investigate the adequacy of the Dalhousie University Sexual Harassment Policy, the Dalhousie University Code of Student Conduct, and other disciplinary policies in effect at Dalhousie University with particular but not limited reference of the case of the “Class of 2015 Gentlemen”.
2. To investigate the phenomena of misogynist and gendered violence at Dalhousie University.
3. To investigate forms of discrimination and harassment that frequently accompany or amplify the negative effects of gendered violence.
4. To report findings to the Dalhousie University Senate and the broader University community.
5. To Make appropriate recommendations to respond to these phenomena.

In discussion of the motion, Ms. Meynell noted that much has happened since she submitted her motion on December 23rd, and with the announcement of the independent Task Force on Misogyny, Sexism, and Homophobia in Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry, there is a clear and significant overlap with her proposal and that proposed body. She noted that, in her view, the terms of reference proposed by the President for the Independent Task Force look excellent, but she would like to see some assurances regarding the scope of the work of the Task Force (the facts to be investigated), and Senate’s ability to approve any changes to the terms of reference. She proposed that the President’s Task Force become a joint initiative between the President’s Office and Senate so that any changes to the terms of reference would proceed to Senate for approval.

Prior to dealing with the motion presented, discussion ensued on the potential for Senate to exercise its authority under section 1.2(q) of the Constitution to substitute an alternate decision-making process for the Academic Standards Class Committee (ASCC) in the Faculty of Dentistry (in order to address concerns about the credibility of the process and perceptions of conflict of interest). Legal Counsel responded that the ASCC is the body having jurisdiction in this matter and to change this now would be seen as procedural unfairness that would almost certainly result in judicial review and the overturning of any decision made under an alternate process. It was also noted that the ASCC decision is ultimately subject to appeal (ie. appealable to the Faculty-level and then to a Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Unsuitability), so Senate ultimately has oversight of this process.

There was considerable discussion of the motion and the role of Senate, following which it was proposed that the discussion of ASCC is really a separate issue and should be tabled for now in light of the motion already on the floor.

Mr. Stanish **MOVED**, seconded Ms. Harman:

THAT the motion presented by Ms. Meynell and seconded by Mr. Hewitt be postponed indefinitely.

The motion **CARRIED**.

It was noted that a new motion would be forthcoming in one week and there would be an expectation of a legal opinion with respect to 1.2 (q) of the Senate Constitution.

2015:09

Question Period

As the time was approaching 6 p.m., Ms. Baylis proposed a motion to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes.

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

THAT the Senate agree to extend the time of the Senate meeting today by 15 minutes.

The motion **FAILED**.

Mr. Florizone invited senators who brought forward these issues to speak with him directly. He noted that there may be an option for an external independent observer at the ASCC.

There were **no** other questions, due to the time constraint.

2015:10

Other Business

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred.

2015:11

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.