

SENATE
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 9, 2015
4:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
Theatre A, Charles Tupper Medical Building

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2015 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building. The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Present with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following Senators: Ali, Anderson, Banks, Baylis, Bhatia, Bourne-Tyson, Brown, Burton, Chen, Cochrane, Crago, Erdman, Finley, Florizone, Gahagan, Gantar, Goldberg, Grant, Habib, Harman, Herder, Hill, Holmes, Hunt, Hutton, Kirk, Kozey, Kyriakidis, Leon, Leonard, Lu, Ma, B. MacDonald, Macy, Mansour, Mazzanti, Meynell, Mopoho, Nicholson, Noble, Pacurar, Parker, Roy, Smit, Smith, Stadnyk, Stone, Wach, Warwick, Watters, Wright, Zaiotti.

Regrets: Boran, Byers, Cameron, Cooper, Cutler, Dobson, Goodday, Gray, Kesselring, Langille, C. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, MacRae, Stanish.

Absent: Barrett, Bodorik, DasGupta, Doman, Goldberg, Khan, Leach, McCallum, Quraishi, Rau-Chaplin, Tennessen, Webster.

Guests: Mairead Barry (Acting University Registrar), Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Claude Caldwell (Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Agriculture), Lindie Colp-Rutley (Coordinator, Research Analytics), Anne-Marie DeLorey (Advisor, Human Rights & Equity), Kevin Landry (student minute taker), Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Jasmine Walsh (Acting AVP Human Resources).

2015:118

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was **APPROVED**.

2015:119

Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of October 26, 2015 Senate Meeting

The draft Senate minutes of October 26, 2015 were **APPROVED**.

2015:120

Matters Arising from the October 26, 2015 Senate Minutes

Several items were noted out of the Senate minutes of October 26, 2015. Three were items that the Provost had undertaken to follow up on and she reported as follows:

1. With respect to information on sexual assault reporting on campus, the Provost requested information from the Human Rights, Equity and Harassment Prevention Office (HREHP). While the Clery Act in the US and provincial legislation in Ontario do not apply to Dalhousie, the University has reported statistics from 2009-2014 and Dalhousie's statistics are currently available on the HREHP website. The universities who

are members of the Association of Atlantic Universities are also currently considering reporting for all campuses.

2. With respect to the recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, Dr. Watters reported that Dr. Fiona Black, Associate Vice-President Academic, is taking the lead on responses to the recommendations identified for Dalhousie and the University of King's College. She anticipates that this work will be scheduled as a separate discussion for Senate in a later meeting. She spoke to a variety of new initiatives underway, including the work on curricular content for undergraduate education, the new minor in aboriginal studies and the aboriginal health sciences initiative.
3. With respect to the Ombudsperson position, Dr. Watters reported that staff in HREHP are working with the Acting Vice-Provost Student Affairs, the DSU and the Equity Advisory group to develop terms of reference for the position. It is anticipated that the position will move forward in terms of funding and a hiring process by the end of November.

Further questions raised under Matters Arising related to the presentation on October 26th on corporate gifts and agreements and, particularly, the question of whether there is ongoing monitoring from the academic side to ensure that there is no inappropriate "reach" or undue influence by the donor with respect to the research or academic programs funded. There was a suggestion that Senate should discuss this more fully in terms of a framework for engaging on this issue.

2015:121

Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Hewitt reported on several items and noted particularly the call for Honorary Degree nominations. He noted the upcoming Senate workshop on November 12th which will provide a forum to begin the discussion of the various reports of interest to Senate. He encouraged senators to attend this event and also requested that members complete the online survey associated with the workshop.

2015:122

President's Report

Senator Florizone highlighted several items in his report, including the recent federal election and subsequent meetings of Universities Canada member institutions and the U15 universities to discuss the impact that the change in government may have for post-secondary institutions. He noted some optimism and excitement across the country, but noted that there are fiscal realities that still exist. Plans are underway to have Nova Scotia MPs visit the campus on November 27th.

Senator Florizone noted that, at the provincial level, the ONE Nova Scotia Coalition has just released its Collaborative Action Plan. The seven areas noted in the Plan all speak to Dalhousie in numerous ways and is very much aligned with Dalhousie's strategic direction.

With respect to the work on diversity and inclusiveness, Senator Florizone reported that the search for an Executive Director is well along and the committee will be in a position to make a recommendation shortly. He noted that Dalhousie will be hosting a reception with Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations national chief, and former Prime Minister Paul Martin on November 15th, with a public event on November 16th. President Florizone will be attending the "Building Reconciliation" summit at the University of Saskatchewan on November 18-19th; this forum is intended to focus universities on the TRC's Calls to Action.

Following his report, President Florizone responded to questions and comments on a range of issues, including the need to address barriers for international graduate and post-doctoral students with the federal and provincial levels of government, and the need to ensure that social sciences and humanities research continues to have a place on the federal research agenda and in the provincial ONE Nova Scotia action plans around innovation. President Florizone indicated his agreement with these comments, noting that “innovation” is not just about scientific innovation, but also includes cultural and social innovation. He agreed that it is the role of universities as well as individuals to advance these perspectives with government.

2015:123

Provost’s Report

Senator Watters reported on progress with regard to strategic priorities, noting that the project teams are beginning to consolidate the project plans and updates will be posted on the website. The first update will be on Strategic Priority 5.2, with a “report card” anticipated for the end of November that will cover progress on the recommendations in the Backhouse (and other) reports.

Senator Watters reported that the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) is convening weekly and meeting widely with the deans, faculty, service unit heads, and students to determine where the “friction points” are this year with respect to the budget. She noted that a survey from BAC will be run in the next week or so and input from the university community is being sought. Senator Watters provided a brief “snapshot” of current considerations for BAC, including the Memorandum of Understanding with the provincial government and enrolment numbers that are flat overall. She noted that other questions that BAC is discussing include whether BAC cuts should be differentiated this year across units, and whether there are specific programs for which the one-time tuition “re-set” allowed by the government should be pursued. With respect to this latter point, she noted that no decisions have been made, and it is necessary to engage in this discussion in the timeframe allowed. Senator Watters reported that she intends to provide an update on the BAC process at each Senate meeting and she anticipates that the first preliminary report will be released before the December holiday period. Communications around BAC will start shortly.

2015:124

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: University Academic Dates for 2016-17

Mairead Barry, Acting Assistant Vice-President, Enrolment Management & Registrar, presented the schedule of Academic Dates for 2016-17, which is the first time the revised Academic Term Principles have been used to create the Academic Dates for the year. The proposed academic dates for 2016-17 include a one-week study break in November 2016.

On behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED:**

THAT Senate approve the schedule of Academic Dates for 2016-17 as attached.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2015:125

Senate Planning and Governance Committee

Revised General Election Guidelines for Academic Unit Representatives on Senate

Senator Hewitt presented the guidelines for academic unit representatives on Senate, which have been revised and updated to provide for email/digital voting. There was note of several small inconsistencies within this document, and between it and the Libraries document in item 8.2, and whether these should be addressed before approval. Although each academic unit may prepare their own guidelines and have them approved by Senate it was suggested that at minimum the date form and use of “may” or “shall” should be consistent throughout the documents.

It was agreed to table both items so that these editing matters could be addressed. Both documents will come back to a later meeting.

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the revised election Guidelines for Academic Unit Representatives on Senate, as presented:

The motion was **TABLED**.

New University Library Senate Faculty Election Procedures

The discussion and motion on this item were **TABLED**.

2015:126

Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee: New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Technology in Small Business Management

Claude Caldwell provided an overview of the proposed Bachelor of Technology in Small Business Management program, noting that it is aimed at students with a technical background who are interested in managing, owning or operating their own businesses and also targets students who are entrepreneurial in nature. Students eligible to apply for direct admission to the program will have the equivalent of a two-year technical diploma.

Following his presentation, Dr. Caldwell responded to questions of clarification on a variety of matters, including the incorporation of IT skills and the importance of attention to ethics components in the program. There was also a question regarding whether the program is indicative of a move towards two-year BA programs. C. Watters responded that this is not a general trend, but there is certainly an increase in innovative kinds of programs, including “two + two” arrangements. She noted that she herself has posed this question to SAPRC: What makes something a “Dalhousie program”?

On behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Technology in Small Business Management program.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2015:127

Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Review of the Faculty of Graduate Studies

Senator Leonard and Senator Gahagan presented to Senate. The Review was conducted in 2014-2015 with a series of face to face interviews with stakeholders. There were 6 key findings and recommendations.

- 1- Revisit and redefine parameters of FGS as a service unit.
- 2- Additional data collection and animation.
- 3- Find mechanisms for stable funding of FGS.
- 4- Increase efficiencies regarding workflow and technical procedures. There is great need for an Institution wide enterprise system.
- 5- Space for FGS is not reflective of its importance.
- 6- Increase the allocation of Full Time Employees to FGS.

The presenters spoke to how these recommendations could be fulfilled. It was clear that FGS agreed with the review committee's findings. Senator Leonard spoke about challenges that FGS did not have expertise to fix- like implementing an institution wide enterprise system.

The presenters answered questions about graduate supervision at the St. John campus and other satellite campus. Discussion ensued about support for the IDPHD program.

Funding and fees was a large area of concern. There was discussion about where funding came from, how many graduate students each professor oversees, and how international fees should be handled.

2015:128

Report on Employment equity history at Dalhousie

Jasmine Walsh, Anne-Marie DeLorey and Lindie Colp-Rutley presented to senate. They spoke about strategic initiative 5.2, the ongoing census campaign they are conducting, campus mental wellness planning, structure of the HREHP office and strategic recruitment.

The Federal Contractors Program and associated statistics were the main reason for the invitation to present to Senate. FCP is a program that emerged from the employment equity legislation and established the designated groups (women, visible minorities, persons with disabilities and aboriginals). The Federal Contractors program ensures federally funded bodies, like universities, make reasonable effort and reasonable progress to ensure its workforce is representative of labor market availability. Until 2013 when changes were made by the Conservative government, FCP participants provided annual reports to the federal government. Participants are required to collect self-identification data and determine if their workforce is representative of labour market availability. Analysis of employee identification data and comparisons to the labor marker classification allows for numerical targets to be set, including short term

(1-3 yrs) and long term (> 3 yrs) ones. Among the four designated groups, significant gaps were presented among Visible minorities, Aboriginals, and persons with disabilities; with the gap increasing over time. The presenters sought to qualify some of these gaps in the data, including a comparison of the hiring within these groups and their availability.

Questions ensued about the census campaign being conducted on Dal online and about the reporting of statistics being balanced with protecting confidentiality. There were additional comments about gaps in Dalhousie's workforce representation and how they could be remedied through hiring policy or otherwise.

2015:129

Motion to Extend Meeting

Given that the time for adjournment had been reached, the Chair asked for direction.

Senator Smit **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Nicholson:

THAT Senate extend the time of the meeting by 15 minutes.

The motion **CARRIED (by required two-thirds majority)**.

2015:130

Question Period

There were no further questions.

2015:131

Other Business

There was no other business.

2015:132

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.