

SENATE**APPROVED Minutes of the Meeting held on****Monday, April 10, 2017****3:15pm – 5:15pm****Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, April 10, 2017 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following: N. Ali, A. Aiken, M. Aston, F. Baylis, C. Brown, C. Cameron, A. Cochrane, A. Diab, C. Dielman, L. Diepeveen, D. Doman, J. Erdman, S. Faridi, G.A. Finley, J. Gahagan, R. Goodday, K. Harman, F. Harvey, K. Hewitt, S. Holmes, J. Hoyle, J. Hughes, E. Johnson, K. Kesselring, S. Kirk, Y. Kotlyarova, W. Lahey, J. Leon, M. Leonard, Co. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, C. Macy, P. McMullin, L. Meynell, C. Moore, K. Mukhida, M. Pacurar, R. Parker, D. Patterson, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, A. Stadnyk, T. Tennessen, G. Wach, G. Wang-Pruski, C. Watters

Regrets: D. Anderson, P. Bodorik, T. Boran, D. Bourne-Tyson, S. Charlebois, J. Chen, M. Crago, R. Florizone, D. Gray, M. Khan, S. Kuzak, D. Langille, T. MacRae, R. Mopoho, L. Spiteri, P. Tyedmers

Absent: A. Abawajy, R. Change, N. Gear, J. Grant, L. Hackett, Y. Ma, Ch. Macdonald, A. Quraishi, K. Reid, N. Savage, D. White, J. White

Guests: Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), John Cameron Afua Cooper, Ian Hill, Brian Noble, Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Daniela Loggia (Student Minute Taker), Sherry Pictou, Victor Rafuse, Neale Ridgeway

2017:56**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was **approved** as circulated.

2017:57**Consent Agenda****Approval of Draft Minutes of March 27, 2017 Senate Meeting**

THAT Senate approve the draft minutes of the March 13, 2017 Senate meeting.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2017:58**Matters Arising from the March 27, 2017 Senate Meeting Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

2017:59**Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality**

Afua Cooper, the James R Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, spoke to fostering a collegial culture grounded in diversity and inclusiveness, specifically regarding black studies and students on campus. She highlighted three recent positive developments. Firstly, two courses offered through the minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies had over 70 students enrolled this past year. Ms. Cooper noted that she hopes to develop a corresponding major program. Secondly, she noted the formation of the Dalhousie Black Faculty & Staff Caucus. Thirdly, the Scholarly Panel to Examine Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race was authorized to inquire into Lord Dalhousie's legacy of racism and colonialism regarding the African Nova Scotian community. The Commission's report will be delivered to President Florizone at the end of August 2017. Ms. Cooper also noted several areas of potential improvement, including the need to retain and attract more black faculty and students and increase commitment to these issues by Dalhousie. The development of an Institute for Black Studies was recommended. Regarding a question about identifying obstacles, it was noted that a change in mindset throughout the University was a major obstacle.

2017:60 Reports

Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Hewitt congratulated Dr. Sherry Pictou for the successful defence of her interdisciplinary PhD thesis, noting that she is among the first handful of Mi'kmaq individuals to have graduated from Dalhousie with a PhD. Her co-supervisors were Dr. Brian Noble and Dr. John Cameron. Dr. Noble spoke to Dr. Pictou's outstanding scholarship. He also noted that this defence was a watershed moment because it had both a Mi'kmaq Doctoral Candidate and a Mi'kmaq Professor as the External Examiner, making the defence a coalescing of a Mi'kmaq scholarly community. Dr. Pictou's dissertation, "Decolonizing Mi'kmaq Memory of Treaty: L'stkuk'S Learning with Allies in Struggle for Food and Lifeways", is a living study in what it means to be living in Treaty, especially on unceded Mi'kmaq territory. It addresses both Indigenous and Settler Canadians. Dr. Noble encouraged everyone to read Dr. Pictou's dissertation online on Dal Space.

The following additional information was also reported:

- The second joint meeting of the Senate and Board of Governors regarding technology-enable teaching and learning will occur on June 27, 2017.
- Senator Hewitt will continue to visit Faculty Councils in the upcoming months. So far, suggestions from faculty include: providing Senate with summaries of faculty council meetings, semi-regular meetings between Deans and faculty senators, regular reporting by faculty senators to Faculty Councils, and providing Faculty Councils with summaries of Senate minutes. It was noted that a communications team has already begun to provide summaries of Senate meetings to Faculty Councils.
- SPGC has approved, on behalf of Senate, several faculty appointments to various committees.
- Regarding the approval of nominees for the University Tenure and Promotion Appeals Panel, it was noted that a list of names has been forwarded to the University President and the Dalhousie Faculty Association President for approval. The distribution of candidates reflects the availability pool as described in Dalhousie's Federal Contractors Program. After approval, the list of names will be brought before the Senate.
- The Senate Learning and Teaching Committee has approved, on behalf of Senate, Donna Bourne Tyson as a representative on the Bicentennial Committee, as well as the terms of reference and mandate for a working group on holistic evaluation for teaching. This working group will spend a year developing a proposal for a broader evaluation of teaching at Dalhousie beyond traditional criteria.
- The Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee has approved, on behalf of Senate, the following: a Medical Residency Program in Internal Medicine, a Minor in Religious Studies, and a suspension of admissions to the joint Master of Journalism and Juris Doctor program.
- Regarding a motion that the Dean of Medicine respond to the CAUT report, it was noted that a response will go to the Faculty of Medicine Council by May 2017. Afterwards, the response will go to the Senate

Planning and Governance Committee before coming to the Senate. It will hopefully be available by the end of the academic year.

- A definition for academic freedom was presented to the SPGC and, after additional input, it will be reconsidered by the SPGC in May.
- Senator Hewitt will meet with Laura Neals from Human Resources on April 19, 2017 for an update on Dalhousie's grievance process for non-unionized faculty.
- Senators were encouraged to complete the annual spring Senate Feedback Survey.

Provost's Report

Senator Watters spoke to the following:

- Regarding enrollment, there have been fewer applications so far compared to last year, however, a better sense of enrollment will be possible once scholarships are awarded at the end of April. Once this happens, Senator Watters will report back to Senate.
- Lecture capture systems were installed in 13 classrooms this past year. Student response to this has been very positive. This summer, an additional 15 classroom will be fitted for lecture capture. It was also noted that some classrooms will only have audio, whereas others will have both audio and video capabilities.
- Regarding AV support on campus, it was noted that a help desk will be prominent in the lobby of the Killam library, the Rowe Management Building, and the Life Sciences Centre. Members of the support team will also be highly visible.
- A Strategic Enrollment Management Plan is well under way. A framework for the plan has been prepared and is undergoing consultation. It will hopefully be brought before the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee in late spring.
- In response to a previous question regarding the allocation of funds from increased tuition, it was noted that a large portion of enrollment growth in recent years occurred through enrollment in the Faculty of Agriculture, which retains all its tuition revenue. Remaining funds from tuition has been distributed in the following way: 60% towards faculty budgets and 40% towards Dalhousie's overall operating budget. It was also noted that between 2011 and 2013, there was a 10% cut in government funding.
- A team from Dalhousie was in Mexico last week, where there was great interest expressed in partnering with Canadian universities on program development and research.

Questions for Reports

In response to the Reports, Senators discussed the following:

- Senator Watters will update Senators on the issue of extended and evening hours for the new classroom support model.
- A question was raised regarding possible commitment to exploring innovative ways that the Budget Advisory Committee can avoid uniform budget cuts across all units. It was noted that this issue is being considered and that it will inform some upcoming conversations regarding the use of ERBA.
- IT issues regarding Collaborate should be forwarded to Donna Bourne Tyson or Mark Comeau.
- Concern was raised regarding the use of Senate meeting summaries to inform Faculty Councils, since these summaries would not represent the official record of the Senate. It was noted that official Senate minutes will be circulated to Faculty Councils.
- Deans will be notified when any of their faculty are appointed to various committees by Senate or Senate Standing Committees.

2017:61

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Draft Academic Syllabus Policy

Katherine Harman, Chair of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, spoke to the draft Academic Syllabus Policy. She noted that consultation with the Dalhousie Faculty Association occurred in February 2017 and that the policy has been revised in consideration of previous Senate feedback. She highlighted that elements regarding a centrally held repository have been removed and that the Course Syllabus Guide, which is subject to further revision, is not part of the Academic Syllabus Policy.

Prior to discussion of the draft Academic Syllabus Policy, the motion was presented.

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

THAT Senate approve the draft Academic Syllabus Policy, as presented.

Senators discussed the following with respect to the draft Policy:

- There has been no interest in using the Course Syllabus Guide to prescribe specific language used by faculty.
- In section B, it was suggested that some undergraduate courses can also be identified as being dynamic. This would better account for undergraduate directed studies courses, which are flexible.
- It was suggested that the first sentence in section A be reordered in order to better emphasize the main objectives of a course syllabus.
- Regarding language in Section D(8), it was suggested that the contractual obligations of students be made clearer. It was noted that this language was recommended by Legal Counsel. It was suggested that the phrase, “to familiarize themselves with the Syllabus and”, be removed.
- It was noted that, in the Course Syllabus Guide, the fourth bullet under the heading, “Assessment Components”, should begin with the phrase: “Other work not required but assessed...”

Senator Holmes **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Kirk:

THAT the draft Academic Syllabus Policy be amended to read:

- Section A, first sentence: “The course syllabus should communicate clearly and in writing the responsibilities of the instructors and students to themselves, the course and each other, and provides a permanent record of a course for administrative purposes.”
- Section B: The second sentence in Section B will begin with the phrase: “Some credit-bearing graduate and undergraduate courses...”
- Section D(8): “By enrolling in a Course, Students agree to abide by the policies and requirements described in the Syllabus.”

The amendment **CARRIED**.

It was noted that Section B would apply to all credit-bearing courses, including certificate courses if they were credit-bearing.

Senator Pacurar **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Kotlyarova:

THAT Section B of the draft Academic Syllabus Policy be amended by removing the last sentence and the first sentence to read: “This policy applies to all credit-bearing courses at the University.”

The second amendment **CARRIED**.

Senators further discussed the amended draft Syllabus Policy, noting the following:

- Regarding concerns raised for the potential increased length of syllabi, it was noted that operational tools may be used to reduce syllabus length. For example, there will be a permanent link to updated documents that faculty can give to students. The environmental impact of long syllabi was also noted.
- It was noted that it is important to separate standard, Dalhousie-wide policies from course-specific information in syllabi.
- A question was raised regarding the five year timeline for policy reviews as described in the Policy on Policies in relation to the three year review period identified in Section E(7). It was noted that, due to the challenges in drafting this policy, a shorter timeline for review was desired. It was also noted that if the shorter timeline is no longer relevant after the policy's first review, then this section could be stricken from the policy.
- The timeframe of ten years noted in Section F(4) was chosen since there is a ten year limit for transfer credit and getting credit for past courses.
- It was noted that Section D(4) would provide the opportunity for each department or Faculty the flexibility to develop their own syllabus template.

The original motion, twice amended **CARRIED**.

2017:62

Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee: Senate Review of the Brain Repair Centre

Senator Hoyle, Chair of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC), noted that the Brain Repair Centre has undergone an external and internal Senate review. He noted that the Research Sub Committee and the SAPRC have reviewed the Final Report and the response. Neale Ridgeway, Chair of the Senate Review Committee, and Victor Rafuse, Director of the Brain Repair Centre, spoke to the Report and the responses to recommendations. Senators discussed the following:

- A question was raised regarding collaboration with different graduate programs. In response, it was noted that the Brain Repair Centre does not have capacity to take the lead on this issue. Past attempts to do so have failed, and it is likely that future attempts would require faculty leadership in order to be successful.
- The issue of space was discussed. It was noted that one area of concern for the Brain Repair Centre was recruiting enough researchers to fill available space and that the design of the lab would foster collaboration. It was also noted that some Faculties might be able to place researchers in this space.
- It was noted that several of the recommendations for the Brain Repair Centre, such as improving internal communication or developing sustainable funding, speak to systemic issues across Dalhousie. It was also noted that improvements could be made on campus in order to foster collaboration across Faculties and better compete as a U15 university.

2017:63

Annual Research Funding Report

Ian Hill, Associate Vice President of Research, presented a Research Report, noting funding trends based on ROME0 and CAUBO data. He highlighted that Dalhousie needs to improve its research funding in the not-for-profit sector. In response to the presentation, the following was discussed:

- It was noted that, unfortunately, data regarding clinician researchers in other U15 schools is not available. Because of this, it is difficult to accurately determine how the university should set priorities or compare funding to other universities in a complete way.
- A question was raised regarding how to improve infrastructure for sustainable research. It was noted that low levels of funding are the biggest challenge to improving infrastructure. However, there is some hope that the Province is making new commitments regarding funding. Also, work has begun regarding basic

funding for core facilities. Equipment that was previously being funded by individual institutes will now be supported by funding for core facilities.

- It was noted that different funding sources are interrelated and that improvement in any one area will improve funding from other sources as well.

2017:64

Question Period

There were no questions.

2017:65

Other Business

There was no other business.

2017:66

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.