



**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, January 23, 2017**  
**3:00pm – 5:00pm**  
**Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, January 23, 2017 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

**Present** with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following: A. Abawajy, N. Ali, D. Anderson, M. Aston, F. Baylis, P. Bodorik, T. Boran, D. Bourne-Tyson, C. Brown, C. Cameron, R. Chang, J. Chen, A. Cochrane, C. Dielman, L. Diepeveen, D. Doman, J. Erdman, G.A. Finley, R. Florizone, N. Gear, R. Goodday, D. Gray, L. Hackett, K. Harman, F. Harvey, S. Holmes, J. Hoyle, J. Hughes, E. Johnson, K. Kesselring, Y. Kotlyarova, S. Kuzak, E. Leach, Y. Ma, Co. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, L. Meynell, R. Mopoho, K. Mukhida, M. Pacurar, R. Parker, D. Patterson, K. Reid, C. Richardson, L. Spiteri, A. Stadnyk, T. Tennessen, P. Tyedmers, G. Wach, C. Watters, D. White, J. White

**Regrets:** A. Aiken, S. Charlebois, M. Crago, S. Faridi, J. Ghagan, J. Grant, S. Kirk, M. Leonard, T. MacRae, C. Macy, C. Moore, A. Rau-Chaplin, N. Savage,

**Absent:** M. Ghasemi, M. Khan, W. Lahey, D. Langille, J. Leon, Ch. Macdonald, P. McMullin, A. Quraishi

**Guests:** Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Daniela Loggia (Student Minute Taker), Tanya Packer, Andrea Power (Recording Secretary)

**2017:12**

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was **approved** as circulated.

**2017:13**

**IN CAMERA: Mace Re-think Project**

The Senate moved to an *in camera* session for a discussion of the Mace Re-think Project. Following the discussion, Senate moved into an open session.

**2017:14**

**Consent Agenda**

**Senate Nominating Committee: Nomination of SLTC Faculty Member**

**THAT** the Senate appoint Professor Scott Flemming, Faculty of Engineering, as a faculty Senator representative on the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for the term January 2017-June 2019.

**APPROVED** by CONSENT.

Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Vice President, Research Search Committee Nomination

**THAT** the Senate appoint Professor Sophia Stone, Faculty of Science, as the Senate faculty representative on the Vice President, Research Search Committee.

**APPROVED** by CONSENT.

**2017:15**

**Approval of Draft Minutes of January 9, 2017 Senate Meeting**

This item was removed from the consent agenda. The minutes were amended to note, during the Senate's discussion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Update, that Dalhousie's responsibility to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages is grounded in the TRC Call to Action #16.

Senator Harman **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Cochrane:

**THAT** the Senate approve the draft January 9, 2017 Senate meeting minutes as amended.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2017:16**

**Matters Arising from the January 9, 2017 Senate Meeting Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**2017:17**

**Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality**

Senator Meynell, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, presented on the importance of discussing political correctness and of avoiding divisiveness in these discussions. She also advocated for the use of the pronoun, "they", in Dalhousie courses. Senator Florizone suggested that the content be formulated into an opinion piece for publication in the DalNews.

**2017:18**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee**

**Draft Academic Syllabus Policy**

Senator Harman spoke to the revised draft Academic Syllabus Policy, noting that it was developed from the perspective of a student and that there has been a considerable amount of consultation and feedback taken into account for both this policy and the draft Grading Practices Policy.

In discussion of the Policy, the following was discussed:

- Concerns were raised regarding intellectual property implications of the syllabus repository and possible impacts that the repository might have on the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA)

- collective agreement. Although some members of the DFA were contacted, the DFA executive was not consulted. It was noted that faculty should be clearly informed regarding what is done with syllabi after four years. It was also noted that there was consultation with Legal Counsel.
- Regarding the ability of students to instead access course information via the academic calendar, it was noted that the academic calendar is limited in scope and cannot provide the same level of substantive information that a syllabus can. The repository's main functions are to give students access to information about the courses they wish to take and to allow for easier access to course information for faculty and staff who are required to consider courses for credit and equivalents.
  - It was suggested to include the following under "University Policies, Statements, Guidelines, and Resources for Support": Dalhousie's smoke-free policy and the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service.
  - It was confirmed that an instructor may revise their availability throughout a term.
  - Concerns were raised regarding the added length of syllabi once Section B of the Policy is taken into account. It was noted that students are less likely to read syllabi if they are longer. In response to a suggestion that only links be provided, it was also noted that link descriptions were provided to reduce work for faculty and that they were implemented in order to ensure that students were aware of the contents of the links. The information provided through the links also conveys important contracts between students and the University. Potential alternative ways of delivering this information were discussed, including online platforms or the provision of a single link to all University policies that the University would maintain. Senator Harman confirmed that, yes, a link provided in a syllabus to all relevant University policies would be sufficient.
  - The possibility of developing a syllabus template was also discussed.

Senator Brown **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Diepeveen:

**THAT** Senate postpone the motion to approve the draft Academic Syllabus Policy, pending consultation with the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

The motion **CARRIED**.

#### Draft Grading Practices Policy

Senator Harman spoke to the Draft Grading Practices Policy, noting that recent revisions were made in response to feedback during the previous Senate meeting. In particular, under the headline, "Grading During the Term", items 4, 5, and 6 are no longer imperative.

In discussion of the Draft Grading Practices Policy, it was suggested to remove item 5 from the section, "Background & Purpose". It was noted that this item was related to the way that grade distributions vary across University programs. It was also noted, however, that different disciplines are assessed by different methods, making it appropriate that grade distributions may vary across disciplines. Although this item is not necessary to the draft Policy, this issue should inform future discussions.

Senator Baylis **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Bodorik:

**THAT** the Senate approve the draft Grading Practices Policy be amended by removing the following from the section, "Background & Purpose": "the academic standing of every student

can be accurately assessed even when courses have been taken in different Faculties of the University”.

The motion **CARRIED**.

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

**THAT** the Senate approve the draft Grading Practices Policy, effective 2017-18, as amended.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2017:19**

**Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Review of Faculty of Dentistry**

Tanya Packer, Chair, Senate Review Committee, presented the Senate Review of the Faculty of Dentistry. She noted that the review process of this Faculty was unique in that the Senate review was held in unison with the accreditation review. Thomas Boran, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, highlighted some of the recommendations of this Review and thanked Ms. Packer for her work on the Review.

In discussion of the Review of the Faculty of Dentistry, it was noted:

- Regarding issues identified in the Backhouse Report, a working group is in place that should have an update on these items prepared for Senate in late Spring.
- Regarding the dissatisfaction of dental assistants, it was noted that a new scheme has been developed for working with staff and faculty wherein regular meetings occur in order to facilitate discussion and receive ongoing feedback from dental assistants regarding their interactions with students, patients, and faculty. Furthermore, a new human resources individual has been hired on a half-time basis to assist with this issue.
- Regarding dental and dental hygiene students having early contact with patients, it was noted that some practices developed in group practice are now being used. Early contact will be more fully demonstrated once students are able to physically begin a practice model once construction is completed in May.
- It was noted that the recommendation regarding quality indicators is aimed towards making indicators transparent to a non-dentistry audience.

**2017:20**

**Reports**

At this point in the meeting, it was determined that in order to receive the Reports, additional meeting time would be necessary.

Senator Florizone **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Meynell:

**THAT** the Senate meeting be extended by 15 minutes.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**Chair of Senate's Report**

Senator Hewitt noted that his report had been circulated and requested that any questions regarding the report should be submitted via email.

### President's Report

Senator Florizone discussed retention, research, returns to society, and respect. Regarding retention, he noted that there is great progress being made in understanding retention factors. Some developing proposals on this issue are anticipated to be announced in the Spring. Senator Florizone spoke to engaging the Senate in and the importance of academic innovation. There are already some new programs coming forward.

Regarding research, it was noted that the Ocean Frontier Institute saw the largest research grant in Dalhousie's history. There have also been some wonderful faculty awards. Some areas of upcoming interest include: the Finance Minister's panel on economic growth and positive federal commitments towards funding research, including in social sciences and humanities. Furthermore, Martha Crago has deferred her departure to McGill until April in order to help Dalhousie with the CERC Competition.

With respect to returns to society, Senator Florizone spoke to Strategic Priority 3.1 and MIT REAP. There will be a Senate presentation regarding Strategic Priority 3.1 at the Feb. 13 Senate meeting. Regarding MIT REAP, the Icelandic team and an MIT faculty member will be visiting Dalhousie this term. High Liner Foods is leading efforts to secure private sector funding for REAP and has already raised 93% of funding.

Regarding respect, the following items were noted: Strategic Priority 5.2, the Dalhousie Census, Dalhousie's new ombudsperson, the dentistry students' response to the Backhouse Report, the new indigenous plan in development, the TRC Calls to Action. Senator Florizone further highlighted the grand opening of the Student Union Building, discussion of a thermal plan and sustainability on campus, and bargaining with the Dalhousie Faculty Association which will open on June 30<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that Senate might hear from the artist who designed the mural in the Dentistry lounge to discuss what happened in the Faculty and what was learned.

### Questions for Reports

In discussion of the President's report the following points were noted:

- Dalhousie plays a very important role in health research in the Atlantic Region. The funding environment in this area has been very collaborative (for example, with the IWK and Health Authority), and it is important to explore what research priorities can be promoted and what common priorities can be identified in order to attract more support.
- Carolyn Watters will address the Senate-sponsored event regarding Technology Enabled Learning at a future Senate meeting.
- Innovation, specifically regarding clean and inclusive growth, fits within Dalhousie's agenda and values, but it must be purposeful.
- Concerns were raised with respect to the lack of time for discussion of MIT REAP. It was noted that further time will be available during the upcoming Senate meeting, as well as at a future Senate meeting where Senator Florizone will present the next steps with respect to MIT REAP as presented at the Board meeting.

**2017:21**

**Question Period**

There were no questions.

**2017:22**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2017:23**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.