



SENATE

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, December 10, 2018 at 3pm**

Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, December 10, 2018 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present: K. Hewitt (Chair); G. Adolphe-Nazaire; A. Almallah; D. Anderson; T. Balsler; R. Barker; J. Blustein; D. Bourne-Tyson; A. Cochrane; R. Croll; L. Cutmore; P. Cyrus; B. Davis; C. Diallo; L. Diepeveen; P. Doyle-Bedwell; T. Duck; H. El Naggari; R. Florizone; M. R. Goodday; D. Grujic; L. Hackett; K. Harman; F. Harvey; S. Holmes; G. Horne; V. Howard; D. Kelley; K. Kesselring; C. Kozey; W. Lahey; L. Macdonald; D. McKeen; C. Moore; N. Nadeem; V. Nams; T. Packer; D. Patterson; J. Penney; W. Phillips; J. Phinney; A. Rau-Chaplin; A. Sarhan; G. Scherkoske; A. Siegel; J. Stamp; F. Taheri; S. Theriault; P. Tyedmers; I. Waldron; E. Welsh; D. Westwood; S. Wildeman; H. Xu

Regrets: A. Aiken; V. Allen; C. Cameron; R. Chang; S. Chowdhury; T. Cyrus; A. Doucette; B. Foster; L. Goldberg; D. Gray; J. Hall; F. Jones; I. Joseph; J.S. Kim; C. Macy; S. Patles; S. Ponomarenko; A. Prosper; B. Rathgeber; L. Spiteri; A. Steenbeek; S. Stone; G. Warner

Absent: M. Aston; V. Bhargava; K. Dakin-Hache; C. Dieleman; J. Fasuyi; N. Gear; A. Habib; A. Hughes; M. Khan; W. Lahey; M. Leonard; J. Newhook; R. Orji; C. Richardson; D. Silvio; L. D. Thomas; Turnbull; D. White

Guests: Catherine Bagnell-Styles (Assistant Vice President, Communications and Marketing); Leanne French-Munn (Assistant Vice Provost, Planning and Strategy); Candace Thomas (Vice Chair, Board of Governors); Raghav Sampangi (Director, Master of Applied Computer Science); Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate); Sundari Pashupathi (Recording Secretary); Adebayo Majekolagbe (Student Minute Taker)

2018:122

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2018:123

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of November 26, 2018 Senate Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the November 26, 2018 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2018:124

Matters Arising from the November 26, 2018 Senate Meeting Minutes

With respect to a question on the draft Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs and the motion to postpone made at the last meeting, the Chair noted that this Policy is on the agenda later in the meeting.

2018:125

Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Senator Waldron presented on this item, noting that, as a scholar, she has focused on instilling in learners an appreciation of how race, culture and gender identity impact social, economic and political outlook. This is done through initiatives including curriculum development and teaching and community-based research. She emphasised that while steps have been taken in this area, and progress made, there is still more to do. She also noted that some faculty members are not as involved and are perhaps constrained by feeling unprepared or unsupported to undertake this work.

2018:126

Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC): Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs

Senator Hewitt introduced the item, noting that the feedback from the discussions at the last two senate meetings have been taken into consideration by Senate and Administration and answers to many of the questions raised at the meeting and via email are contained in the memo enclosed in the meeting package. Senator Harman, Chair of SAPRC, presented the motion from SAPRC to approve the Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs.

Senator Harman MOVED:

THAT the Senate approve the new Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs as presented.

Senator Cyrus then made a few brief comments, highlighting that the purpose of the policy is to ensure and maintain a high level of program quality. He noted that Dalhousie benefits from a coordinated and consistent approach and process for program reviews. Responding to questions and comments at the last two meetings, he noted that while the review process may require resources (which are the responsibility of the relevant Dean), standard procedures, forms and a data set for the reviews will better enable units to conduct the review. Interdisciplinary programs will be reviewed at the administrative home of the program or unit. He noted that further to the Senate Constitution and the SAPRC's terms of reference, program reviews are the responsibility of the Senate.

During discussion following the remarks, it was reiterated that input from the DFA was sought at a recent meeting and that this has informed changes to the draft (for example, around curriculum outcomes). The DFA president also presented a list of concerns. All input received was collated and considered in the amendments made since the policy was discussed at the last meeting. Further, it was clarified that the program review data package refers to a standard package that is currently under development by Dal Analytics.

MOTION CARRIED.

Following approval of the motion, the Chair thanked members of Senate for their engagement on this issue. He noted that the objective in putting this policy in place is to ensure quality academic programs and to institute a “made-in-Dalhousie” approach to program reviews, rather than having a framework imposed externally. There is a clear need for this policy as there are some programs that have never been reviewed, or it has been many years since a review was undertaken. Senate leadership and Administration have done their best to respond to all input received. The approval of this policy is a start and it can be revisited once there is some experience with it.

2018:127

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Modifications of the Admissions Process for the Master of Applied Computer Science, Faculty of Computer Science

Senator Packer introduced the item and outlined the process that the Faculty has undertaken to bring this matter before Senate, including approval by the Computer Science Faculty Council, Faculty of Graduate Studies, and eventually review and approval by the SLTC.

Senator Packer MOVED:

THAT the Senate approve the modifications to the admissions process for the Master of Applied Computer Science program as presented.

A. Rau-Chaplin, Dean, Faculty of Computer Science, highlighted that the program has been successful with over 70% of participants, constituting mostly international students, who opted to stay back in the province. However, considering the technical knowledge requirement of the program, there is a need to be able to confirm the technical skills of candidates prior to admission into the program, which the current admissions process does not allow for. Having students without technical competencies necessary to succeed in the program is not fair to the students who have incurred considerable economic cost and also negatively affects the educational experience of cohorts. The new admissions process has been designed with the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) and other bodies of senate to incorporate technical interviews in the admissions process. The new process’s financial implications are justified when compared to the implications of admitting students lacking the minimum technical knowledge to undertake this program.

In comments following the presentation, it was recommended that the Faculty employ a strict and consistent protocol in circumstances where the interviewer is given some authority for decision-making, in order to avoid bias that can creep in where the interviewer is left to make such decisions.

MOTION CARRIED.

2018:128

Summary of 200th Anniversary Events

Catherine Bagnell Styles and Senator Moore spoke to this item. They noted that Dalhousie University is the 2nd university in the U15 to have gone through a 200th milestone. The events were designed to support the university’s academic mission, enhance the university’s reputation, involve all Faculties and units, and engage with the community. A layered approach including signature events, faculty/unit programs, conferences, community partnerships, openings, and promotions was taken. They highlighted the Bicentennial dinner, Belong Forums and the Great Debate as the signature events. Overall, the anniversary

occasioned 150 initiatives, over 80 events, 30% increase in social media impression, and about 32,000 aggregate attendees at Dal events in 2018. The Prime Minister's congratulation video also garnered about 44,000 viewers.

It was noted that the events had a marked difference on the enrolment of 1st year students, as they informed new relationships, made the university more accessible, and created an attractive environment. Community engagement was highlighted as one of the key take-aways from the events.

2018:129

Report by the Presidential Transition Team

Candace Thomas, Vice Chair, Board of Governors, and Leanne French-Munn, Assistant Vice-Provost, spoke to this item. It is the duty of the Board of Governors to hire and appoint the university president. Further to the impending departure of President Florizone, a transition team was constituted to ensure a smooth transition. The team is solely supportive and does not make decisions. The transition process includes the presidential search, appointment and onboarding of the acting president and the final onboarding of the new president. It was noted that the search process is closed. Additionally, while different components of the transition are managed by separate committees, the membership of these committees' overlap.

Responding to questions, it was noted that the acting president was chosen by the board after it considered someone who is qualified and available to fill in on a short-term basis. Dr. McKinnon fits this profile considering his previous position as the president of the University of Saskatchewan, experience as interim president on two separate occasions and given his connection to Dalhousie. It was suggested that the senate should begin to consider academic initiatives that the incoming president would engage with.

2018:130

Lord Dal Report – Update

Norma Williams, Executive Director, Diversity and Inclusion presented, noting that the panel started working on the report upon being constituted in 2016. The committee, in the past 2 years, has conducted extensive research and collected resources from far and wide including internationally. While the findings are contained in the report, the report does not mark the end. There is still a distance to go. After the presentation event on December 10th, 2018, there will be further consultations with the community.

It was noted that while there have been concerns from all sides of the political spectrum, it is part of the university's mandate to look back and hold tough conversations. Senators were encouraged to attend the presentation event.

2018:131

Reports

Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Hewitt highlighted the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and the approval of major modifications proposed to the PharmD program. The report of the second ad-hoc committee on academic freedom for non-bargaining unit members and test cases for grievance process has been received. The same will be reviewed by the SPGC and brought to the senate in the new year. The self-ID process for senate nominations co-developed with HR will also be reviewed by the SPGC and

brought to the senate in the new year. Further, the SPGC has completed a survey of its members on the Senior Administrative Appointments Policy. He noted that faculty deans have been asked to share their faculties' strategic plans. On fossil fuel divestment discussion, the group has engaged with the Board Investment Committee and an attempt to discuss progress made with former members of the ad hoc committee on divestment will be made subsequently.

Senator Harman reported that the SAPRC will engage with the indigenous committee and other under represented groups on curriculum diversification.

Senator Packer informed the senate that the committee on students' code of conduct is being reconstituted considering the arrival of the new Vice Provost, Student Affairs. She further expressed gratitude to senators who volunteered to chair teaching award committees.

Provost's Report

Senator Balsler noted that preliminary results from a listening survey show that the university's commitment to equity and inclusion, community engagement and quality of programs, are considered most important by the university community. While there will be no significant departure from ongoing initiatives and emphases, an attempt to identify the most important things and how to institutionalize and carry them forward is uppermost on the agenda of the provost's office. The university community will be extensively engaged, departments and units will be visited, and discussion forums will be held to design a strategic framework which will be shared with the incoming president. Ongoing initiatives include the strategic enrolment management project and budget survey. Senator Balsler further noted that enrolment, particularly international enrolment, has improved.

Questions for Reports

There were no questions.

2018:132

Question Period

There were no questions.

2018:133

Other Business

No other business.

2018:134

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.