



SENATE

Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on

Monday, November 26, 2018

3:00pm – 5:00pm

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

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, November 26, 2018 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present: K. Hewitt (Chair); G. Adolphe-Nazaire; V. Allen; A. Almallah; D. Anderson; M. Aston; T. Balsler; R. Barker; V. Bhargava; D. Bourne-Tyson; C. Cameron; R. Chang; S. Chowdhury; A. Cochrane; L. Cutmore; P. Cyrus; T. Cyrus; B. Davis; C. Diallo; C. Dieleman; L. Diepeveen; A. Doucette; P. Doyle-Bedwell; T. Duck; H. El Naggar; J. Fasuyi; R. Florizone; N. Gear; L. Goldberg; D. Gray; D. Grujic; A. Habib; L. Hackett; J. Hall; K. Harman; F. Harvey; F. Jones; I. Joseph; D. Kelley; K. Kesselring; C. Kozey; W. Lahey; M. Leonard; L. Macdonald; C. Macy; D. McKeen; V. Nams; J. Newhook; T. Packer; S. Patles; D. Patterson; J. Penney; W. Phillips; J. Phinney; B. Rathgeber; A. Rau- Chaplin; A. Sarhan; A. Siegel; D. Silvio; L. Spiteri; J. Stamp; A. Steenbeek; F. Taheri; S. Theriault; D. Thomas; P. Tyedmers; G. Warner; E. Welsh; D. Westwood; S. Wildeman

Regrets: A. Aiken; J. Blustein; B. Foster; S. Holmes; G. Horne; V. Howard; J.S. Kim; R. Orji; S. Ponomarenko; A. Prosper; C. Richardson; D. White; H. Xu

Absent: R. Croll; K. Dakin-Hache; M. R. Goodday; A. Hughes; W. Lahey; M. Khan; C. Moore; N. Nadeem; G. Scherkoske; S. Stone; L. Turnbull; I. Waldron

Guests: Aisha Abawajy (BIPOCUS Executive Chair); Kati George-Jim (BIPOCUS); Suzanne Le-May Sheffield (Acting Director, Centre for Learning & Teaching); Courtney Sutton (Academic Quality Assurance Manager, Office of the Provost and VP Academic); Keith Taylor (Department of Math and Statistics, Co-Chair of Indigenous Strategy Steering Committee); Michael Ungar (Scientific Director, CYCC Institute); Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Sundari Pashupathi (Acting Associate Secretary of Senate); Hannah Drake (DSU); Adebayo Majekolagbe (Student Minute Taker)

2018:110

Approval of Agenda

Senator Hewitt proposed that the agenda be amended to move r Item 8.2 immediately after Item 4.

Moved by Senator Spiteri, seconded by Senator Welsh:

THAT Item 8.2 on the agenda be moved immediately after Item 4.

MOTION CARRIED.

Senator Cutmore proposed that the time allotted to Item 4 be extended by 10 minutes.

Moved by Senator Thomas, seconded by Senator Cutmore:

THAT the time allotment for Item 4 be extended by 10 minutes.

As justification for the proposed extension, the importance of the issue of diversity and inclusion at Dalhousie and the need to allocate sufficient time for this were noted.

MOTION CARRIED.

The agenda was approved with the above amendments.

2018:111

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of October 22, 2018 Senate Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the October 22, 2018 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nominations

THAT the Senate Standing Committee Nominations be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2018:112

Matters Arising from the October 22, 2018 Senate Meeting Minutes

There was no business noted.

2018:113

Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Aisha Abawajy (Founder, BIPOCUS) and Kati George Jim (Chair of Education and Knowledge Seeking, BIPOCUS) spoke to this item. They emphasised the need to actively integrate the lived experiences of black and indigenous people into every aspect of the university's operations. They proposed a race conscious approach to designing and implementing initiatives and policies at the university. They further highlighted the need to work together to abolish systemic racism, address the classroom 'us v. them' dynamic, effectively diversify curricula, and adopt non-colonial and non-western centred teaching practices. The overall approach should span theory, practice, and celebration.

During brief discussion following the presentation, the presenters were encouraged to connect with individuals at the university engaged in works similar to the group's objectives. The commitment of the university to further address issues raised was emphasised as reflected in Strategic Initiative 5.2.

2018:114**President's Report**

Senator Florizone welcomed new provost, Senator Balsler, and incoming interim president, Dr. Peter McKinnon, highlighting their past works and the prospective contributions they will make to the university. Noting that this is his last report to Senate, he expressed his gratitude to members for the work of Senate over the past years, commenting on the importance of the two defining characteristics of universities: academic freedom and collegial self-governance, and the importance of an effective Senate in upholding these principles. Senator Florizone highlighted several items, including progress on various initiatives under Strategic Directions, the first public engagement by the Lord Dal Panel on December 10th, positive 2018-19 enrolment data, the wrap of the Dal 200th anniversary celebrations, and his recent meeting with other U15 universities and Universities Canada to discuss advocacy strategies around the federal pre-election budget. He congratulated Senator Hewitt on his recent Science Champion award from the Discovery Centre and other faculty members receiving awards at the recent ceremony. He concluded by noting that he believes the days ahead for Dalhousie are stronger than ever.

2018:115**Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Termination of Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts (CYCC) Institute**

Senator Hewitt introduced the item and presented the motion from SPGC to terminate the Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts (CYCC) Institute. Professor Michael Ungar, Scientific Director, CYCC Institute, spoke to the background and history of CCYC and the rationale for proposing its termination. He highlighted that the proposal to terminate the institute is not due to a failure to achieve its mandate. Rather, the institute has been a success story and some of its work will continue, but in different ways. While CYCC was originally set up as part of the university's prioritization of issues relating to children and youths at risk and duly funded between 2013 – 2016, financial support has not been provided since 2016. He noted that efforts had been made to move the Institute's mandate to the Healthy Population Institute; however, it was not considered a good fit for HPI. Between 2016 and 2018, the operations of the institute were supported through the Wisdom2Action NCE KM Network funding. That funding, however, finishes on February 4, 2019.

Following this overview, Dr. Ungar responded to a question of clarification on the mandate and work of CYCC.

Senator Hewitt MOVED:

THAT the Senate approve the termination of the Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts (CYCC) Institute as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.**2018:116****Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee****Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs**

K. Hewitt introduced the item, noting the feedback received at the last Senate meeting, and the further consultation following that meeting that resulted in good discussion and some amicable solutions to

concerns raised. Senator Harman then spoke to the draft policy and the background to its development to date. She noted some of the amendments incorporated as a result of the feedback received. Particularly, the term 'learning outcomes' has been replaced with 'program goals', and the recommendations to include programs at the College of Continuing Education and joint Dalhousie-Kings University programs have been addressed.

Senator Harman MOVED:

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

Responding to questions and observations, Senator Harman noted that 'program goals' has been adopted as 'learning outcome' was deemed narrow and prescriptive and appeared to raise other issues that were not intended by this policy. The term reflects, more accurately, the objectives of the review process.

In other comments, the need for consultation with the DFA was emphasised, as it has, through other forums, expressed concerns about the draft policy. Senator Hewitt noted that the Senate officers are currently meeting with the DFA to discuss principles of engagement around academic matters within the purview of Senate. He noted that the intention is to discuss concerns in a collegial way, but differences of opinion may also emerge. Others agreed that Senate is the governance body, but consulting with other interested groups does not mean giving those groups the right of disapproval.

On the definitions of 'academic quality', 'long term goals', 'minimum expectations', and 'evidence-based quality assurance', it was noted that while there are no explicit definitions in the policy, they can be clearly understood when situated in the policy's overall context. Further, the policy is aligned with broader institutional goals. Further, policy statement D (6) provides an implied definition of 'evidence-based quality assurance'. It was noted that the clause 'not limited to' in the definition of 'academic program' embraces items not specifically stated such as Honours programs.

Senators further noted that there is a potential for the policy to considerably increase Faculties' review workload. It was recommended that simultaneous reviews, and combining with accreditation reviews where applicable, can help reduce the potential increase in workload. It was also noted that many departments within Faculties have not undergone a program review for a significant number of years and this policy will be helpful in ensuring reviews are undertaken for these programs. It was recommended that the policy reinforce principles and values like the ultimate authority of the Senate to take final decisions on the university's academic goals and initiatives, and academic quality and standards; that program sustainability and the provision of appropriate resources be considered ; and that academic freedom not be compromised. The standard established by external bodies like MPHEC should be secondary to the primacy of Senate. It was highlighted that the issue of Senate's authority has been considered in the new draft of the policy. The purpose statement has also been reframed to make MPHEC's quality assurance framework supportive of the university's long-term goals.

Further to the concerns raised, it was proposed that a vote on the motion be postponed in order for further consultation to occur. Senator Florizone made the motion to postpone, noting that the DFA has indicated that it is not looking for approval, and that, in the spirit of collegiality, those concerns could be heard. Senator Balser confirmed that, administratively, a delay does not create immediate concerns.

MOVED by Senator Florizone, seconded by Senator Diepeveen:

THAT the Senate postpone a vote on the motion presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

2018:117

Indigenous Strategy

Professor Taylor (Co-Chair, Indigenous Strategy Committee (ISC)) and Professor Doyle-Bedwell (Co-Chair, ISC) spoke to this item. The strategy was developed through extensive consultation with internal and external stakeholders. At its core is the need to establish an infrastructure to ensure communication and engagement with the indigenous community. The proposed structure includes an Indigenous Advisory Board (IAB), a Director of Indigenous Community Engagement, and a new Office of Indigenous Relations headed by a Vice Provost, Indigenous Relations. It was highlighted that while the university community has displayed immense readiness to further the reconciliation agenda, existing efforts have been incoherent. Hence, the need for a coordinating centre. It was emphasised that indigenous people are not another equity seeking group, but persons with constitutionally enshrined rights and recognition. The overall target is for the university to become a centre of excellence for indigenous relations. The strategy document is meant to be a living document subject to reviews upon appraisal of outcomes. Further inclusions and contextualization will be included in the current draft before final submission.

Responding to observations and questions, it was noted that the indigenous faculty caucus constitutes a useful resource to Faculties interested or involved in indigenous themed researches. The proposed Office of Indigenous Relations will also serve as liaison between researchers and indigenous communities. It was noted that the Strategy Paper does not cover specifics like the extension of the affirmative action initiative at the Faculty of Medicine to non-Nova Scotian indigenous communities. The university in consultation with the IAB will systematically work on particulars when the structures are in place. It was noted that the wording around the proposed \$500,000 financial commitment will be reframed to address ongoing resource needs after initial establishment of the Office. It was noted that there was an increasing competition for indigenous master and doctoral degree holders, and there needs to be a reconsideration of the propriety of requiring prospective teachers of indigenous knowledge to possess a PhD degree. Other universities have integrated elders into Faculties to teach indigenous knowledge. The chair of the SAPRC noted that the committee has been considering ways of diversifying the syllabus and indicated the committee's readiness to work with the committee. The necessity to develop metrics to assess the effectiveness of the strategy plan was highlighted. In the interim, it was noted that there are persons at the university who can play the role of director of indigenous relations. It was also noted that the historical context of the strategy plan is included in an appendix to the strategy paper.

2018:118

Reports

Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Hewitt ceded the time allotted to this item.

Questions for Reports

Responding to a question on the state of negotiations on the Memorandum of Understanding with the provincial government, it was noted that the focus of the Nova Scotia universities has been on achieving increased funding for core operating support. Support for infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and research has also been prioritised in negotiations.

2018:119

Question Period

There were no questions.

2018:120

Farewell to President Florizone

Senator Hewitt, on behalf of Senate, expressed gratitude and thanks to Senator Florizone for his visionary leadership and service to the university as President and Vice-Chancellor. He presented a gift, on behalf of Senate, to Senator Florizone and his family.

2018:121

Other Business

Senator Harman informed the Senate that the Dalhousie Accessibility and Inclusion Society will hold round table discussion on December 3rd in commemoration of the International Day for People with Disabilities. Senators were encouraged to wear purple on December 3 in support.

2018:121

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.