

SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, November 25, 2019 by 3:00 p.m.
Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax

- Present:** K. Hewitt (Chair), A. Abawajy, G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Agu, A. Aiken, P. Allen, D. Anderson, F. Annan, T. Balsler, R. Barker, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, C. Cameron, M. Campbell-Yeo, T. Cyrus, C. Diallo, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, T. Duck, Y. El Hiani, H. El Nagggar, L. Goldberg, D. Gray, D. Grujic, A. Habib, K. Harman, F. Harvey, K. Hawitt, I. Hill, S. Holmes, G. Horne, V. Howard, N. Issac-Pictou, I. Joseph, D. Kelley, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, J.S. Kim, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, J. Macedo, N. Maymandi, D. McKeen, B. Merritt, C. Moore, F. Naghibi, V. Nams, B. Nassar, P. Nnoka, R. Orji, P. Owen, M. Pacurar, L. Perez, J. Phinney, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, K. Rosen, D. Saini, C. Sandham, G. Scherkoske, S. Seth, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, H. Sinan, S. Stackhouse, S. Stone, F. Taheri, P. Tyedmers, D. Tyers, G. Warner, E. Welsh, D. Westwood, D. White, S. Wildeman, E. Wunker, A. Yahia
- Regrets:** V. Allen, N. Blinn, B. Foster, J. Hall, S. Kirk, I. Waldron, I. Yakovenko
- Absent:** M. Aston, B. Davis, A. Haiye, W. Lahey, J. Newhook, S. Ponomarenko, B. Rathgeber, R. Rendon, H-S. Ro, A. Sarhan, L. Turnbull, S. Yurgel
- Guests:** Dr. Deep Saini (President Elect), John Hope (General Counsel and Managing Director), Jaymi Cormier (Manager, Health Research Strategy), Christian Blouin (Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Computer Science), Heather Doyle (Director of Student Services, Faculty of Agriculture), Rochelle Owen (Director, Sustainability, Faculty of Management), Oksana Shkurska (Assistant Professor, Rowe School of Business), Art Stevens (Manager of Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Agriculture), Shawna O’Hearn (Director, Global Health Office, Faculty of Medicine), Ayesha Mushtaq (ESL Instructor, College of Continuing Education), Krista Cross (Director of Operations, Student Health and Wellness Centre), Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate) and Sundari Pashupathi (Associate Secretary of Senate)

Dalhousie’s president elect, Dr. Deep Saini was invited to speak to the senate before the start of the meeting.

The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that this meeting is taking place in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved** as circulated.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of October 28, 2019 Senate Meeting

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from October 28th, 2019 Senate Meeting

Senator P. Nnoka asked if there were any updates to the classroom recording protocol. Senator K. Hewitt noted that the updates will be presented at a senate meeting in the new year. Senator D. Bourne-Tyson added that the protocol is being reviewed to ensure that it is aligned with the student accommodations policy.

4. Senate Honorary Degree Committee:

Senator T. Balsler, Chair of SHDC provided the Senate with an overview on the proposal for a formal process for revoking honorary degrees. The SHDC committee has examined the policy for revoking honorary degrees at Dalhousie and other universities and has found that at most universities the process is addressed on an *ad hoc* basis. The University Secretariat along with the University Legal Office have worked jointly in revising the Honorary Degree policy to include a process for revocation.

THAT the Senate approve the revised SHDC Honorary Degree Criteria and Procedures as presented and THAT the Senate approve the revised Dalhousie University Senate Procedures as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

5. Report:

5.1 Chair of Senate's Report

Senator K. Hewitt, Chair of Senate updated the committee on the following:

- Faculty reviews of academic programs, Senate membership, Senate reviews of faculties, academic unit senator election guidelines have been updated from an EDI perspective, and the terms of reference of Senate standing committees are currently being reviewed. This is being done before Senate calls for Faculties to update their governance documents so that there is alignment between Senate and Faculty Councils, which are committees of Senate.
- Bob Mann, Manager of Discipline and Appeals has agreed to organize a review of the academic integrity process in response to Senators' concerns. A report will be provided by September 2020.
- Senate Committees are now considering EDI in the admissions process for all new and modified program approvals. An equitable admissions framework is needed in support of our established strategic priority to engage in strategic activities to admit, engage, support and graduate a diverse student body, with attention to enhancing access and success of historically under-represented students.
- The most recent study on campus climate found that racialized students feel unsafe on campus. Policies will be updated to reflect the study findings including policies on discrimination (e.g. Statement on Prohibited discrimination of 1999). An updated policy is overdue.
- As a member of the national Tri-Council Equity Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for the Canada Research Chairs (CRC), Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC), Research Support Fund (RSF) and Dimensions program, the CRC will require institutions to meet *population* targets by 2029. In the first ever Universities Canada report on EDI it has been found that there is a lack of diversity in leadership across Canadian Universities, especially those who identify as racially visible. Senator K. Hewitt will continue on the tri-council New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) panel which adjudicates interdisciplinary research and places emphasis of EDI in the research environment. Other tri-council agencies may adopt the approach piloted with the NFRF.

- The Senate Planning and Governance Committee will present recommendations to Senate on academic priorities guiding the deployment of financial resources in March 2020, and the resulting recommendations will be presented to the Budget Advisory Committee and to the President for consideration.
- Senator K. Harman will provide a report at the next Senate meeting regarding the outcomes of the recent forum, Embedding Equity Diversity and Inclusion in Teaching and Learning at Dalhousie. The enthusiasm in participation shows that EDI is an issue of great interest at the University. Senator K. Harman acknowledged great presentations by students and faculty. The slides and live stream will be made available at CLT and Senate website.
- Senator K. Hewitt called on Senator D. Westwood to make an announcement. Senator D. Westwood acknowledged that Senator Leonard Diepeveen received the Jane Newman Award from the University of Guelph Faculty Association in recognition of noteworthy courage and/or compassion in the defence of academic ideals.
- The 5th Annual Dalhousie Census is underway, and all are encouraged to complete it.

6. Emerging Strategic Themes Presentation

Senator K. Hewitt welcomed Senator T. Balsler to introduce the strategic themes presentation. T. Balsler informed the Senate that over the past year the learning circles teams have been exploring and learning from the previous strategic initiatives. Learning circles are groups that have come together to explore specific topics deeply. The learning circles are currently preparing papers about their findings. Senator T. Balsler invited the leads from each learning circle to inform Senate about their key questions and methodology. The 8 learning circle topics were presented:

- Research Future - Michael Freund and Jaymi Cormier
- Future Teaching & Learning - Angela Siegel and Marc Comeau
- Student Experience & Student Success - Christian Blouin and Heather Doyle
- Sustainability & Environmental Responsibility - Peter Tyedmers and Rochelle Owen
- Culture & Climate - Oksana Shkurska and Art Stevens
- Internationalization & Global Engagement - Tanya Packer and Shawna O'Hearn
- Campus Health & Wellbeing - Sara Kirk and Krista Cross
- Dalhousie Purpose & Social Responsibility - Maria Pacurar and Ayesha Mushtaq

Most of the learning circles are still in the early stages of developing their research and papers. Each group is incorporating EDI in their perspective as well student opinion is being collected through surveys and focus groups as a part of the methodology. Each learning circle presented on their current set of questions following Senator Balsler's overview.

The Senate discussed the following:

- How EDI will be incorporated into each learning circle's work as they did not feel that EDI was obvious in the research questions? Multiple guest speakers responded and noted that the questions are general now, however EDI incorporation will be clear in the survey and engagement process. It is acknowledged that learning circle champions are not diverse, however they will attempt to recognize the experience of Indigenous groups, especially Mi'kmaq people as well as black Nova Scotians through their work.
- How students will be involved throughout the process, and specifically how the process is combating systematic oppression? It was noted that the research will be looking into who can be successful and will be completing this through student committee that include undergraduates, international students, students in professional programs, and part time students. Other learning circle

champions noted that they will be hiring students to help conduct research. In the current process student have been self-selected, however, presenters noted that they are open to increasing student participation through alternative venues.

- The term wellness will be defined based on the needs of different populations, and different types of wellness in the research paper. The gap in understanding wellness through the effects of disability and poverty is acknowledged. The intersectional aspects of wellness will be considered in the research.

Senator K. Hewitt asked Senators to rank the learning circles through an online survey.

7. Reports

7.1 Questions for the Reports

Senator Duck asked if the changing digital landscape will be addressed in the academic integrity review process and if students and faculty outside of the academic integrity officers and Senate Disciplinary Committee will be consulted. Senator K. Hewitt confirmed that they will be consulted.

8. Question Period

No other questions arising.

9. Other Business

No other business arising.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.