



SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, June 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, June 14, 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Present: K. Hewitt (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Agu, A. Aiken, V. Allen, D. Anderson, F. Annan, R. Barker, P. Bennett, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, K. Brooks, S. Coughlan, T. Cyrus, B. Davis, R. Devlin, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, Y. El Hiani, H. El Nagggar, K. El Sankary, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, M. Fournier, D. Gray, D. Grujic, A. Habib, J. Hall, B. Hansson, F. Harvey, V. Howard, S. Jeffrey, J.S. Kim, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, F. Naghibi, B. Nassar, J. Newhook, M. Pacurar, L. Perez, J. Phinney, L. Propper, T. Rajack-Talley, C. Richardson, Hyo-sung. Ro, K. Rosen, D. Saini, B. Schick, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, A. Sophocleous, S. Sparks, L. Spiteri, S. Stackhouse, M. Stinson, H. Surita Beaulieu, F. Taheri, P. Tyedmers, D. Tyers, M.A. Ulku, E. Welsh, D. Westwood, D. White, I. Yakovenko, S. Yurgel

Regrets: M. Aston, L. Goldberg, Z. Jones, S. Kirk, A. Rau-Chaplin, D. Silvio, G. Warner

Absent: N. Bird, A. Cooper, T. Duck, N. Ezzeddine, G. Horne, M. Irwin, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, W. Lahey, C. Moore, R. Orji, B. Rathgeber, S. Stone, V. Turpin, I. Waldron, E. Wunker, S. Zahoor

Guests: John Archibald (Director, Centre for Comparative Genomics and Evolutionary Bioinformatics (CGEB)), Lisa Binkley (Assistant Professor, Department of History), Susan Brousseau (University Secretary), Pemberton Cyrus (Department Head and Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering), Leanne French-Munn (Assistant Vice-Provost, Planning and Strategy), Robert Hanf (Board Chair), Greg Hebb (Professor of Finance, Rowe School of Business), Josh Leon (Assistant Vice-President, Information Technology Services), Bob Mann (Manager, Discipline and Appeals), Catherine Martin (Director, Indigenous Community Engagement), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary, Senate), Crystal Ragush (Education Advisor, Human Rights & Equity Services), Catherine Sheffer (Associate Director, Undergraduate Studies Academic, School of Nursing), Suzanne Sheffield (Director Centre for Learning and Teaching), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator), Claire Mercer (Student Minute Taker)

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.

Senator Hewitt invited Catherine Martin to give the land acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **adopted** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1. Approval of Draft Minutes of May 10, 2021 Senate Meeting

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.2. Amendments to Research Centres and Institutes Policy

THAT Senate approve the revisions to the Research Centres and Institutes Policy, as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.3. Re-appointment to University Investment Committee, Pension Trust Fund and Retirees Trust Fund – Greg Hebb

THAT Senate approve the appointment of Greg Hebb, Rowe School of Business, as the Senate representative to the University Investment Committee and as a trustee of the Pension Trust Fund and the Retirees Trust Fund for the term July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.4. Bachelor of Electrical Engineering – Computer Engineering Option

THAT Senate approve extension of the approval granted that the computer engineering option of the Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree program be designated on the transcripts of the students who register for the Bachelor of Electrical Engineering program and choose the computer engineering option, from July 1, 2021 until withdrawn.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.5. Support for Indigenous Students – Spring and Summer 2021 Terms

THAT Senate approve that Indigenous students currently enrolled in spring/summer 2021 classes at Dalhousie be granted requests for assignment extensions and rescheduled examinations.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.6. Request for Change of Final Grade Assessment for NURS3715 (Clinical Integration 3) for Summer 2021 (School of Nursing)

That Senate ratify the change of final grade assessment for NURS3715 (Clinical Integration 3) for Summer 2021 (School of Nursing), as presented, in accordance with Section 5.4(j) of the Senate Constitution, as a result of circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ratified by **CONSENT**.

2.7. Conversion of the Centre for Comparative Genomics & Evolutionary Bioinformatics (CGEB) to the Institute for Comparative Genomics (ICG)

THAT Senate approve conversion of the Centre for Comparative Genomics & Evolutionary Bioinformatics (CGEB) to the Institute for Comparative Genomics (ICG), as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from May 10, 2021 Senate Meeting

3.1. Update on Draft Policy for Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Transfer and Termination (AU-CRETT)

Senator Hewitt informed Senate that following approval of the draft AU-CRETT Policy by Senate, on May 10, 2021, it was presented to the Academic Student Affairs Committee and the Finance Audit Risk and Investment Committee (FAIR) of the Board of Governors, for review prior to proceeding to the Board of Governors. FAIR requested that changes be made to the draft Policy, relating to financial provisions for times of precipitous decline in the University's budget. Accordingly, it was unlikely that the draft policy would be considered by the Board of Governors at its June 22, 2021 meeting, as the suggested changes would require further consultation.

4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Senator Hewitt invited Sidney Idemudia and Pemberton Cyrus to address Senate and present on Imhotep's Legacy Academy, as part of Senate's Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality series. S. Idemudia explained that the academy's purpose was to inspire African Nova Scotian students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) professions and elaborated on the mentorship structure of the program and the academy's programs.

P. Cyrus highlighted the lessons learned throughout the 18 years of the program's existence and the challenges faced, including that the program ran with a 6-year lag, that there were a limited number of African Nova Scotian professionals to act as mentors and the programs ran were costly. He noted, however, that the program had successfully increased African Nova Scotian enrolment in STEM professions at Dalhousie since 2010.

5. Reports:

5.1. Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Hewitt presented the Chair's report. Highlights included:

- Congratulations to Senator Harvey on his appointment as Dalhousie University's Provost and Vice-President Academic.
- Congratulations to Senator Rau-Chaplin, Senator Anderson and Senator Cameron on their re-appointments as Deans.
- Recognition to Senator Moore for service as Dean of the Faculty of Science.
- Request to Senators to respond to calls from the Secretariat for Senate representatives to the search committees for the positions of Assistant Vice-President Financial Services, Vice-Provost Student Affairs and Vice-Provost Planning and Analytics.

- Request to Senators to put their names forward for service on Senate’s standing committees.
- Discussions had been held with the Board of Governors Chair and Vice-Chair regarding the governance review called for in the new approved Dalhousie strategic plan. Senate was investigating its own process for governance review of the academic mission.
- Discussions had been held with the Provost and President regarding oversight of international academic programs. Some progress in understanding had been made.

Senator Hewitt reminded the meeting that this would be his final Senate meeting at Chair after six years, highlighted accomplishments that Senate had achieved in that period and thanked Senators and the Secretariat staff. Senator Hewitt also noted the need for increased support in the Secretariat.

5.2. Provost’s Report

Senator Harvey presented the Provost’s Report. Highlights included:

- Enrolment numbers continued to look positive. Undergraduate and graduate applications, confirmations and offers had increased.
- Registration numbers for returning students were positive for both returning students and first year students, with a 13 per cent increase from the previous year.
- The official launch of the new approved Dalhousie strategic plan would be held virtually on June 15, 2021.
- Senior administration had received the most recent memo from the Return to Campus Committee, in which Nova Scotia’s COVID-19 outlook was highlighted. Part of the fall term 2021 plan included the plans for classroom ventilation and vaccination.
- The Post Secondary Education Framework had been approved and would be launched soon.

Senator Harvey ceded the floor to Senator Spiteri who thanked Senator Hewitt for his commitment to Senate and highlighted some of his accomplishments as Chair of Senate, including:

- Increasing the size of Senate.
- A notable commitment to equity diversity inclusion and accessibility (EDIA).
- The AU-CRETT policy.
- Senate think tank sessions related to an array of topics.
- Moving Senate through the challenges of COVID-19.

Senator Spiteri noted that an e-card had been sent to Senator Hewitt, signed by members of Senate and the Secretariat and presented a thank you video dedicated to Senator Hewitt, from a number of former and present Senators. Senator Hewitt expressed his thanks.

5.3. Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

FOR APPROVAL

6. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC)

6.1. Amendments to Sexualized Violence Policy

Senator Hewitt presented the amendments to the Sexualized Violence Policy. Senator Hewitt advised that the policy was approved by Senate in 2017, revised in 2019 and was due for its biennial review as set out in the policy. Senator Hewitt noted that the review had engaged various stakeholders and feedback was provided in two categories, namely feedback that directly impacted Sexualized Violence Policy and that which impacted the operation of the Human Rights & Equity Services (HRES) office and processes. The meeting was informed that the policy had been considered by the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) at its May 5, 2021 meeting and by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) at its May 19, 2021 meeting and recommended to Senate for approval.

Senators engaged in discussion regarding systemic issues being reported to the appropriate Vice-President or Vice-Provost as opposed to being reported to Senate, incidences occurring off university grounds, reporting on systemic issues and appropriate action to be taken against issues identified as being systemic.

Moved by Senator Hewitt on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:
THAT Senate approve the draft revised Sexualized Violence Policy, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

7. Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC)
7.1. Syllabus Policy (incorporating Course Syllabus Guide) Review

Senator Hewitt invited Senator Pacurar to present the Syllabus Policy Review. Senator Pacurar explained that the task force created in 2019 by SLTC sought to establish expectations for elements of Dalhousie course syllabi. Through consultation, the taskforce had reviewed the background and purpose, definitions, policy, administrative structures and course syllabus guide. The draft of the revised Syllabus Policy was considered by SLTC at its June 2, 2021 meeting and recommended to Senate for approval and implementation in September, 2021.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:
THAT Senate approve the draft revised Syllabus Policy, as presented.

Senators engaged in discussion of the proposed revisions, primarily regarding the university statement of territorial acknowledgement, in Section B of the Appendix (University Statements). Concern was expressed that the standard Dalhousie land acknowledgement statement included in the draft revised policy was depersonalized and disconnected and could be seen as a performative act. It was suggested that instructors be encouraged to create their own land acknowledgement and determine how the course would ensure a deeper understanding of the acknowledgement.

Responding, S. Sheffield explained that the Indigenous Advisory Council had yet to reach a determination regarding the land acknowledgement. Accordingly, the Syllabus review committee had decided to move forward with the inclusion of the university's standard statement. S. Sheffield confirmed that the language could be altered once a statement had been developed by the Indigenous Advisory Council.

It was noted that phrase “and outcomes” should be removed from the Background & Purpose section on page 1, as it was unnecessary.

An amendment to the motion was proposed to account for modification of the revised draft policy to remove the phrase “and outcomes”, to allow for instructors to create a personalized territorial acknowledgement and discuss the statement with their classes and to allow for an alternative land acknowledgement statement to be incorporated at a later date in consultation with the Indigenous Advisory Council.

Moved by Senator Macdonald, seconded by Senator Doyle-Bedwell.

THAT Senate amend the motion to incorporate the further revisions and that an alternative land acknowledgement statement be incorporated at a later date in consultation with the Indigenous Advisory Council.

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

The motion now reads:

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:

THAT Senate approve the draft revised Syllabus Policy, as amended and subject to an alternative land acknowledgement statement being incorporated at a later date in consultation with the Indigenous Advisory Council.

The motion as amended **CARRIED.**

7.2 Holistic Evaluation of Teaching Policy

Senator Hewitt invited Senator Pacurar to present on the proposed Holistic Evaluation of Teaching Policy. Senator Pacurar noted that a holistic framework was discussed and considered at the March 22, 2021 Senate think tank session, where the following points were considered:

- *How universal or adaptable should the holistic evaluation framework be for the Dalhousie community?*
- *What format would you like to see for the formal peer review for teaching?*
- *What concerns or opportunities do you foresee from the implementation of the peer review for teaching?*

Senator Pacurar advised that feedback from the think tank session was incorporated into the draft Holistic Evaluation of Teaching policy, which was considered by SLTC at its June 2, 2021 meeting and recommended to Senate for approval. Senator Pacurar emphasised that the policy was an outline which individual faculties should apply to meet their requirements.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:

THAT Senate approve the draft Holistic Evaluation of Teaching Policy, as presented; and

THAT Senate approve that each Faculty be given a three-year window (2021 to 2024) to develop, pilot, and revise their processes for meeting the requirements of this policy before

the policy is fully implemented no later than the Fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Discussion ensued regarding linking of the proposed framework to tenure and promotion of Faculty.

It was proposed that a footnote be included in Section A (Background and Purpose), that would explain that appointment, reappointment tenure and promotion fell under the Collective Agreement and that a motion to amend be put forward to approve the revision to the draft policy.

Moved by Senator Meynell, seconded by Senator Spiteri

THAT Senate approve the proposed revision to the draft Holistic Evaluation of Teaching Policy.

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

The motion now reads:

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:

THAT Senate approve the draft Holistic Evaluation of Teaching Policy, as amended; and

THAT Senate approve that each Faculty be given a three-year window (2021 to 2024) to develop, pilot, and revise their processes for meeting the requirements of this policy before the policy is fully implemented no later than the Fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

The motion as amended **CARRIED.**

8. Digital Draft Strategy

Senator Bourne-Tyson welcomed feedback on the Digital Draft Strategy and noted that this could be sent to Josh Leon or her prior to June 22, 2021.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.