



**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, March 14, 2022 at 3:00pm**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 14, 2022 via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, A. Aiken, M. Ali Ulku, D. Anderson, M. Aston, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, C. Cameron, R. Chang, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, P. Doucet-Bernard, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, H. El Naggari, N. Ezzeddine, M. Farrimond, C. Flood, M. Fournier, G. Gagnon, J. Gantar, D. Gray, D. Grujic, H. Hall, J. Hall, F. Harvey, D. Iduye, S. Jeffrey, M. Keinast, S. Keyamo, S. Kirk, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, C. Lake, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, W. Lahey, S. McKibbin, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, F. Naghibi, B. Nassar, J. Newhook, H. Niu, R. Orji, M. Pacurar, L. Perez, T. Rajack-Talley, C. Richardson, H-S. Ro, K. Rosen, D. Saini, L. Sarson, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, V. Simodoh, S. Stone, F. Verth, D. Westwood, D. White, I. Yakovenko, E. Yiridoe

**Regrets:** G. Alexander, K. Brooks, B. Davis, B. Foster, L. Propper, C. Macdonald, C. Macy, A. Rau-Chaplin, M. Stinson, V. Turpin, T. Walker, S. Wildeman, S. Yurgel

**Absent:** T. Adams, R. Agu, D. Bilodeau, A. Doucette, Y. El Hiani, K. El-Sankary, D. D. Grantham, G. Horne, M. Irwin, D. Jakeman, M. MacEachern, H. Maambo, F. M. Nashnouch, N. Patil, F. Taheri, D. Tyers, E. Wunker

**Guests:** Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Adam Donaldson (Associate Dean Scholarships and Programs, Faculty of Graduate Studies), Claire Mercer (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator)

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 **adopted** as presented.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1. Approval of Draft Minutes of February 14, 2022 Senate Meeting**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **3.1. Full Program Proposal for New Program (Masters of Fine Arts in Fiction (King's School of Journalism and Dalhousie FGS) – from December 13, 2021 Meeting**

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the full program proposal for a Masters of Fine Arts in Fiction was approved by the Board of Governors at its February 15, 2022 meeting. Senator Spiteri advised that the projected start date for the program was June 1, 2022, subject to Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) approval.

#### **3.2. Policy for Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Transfer and Termination (AU-CRETT) – from May 10, 2021 Meeting**

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the AU-CRETT policy had been approved by the Board of Governors at its February 15, 2022 meeting. Senator Spiteri noted that due to the novel nature of the policy, it was advisable that a review occur after a year or two of use. Deans using the policy this year were encouraged submit feedback to the Secretariat.

### **4. Steps to Make Diveristy and Inclusion a Reality**

Senator Spiteri invited Senator Newhook, in his capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, to present the Faculty of Engineering's steps to make diversity and inclusion a reality. Senator Newhook explained that the faculty's approach to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) focused on several areas relating to the physical campus; policies and procedures; promotion and outreach; and recruitment.

Senator Newhook explained that EDIA values needed to be reflected in the faculty's physical campus, because its age caused accessibility issues. Washroom balance and accessibility had been two key issues. A major conversion of washrooms to increase the number of gender neutral, female and accessible washrooms in the highest traffic area had been undertaken. A major classroom renovation had been effected to provide a modern fully accessible classroom. The main administration was being renovated to provide an accessible main entrance.

Senator Newhook advised that all Faculty-based policies had been reviewed and would now be reviewed on a three-year cycle to ensure fairness and balance, reduce barriers and assess student impact. Guidelines for Faculty hiring had been reviewed to emphasize EDIA goals. Mental health frameworks had also developed to support students.

Senator Newhook added that the Faculty of Engineering had sponsored the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation training for its faculty and extended this to the rest of Dalhousie for one year. The Faculty's EDIA committee had also developed a faculty approved Vision statement and developed a diversity website for students, staff and faculty. In addition, the faculty continued to support activities for the Women in Engineering Society, the SuperNova initiative and Imhotep's Legacy Academy.

## **5. Reports:**

### **5.1. Chair of Senate's Report**

Senator Spiteri highlighted elements of the Chair of Senate's report that had been circulated with the Senate meeting material, advising that a Senate Think Tank session would be held on March 22, 2022. The theme of the think tank was "The Culture of Belonging at Dalhousie".

Senator Spiteri added that five items, approved by the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) on behalf of Senate, had been included in the Senate meeting package for Senators' information.

### **5.2. Provost's Report**

Senator Harvey informed Senate that the Provost's Report that had been circulated with the Senate meeting package included the Winter 2022 term update on the COVID-19 pandemic measures being undertaken by Dalhousie, an update on Dalhousie's Accessibility Plan and an update on Fall 2022 admission numbers.

Senator Harvey also updated the meeting on Dalhousie's initiatives tied to the crisis in Ukraine, noting that:

- Undergraduate application fees and differential fees for Ukrainian international students would be waived;
- Options for student awards for those at risk were being explored;
- Flexibility regarding payment deadlines would be provided;
- The International Centre was acting as a designated point of contact for potential Ukrainian international students;
- The RO was running daily reports to identify Ukrainian applicants, while assessing the capacity to take on more Ukrainian international students;
- The Office of Advancement was exploring opportunities to support Ukrainian international students; and
- Dalhousie was also partnering with U15 schools on initiatives in this area.

Senator Harvey added that search process for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences was at the shortlist stage.

Senator Harvey also thanked Senator Turpin for her contribution as Acting Vice-Provost Student Affairs since August, 2020 and noted the appointment of Rick Ezekiel as Vice-Provost Student Affairs, effective June 1, 2022, following a rigorous search process.

### **5.3. Questions for Reports**

Responding to a query from a Senator, Senator Harvey confirmed that opportunities had been provided in the past for international applicants impacted by conflict, such as following the outbreak of war in Syria.

In response to a further query, Senator Harvey confirmed that prospective Ukrainian international students were currently learning about Dalhousie's initiatives through

communication with the RO. An upcoming Dalhousie news article would draw more attention to Dalhousie's initiatives.

Responding to a comment from a Senator, Senator Harvey agreed that an all-encompassing refugee support policy should be explored.

## **FOR APPROVAL**

### **6. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC)** **Proposed Part-time PhD Framework, Faculty of Graduate Studies**

Senator Blustein presented the on proposed Part-time PhD Framework put forward by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) and recommended by SAPRC to Senate for approval.

Senator Blustein explained that the purpose of the proposed framework was to to enable improved access to PhD studies for students who would otherwise be unable to pursue a doctoral degree on a full-time basis, through introduction of a part-time PhD study option at Dalhousie University. The part-time PhD option was part of the FGS Access and Success Plan 2020.

Senator Blustein highlighted important elements of the framework, noting that:

- Options would be limited to programs which had been approved for part-time (PT) enrolment;
- Tuition would be set of 50% for non- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) PhD rate, regardless of the program of study;
- Program extensions, based on yearly progress reports, would begin at 8 years for PT PhD students (compared to 6 years for full-time (FT) PhD students);
- Workload for PT students should not exceed 50% of that of FT PhD students;
- PT PhD students could hold Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships (NSGS) and Tri-agency funding part-time, with a \$15,000 a year cap; and
- Transitions from PT to FT, or vice versa, would require supervisor/departmental support.

Senators engaged in a question period, with Adam Donaldson, Associate Dean Scholarships and Programs, Faculty of Graduate Studies, being available to respond to questions.

In response to a Senator's question, it was confirmed that the proposed framework could be applied to any part-time PhD student in consultation with the academic unit. Part of the approval process enabling part-time enrolment would be to discuss the admission pathway, but either part-time or full-time would be permitted if a program could accommodate it. It was also noted that should stretching out funding be a factor, the proposed framework required the supervisor to assess the implications of the funding commitment.

Responding to question on the risk of losing a supervisory faculty member due to the long supervisory period required for the part-time option, it was noted that this risk already existed with current full-time PhD programs. However, the 10 year maximum for programs would remain in place.

Moved by Senator Blustein on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve the Part-time PhD Framework.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **FOR DISCUSSION**

### **7. Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus – Advancing Vision and Planning**

Senator Spiteri invited Senator Gray, in his capacity of Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Principal of the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, to present on the vision and plan for the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus.

Senator Gray explained that as the only Faculty of Agriculture in Atlantic Canada, the Faculty was research intensive and worked closely with industry partners, including on developing the new Smart Farm Innovation Hub. Dalhousie would use this platform to house and manage data, and make it live to enable informed business decisions.

Senator Gray informed the meeting that the name of the Faculty of Agriculture was under review, noting that a reflection on this was required due to society's increasingly limited understanding of the word "agriculture". Senator Gray informed the meeting about steps being undertaken to position the Agricultural campus as a smaller rural campus of Dalhousie, including a pilot program with the Faculty of Science to have a cohort of 30 students take their first year of the Bachelor of Science program in Truro. Longer term, the academic expansion project would include other faculties.

Senator Gray concluded the presentation by highlighting links with the Indigenous community through the Awtiget program. Senator Gray informed the Senate that the meaning of Awtiget was "creating a path". The Awtiget program had a number of facets including residential summer camps and the Indigenous Students Access Pathway. A physical location in Milbrook was being considered.

Senators engaged in a brief discussion and question period.

Responding to a question on the lack of mention of the Faculty of Engineering presence at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, Senators Gray and Newhook confirmed the longstanding and strong relationship between the campus and the Faculty of Engineering, adding that a combined Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Agriculture should be considered.

It was also noted that the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus was working with the local African Nova Scotian community with the aim of understanding the community's needs in order to increase enrolment.

### **8. Annual Report on University Libraries 2020/21**

Senator Spiteri invited Senator Bourne-Tyson, in her capacity as Dean of Libraries, to present the report on University Libraries for the 2020/2021 academic year.

Senator Bourne-Tyson detailed the structure of Dalhousie libraries, including the services offered.

Senator Bourne-Tyson noted that the work of the Academic Technology Services had been critical to the University's continued operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the services offered had become permanent, such as the online live chat service and captioning for instructor videos.

Senator Bourne-Tyson elaborated on some elements of the report, noting that:

- The records manager now worked with every unit on campus for data management purposes;
- The Nova Scotia LGBT Seniors' Archive was now part of a larger Atlantic wide network;
- The COVID-19 pandemic had created increased demand of video streaming;
- As part of ongoing commitments to reconciliation, the University Librarians administered the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course, available to all Dalhousie, faculty, staff and administration. The course was funded by the Faculty of Engineering this year and going forward, funding for the course would be met by different faculties in different years.
- Steps were taken to support researchers and to ensure Indigenous digital sovereignty;
- In partnership with the Centre for Learning and Teaching and with support from Dalhousie's Strategic Initiative Funding, the University Libraries awarded five grants to Dalhousie educators planning to adapt or create open educational resources;
- Work was ongoing with the Faculty for Open Learning and Career Development to present a free online research and information literacy course which would be available to the wider community.

#### **9. Question Period**

There were no questions.

#### **10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.