

**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, January 9, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Affoo, R. Agu, A. Aiken, O. Akinkugbe, D. Anderson, D. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Brown, R. Chang, T. Cyrus, B. Davis, K. Dilcher, A. Donaldson, P. Doucet-Bernard, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, L. DuBois, H. El Naggar, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, G. Gagnon, D. Grantham, D. Gray, J. Hall, G. Ilie, D. Jakeman, M. Keinast, A. Kermanshahi-pour, I. Keumani, S. Keyamo, C. Lake, P. Lee Men Chin, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, C. Macy, V. Maselli, S. McKibbon, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, F. Naghibi, H. Niu, M. Pacurar, Y. Pan, N. Patil, T. Perrot, T. Rajack-Talley, K. Rosen, R. Sampangi, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, M. Smit, S. Stone, D. Tyers, M. Ulku, M. Vandenburg, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti

**Regrets:** L. Philmore, C. Graves, F. Harvey, S. Kirk, A. Rau-Chaplin

**Absent:** T. Agbaje-Ojo, G. Amore, J. Andrews, C. Cameron, S. Chitnis, Y. El Hiani, K. El-Sankary, N. Ezzeddine, G. Horne, M. Irwin, S. Jeffrey, W. Lahey, M. Nashnoush, J. Newhook, R. Orji, L. Proper, H. Ro, A. Rudnick, L. Sarson, D. Silvio, A. Stapleton, T. Walker

**Guests:** Jennifer Bain (Associate Vice President Research), John Hope (General Counsel & University Secretary), Janice MacInnis (Manager, Organizational Health), Sapna Natarajan (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), David Pilon (Director, Counselling and Psychological Services), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator)

The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

The Dalhousie University Senate also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1 Appointment of Senate Chair as a Senate Representative to the Presidential Search Committee**

**THAT Senate approve the appointment of Louise Spiteri, Chair of Senate, as a Senate representative on the Presidential Search Committee.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

**2.2 Senate Representative to the Vice-President Advancement Search Committee**

**THAT Senate approve the appointment of Gabriela Ilie as the Senate representative on the Vice-President Advancement Search Committee.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

### **3. Matters Arising from December 12, 2022 Senate Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Campus Well-being Steering Group Presentation**

Senator Raghav Sampangi, David Pillon and Janice MacInnis presented the past, current, and future work done to improve wellness for the Dalhousie community by the Well-being Steering Group.

The meeting was informed of the work undertaken by the group with various faculties and the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) to implement the National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace and the National Standard for Mental Health and Well-Being for Post-Secondary Students. These two standards highlighted measurable factors for enhancing and promoting psychological health and safety in the workplace, enhancing organizational efficiency and effectiveness and promoting and improving the mental health of students.

The meeting was informed that upcoming plans for the group included supporting wellness initiatives and reviewing and updating university structures and policies through a wellness lens.

### **5. Reports:**

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

Senator Spiteri's written report included information regarding an upcoming call for two Senate representatives to serve on a rapid task force to consider revisions to the Senate Policy for Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Termination and Transfer (AUCRETT).

Senator Spiteri advised that there would be an additional upcoming call for a faculty representative replacement to the Board of Governors.

Senator Spiteri noted the meeting schedule for Senate and Senate Standing Committees had been approved and all meetings would be listed on the Senate website.

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

Senator Brooks' written report included enrolment numbers as of December, 2022 and inclusive excellence. The nomination deadline for teaching awards was highlighted and Senators were encouraged to review information shared in early December, 2022 profiling the Dalhousie Accessibility Plan and accessibility on campus.

Senator Brooks encouraged more in-person interactions among Senators following Senate meetings.

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

In response to a question from a Senator, Senator Brooks undertook to look into additional venues to facilitate on campus in-person interactions.

## FOR APPROVAL

### 6. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) Proposed Extension of Suspension of Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution – In-Camera Status of Senate Standing Committee Meetings

Senator Spiteri gave an overview of the Senate April 11, 2021 suspension of Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution and outlined the proposal to extend this suspension beyond the Fall term 2022 to the end of the 2022-23 academic year.

The meeting was informed that a longer trial period for opening of meetings of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC), the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) to non-member Senators would provide a wider variety of situations upon which to form a basis for permanent change to the Senate Constitution to make standing committee meetings open to non-member Senators.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

**THAT Senate approve that the suspension of Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution be extended to apply to the Winter, Spring and Summer terms 2023, with regard to the default in-camera status of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee to test the following recommendations:**

- a) **The following Senate standing committees should hold open meetings, by default:**
  - i. **Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC);**
  - ii. **Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC); and**
  - iii. **Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC);**
- b) **The meetings of the standing committees be open to all non-member Senators, who may attend only as non-participating observers;**
- c) **Meeting agendas will be circulated to all Senators in advance;**
- d) **Any non-member Senator wishing to attend a meeting make a request to do so with the Secretariat by no later than five days before the meeting, as space allotments for meetings may be limited;**
- e) **The meeting agenda indicate any sessions that are to be held in-camera, but the topic under discussion not be identified. The agenda simply indicate “in-camera session,” with no further detail;**
- f) **The decision for designating agenda items as in-camera rest with the committee chair;**
- g) **Non-member Senators may not attend any in-camera deliberations;**
- h) **Minutes of the meetings of the standing committees be stored on the Senate Brightspace site and be available to all Senators; and**
- i) **Minutes of in-camera sessions of the standing committee meetings be taken but be kept and stored separately from the minutes of the open session.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

### 7. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence – Proposal for Creation as a Centre

Senator Blustein presented the proposal for the recognition of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence as an approved stand-alone centre within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).

It was reported that the SAPRC had considered the proposal at its December 5, 2022 meeting and recommended it to Senate for approval, following recommendation by the SAPRC Research Sub-Committee (RSC) and the FASS Faculty Council.

Moved by Senator Blustein on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:

**THAT Senate approve creation of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence, as presented and recommend it to the Board of Governors for further approval.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **FOR DISCUSSION**

### **8. Proposed Meeting of Board of Governors Representatives, Senate Representatives and President**

Senator Spiteri noted that per the unofficial consolidation of the University statute, at the request of the Senate, the Board would appoint representatives to meet with a like number of representatives of the Senate and with the President to discuss any matters pertaining to the welfare of the University, and any recommendations of such meetings would be communicated to the Board and the Senate. A request had been received from a Senator that a meeting in line with this provision of the statute be held.

Senator Spiteri outlined the proposed logistics as follows:

- A request be made to the Board of Governors for the meeting.
- Senators think of questions and questions be chosen by vote.
- A call be sent out for Senate representatives and these be chosen by Senators through an electronic vote.

In the ensuing discussion, Senators emphasized the importance of trying to incorporate diversity in the Senate representation, including representation from diverse faculties. A query was made regarding how equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) would be embedded in the selection process where selection was undertaken through a free for all vote. It was recommended that the advice of Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES) be sought regarding possible solutions.

### **9. Question Period**

There were no questions.

### **10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.