



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2015, at 4:00pm in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Alan Pinder in the chair were the following: Aziz, Barrett, Baur, Bodorik, Bourne-Tyson, Bucci, Burton, Byers, Cochrane, Cooper, Crago, Cutler, Denike, Diepeveen, Doman, Florizone, Gahagan, Goodday, Gray, Harman, Herder, Hoyle, Kesselring, Kirk, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leonard, Letendre, Macdonald, MacLennen, Marrie, Mazzanti, McLarney, Meynell, Moore, Noble, Quinn, Shukla, Skiptunis, Smirnov, Smit, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Tennessen, Wach, Watters.

Regrets: Ali, Baylis, Becke, Boran, Brooks, Cunningham, DasGupta, Holmes, Hughes, Leon, Ma, MacDonald, MacRae, Macy, Mansour, Mitchell, Mopoho, Qurashi, Roy, Shepherd, Webster.

Guest: Dwight Fischer, Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Brad Wuetherick

2015:26

Approval of Agenda

The February 9, 2015 revised agenda was **adopted** as the January 26, 2015 Senate meeting minutes were unavailable.

2015:27

Matters Arising from the January 26, 2015 Senate Meeting

SPGC re ad hoc Committee of Senate on Fossil Fuel Divestment: Update

Mr. Pinder stated that a call for nominations was distributed to the University Community on Wednesday, January 28 and the deadline for nominations is February 27, 2015. An email to all Deans and Associate Deans, as well as Senators, regarding the submission of a 2-page summary statement outlining opportunities and threats of proposed divestment to their academic programs and research will be sent shortly.

Academic Amnesty Motion

Mr. Pinder highlighted that the motion Senate passed with respect to Academic Amnesty was distributed to the university community, Dalhousie Faculty Association and all students on January 27 and 28. The February 4, 2015 Day of Action occurred with several hundred student participants.

It was discussed whether the University Secretariat office required more support, as it was noted that the previous draft Senate meeting minutes were not distributed with the current meeting package. It was noted that in the last month there were more meetings than normally held and this was a special case, and this is not anticipated to reoccur.

2015:28

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Pinder began by noting that Dr. David Precious, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery had passed away. Dr. Precious had a long, prestigious career at Dalhousie University and Senate extended condolences to Dr. Precious' family and colleagues.

Mr. Pinder extended congratulations to Mr. Robert Summerby-Murray who was named President-Elect of Saint Mary's University (SMU), and will officially become President of SMU in July 2015.

Items approved by the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee on behalf of Senate are: New Medical Residency Program in Pediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy; two new Minors in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: European Studies and French: Linguistics and Translation; Modified Program Proposal for the Bachelor of Commerce program which ensures all commerce students could take all possible minors outside of the Faculty of Management; Termination of School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES) major for the BMgmt program; and a major program modification: MBA (Financial Services), which, amongst program changes will now be called Advanced Management MBA.

Lastly, Mr. Pinder announced that he would be resigning as Chair of Senate on of June 30, 2015. The Senate Nominating Committee will now begin the search for a new Chair of Senate as of July 1, 2015.

2015:29

President's Report

Mr. Florizone began his report on the Dentistry issue noting that the Restorative Justice (RJ) process is underway with 29 students actively participating and is expected to conclude before the end of term. The Academic Standards Class Committee (ASCC) has been meeting diligently and is considering the reports provided by the RJ process. It was discussed that the ASCC is in control of the outcomes and the associated timeline and that the RJ schedule is dependent on the participants. Both processes are confidential; the intent is to speak on the consequences of both processes in a general way. While the ASCC is under no formal obligation to hear RJ, the RJ group can provide insights and recommendations to the ASCC to consider. It was further clarified that Ms. Harman was invited to be an independent faculty observer at the ASCC and is not a Senate representative.

On February 2nd, Dalhousie submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF), which indicates that Dalhousie will establish an Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI). The OFI will focus on Northwest Atlantic Ocean research, attracting faculty and international experts to partner with Dalhousie. It was discussed that a component of the research at OFI will be on climate and how to minimize impact on the ocean and sustain it.

No decision has been made with the Nova Scotia Government around tuition, regulation of tuition and student financial assistance. The Premier articulated that he does not want to see further cuts from the education sector, and there may be a 1% increase.

2015:30**Provost's Report**

Ms. Watters began her report stating the searches for four deans: Dean of Medicine, Law, Computer Science and Health Professions, noting that the search for the Dean of Medicine is now complete. Each search is on schedule for completion between the end of March and middle of April 2015. Also under review are the positions for the Deans of Engineering Faculty of Arts and Science (FASS). The FASS review will now be a search. In addition, a review is underway in student services to inform the job description for the Vice Provost of Student Affairs. The search is anticipated to start in May, along with the new Registrar position, whose description should align with the Vice Provost of Student Affairs. The orientation for new Deans and Department Heads in the summer is being organized as well. A staggering of Deans terms is being reviewed.

The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) report may be released in time for the next Senate meeting on February 23, 2015. Some highlights include that principles which have been rewritten since last year around the process of budget recommendations to the President. The first principle is that the annual operating budget must be balanced, second is that the operating budget must support the academic mission of the university and the third is that the budget be looked at in a multi-year framework to ensure sustainability. Major considerations are the role of the strategic initiative fund in conjunction with the academic mission of the university and to reduce reliance on reserve funds.

There was a discussion on the turnover of Deans and that was noted that some Deans stayed for two terms and some for only one resulting in a higher than usual turnover in 2015.

2015:31**Chair of Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) Report**

Ms. Harman began her report by stating the priorities of the SLTC, which include the review of academic dates, which will be reporting to SLTC and Senate in March/April. A working group to review the Policy and Procedures for the Student Ratings of Instruction has been established and a report is anticipated by June 2015. An e-Learning advisory group has recently been created under SLTC and reports will be prepared annually for the Committee.

2015:32**Presentation on e-Learning at Dalhousie University**

Mr. Dwight Fischer, Assistant Vice-President/CIO Information Technology Services, Mr. Brad Wuetherick, Executive Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching, and Ms. Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian gave a presentation on progress to date on e-Learning at Dalhousie. The advisory group is looking for feedback on two considerations: 1) what do you need in terms of e-learning tools to move forward your teaching and learning goals? 2) What support and training do you need to enhance your use of the e-learning environment?

One consideration is how to make IT support seamless across the institution. One suggestion has been to bring the IT support people to a common location with the help desk. There is a process of cross-training staff on the help desk to receive support from anyone for most common problems. In-class technology is also being reviewed and Dalhousie is moving towards a common institutionalized student response system (AKA clickers).

It was discussed that changing passwords every 6 months is a trade-off of inconvenience for heightened security.

2015:33

Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Search Committee for Vice-President, Advancement – Senate faculty representative nomination

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Mr. Pinder **MOVED** :

THAT Senate approve the nomination of Mr. Christopher Hartt, Faculty of Agriculture, as the Senate faculty representative on the search committee for the Vice-President, Advancement.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2015:34

Moving Forward on Misogyny

Ms. Denike, Senator and Coordinator, Gender and Women's Studies, led a discussion on the same questions that were used for the January 15, 2015 Forum on Eradicating Misogyny, which featured a panel of presenters speaking to a series of questions from the audience on ways to move forward from the dentistry/misogyny ordeal. The success of the co-sponsored forum by the DSU and the Gender Women Studies program on January 15, 2015 was noted. Over 700 students attended and over 6,000 people watched the webcast so far.

Ms. Denike noted that Dalhousie is the only university without a standalone gender studies appointment. A concern was raised regarding the lack of resources and support for gender studies. The environment of underreporting of sexual assault was discussed. The University environment should be more supportive of people reporting sexual assault. It was suggested that the university take a stance on what is unacceptable, for example, Senate could pass a motion against misogyny as the DSU did.

It was discussed that a national conversation is underway, triggered by the CBC and the Jian Gimeshi issue. An array of policies that requires victims to come forward is fundamentally a major issue. The University could make this part of a 5-year strategic initiative. Senators had a thorough discussion of the questions and topic and thanks was extended to Ms. Denike for leading the discussion.

2015:35

Question Period

A question was raised regarding a memo circulated to Senators on OWL from General Counsel. The purpose of the memo was to emphasize that when responding to specific legal matters relating to Dalhousie, Senators do not speak on behalf of the University. Senators have the academic freedom to discuss topics including the dentistry situation, and issues of misogyny, homophobia, and racism at Dalhousie and in society in general, but Senators should make it clear, especially when talking to people outside the Dalhousie community, that they are expressing their own thoughts and opinions, not those of Senate or the University.

2015:36

Other Business

There was no other business.

2015:37

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.