



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Alan Pinder in the chair were the following: Aziz, Bannerman, Barrett, Baur, Baylis, Bodorik, Burton, Byers, Cochrane, Cooper, Cutler, Denike, Diepeveen, Erdman, Florizone, Gahagan, Goodday, Grant, Habib, Harman, Herder, Holmes, Hoyle, Hughes, Kesselring, Kirk, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leonard, Letendre, Ma, M. Macdonald, MacLennan, Mansour, Marrie, McLarney, Meynell, Moore, Mopoho, Noble, Persaud, Quinn, Roy, Shukla, Smirnov, Smit, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Wach, Watt, Watters, Wright.

Regrets: Ali, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Bucci, Crago, Cunningham, DasGupta, Gray, C. MacDonald, MacRae, Mazzanti, Mitchell, Skiptunis, Tennessen

Absent: Calladine, Doman, Khan, Leon, Macy, Qurashi, Shepherd, Webster

Guest: Brad Wuetherick, Paul Amyotte, Steven Mannell, Mairead Barry

2015:48

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Pinder welcomed two new Senators: Mr. Ron Bannerman, Acting Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, and Mr. Mitchell Watt, a student Senator representing the Agricultural Campus.

The March 9, 2015 agenda was **adopted** as presented.

2015:49

Consent Agenda

Academic Hood: Master of Fine Arts

THAT Senate approve the academic hood for the new Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree as royal blue lining, crimson silk border with white piping.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2015:50

Approval of Draft Minutes of February 9, 2015 Senate Meeting

The draft Senate minutes of February 9, 2015 were **approved** with one amendment: 2015:34 Moving Forward on Misogyny, the sentence "People should not feel ashamed for reporting and it should be

seen as..." should be replaced with "The university environment should be more supportive of people reporting sexual assault..."

2015:51

Approval of Draft Minutes of February 23, 2015 Senate Meeting

The draft Senate minutes of February 23, 2015 were **approved** with one amendment: 2015:42 DSU President's Report, the word 'intersexuality' should be replaced with 'intersectionality'.

2015:52

Matters Arising from the February 9 and 23, 2015 Senate Minutes

February 9, 2015: SPGC re ad hoc Committee of Senate on Fossil Fuel Divestment: Update

The Senate Planning and Governance Committee will review the 15 nominations received at their meeting on March 18th and propose a slate of members to Senate on April 13, 2015.

2015:53

Chair of Senate Report

Mr. Pinder noted several items included in the meeting package for information, including the report titled "Belong: Supporting an Inclusive and Diverse University" (which contains recommendations of the Committee for Strategic Initiative 5.2 on diversity and inclusiveness); a call for names and expressions of interest for the position of Chair of Senate (acting) for 2015-2016; and the approved Senate meeting schedule for 2015-16. Mr. Pinder reported that it is currently anticipated that a Senate Forum focused on the "Belong" report will be held at the April 27th Senate meeting.

2015:54

President's Report

Mr. Florizone reported on three items: 1) his recent meetings with both the Conservative and Liberal caucuses where topics discussed included university core funding, medical school funding and recruitment, and the service component of Dalhousie's mission. He noted that there was interest in university collaboration and how government and the universities can work together, but also recognition that the issue in moving forward is often funding; 2) Dalhousie's submission on March 2nd of a full proposal focused on Oceans to the first round of the federal Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) application process. Dalhousie expects to receive a response on its submission in June, with the next round of submissions scheduled for the fall; 3) an update on the dentistry matter where he highlighted again the four areas of response and spoke to recent events, including the readmission of the male students to clinic activities under certain conditions, and the release of a public statement by students participating in the restorative justice process. He also noted that the members of the Task Force on Misogyny, Sexism and Homophobia in the Faculty of Dentistry made their first visit to Dalhousie on February 27th and 28th and will return later in March and again in April.

Following his report, Mr. Florizone responded to several specific questions on the dentistry matter that were posed to him prior to the meeting. He and the University's General Counsel, Karen Crombie, responded to additional questions on the link between the restorative justice (rj) and the ASCC processes, noting that ASCC is ultimately working to determine issues of professional standards and public safety and the rj process can provide some valuable input on those issues; this input is not

binding, but it is additional information. Other questions focused on potential appeal processes, and precautions regarding the safety of the women students involved. Questions on other aspects of Mr. Mr. Florizone report concerned broader opportunities to raise with government the need for increased resources for the entire health care system given the current consolidation of the health regions and the potential impacts on physician-scientists who engage in research; and also opportunities for exploring potential gaps in the “Belong” report impacting those who are not part of recognized equity-seeking groups. Mr. Florizone responded that if there are gaps, these should be communicated so that they can be addressed. He noted that a University scorecard on progress on strategic directions will be presented to Senate in the spring.

2015:55

Provost’s Report

Ms. Watters reported on current decanal searches, noting that two of these processes should be concluded shortly. She also reported on the review of Student Services, noting that the external reviewers are currently on campus; the report out of this review will assist in framing the terms of reference for the Vice Provost, Student Affairs position. Lastly, she provided an update on the student retention initiative, noting that a report is currently in preparation and it is anticipated that this should be received by the end of April. The report will include the consultant’s plan with direct feedback from the various working groups that have been involved in this initiative. She noted that one of the values that consultants bring to the student retention issue is that they look at best practices within the institution and at other institutions that are demonstrating success in the area of retention.

In response to a question about what was being done to recruit and ensure the University’s equity policy was being applied in the various Dean searches that were/are ongoing on campus, the Provost replied that she is working closely with the Equity Office and will provide language so that when she introduces candidates that is made clear.

2015:56

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Learning Management System Review: Update

Mr. Wuetherick presented the Learning Management System (LMS) decision that is now complete for Dalhousie and eight other universities. The decision was to replace BBLearn with Bright Space by Desire 2 Learn (D2L). It was acknowledged that the decision would come with a significant change process across the campuses. Ms. Fiona Black, Associate Vice-President, Academic, will be chairing the institutional process along with the University Librarian. The next steps are already in progress; an advisory committee has been struck that includes Mr. Wuetherick, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Bourne-Tyson, faculty members and administrators of eLearning.

Mr. Wuetherick responded to questions on the migration of courses, the migration schedule and the activation of elements within the platform, the prioritization of migration activities and resources and support for the migration to D2L. He also spoke to best practices from other universities that have recently undertaken this same migration and what can be learned from this experience.

The new system will be phased-in over time with an implementation plan. The recommended practice is to have 5-10% of students testing it in the first semester, then 25% in the second term and the third semester would involve the entire campus. It is anticipated that Dalhousie will be on a single platform by May 2016, although some classes will not be taught on that platform until January 2017.

Mr. Wuetherick noted that it is recommended that Dalhousie sign a 5-year commitment, which allows for a major review and transition time. Some universities had opted for 10 years. There is also the potential to work with the government under their Information Technology shared services and it is being recommended to the government to support the migration process.

2015:57

Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Review of the College of Sustainability

Mr. Paul Amyotte, Chair, Senate Review Committee for the Senate Review of the College of Sustainability; Mr. Steve Mannell, Director, College of Sustainability; and Mr. Rob Summerby-Murray, Presiding Dean, College of Sustainability, were present to discuss the Senate Review of the College of Sustainability. Mr. Amyotte provided an overview of the review process and recommendations in the five areas noted, with Mr. Summerby-Murray commenting on initiatives happening in terms of the 13 recommendations. He also commented on the success of the College model for interdisciplinarity and the value of the College's success to Dalhousie as a whole. Mr. Mannell also spoke to the recommendations, noting that he did not disagree with any of the 13 and commenting on a few of these. He noted that several of the recommendations are significant and outside the purview of the College to manage without the assistance of administration.

Questions following the report focused on graduate programming and research and faculty recruitment and whether the current faculty secondment model is sustainable, particularly in term of the College's next steps and the ability to grow graduate programs. Mr. Summerby-Murray commented that this review presents a model for a way forward, and includes possibilities for change for the College.

There was also note of the comments and recommendations in the report concerning writing skills and whether it behooves Dalhousie and Senate to examine the University' admissions criteria in terms of this information and also the significant increase in use of the Writing Centre resources.

2015:58

Modernizing Academic and Space Scheduling

Ms. Barry, Acting University Registrar, and Mr. Summerby-Murray, Co-Chair, Modernizing Academic and Space Scheduling Committee (MASS), presented a brief overview and update on the current status of the three MASS components: academic schedule builder, exam scheduler, and space scheduling. Ms. Barry noted that the intention is to move away from paper-based processes imbedded in individual units and outlined the rationale and benefits of moving in this direction. Following the presentation, Ms. Barry and Mr. Summerby-Murray responded to brief questions on the tools and next steps.

2015:59

Budget Advisory Committee: Draft Operating Budget Plan for 2015-16, Report LII

Due to time constraints, discussion of the BAC Report was deferred to the next meeting of Senate. In the meantime, senators are encouraged to direct questions and/or feedback to BAC.

2015:60

Question Period

There were no questions.

2015:61

Other Business

There was no other business.

2015:62

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.