



SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Special Meeting held on
Monday, December 7, 2020 at 3:00pm
Via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met for a special meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020 via Microsoft Teams

Present: K. Hewitt (Chair), R. Agu, A. Aiken, V. Allen, D. Anderson, F. Annan, M. Aston, P. Bennett, N. Bird, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, K. Brooks, T. Cyrus, B. Davis, R. Devlin, C. Diallo, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, H. El Naggar, K. El Sankary, N. Ezzedine, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, M. Fournier, L. Goldberg, D. Gray, D. Grujic, A. Habib, B. Hansson, K. Hewitt, G. Horne, V. Howard, M. Irwin, S. Jeffrey, Z. Jones, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, J. S. Kim, S. Kirk, M. Leonard, L. MacDonald, B. Merritt, A. Mohan, C. Moore, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, M. Pacurar, L. Perez, J. Phinney, L. Propper, T. Rajack-Talley, B. Rathgeber, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, H. S. Ro, K. Rosen, D. Saini, B. Schick, E. Seelemann, S. Seth, D. Silvio, S. Sparks, L. Spiteri, M. Stinson, S. Stone, F. Taheri, V. Turpin, P. Tyedmers, D. Tyers, M. A. Ulku, G. Warner, E. Welsh, D. Westwood, D. White, S. Wildeman, I. Yakovenko, S. Yurgel

Regrets: R. Barker, J. Hall, L. Meynell, M. Sharaput, S. Stackhouse, I. Waldron

Absent: G. Adolphe-Nazaire, A. Cooper, T. Duck, Y. El Hiani, W. Lahey, B. Nassar, R. Orji, A. Siegel, A. Sophocleous, E. Wunker, S. Zahoor

Guests: Bob Mann, Susan Brousseau, Judith Ng'ethe, Nakita Strowbridge, Joseph Behl (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.

1. Approval of Agenda

Senator Hewitt advised that this special meeting was being held to address three outstanding agenda items from the last regular meeting of Senate held on November 23, 2021.

The agenda was **approved** as circulated.

FOR APPROVAL
IN CAMERA:

2. Senate Honorary Degrees Committee (SHDC): Honorary Degree Nominations

The Senate moved to an *in camera* session to discuss item 2.

Honorary degree nominations were considered and concluded.

Senate returned to open session for the remaining items.

FOR DISCUSSION

3. Senate Planning & Governance Committee (SPGC)

3.1 BAC Final Operating Budget Recommendations for 2020-21

Senator Harvey, accompanied by Mary-Ann Rowston (Director, Budgets and Financial Analysis), presented on this item, noting that the original plan, released in February, 2020 went through standard consultations with feedback from various stakeholders, including Senate. However, this process was halted in mid-March, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This necessitated a review of the potential impact of the pandemic on students, faculty and staff. In particular, the review had to consider negative enrollment scenarios for the 2020 summer and fall terms.

Senator Harvey referred to Appendix B of the updated BAC report which provided a summary of the February plan, adjustments made in June, and the final budget plan made based on clearer enrollment data. Senator Harvey further noted that several of the recommendations made by Senate were incorporated in the appendices of the report and that much of what had been done in producing the updated report had addressed those recommendations.

A senator noted that in the December 2020 report from the Nova Scotia Auditor General, Dalhousie had been marked for an allocation of \$100 million in COVID-19 relief funding on behalf of the Province and inquired how much Dalhousie received to administer the program and whether this was represented in the budget. Senator Saini advised that Dalhousie would not be receiving any fees for administering this program and that the only financial gain, indirectly, had been in the form of employment in the early stages, primarily for students.

A senator inquired about the decisions made regarding the "Campus Renewal" annual budget line, relating to capital projects, noting that in the February plan this stood at approximately \$28 million, only about \$13.9 million in the June fiscal update and again about \$28 million in the final October BAC plan. M. Rowston advised that a slate of facilities renewal projects was reviewed at the time of the June fiscal update and confirmed that they could follow up with details regarding this.

4. Senate consultation on candidate profile for the position of Provost and Vice-President Academic

Senator Hewitt being a member of the search committee for the position of Provost and Vice-President Academic, relinquished the chair to Senator Spiteri for this agenda item.

Senator Spiteri introduced this item, advising that facilitated small group breakout room discussions would take place to obtain feedback on the candidate profile for the position of Provost and Vice-President Academic. Following the discussion, a facilitator from each group would summarize their group's feedback to the meeting as a whole. This feedback would then be forwarded to the search committee following the meeting.

Senator Saini briefly outlined the role of Provost & Vice-President Academic(VPA), noting that Dalhousie uses a strong provostial model, where all Deans report to the Provost & VPA.

Senators split into several breakout groups to discuss the following questions:

- From your perspective, what are the main opportunities and challenges the new Provost & VPA will face coming into the role?

- How would you describe the ideal Provost & VPA in terms of their experience, skills, interpersonal qualities, values, etc.?
- If you were on the search committee, what one interview question would you ask of all the candidates?
- Any other comments or suggestions for the search committee?

Upon returning from the breakout groups, Senators voted to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.

Facilitators summarized the main points arising from their groups' discussions. Facilitators were also asked to keep a record of the comments to pass these on to the search committee.

Key points arising from the discussion were challenges and opportunities, key characteristics of the ideal candidate, questions to ask candidates and other suggestions for the search committee.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.