



SENATE

Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. Via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, June 13, 2022 via Microsoft Teams

Present: L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, A. Aiken, D. Anderson, M. Aston, J. Blustein, C. Cameron, R. Chang, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, P. Doucet-Bernard, P. Doyle-Bedwell, Y. El Hiani, H. El Nagggar, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimond, D. Grantham, D. Gray, H. Hall, J. Hall, F. Harvey, G. Horne M. Irwin, S. Jeffrey, S. Keyamo, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, S. Kirk, W. Lahey, C. Lake, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, S. McKibbon, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, F. Naghibi, M. Nashnouch, J. Newhook, H. Niu, M. Pacurar, L. Perez, L. Propper, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, K. Rosen, D. Saini, L. Sarson, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, V. Simodoh, M. Stinson, F. Verth, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe

Regrets: M. Ali Ulku, D. Bourne-Tyson, B. Davis, O. Dryden, G. Gagnon, J. Gantar, D. Grujic, C. Macdonald, C. Macy, H-S. Ro, V. Turpin, D. Tyers, S. Yurgel, D. White

Absent: T. Adams, R. Agu, G. Alexander, D. Bilodeau, K. Brooks, A. Doucette, K. El-Sankary, N. Ezzeddine, C. Flood, B. Foster, M. Fournier, D. Iduye, D. Jakeman, M. Keinast, H. Maambo, M. MacEachern, B. Nassar, R. Orji, N. Patil, D. Silvio, S. Stone, F. Taheri, I. Yakovenko, T. Walker, E. Wunker

Guests: Susan Brousseau (University Secretary), Amarea Greenlaw (Dalhousie Analytics), John Hope (Legal Counsel), Claire Mercer (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Isaac Saney (Director, Transition Year Program, Faculty of Opening Learning & Career Development), 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.

Senator Spiteri welcomed Senator Ezekiel, the new Vice-Provost Student Affairs, to Senate.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **adopted** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1. Approval of Draft Minutes of May 9, 2022 Senate Meeting

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from May 9, 2022 Senate Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Senator Spiteri invited Marty Leonard, in her capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), to present the Faculty's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) initiatives. Senator Leonard identified four actions taken by the Faculty, the first of which related to admissions. Steps had been taken, collaboratively with the Registrar's Office, to make the graduate admissions process more equitable and accessible. The second action was the recent creation of a part time PhD program within FGS. Thirdly, part-time PhD students were now eligible for scholarships, which had not been the case previously. In addition, the number of scholarships specifically catering to postgraduate Indigenous students and African Nova Scotian students had increased from one to three. The FGS website had also been revamped to clearly outline the scholarship application process. The fourth action related to Indigenous student support.

In response to a question from a Senator, Senator Leonard noted that FGS processes had been restructured to have representatives from all Faculties on the FGS Faculty Council. Many of these representatives also sat on the Graduate Councils of their respective Faculties, therefore improving information flow between the FGS Faculty Council and the Faculties. These representatives would be able to provide guidance on the FGS initiatives. In addition, the new FGS EDI Committee would ensure that EDI remained a focus within the Faculty.

5. Reports

5.1. Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Spiteri's written report referred to materials provided with the Senate meeting package, including three concept papers approved under the new Academic Unit Consolidation, Renaming, Establishment, Termination and Transfer (AU-CRETT) Policy, and a concept paper for a Diploma in Agriculture.

Senator Spiteri noted the end of her term as Interim Senate Chair, thanking Senators for placing their trust in her over the past year and looking forward to her upcoming three-year term as Senate Chair.

Senator Spiteri noted Senator Bourne-Tyson's upcoming retirement and acknowledged her commitment to Senate.

Senator Spiteri also noted the imminent retirement of Susan Brousseau from her position as University Secretary and thanked her for her long service to Senate and the Secretariat.

5.2. President's Report

Senator Saini's written report comprised of an update on implementation of the five strategic pillars, including an invitation for Senators to attend the release of the Annual Progress Report on the Dalhousie strategic plan, *Third Century Promise*, on June 23, 2022. This would be followed by the Annual Strawberry Jam, providing an opportunity for colleagues to reconnect in person some for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senator Saini extended a welcome to Senator Ezekiel. Senator Saini also reported that Dalhousie, through the work of the Registrar's Office, had been the recipient of the Next Best Practice & Innovation Award for the development of the Credit/No Credit Grade Option to support students whose grades were impacted by serious extenuating circumstances. He congratulated all involved.

5.3. Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

FOR DISCUSSION

6. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) Update on Development of Proposed New Program – Bachelor of Arts (Major and Honours) in Black and African Diaspora Studies

Senator Spiteri invited I. Saney and Senator Blustein to give an update on the development of the proposed new Bachelor of Arts (Major and Honours) in Black and African Diaspora Studies.

I. Saney reminded the meeting that a concept paper had been approved and explained while there had been some challenges and delays, the full program proposal was in development. I. Saney noted that initiatives were underway to hire faculty to teach. I. Saney explained that at this point in the development process, meetings with the Deans and faculty members of different Faculties needed to be held, as the intention was for the program to be interdisciplinary, setting it apart from other Black studies programs from across Canada. I. Saney hoped that these meetings could happen over the summer and the early fall.

Senator Blustein noted that these were two phases in the timeline, the first of which is to hire faculty, and the second phase is to develop a program proposal to present to Senate in 2023.

Responding to a comment, I. Saney detailed some of the national and international perspectives and collaboration potential with the proposed program.

7. Question Period

7.1. Question Regarding Faculty Retention

A question had been received regarding Faculty retention. Senator Spiteri explained that the question had been forward to the person who could provide the best response. It was expected that a response would come to Senate in time for the 2022 fall term.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.