



SENATE

**Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, September 12, 2016
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
University Hall, Macdonald Building,
Studley Campus, Halifax**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 12, 2016, in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following: A. Abawajy, A. Aiken, D. Anderson, M. Aston, P. Bodorik, C. Cameron, R. Chang, S. Charlebois, J. Chen, A. Cochrane, M. Crago, R. Croll, M. Denike, C. Dielman, L. Diepeveen, J. Erdman, G.A. Finley, J. Gahagan, N.Gear, R. Goodday, K. Harman, F. Harvey, J. Hoyle, J. Hughes, E. Johnson, K. Kesselring, Y. Kotlyarova, D. Langille, E. Leach, J. Leon, Y. Ma, C. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, R. Mopoho, B. Noble, M. Pacurar, D. Patterson, A. Rau-Chaplin, K. Reid, C. Richardson, N. Savage, A. Stadnyk, J. Stamp, P. Tyedmers, G. Wach, C. Watters, D. White, J. White

Regrets: N. Ali, F. Baylis, T. Boran, D. Bourne-Tyson, C. Brown, C. Cutler, S. Faridi, R. Florizone, D. Gray, J. Hutton, W. Lahey, S. Kirk, T. MacRae, C. Macy, L., Meynell, C. Moore, K. Mukinda, R. Parker, L. Spiteri, T. Tennessen

Absent: D. Doman, J. Grant, A. Hou, M. Khan, M. Leonard, D. Letendre, A. Quraishi,

Guests: Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Bob Mann (University Secretariat), Caitlin Plummer (Student Minute Taker)

2016:87

Approval of Agenda

The September 12, 2016 Draft Senate agenda was **adopted** as circulated.

2016:88

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of June 13, 2016 Senate Meeting

THAT Senate approve the draft minutes of the June 13, 2016 Senate meeting as circulated.

APPROVED by CONSENT.

Senate Nominating Committee: Slate of Senate Standing Committee Nominations

THAT Senate approve the slate of Senate Standing Committee nominations as presented.

APPROVED by CONSENT.

2016:89

Matters Arising from the June 13, 2016 Senate Minutes

Senator Noble noted the reference on page 4 of the minutes to the development of an Aboriginal plan and queried whether an update on this initiative was available. Senator Hewitt responded that an update on the TRC recommendations is scheduled for the December 12, 2016 Senate meeting and confirmed that this will include an update on the Aboriginal plan.

2016:90

Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Hewitt began his address by noting that September 12, 2016 is Eid al-Adha, the Muslim holiday known as the Feast of Sacrifice. He congratulated Professor Francoise Baylis on her appointment to the Order of Canada. He also spoke to the recent funding secured by the Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI), a total investment of \$220 million, an unprecedented amount in Canada's ocean science sector. Senator Hewitt also invited senators to forward suggestions for any announcements they wish to be included in the Chair's report.

Senator Hewitt advised senators that it is the intention this year to have Senate meeting agenda items reference the relevant priority under the University's Strategic Direction and that a regular schedule of reporting on the strategic priorities is planned. He also spoke to the ongoing engagement between Senate and other groups on campus, including the Board of Governors, Dean's Council, the DFA and the Provost Committee. Senator Hewitt noted the items attached for information, highlighting the call for honorary degree nominations and noting that this call will be applicable to recipients during the 200th anniversary year. He also highlighted the call for returning senators to serve as mentors for new senators and encouraged interested individuals to put their names forward for this initiative.

Senator Hewitt advised Senate that there will be regular updates on an ongoing basis from the Senate standing committees. There were no updates from SAPRC or SLTC at this time; however, Senator Hewitt provided a brief update from SPGC with respect to the report submitted by the ad hoc Committee on Senate Composition. He also noted that SPGC will receive regular updates on capital projects from University Administration and will have the opportunity to provide input. He further noted that he plans to provide an update report to Senate following each Board of Governors meeting.

Questions focused on the nature of recent joint Board-Senate meetings and whether there is an opportunity to have additional representation from Senate at these meetings. Senator Hewitt responded that currently the Officers of both Board and Senate have participated and that this smaller number has been helpful in organizing more regular meetings that focus on strategic priorities and other high-level issues. Senator Crago was recognized for her role and work in securing the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) contribution for the OFI. A concern was raised with respect to the 3:00 p.m. meeting time for Senate and the fact that this may be an ongoing issue for some senators, particularly those in Medicine with clinical responsibilities.

2016:91

Provost's Report

Senator Watters reported on a number of issues, including student enrolment numbers as of September 11, 2016. Enrolment currently sits at 18,864 students and while this is an increase of 46 students (.2%), overall enrolment is essentially "flat". She noted several new student recruitment and retention initiatives for 2016-17 (including the First Year Interest Groups (FIGs) in FASS and Science); these efforts will be tracked to see whether there is a positive impact on the student experience and retention. Senator Watters provided a brief update on current and upcoming searches, including those for the Dean of Dentistry, the James Robinson Johnston Chair, and the Assistant Vice-Provost and Registrar.

Senator Watters spoke briefly to the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (REAP), noting the alignment with the University mission and particularly the mission of service through strategic priority

3.1. (Contribute to cultural and economic vitality, locally and globally, by fostering creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship). She spoke to the process to date and the two levels of engagement that will result: 1) the core team of nine provincial and federal leaders participating in the MIT training, and 2) the five working groups of stakeholders that will be constituted with particular attention to regional and equity diversity. These groups will follow up each of the workshop sessions to plan and execute engagement at the local grassroots level. She noted that the 3.1 leads are scheduled to make a presentation to Senate this fall.

Questions and discussion focused on the MIT REAP program, including questions of funding priorities, diversity, community service, and Dalhousie's academic mission. Much of the discussion was linked back to Strategic Priority 3.1. Senator Hewitt noted that questions on the topic have been forwarded to Senator Florizone. Additional questions regarding the funding and fundraising for the MIT program were deferred for response by Senator Florizone. It was requested that a dedicated agenda item on MIT REAP be included on the agenda for the Sept 26th meeting, given understanding of several outstanding questions and the significant level of community concern being raised about this initiative. The chair responded that Senator Florizone would address questions at the Sept 26 Senate meeting, during his report or during question period as related questions had been submitted to the Senate Secretariat prior to the Sept. 12 meeting.

2016:92

Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Senator Hewitt informed Senate that this item will be a regularly appearing agenda item this year. The goal is to help achieve Strategic Priority 5.2, to "foster a collegial culture grounded in diversity and inclusiveness" by having a speaker present on this at every Senate meeting.

Senator Hewitt presented on this item; however, not in his role as Chair of Senate. He spoke to the importance of improving diversity and inclusiveness with respect to Dalhousie staff and faculty. He highlighted the significant gaps for racially visible minorities and Aboriginal persons (as per our Federal Contractors Program report) and emphasized the need for a targeted approach to increasing diversity in hiring, as supported by Human Rights Law, leading to more diverse curricular offerings. He noted the importance of this in terms of increasing diversity of both faculty and students and in growing enrolment because of the demographic changes occurring in Canada (visible minorities and aboriginals are among the youngest and largest growing segment of the Canadian population, and are projected to be the majority in a couple decades in major urban centres like Toronto targeted by Dalhousie). In summary, the moral (Employment Equity) and economic (necessity for growth of enrollment) imperatives would be well served by this approach.

2016:93

Senate Review of the Faculty of Computer Science

Andrew Rau Chaplin, Dean, Faculty of Computer Science and Frank Palermo, Chair, Senate Review Committee presented on the Senate Review of the Faculty of Computer Science, which is related to Strategic Priority 1.4, to "embark on strategic program reviews to enhance the effectiveness and student focus of our program offerings". Mr. Palermo reported that the overall message is that the Faculty of Computer Science is doing very well and has made progress in a number of areas, including enrolment, finances, research areas of focus, diversification of programs and Faculty culture. At the same time, the reviewers identified that this is a pivotal time for the Faculty to move forward to focus its efforts to an even greater extent. Senator Rau-Chaplin outlined the progress that the Faculty has begun to make in these areas.

Questions focused on recommendation 7.1.1 and the absence of contractual work. It was noted that the response was silent regarding attempts to connect with the Faculty of Health Professions. A. Rau Chaplin responded that the Faculty of Computer Science recognizes that there is still an opportunity for further outreach; however, the Faculty wanted to ensure that the connections already made are functioning well before reaching out to any other Faculties.

2016:94

Student Retention Report

Fiona Black, Associate Vice President, Academic, and Heather Doyle, Senior Student Success Advisor, Student Affairs reported on student retention, which is addressed in Strategic Priority 1.1, to “increase retention and degree completion”. F. Black outlined the goals of this priority, the achievements to date, and next steps. They highlighted some of the key progress made in such areas as holistic advising, early alert programs, and engagement.

Questions and discussion focused on the literature on attendance and student retention, the interpretation of this, and taking attendance in different types of classes. There was also a question with respect to the statistics that put Dalhousie behind other universities on degree completion. F. Black noted that further data analysis is intended this year and will hopefully provide a clearer picture around this.

2016:95

Ombudsperson Report

Arig al Shaibah, Vice-Provost, Student Affairs, and Kathleen Reid, President, DSU, provided an update on the status of the search for an ombudsperson. They outlined the work that has been done since the search process commenced in May and reported on next steps. The expectation is to potentially have 3-4 applicants to interview in late September.

Ms. al Shaibah noted that conversations had taken place with several parties, including Senators, regarding concerns over the best accountability structures for such a position, and about widening the scope of the Ombuds role to include Faculty and Staff. She indicated that these discussions would continue, but that for the current post addressed to students, the line of reporting would be to the Provost, via an Ombuds Advisory Council.

2016:96

Status Report: Human Rights, Equity & Harassment Prevention Office

Arig al Shaibah, Vice-Provost, Student Affairs, provided a status report on the Human Rights, Equity & Harassment Prevention Office, reporting that the name of the organization will be Human Rights & Equity Services. She outlined the current and aspirational organization of the services and spoke briefly to the next steps for this academic year.

Questions following the presentation focused on the organization of services, including budget resources and hiring for new positions.

2016:97

Question Period

There were no questions.

2016:98

Other Business

There was no other business.

2016:99

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.