

SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, March 25 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 2024

Present

L. Spiteri (Chair), R. Affoo, T. Akay, O. Akinkugbe, J. Andrews, O. Bankole, S. Berge, D. Black, E. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Brown, D. Burnay, R. Chang, V. Chappe, B. Davis, K. Dilcher, P. Doyle-Bedwell, L. DuBois, H. El Naggat, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimond, M. Fournier, M. Goudreault, S. Harding, F. Harvey, G. Ilie, D. Jakeman, M. Keinast, A. Kermanshahi-pour, S. Kirk, M. Knakriah, Y. Kotlyarova, C. Lake, M. Leonard, J. Li, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, P. Marignani, S. McKibbin, C. McLarney, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, H. Niu, E. Oguntonna, M. Pacurar, L. Phillimore, A. Rau-Chaplin, K. Rosen, A. Rudnick, R. Sampangi, L. Sarson, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, D. Silvio, M. Smit, S. Stone, G. Wang-Pruski, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe

Regrets

A. Aiken, D. Anderson, S. Chitnis, O. Dryden, D. Grantham, V. Maselli, Y. Pan, T. Perrot, T. Richard, M. Vandenburg

Absent

A. Bernard, A. Doucette, C. D'Souza, Y. El Hiani, N. Ezzeddine, S. Forbes, G. Gagnon, R. Goyal, G. Horne, N. Kiepek, W. Lahey, R. Orji, N. Patil, T. Rajack-Talley, V. Simedoh, M. Ulku, P. Wani, R. Zaiotti

Guests

Darrel Doman (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, Faculty of Engineering), John Hope (General Counsel & University Secretary), Sapna Natarajan (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), 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.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of February 12, 2024 Senate Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the February 12, 2024 Senate meeting be approved as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from February 12, 2024 Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports

4.1 Chair of Senate's Report

The Chair of Senate's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and included an update on the Governance Review recommendations relating to Senate and the review of the Student Accommodation Policy.

Senator Spiteri informed Senators that Faculties had been asked to submit names of Academic Unit Senators for three-year terms starting on July 1, 2024. Senator Spiteri requested Senators to encourage their colleagues to put their names forward to serve on Senate.

In closing Senator Spiteri noted that various items had been included for information with the Senate package, including the Faculty Discipline Procedure reports for October to December 2023 and the 1-Year Post Review Report of the Senate Review of the Faculty of Medicine.

4.2 Provost's Report

The Provost's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package. It included updates on Dalhousie Employee Appreciation Week, as well as enrolment numbers and preliminary admissions statistics.

Senator Harvey noted that new undergraduate domestic applications had increased by 7% relative to the previous cycle, while graduate enrolment confirmations had an increase of 7%. However, international undergraduate confirmations had decreased by 26% but were showing improvement week over week.

Senator Harvey encouraged Senators to explore the "Shout-out page" to discover the remarkable work undertaken by their Dalhousie colleagues.

Senator Harvey thanked Senators for attending the Think Tank for the Budget Advisory Committee held on January 22, 2024. Senator Harvey noted that some of the ways in which Senate's feedback had been incorporated into the 2024-25 Budget Report were outlined in the written report.

4.3 DSU President Report to Senate

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) President's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and highlighted various initiatives conducted by the DSU throughout the academic year.

Senator Knakriah noted that the primary goal of the DSU over the year had been to enhance the DSU structure and services to align with the evolving needs of the diverse student body. Senate was provided with an overview of the various internal and external affairs conducted over the year, including:

- DSU governance and policy review;
- Enhanced student support services such as a new sexual health centre, the Sex Education Resource Centre (SERC) and six new bursaries;
- Revitalization of student societies and Orientation Week; and
- Advocacy at federal and provincial levels.

4.4 Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

FOR APPROVAL

5. Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) Proposed Removal of Double F Rule Regulations, Faculty of Engineering

Senator Pacurar presented as Chair of the SLTC.

The meeting was informed that the Faculty of Engineering was proposing amendments to academic regulations 20.1.1 and 20.2.5 of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar (known as the “double F rule”) and a section of the academic regulations of the Faculty of Engineering relating to course grades, to do away with academic dismissal for any student that fails a course twice.

The meeting was informed that the rationale for the proposed revision of the regulations to do away with the double F rule was that the introduction of the grade replacement regulation (academic regulation 17.1.1 of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar) some years previously had the unintended consequence of altering the effect of the double F rule. Academic regulation 17.1.1 ensured that only the highest grade was counted towards a student’s Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). Since the introduction of academic regulation 17.1.1, it had been noted that it was possible for a student to have a CGPA of above 2.00 (good standing) and still be dismissed under the double F rule, especially in Years 1 and 2. 65% of students in the past two academic years dismissed under the double F rule had had a CGPA above the dismissal cutoff of 1.70.

The meeting was informed that the proposed academic regulation amendments were considered by the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) of the Faculty of Engineering on November 29, 2023, and the Faculty Council on December 14, 2023, and approved. It was also considered at the February 7, 2024 meeting of SLTC and recommended to Senate for approval.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:

THAT Senate approve the following amendments to academic regulations 20.1.1 and 20.2.5 of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar and a section of the academic regulations of the Faculty of Engineering relating to course grade as follows:

- 1. Deletion of the section of academic regulation 20.1.1 of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar relating to Faculty of Engineering (Lower Division, Years 1 and 2) which states that “BEng and DipEng students who fail the same course more than once will be dismissed.”;**
- 2. Deletion of the section of academic regulation 20.2.5 of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar relating to Faculty of Engineering (Upper Division, Years 3 and 4) which states that “Students who fail the same course more than once will be dismissed.”; and**
- 3. Deletion of the paragraph in the academic regulations of the Faculty of Engineering relating to Course Grades which states that “A student is permitted to repeat a failed mandatory course only once. In the case of a failed elective course, a student may choose either to repeat the**

course or to substitute another elective course in lieu of the failed course. In the case of a substituted course only one such substitution is allowed. A student will be academically dismissed if the grade achieved in the repeated mandatory course or the repeated elective course or the substituted course is less than D.”.

The motion **CARRIED**.

IN CAMERA

6. Senate Honorary Degrees Committee (SHDC) Honorary Degree Nominations

The Senate moved to in camera to discuss honorary degree nominations and returned to open session thereafter.

FOR DISCUSSION

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.