

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES OF
SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, November 26, 2012, at 4:00pm, in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Ali, Amirault, Barrett, Beale, Bisset, Boran, Boudreau, Bourne-Tyson, Canning, Castleden, Chen, Cochrane, Cooper, Crago, Cunningham, DasGupta, Denike, Dionne, Garduno, Gibson, Harman, Hewitt, Hoyle, E. Hughes, Johnston, Keselj, Langille, Leon, MacLennan, Magill, Mansour, Matte, McLarney, Miller, Mitchell, Moore, Noble, Packer, Pinder, Rogers, Ross, Schellinck, Shepherd, Shukla, Stadnyk, Summerby-Murray, Tennessen, Tillotson, Traves, Wach, Watters, Webster, Westwood, Yiridoe.

Regrets: Arron, Cook, Gorsky, Macy, Manning, Marrie, Pegg, Rahemtulla, Rapaport.

Absent: Baur, Becke, Brooks, Doman, Gardner, Grant, J. Hughes, Khan, Leach, Persaud, Smirnov.

2012:083

Adoption of the Agenda

The November 26, 2012 agenda was **adopted**.

2012:084

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of September 17, 2012

THAT Senate **approve** the Draft Senate Minutes of September 17, 2012.

Approved by Consent.

Approval of Draft Minutes of October 22, 2012

THAT Senate **approve** the Draft Senate Minutes of October 22, 2012.

Approved by Consent.

Approval of Academic Dates for 2013-2014

THAT Senate **approve** the 2013-2014 academic dates as presented.

Approved by Consent.

Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee Nomination

THAT Senate **approve** the appointment of Diogo Burnay, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, for the term of November 2012 – June 30, 2015 to the Senate Academic

Programs and Research Committee.

Approved by Consent.

Nominations to Review Committee: Vice-President, Research

THAT Senate **approve** the appointment of Tom Marrie, Dean, Faculty of Medicine; Sara Iverson, Faculty of Science; and Frank Harvey, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, to the Review Committee for the Vice-President Research effective immediately.

Approved by Consent.

2012:085

Matters Arising from the Minutes of October 22, 2012

The President had noted in his report that enrolment information would be presented at a future meeting; this report is to be presented by the Registrar later in the meeting.

2012:086

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Fraser extended sympathy to the family, friends, and former colleagues of Dr. Donald Betts. He drew members' attention to several items for information. On behalf of Senate, he congratulated Dr. Tom Boran on his reappointment to a second term as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, effective July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018. He thanked the members of the Presidential Search Committee for their hard work, and Senate looks forward to working with Dr. Florizone as our new President. Mr. Fraser reported on the joint meeting with SPGC, SAPRC, and SLTC, noting the plan to have follow-up presentations and discussions for Senate in the New Year.

Mr. Fraser called upon Carolan McLarney, Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) to report on the new Minor programs approved by the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee. Ms. McLarney noted that a number of minors have been considered by SAPRC since the last Senate meeting. SAPRC, on behalf of Senate, has the responsibility of approving "Tier 2" program proposals—including both modifications to existing programs and the establishment of Minors within existing programs.

Mr. Fraser also briefly reviewed the history and background to the Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) process and current activities to implement the online administration of the SRIs. He noted the recent discussions this implementation process had generated and his plan to ask the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) to carry out a review of the implementation process and to recommend any changes. He anticipated that SLTC will establish a working group to conduct the review with recommendations coming forward in time for the winter 2013 term.

Finally, Mr. Fraser noted items underway or in progress, including SRI implementation, Senate Forum follow-up, Working Group on the Alignment of the Faculty of Agriculture Admission and Academic Regulations, review of the Student Accommodation Policy, review of the Code of Student Conduct, a Working Group on appropriate use of Social Media, and Terms of Reference for Senate Reviews and Reviews of Programs.

2012:087

President's Report

Mr. Traves provided a verbal report on several matters, including work in progress with respect to transition planning for Richard Florizone, who will become President on July 1, 2013. The orientation process will commence shortly; Mr. Traves has asked that Deans and Heads of units to prepare brief summaries on their Faculties' challenges and progress as background information.

Mr. Traves noted that the Budget Advisory Committee has been active, with Carolyn Watters as Chair. A preliminary document is expected by the end of the fall term, and based on the findings, the next steps in balancing the budget will be determined.

Mr. Traves reported that the Board of Governors will be considering a proposal regarding the University's heating and power costs. The University is considering the construction of a series of new turbines to produce electricity on campus. Mr. Traves indicated that Senators could contact Jeff Lamb, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management, for additional information on the project.

2012:088

Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:

New Program Proposal: Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction

Carolan McLarney, Chair, Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, on behalf of the committee presented a proposal for a new program, Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction. She noted that the program is unique in Canada. Ms. McLarney called upon Kelly Toughill, Director, School of Journalism, University of King's College and Stephen Kimber, School of Journalism, King's College, to provide additional information on the proposal. It was noted that the program would be a course-based program, with use of distance technology to work with a mentor on a writing project. With residencies in Halifax, Toronto, and New York City, students will graduate with a book proposal and over 200 pages of a manuscript.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, Ms. McLarney **MOVED:**

THAT Senate **approve** the new program proposal for a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction (Non-Thesis) with a program start date of July 2013.

The motion **CARRIED**.

New Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Ocean Sciences

Ms. McLarney called upon Marlon Lewis, Chair, Department of Oceanography, to provide additional information on the proposed new program, Bachelor of Science in Ocean Sciences. Mr. Lewis noted that there is a high student demand for this program, and the Oceanography faculty has the flexibility to expand teaching workloads. This program would not replace the existing combined honors program; however, there will be Ocean Sciences courses in the program.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, Ms. McLarney **MOVED**:

THAT Senate **approve** the new program proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Sciences (Major) and Bachelor of Science in Ocean Sciences (Concentrated Honours). The BSc Ocean Sciences program cannot be implemented until the lab has been funded.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2012:089

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Policy on Student Submission of Assignments

Alan Pinder, Chair, Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, provided additional information on the revised Policy on Student Submission of Assignments. Mr. Pinder stated that the policy name has changed from Policy on Student Submission of Papers to Policy on Student Submission of Assignments. He noted that in comparison to other Canadian Universities, we belong to a small minority that does not have any restrictions on the use of anti-plagiarism software. He reported that intellectual property is highly valued in academia, yet we require students to provide their intellectual property to a company that profits from it. While he noted that provincial legislation seeks to protect privacy, not all identifiers can be stripped from a file prior to being sent to the United States, where the software servers are located.

Mr. Pinder noted that the policy states that instructors using originality checking software must provide students opting out with two possible alternatives means of attesting to the authenticity of their work. These two alternatives would be selected from three prescribed alternatives and an option created by the instructor. These alternatives are not unduly onerous but nevertheless ensure that there is an additional workload created for students who choose to opt out of the use of originality checking software.

During discussion it was noted that two complaints at McGill on the use of anti-plagiarism software were successful. The complainants persuaded Senate to allow appeals of lowered academic grades, and other Senates have adopted procedures based on these findings. Concern was expressed that the alternatives were not equivalents to the software and teaching assistants are not necessarily adept at determining stylistic writing changes.

On behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Mr. Pinder **MOVED**:

THAT Senate **approve** the revised Policy and Procedures on Submission of Student Papers and Use of Originality Checking Software.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Mr. Fraser left the meeting and Ms. McLarney, Vice-Chair of Senate, assumed the Chair.

2012:090

In Camera: Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Proposed Temporary One-Year Suspension of Sections 3.2 (a) & (b) of the Senate Constitution

The Senate session moved In Camera to consider a proposal from the Senate Planning and Governance Committee for a one-year suspension of Sections 3.2 (a) and 3.2 (b) of the Senate Constitution (pertaining to the term of the Senate Chair).

At the conclusion of the In Camera session, Senate resumed open session and Ms. McLarney announced that Senate had adopted the following motion:

THAT Senate, on the recommendation of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, and by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting:
(1) Temporarily suspend for a period of one year from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, Section 3.2 (a) and (b) of the Dalhousie University Senate Constitution; and
(2) Extend the term of the current Chair of Senate, Lloyd Fraser, for a further period of one year ending June 30, 2014.

2012:091

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm with the balance of the agenda items deferred to a later meeting.