



## SENATE

**APPROVED Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Monday, April 11, 2016  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building,  
Carleton Campus, Halifax**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, April 11, 2016 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

**Present** with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following: Ali, Barrett, Baur, Bodorik, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Brown, Burnay, Burton, Byers, Cochrane, Croll, Cutler, Erdman, Finley, Gahagan, Gantar, Grant, Gray, Habib, Harman, Hill, Holmes, Hutton, Kesselring, Khan, Kirk, Langille, Leach, Leon, Leonard, Lu, Ma, B. MacDonald, C. MacDonald, MacRae, Mazzanti, Meynell, Mukhida, Nicholson, Noble, Pacurar, Parker, Rau-Chaplin, Roy, Smit, Stadnyk, Stone, Zaiotti.

**Regrets:** Anderson, Banks, Baylis, Chen, Crago, Dobson, Florizone, Goldberg, Hunt, Kozey, M. Macdonald, Mansour, Smith, Stanish, Tennessen, Wach, Watters.

**Absent:** Bhatia, Cameron, Cooper, DasGupta, Doman, Goodday, Kyriakidis, Mopoho, Quraishi, Webster, Wright.

**Guests:** Susan Brousseau, Karen Crombie, Mark Filiaggi, Caitlin Plummer, Andrea Power.

**2016:49.**

### **Approval of Agenda**

The April 11, 2016 draft Senate agenda was approved with one edit. The March 28, 2016 Senate meeting minutes were unavailable and removed from the consent agenda.

**2016:50**

### **Matters Arising from the March 28, 2016 Senate Minutes**

There was a question with respect to a restriction in the DFA Collective Agreement that 90% of employees must be DFA members. This question was directed at Senator Florizone, who was not in attendance. The matter was deferred to the next meeting of Senate.

There was a follow up question directed to Senator Watters regarding Summer classes in FASS. The question was re-directed to Senator Gantar, Acting Dean, FASS. Senator Hewitt relayed the questions to Senate: (a) What is the benefit to the university of cutting FASS summer classes? (b) What is the benefit to FASS of cutting FASS summer classes? (c) Do these benefits to FASS and/or the the university justify the negative impact to students? Senator Gantar responded, stating that there is no immediate benefit to the University of cutting FASS summer classes, as long as these have at least 20 students in them. If a

summer class has fewer than 20 students, then FASS is losing money. The one potential benefit to FASS is that the enrolment in Fall and Winter classes may end up being higher as a result, which means that faculty members would not be expected to teach classes with fewer than 8 students as overload. In addition, trying to assess whether or not the potential benefit to the Faculty of reducing the number of summer classes justifies the negative impact on students is at this point speculation; FASS would have to try this approach at least once to see if it was successful.

**2016:51**

**Chair of Senate's Report**

Senator Hewitt put forward an question to all Senators, asking whether there were any objections to having the media take footage in Senate chambers (referred to as B-roll) prior to the meetings? The media had requested to film the setup of a recent Senate meeting, bringing awareness to the issue. Senator Hewitt stated that if any objections were raised, the matter would be discussed at SPGC and then at a future meeting of Senate. Senators asked clarification questions and commented on the issue. It was noted that the media protocol allows media footage to broadcast set up at Board of Governors meetings, particularly when there are fairly significant issues on the agenda. It was clarified that Senate meetings are public meetings and the media are welcome to attend. The specific concern raised is about whether to allow cameras inside Senate chambers prior to a meeting. The concern is that in not allowing this media footage, it will create the perception of a lack of transparency. Senator Hewitt stated that the comments will be considered and discussed at SPGC.

With respect to an official media spokesperson for Senate, Senators were encouraged to send all media inquiries to Senator Hewitt, Chair of Senate.

Senator Hewitt spoke briefly to the various diversity items, including the training brochure on unconscious bias in hiring and the project report and workshop summary from Tana Turner's recent workshop. He referred Senators to the attached report on ratification of Faculty Academic Integrity Officer Assessments and Recommended Penalties for the period of January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016. There was a discussion on the time change for Senate meetings for the 2016-17 term from 4:00-6:00 p.m. to 3:00-5:00 p.m. Concerns were raised that this would cause a significant hardship to some Senators, who would be consistently late or absent. Senators encouraged consultations on the matter to determine where Senators stand on the issue. It was suggested that Senate work with the Registrar's Office to ensure that there will not be a conflict in teaching times. Senator Harman noted that the Academic Scheduling Policy that was recently approved will do this; however, it will not be effective until the 2017-18 academic year. Senator Hewitt stated that a question will be added to the Senate survey on this issue to determine if, on balance, more Senators are able to participate in meetings with or without the time change. The survey will be released following the April 25, 2016 Senate meeting.

A concern was raised about the low attendance rate at Tana Turner's workshop. However, it was noted that there was a short period of time between the date the invitation was sent and the date of the event. Moreover, there will be more occasions like this in the future, providing the opportunity for others to participate.

## **2016:52**

### **Dalhousie Student Union President's Report**

Senator Hutton provided a brief update on behalf of Senator Nicholson. He outlined the two motions that were approved at the Dalhousie Student Union's AGM, one from FASS students on FASS budget cuts and one from the Law Students' Society (LSS) on convocation dates.

There was a request for an update from SAPRC on the unit reports, given the particular concerns with the funding cuts in FASS as a result of ERBA. Senator Burton, Chair of SAPRC responded, stating that a presentation on the reports received will occur at an upcoming Senate meeting. He noted that SAPRC is still waiting on approximately half of the Faculties to submit reports; however, SAPRC will provide an update on what they have received thus far. Further concerns were raised on the budgetary situation in FASS and the complexities and problems with the ERBA system. Senators encouraged the opportunity to increase the dialogue between Senate and the Board of Governors on these issues, given the level of concern. Senator Hewitt noted that the agendas for the upcoming Senate meetings are quite full; however, he will reflect on how to incorporate these issues into a Senate meeting.

## **2016:53**

### **Senate Planning and Governance Committee**

#### **Ad hoc committee of Senate on Senate Composition: Motion**

Senator Hewitt presented two motions from the ad hoc committee of Senate on Senate Composition. He noted that the first motion has a constitutional impact and therefore requires a 2/3 majority for approval. He outlined 3.1(b) in the present constitution that states "The number of elected members from the Academic Units shall be at least three times the number of ex-officio academic administrators who sit as Senators." This 3:1 ratio implies that the Academic Unit Senators comprise 75% of the total number of Academic Unit and Ex-Officio academic administrator Senators. Given the Senate approved increase in student Senate seats, it is therefore requested that the ratio of elected academic unit Senators be compared with the total number of all faculty, student and administrator Senators.

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED:**

**THAT** the Senate approve that the faculty membership on Senate constitutes a 2/3 majority of all Senators.

In discussion of the motion, it was noted that approval of the motion will not affect quorum, as quorum is fixed as a percentage (50%). There were concerns raised about amending the composition of Senate through the implementation of various small changes, as opposed to a broader approach that would amend Senate composition through one formulaic amendment. The ad hoc committee discussed various approaches, regarding at Senate as a whole, while also recognizing that it is an organic body that will grow and change. The ad hoc committee encouraged Senators to reach out with any concerns on composition.

The motion **CARRIED.**

Senator Hewitt presented the second motion to extend the mandate of the ad hoc committee. He noted that this motion will require a 50% majority for approval.

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED:**

**THAT** the Senate approve an extension of the term for the ad hoc committee of Senate on Senate Composition to May 18, 2016.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2016:54**

**Revised Scholarly Misconduct Policy**

Mark Filiaggi, Associate Vice President, Research, and Chair of the Scholarly Misconduct Review Committee, presented the revised policy to Senate. He outlined the substantive changes to the document, noting that many of the amendments were made to clarify points of confusion in the policy, particularly regarding the application section and the procedures.

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED:**

**THAT** Senate approve the revised Scholarly Misconduct Policy.

In discussion of the motion, there were questions about the new Ombudsperson, appeal procedures, transparency of the policy and the extension of time limits. General Counsel, Karen Crombie noted that the role of the new Ombudsperson is to assist the students, meaning there is no formal linkage to this policy, as the policy applies to research.

The appeal process under F.19 states that an ad hoc committee will be established comprised of three faculty members with “relevant expertise in the research or scholarly area under consideration” to hear the appeal. There was discussion as to the interpretation of this section, particularly regarding how broadly or narrowly “relevant expertise” in the “area under consideration” would be construed, and whether that might require individuals outside Dalhousie. This would not be interpreted in a sense that would require specificity of expertise, but broadly enough to capture some element of participation from faculty. Karen Crombie, General Counsel, spoke to the appeal process more generally, stating that there is no further appeal available in the policy beyond F.19. However, there are other resources available, such as the collective agreement for DFA members and judicial review.

There was discussion on the transparency of the policy. Concerns were raised that the policy was not explicit when it does or does not apply, particularly how it relates to other policies and methods of recourse. Karen Crombie, General Counsel, spoke briefly to this, stating that the policies cannot be too prescriptive, as the disciplinary process and outcome depends on the individual’s constituency within the university.

The extension of time limits under F.20 states that “any time limit set out in this Policy may be extended at the discretion of the Scholarly Integrity Officer where there is a bona fide reason to do so and where those affected by the allegation will not be unduly prejudiced.” There was a brief discussion on the interpretation of this provision. The provision is not intended to drag out the process unnecessarily, but to allow extensions where circumstances make the time limits impractical or unfair.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2016:55**

**Question Period**

A question was raised regarding the monitoring of motions approved by Senate to determine whether they have been acted upon. Senator Stone emphasized the importance of this to ensure that all carried motions are effected. It was further inquired as to whether updates could be posted to the Senate Intranet. This will be considered and discussed at the next Senate Officers Meeting.

A question was raised about whether the new ombudsperson role could be augmented to assist additional constituencies at the university. Senator Harman responded to this, outlining the terms of reference for SLTC, which includes a provision to appoint and assist an ombudsperson. However, such a position is distinct from the new ombudsperson role, which was created by the DSU. If the role was expanded, it would require Senate oversight. It was noted that the Backhouse and Belong reports recommend an ombudsperson for students, faculty, and staff. It was suggested that jurisdiction be determined or expanded.

**2016:56**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2016:57**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.