



SENATE

**Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, June 13, 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, June 13, 2016 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following: A. Abawajy, D. Anderson, S. Barrett, S. Baur, P. Bodorik, T. Boran, D. Bourne-Tyson, C. Brown, D. Burton, D. Byers, C. Cameron, A. Cochrane, M. Crago, R. Croll, C. Cutler, S. DasGupta, G.A. Finley, R. Florizone, J. Gantar, N. Gear, R. Goodday, D. Gray, A. Habib, I. Hill, S. Holmes, M. Khan, D. Langille, E. Leach, M. Leonard, D. Letendre, B. MacDonald, S. Mansour, L. Meynell, M. Pacurar, R. Parker, A. Rau-Chaplin, K. Reid, J. Roy, B. Smith, A. Stadnyk, T. Tessessen, C. Watters.

Regrets: N. Ali, F. Baylis, J. Chen, G. Cooper, J. Erdman, J. Gahagan, L. Goldberg, J. Grant, K. Harman, K. Kesselring, S. Khan, S. Kirk, C. Kozey, J. Leon, C. MacDonald, M. MacDonald, T. MacRae, B. Noble, M. Smit, W. Stanish, M. Stone, G. Wach, W. Webster, T. Wright, R. Zaiotti.

Absent: D. Doman, A. Hou, J. Hutton, Ji Lu, Y. Ma, G. Mazzanti, R. Mopohoo, K. Mukhida, A. Quraishi.

Guest: Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Brian Bow, Bob Mann, Brad Wuetherick

2016:73

Approval of Agenda

The June 13, 2016 Draft Senate agenda was **adopted** as circulated.

2016:74

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of May 9, 2016 Senate Meeting

THAT Senate approve the draft minutes of the May 9, 2016 Senate meeting.

APPROVED by CONSENT.

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Revised admission requirements for BSc (Agriculture)

THAT Senate approve the proposed revised admission requirements for the BSc (Agriculture)

for students commencing in September 2017.

APPROVED by CONSENT.

2016:75

Matters Arising from the May 9, 2016 Senate Minutes

Motion re Strategic Priority 2.2

Senator Burton, Chair, Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee provided a brief update noting that he is compiling a written report that speaks to this motion that will propose a number of activities to be done in the fall to help clarify some of the issues raised by the motion, including those about ERBA and the linkage between strategic priorities 1.4 and 2.2, such as academic innovation and increased enrolment and retention.

2016:76

Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Hewitt congratulated Francoise Baylis, Professor of Bioethics and Philosophy, Faculty of Medicine, on being the 2016 recipient of CAUT's Distinguished Academic Award, which recognizes academics who excel in each of the domains of academic life: teaching, research and service to the institution and the community. He also congratulated Sophia Stone, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, on her award of the 2016 C. D. Nelson Award for plant biology, which is given for outstanding research contributions to plant biology, with special consideration given to originality and independence of thought, to individuals who have been in an independent full-time research position for no more than 10 years.

He informed Senators that the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee approved, on behalf of Senate, the program proposal for the continued suspension of admission for the two year Master of Social Work program for the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Senator Hewitt thanked Senators for completing the Senator Spring Feedback survey, noting that the result of the survey will be discussed at SPGC on June 15, and then a report will come to Senate at the next meeting. He spoke briefly to the Brainstorming Lunch Session and the meeting schedule of Senate for the 2015-16 year; noting the meeting time has been moved to 3pm – 5pm.

2016:77

President's Report

Senator Florizone spoke briefly to the Convocation ceremonies, town halls, and the Mi'kmaq flag ceremonies on the Truro campus. He emphasised the importance of transparency and accountability, speaking to the impacts of both and noting that more protocol is needed, which is currently being researched. There was a brief discussion on protocol, including the best use of question period and opportunities for senators to raise issues they would like to see addressed.

2016:78

DSU President's Report

Senator Reid highlighted several points in her written report that was distributed at the meeting. She spoke briefly on the SUB renovations, the Canadian University Queer Services Conference, the DSU Phone Line, DSU Orientation, the SUB Wellness Room, the Ombudsperson Position, the Society and volunteer expo, and the DSU Equity and Accessibility Office. There were no questions or comments on the report.

2016:79

IN CAMERA: Senate Honorary Degrees Committee

Senator Hewitt announced that the Senate session would go *in camera*, and asked that all non-Senators leave the meeting. When Senate returned to open session, Senator Hewitt announced that the slate of Honorary Degree nominations had been approved.

2016:80

Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Modified Centre for Foreign Policy Studies

Senator Hewitt introduced the modification and noted that the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, on May 18, recommended approval to Senate.

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

THAT Senate approve the proposed modification of the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies to the Centre for the Study of Security and Development.

Mr. Brian Bow, Director, Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, presented the proposal for the modification, which included a name change and a revamping the governance structure. In discussion of the motion, a concern was raised with respect to the negative connotations of “security” and “development”. Mr. Bow responded, stating that this was considered in discussions, particularly with respect to “development”, but that this name would work best to illustrate the work done at the centre without responding to the types of questions the terms typically raise.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2016:81

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC): Revised Faculty Discipline Process

Senator Hewitt introduced the revised Faculty Discipline Process on behalf of Katherine Harman, Chair, Senate Learning and Teaching Committee. He highlighted the key points of the revisions, stating that the revised procedures are intended to reduce the number of SDC hearings in a way that reserves Senate oversight by addressing cases of a student’s second academic offense. He noted that the policy was recommended by the SLTC to Senate on May 4.

On behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED:**

THAT Senate approve the revised Faculty Discipline Process, as presented.

In discussion of the motion, a concern was raised with respect to the increasing workload of Academic Integrity Officers (AIOs). Mr. Bob Mann, Manager, Discipline and Appeals, responded to this concern, noting that the AIO still has to present the case and work on the case if it goes to the SDC and that the AIO is not required to take the case if it is a second offense, as the AIO can use their discretion to send the case to the SDC.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2016:82

SLTC: Revised Student Ratings of Instruction Policy and Procedures

Senator Hewitt introduced the motion for the revised Student Ratings of Instruction Policy and Procedures. He noted that the policy was recommended by the SLTC to Senate on May 4 and previously discussed at Senate on May 9.

On behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED**:

THAT Senate approve the proposed revised Student Ratings of Instruction Policy and Procedures.

In discussion of the motion, there was an inquiry as to whether SRI response rates have declined since SRIs have been online. Mr. Brad Wuetherick, Executive Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching, responded, noting that the response rates fluctuate each semester, but that rates from the last couple of terms have been on an upwards trajectory (from 41% to 46%). He further noted that Provost Watters is working to continue to increase this trend moving forward.

There was a brief discussion on the flexibility of the window of time for which SRIs are available to students to complete. Mr. Wuetherick responded, stating that the existing policy was silent on the timeframe for Spring and Summer, but that the revised policy provides a mechanism for this. He noted that work will continue with each academic unit to verify the data, including the appropriate end dates for courses. Senator Burton also noted that accommodations have been broadly made in the opening dates for SRIs, with instructors having the opportunity to make them available up to two weeks before the exam date.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2016:83

Update on the Report Recommendations – Backhouse, TRC, Belong and RJ

Senator Florizone presented an update on the recommendations from the Backhouse, TRC, Belong, and RJ reports. He spoke to the five guiding principles, noting that the most relevant today is to address the larger context, which involves a broad strategic initiative. He summarized the work that has been done to date, including additional staff positions, symbolic recognition, and policy documents. He spoke to an Aboriginal plan, which is a key focus for the upcoming year, guided largely by TRC. He emphasized that the work on these recommendations will be an ongoing commitment and the importance of working together as a community.

There was discussion on the RJ process with respect to protection for complainants and whistle-blowers. A concern was raised that there has not been any progress on this to date. Senator Florizone responded, noting that this has not been a focus yet; however, it will be addressed. He noted that the emphasis has largely focused on the cultural and systemic issues, as influenced by the Backhouse Report. There was a brief discussion on the interconnection of policy and culture.

A concern was raised that not all responses address a recommendation, including Recommendation 13 on an independent, external review and Recommendation 12 on an inclusion and diversity committee in Dentistry. Senator Florizone stated that some of the responses are only partial responses, noting that work is ongoing. He further noted that an external review will be conducted to address Recommendation 13. Senator Boran, Dean of Dentistry, spoke to Recommendation 12, stating that the Wellness Committee is only a partial response to this so far, under the Next Steps Committee. He stated that they are anticipating the inclusion and diversity work to be done by the Next Steps Committee, moving forward.

2016:84

Question Period

There was one question which queried why classes start at 5 min after the hour. It was noted that several other Canadian Universities have the exact same start time as Dalhousie University.

There were no questions.

2016:85

Other Business

There was no other business.

2016:86

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.