



## SENATE

**APPROVED Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Monday, March 28, 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, March 28, 2016 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

**Present** with Mr. K. Hewitt in the chair were the following: Anderson, Banks, Baur, Baylis, Bourne-Tyson, Cameron, Chen, Cochrane, Cooper, Crago, Croll, Dobson, Finley, Florizone, Gantar, Goldberg, Goodday, Gray, Habib, Harman, Hill, Holmes, Hunt, Hutton, Khan, Kirk, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leon, Leonard, B. MacDonald, C. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, MacRae, Manuel, Mansour, Mazzanti, Meynell, Nicholson, Noble, Pacurar, Parker, Smit, Stadnyk, Stone, Wach, Zaiotti.

**Regrets:** Ali, Barrett, Bodorik, Boran, Burton, Byers, Cutler, Erdman, Gahagan, Kesselring, Lu, Mukhida, Quraishi, Rau-Chaplin, Roy, Stanish, Tennessen, Watters, Wright.

**Absent:** Bhatia, Brown, DasGupta, Doman, Grant, Kyriakidis, Ma, Mopoho, Quraishi, Smith, Webster.

**Guests:** Wanda Thomas Bernard, Special Advisor, Diversity and Inclusiveness, Susan Brousseau, Secretary of Senate, Mayann Francis, Caitlin Plummer (Student Minute-Taker), Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Tana Turner, Principal, Turner Consulting, Brad Wuetherick, Executive Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching, Geri Musqua-LeBlanc, Billy Lewis, Diana Lewis, Debbie Martin, Kara Paul.

### **2016:37**

#### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was **APPROVED** with one amendment: the introduction of the Aboriginal Advisory Council and Elders was moved forward to appear immediately after the approval of the agenda.

### **2016:38**

#### **Introducing Aboriginal Advisory Council and Elders**

Prior to the meeting the chair of Senate offered tobacco was offered to Elder Geri Musqua-LeBlanc, according to the Elders in residence protocol. Senator Noble introduced Elder Billy Lewis, who delivered an opening prayer. Senator Noble acknowledged that Dalhousie sits on traditional Mi'kmaq territory and spoke to the importance of Aboriginal Treaties. He introduced Elder Geri Musqua-LeBlanc, Coordinator of the Elders-in-Residence Program, who described the program, stating that its primary purpose is to give spiritual guidance to students on campus.

Senator Noble introduced three members of the Aboriginal Advisory Council: Debbie Martin and Kara Paul, co-chairs, and Diana Lewis. Debbie Martin spoke to the mandate and context of the Aboriginal Council, discussing the post-TRC era. She spoke briefly to the Truth and Reconciliation report and Indigenous history in Canada. She highlighted the creation of the Council and outlined some of their primary activities, including advising administration regarding Aboriginal student, faculty, and staff issues on campus. She responded to a question in relation to the Aboriginal Advisory Council advising individual units to help diversify curricula.

Senator Hewitt recognized Mayann Francis, the former Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, as a guest of Senate.

**2016:39**

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Approval of Draft Minutes of March 14, 2016 Senate Meeting**

There was a request to remove the draft minutes from the consent agenda. Senator Baylis requested that a sentence be added to the minutes regarding the Census Presentation to provide substance. Senator Wach requested that a clarification be made to the minutes regarding the Senate Planning and Governance Committee motion re Fossil Fuel Divestment. He also noted that it be made clear the comment was not intended as anti-climate change, but that a broader review of all investments would allow for a greater opportunity for principled investing. The amended sections of the minutes will read as follows (amendments underlined and italicized):

*"Concerns were raised about using 30% FTE as the baseline for faculty because designated groups are often overrepresented among part time faculty; hence the need to present data for employees who work >50% FTE as well as 100% FTE."*

*"...to consider reviewing all institutional investments for ethical issues, not just one sector"*

Senator Harman **MOVED**:

**THAT** Senate approve the draft minutes of the March 14, 2016 Senate meeting as amended.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2016:40**

### **Matters Arising from the March 14, 2016 Senate Minutes**

Senator Stadnyk requested additional data from the census regarding who was surveyed and non-DFA membership. Senator Stone requested an update on the strategic priorities, particularly regarding faculty recruitment and retention. It was noted that a report is being planned, along with a series of town halls in relation to the strategic priorities, in general. Senator Baylis requested to follow up on an item from the Provost's Report. It will be addressed at the next meeting of Senate.

There were no other matters arising.

**2016:41****Chair of Senate's Report**

Senator Hewitt spoke briefly to the items attached for information to the meeting package and the upcoming meetings of Senate. He highlighted that the deadline for submission of Honorary Degree nominations and Dal Original nominations is March 31, 2016. He spoke to a few examples of nominations for the Dal Originals, including Dr. Alfred Waddell (African Canadian of Trinidadian descent who graduated in 1933 from the Dalhousie Medical School) and Arthur McDonald (former Physics undergraduate and Nobel Prize winner, 2015). He concluded his address by encouraging Deans and Associate/Assistant to participate in a workshop on "unconscious bias in the academy" led by Tana Turner, which will be held on April 12.

**2016:42****President's Report****Update on Backhouse recommendations 26, 28, 29, 32, and 35**

Senator Florizone spoke to the federal budget, highlighting the commitments made in the budget to post-secondary education. He also noted that the final BAC budget was released today. He stated that the University is working closely with the Aboriginal Advisory Council focusing on the principle of working together. Senator Florizone then highlighted the key information from his report on Backhouse recommendations 26, 28, 29, 32, and 35.

He addressed questions and comments regarding the budget, particularly regarding concerns in FASS and strategic priorities. He also spoke to negotiations around Bill 100, stating that there are currently no updates to provide. The Bill looks to be aligned with Dalhousie's Strategic Priorities and academic mission; however, discussion has not centered on this theme yet.

**2016:43****Dalhousie Student Union President's Report**

Senator Nicholson spoke briefly to the Impact Awards, the Rise Conference in Toronto, and the DSU elections. He stated that they are working with the President's Office to host a student leadership round table, where students can meet with key members of the University to speak to their experience. Representation was seen as a priority to students in the DSU election at the executive level, as is evident from the number of individuals of minority groups that were elected. He also spoke to Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services (DSAS), meeting with Elders, and the BAC report. He noted that DSAS is expanding to include SAS so that now students will have assistance with code of conduct issues as well as academic allegations. He met with Elder Geri and some Indigenous student leaders to discuss how the campus visually represents Indigenous students and culture and how to make improvements. He noted that the DSU provided recommendations on the BAC report, including meaningful student representation on the BAC. There were no questions or comments.

**2016:44****Draft Terms of Reference for a Scholarly Panel to Examine Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race**

Senator Florizone presented the draft terms of reference for a Scholarly Panel to examine Lord Dalhousie's history on slavery and race. He provided a brief history and context, stating that the primary

aim of the panel is to gather the historical facts, interpret those facts in both their historical and modern context, and to recommend actions that Dalhousie could take to respond to the legacy and build a stronger, more inclusive university. He welcomed Senators for their input, questions, or concerns with how to proceed.

Senator Hewitt added that it is appropriate to look back to move forward, stating that it is the right time for Dalhousie to take a leadership role in crafting Institutional response to racism and the ties of the past. This Scholarly Panel provides an opportunity to do so.

**2016:45**

**Equity and Diversity Presentation: Transforming the curriculum and classroom to be more inclusive**

Tana Turner, Principal, Turner Consulting, Wanda Thomas Bernard, Special Advisor, Diversity and Inclusiveness, and Brad Wuetherick, Executive Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching presented to Senate on equity and diversity; focusing on transforming the curriculum and classroom to be more inclusive. There was an opportunity for questions and comments. The discussion centered on the notion of fear in relation to increasing inclusiveness in the classroom and how to create a safe environment in which concerns can be raised and discussed. Conversation continued on the topic of how to create safe environments, both in the classroom and on a larger scale. It was noted that a commitment needs to be made to deal with issues as they arise and recognize that for some students, there may never be an entirely safe space. It was also noted that this may be achieved in transforming the curriculum, but also through various teaching approaches (for example, field trips, and other settings). A follow up discussion was held at the President's residence where the three speakers led participants in small group discussions.

**2016:46**

**Question Period**

There were no questions.

**2016:47**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2016:48**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.