



## SENATE

**APPROVED Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Monday, May 9, 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, May 9, 2016 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

**Present** with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following: Abawajy, Anderson, Baur, Bourne-Tyson, Brown, Burnay, Burton, Byers, Cameron, Chen, Cochrane, Cooper, Crago, Cutler, Erdman, Finley, Florizone, Gahagan, Gantar, Gear, Grant, Gray, Habib, Harman, Hill, Holmes, Kirk, Kozey, Langille, Leonard, Letendre, Lu, B. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, Mansour, Mazzanti, Meynell, Pacurar, Parker, Reid, Smit, Smith, Stadnyk, Stone, Tennessen, Wach, Watters.

**Regrets:** Ali, Baylis, Bodorik, Boran, Croll, Goldberg, Goodday, Hou, Hutton, C. MacDonald, MacRae, Mukhida, Noble, Rau-Chaplin, Roy, Stanish, Wright, Zaiotti.

**Absent:** Barrett, DasGupta, Doman, Kesselring, Khan, Leach, Leon, Ma, Mopoho, Quraishi, Webster.

**Guests:** Caitlin Plummer (Student Minute-Taker), Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Brad Wuetherick.

### **2016:61**

#### **Approval of Agenda**

The revised agenda was **adopted** as circulated.

### **2016:62**

#### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Approval of Draft Minutes of April 25, 2016 Senate Meeting**

The draft minutes of April 25, 2016 were **APPROVED**.

**APPROVED by Consent.**

### **2016:63**

#### **Matters Arising from the April 25, 2016 Senate Minutes**

Senator Hewitt raised a concern on behalf of Senator Baylis, regarding recommendation 13 of the Backhouse Report, which asks for an independent external review. It was inquired whether such a

review could be initiated under the purview of an appropriate Senate committee, with a report to Senate for Fall 2017. Senator Florizone responded, stating that the review would likely fall under the purview of SPGC. It is intended to have the review underway this summer, with student consultations to take place in the fall. As such, reporting to Senate in Fall 2017 is a workable timeline. He noted that the review would engage a third party consulting firm with a view on management change and assessment. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that everyone is engaged and heard in this review process to fulfill the recommendation.

#### **2016:64**

##### **Chair of Senate's Report**

Senator Hewitt congratulated Physics professor Jeff Dahn, who is one of six inaugural recipients of the Governor General's Innovation Award.

Senator Hill **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Leonard:

**THAT** Senate recognize and applaud Dr. Jeff Dahn, Department of Chemistry, in celebration of his receipt of the prestigious 2016 Governor General's Innovation Award.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Hewitt outlined the items approved by the Senate standing committees on behalf of Senate, including the following:

##### Senate Planning and Governance Committee,

- The appointment of Francoise Baylis, Senator, Faculty of Medicine, to the Committee for the Scholarly Panel to Examine Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race.
- The appointment of Katherine Harman, Vice-Chair of Senate (Student Affairs) and Senator, Faculty of Health Professions, to the Committee for the Commission of a New Mace.

##### Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee,

- The date of the next review of the Healthy Populations Institute be changed from 2017 to 2010.
- The name change request for the MSc and PhD in Psychology to the MSc and PhD in Psychology & Neuroscience.

He briefly spoke to the upcoming Senate meetings and events, noting that the Spring Senator Feedback survey results will be presented at a June Senate meeting. He highlighted the items for discussion at the upcoming SPGC meeting.

#### **2016:65**

##### **President's Report**

Senator Florizone highlighted the key points in his report, including program innovation, Strategic Priority 5.2 on diversity, infrastructure, and Senior Administration appointments. Senator Florizone spoke briefly to the launch of the MacEachen Institute and congratulated Susan Brousseau, University Secretary, on the success of the 2016 Canadian University Boards Association (CUBA) Conference. He expressed his regrets that he will not be in attendance for Convocation at the Agricultural Campus, as he will be in Ottawa for meetings. He noted that Senator Watters will attend on his behalf.

Following his report, Senator Florizone responded to questions regarding the IDEA building, the provincial government outcome agreement, and infrastructure for Aboriginal students. Concerns were expressed with respect to the proposal to break ground on the IDEA building in 2016, as there are no blue prints as of yet. Senator Florizone stated that the proposed timeline is still in effect and that he will provide a more thorough update regarding the timeline at the next meeting of Senate. With respect to the outcome agreement, Senator Florizone responded that there is no timeline yet, but the government has provided a draft template of potential options and outcome measures. Negotiations will continue and Senator Florizone will provide updates as it progresses. Regarding infrastructure for Aboriginal students, he stated that the goal is to create a coherent plan for Aboriginal students at Dalhousie, noting that work is being done with the Aboriginal Advisory Council to shape this. He emphasized that the plan must be ground in TRC and in “nothing about us without us”.

There was a discussion on a recent Globe and Mail report on the equity of Canada Research Chairs (CRCs), which stated that Dalhousie did not give a response. Senator Crago stated that Dalhousie tried to respond; however, the individuals to respond were away at a conference and it was too late when they returned. She provided the target, occupancy, and gap percentages of CRCs at Dalhousie and the number of chairs required to fill the gap for women, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and Aboriginal peoples, as follows:

- Women: target 28%; occupancy 29%; no gap
- Visible minorities: target 15%; occupancy 13%; 1.8% gap; 1 chair required to fill the gap
- Persons with disabilities: target 4%; occupancy 0%; 4% gap; 2 chairs required to fill the gap
- Aboriginal peoples: target 1%; occupancy 0%; 1% gap; no chairs required to fill the gap based on the population in the labour market

She noted that in the April applications for CRCs, one individual self-identified as Aboriginal and one individual self-identified as a visible minority. If those individuals were awarded CRCs, there would be no gap remaining except for persons with a disability. Senator Florizone stated that improvements still need to be made on diversity and inclusion for faculty and staff; however, progress is being made. It was further noted that it is not just a question of recruitment, but also of retention.

#### **2016:66**

#### **Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Faculty of Agriculture: Restructure of two Departments**

Senator Gray, Dean and Principal, Faculty of Agriculture provided a brief description of the proposal and outlined the background and review process for the departmental restructuring.

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

**THAT** Senate approve the dissolution of the Department of Plant & Animal Sciences and the Department of Environmental Sciences and the establishment of two new Departments; namely, the Department of Animal Science & Aquaculture and the Department of Plant, Food, and Environmental Sciences, within the Faculty of Agriculture.

In discussion of the motion, a concern was raised that the consultations were not comprehensive, as individuals from the Food Science Program at the Halifax campus were not consulted in this process. Senator Hewitt noted that SPGC found the proposal to be consultative and rigorous within the Faculty of Agriculture. It was noted that the proposal is not to simply change the name of the departments, but to restructure them to be reflective of the expertise of each department. There was further discussion with

respect to the need for collaboration between departments and campuses to ensure a more holistic view.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2016:67**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Teaching Evaluation Presentation**

Senator Harman, Chair, Senate Learning and Teaching Committee introduced Brad Wuetherick, Executive Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching who presented to Senate, providing an overview of the student ratings of instruction (SRI). He provided a brief context and spoke to response rates, reliability assessments, and faculty opt-ins. Discussion on this item occurred after Senator Burton's presentation on the revised SRI Policy and Procedures.

**2016:68**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Revised Student Ratings of Instruction Policy and Procedures**

Senator Burton, Chair, Work Group on SRI Policy and Procedures presented the revised student ratings of instruction policy and procedures, highlighting the major changes proposed, as outlined in his report. There was discussion on the literature with respect to SRI statistics, including response rates and factors that influence a student's rating, such as gender or expected grade. B. Wuetherick spoke to studies conducted in the United States, Australia, and England, noting that there are few Canadian studies. He compared Dalhousie's SRI questions to those at other universities, stating that Dalhousie's instrument is quite simple in comparison to others more robust questionnaires.

B. Wuetherick spoke briefly to the integration to Brightspace and the communication of SRIs to students to increase student engagement, such as by emailing a student's preferred email address in addition to their Dalhousie address.

D. Burton and B. Wuetherick responded to a question on anomalous courses and evaluation periods, with respect to how anomalous courses are defined. The common situation occurs where the software cannot handle the complexity of the course to evaluate it. However, departments will be relied on to flag other courses, such as practicums or co-ops, where there is not necessarily an instructor to be evaluated.

The revised SRI Policy and Procedures will return to Senate at the next meeting for approval.

**2016:69**

**Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee: Discussion of strategic priority 2.2**

Senator Burton, Vice Chair, Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, provided an update on the January 2015 motion approved by Senate regarding Strategic Priority 2.2. He encouraged the units who have not yet responded to submit their reports to SAPRC to provide a full picture of the issue at the institution. During an update on Strategic Priority 2.2 to the SAPRC, it was determined that the priority focuses on how to fill positions, but not on which positions to fill. The discussion clarified that such a discussion more closely aligns with Strategic Priority 1.4. The SAPRC recommended a meeting with these two work groups to discuss this further to bring to Senate a clear statement on process and how Senate

can be engaged. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2016 and Mr. Burton is hoping to provide Senate with a more fulsome report after the meeting.

There was a discussion on the ERBA formula and how it connects to this issue. It was suggested that this be tied into Senator Watters' upcoming presentation on the ERBA formula in the fall. It was further encouraged that a full discussion on the matter occur in Senate before dissolution in June, with it continuing in the fall. Multiple questions were raised as ones that need to be addressed during this discussion, including the apparent cutting agenda, the implications of ERBA, and how Senate will respond to the DASS letter by students regarding the problem in FASS.

Senator Burton noted that the upcoming meeting will aim to understand the mechanism in place, which is required to be able to address these questions with a fulsome discussion. Senator Florizone also noted that there is a lot being done in FASS beyond ERBA.

**2016:70**

**Question Period**

There were no questions.

**2016:71**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2016:72**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.