



**SENATE**  
**APPROVED Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, February 26, 2018**  
**3:00pm – 5:00pm**  
**Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 2018 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

**Present:** with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following: A. Abawajy, N. Ali, D. Anderson, M. Aston, J. Blustein, S. Charlebois, S. Chowdhury, A. Cochrane, R. Croll, T. Cyrus, B. Davis, M. Denike, L. Diepeveen, T. Duck, G.A. Finley, R. Florizone, J. Gantar, N. Gear, L. Goldberg, R. Goodday, J. Graham, D. Gray, A. Habib, J. Hall, S. Holmes, J. Hoyle, Masuma Khan, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, C. Macy, B. Merritt, C. Moore, R. Mopoho, M. Numer, T. Packer, R. Parker, A. Prosper, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, L. Spiteri, A. Steenbeek, F. Taheri, G. Wang-Pruski, E. Welsh, D. White, H. Xu

**Regrets:** A. Aiken, R. Agu, V. Bhargava, D. Bourne-Tyson, C. Cameron, S. Faridi, B. Foster, M. Ghasemi Ghodrat, D. Grujic, L. Hackett, C. Helland, E. Johnson, W. Lahey, J. Leon, C. Macdonald, J. Penney, S. Ponomarenko, K. Sherren, S. Somogyi, J. Stamp, C. Watters

**Absent:** C. Brown, K. Dakin-Hache, C. Dieleman, D. Kelley, Muhammad Khan, S. Kuzak, N. Nadeem, L. Turnbull

**Guests:** Joy Armson (Professor and Director, School of Human Communication Disorders), Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Sarah Boucaud (Student Minute Taker), Pemberton Cyrus (Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Engineering), Adam Donaldson (Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Graduate Studies), Tereigh Ewert-Bauer (Senior Educational Developer, Diversity and Inclusivity, Centre for Learning and Teaching), Lisa Delong (Associate Ombudsperson), Michael Kieft (Professor, School of Human Communication Disorders), Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Florence Tarrant (Academic Director, Undergraduate Programs)

The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that this meeting is taking place in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. The School of Nursing was called upon to share their work in cultural sensitivity with senators. Currently, the School of Nursing is embedding Indigenous curriculum throughout their coursework.

**2018:23**

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated.

**2018:24**

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of the Draft Minutes of February 12, 2018 Senate Meeting**

The draft minutes of the February 12, 2018 meeting were approved by consent.

**2018:25**

**Matters Arising from the February 12, 2018 Senate Meeting Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**2018:26**

**Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality**

Tereigh Ewert-Bauer, Senior Educational Developer, Diversity and Inclusivity, Centre for Learning and Teaching, presented on “Steps to Making Diversity and Inclusion a Reality”. Ms. Ewert-Bauer explained that people are afraid of doing or saying the wrong thing when it comes to diversity and inclusion. While doing or saying the wrong thing can cause harm, harm is also caused by doing nothing. Inclusion requires time. It is a cyclical and self-reflective process. Furthermore, change is needed now. Taking on diversity and inclusion can seem very intimidating, but there are obtainable steps that each person can do, such as:

- Begin with humility. Mistakes will be made.
- Check intentions. Each person should ask why they are doing this.
- Each individual should start wherever they are and ask what do they already do/know.
- Each individual should educate themselves and not rely on others to inform them.
- Ask who and what are the sources of information.
- Invite and accept all feedback.

Ms. Ewert-Bauer further invited senators to reach out and connect with her where additional information would be helpful.

**2018:27**

**Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Name Change for the School of Human Communication Disorders**

Senator Hewitt introduced the motion, reporting that the School of Human Communication Disorders in the Faculty of Health is requesting to change its name to the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He noted that the proposed name is more consistent with the names of similar schools across the country. Joy Armson, Professor and Director, School of Human Communication Disorders, and Michael Kieffe, Professor, School of Human Communication Disorders, presented the rationale for the name change. First, the new name has better recognisability throughout North America. Second, it is also a better reflection of the breadth of activities that take place within the school. Third, it better aligns with the objective of speech and hearing health promotion, rather than focusing on disorders.

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

THAT the Senate approve the name change for the School of Human Communication Disorders, Faculty of Health, to the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2018:28**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Bachelor of Engineering – Options on Transcript**

Pemberton Cyrus, Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Engineering, presented on the history and rationale for this motion. In the past, students who completed engineering degrees with accredited options have not had the options recognized on their transcripts or parchments. This proposal seeks to have options indicated on the appropriate transcripts.

Senators agreed to entertain the two motions together.

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

THAT Senate approve the Computer Engineering option of the Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree be designated on the transcripts of the students who register for the Electrical Engineering program and choose the Computer Engineering option, retroactively for students since 2014, and until 2021.

THAT Senate approve the Infrastructure Option and Earth and Environment Option of the Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree program be designated on the transcripts of the students who register for the Civil Engineering program and choose either the Infrastructure or Earth and Environment Option, retroactively for students since 2017, and until 2021.

Discussion of the motion focused on the reasons for the delay in bringing this before Senate and the rationale for only including the options on the transcript and not the degree parchment. P. Cyrus responded that the Faculty has attempted various solutions and that it took some time to determine the underlying cause of this issue. With respect to the parchment, M. McAllister, Assistant Vice-Provost & University Registrar, noted that Senate determines what can be included on the transcript; currently, this is the program name as recognized by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC). The Faculty of Engineering will need to go through MPHEC to secure approval for options to appear on the parchment. With respect to re-printing degree parchments at some future time (when MPHEC has approved having the options appearing on the parchment), Dr. McAllister reported that it not possible to have a parchment with a designation indicated that was not approved by MPHEC as of that date; a degree exchange program would have to be implemented for this to happen (must as what was put in place several years ago for the LL. B switch to the JD designation). P. Cyrus added that the professional accreditation and registration bodies rely on the transcript rather than the student's parchment, so the transcript should be sufficient for students seeking professional registration/recognition.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2018:29**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Academic Modification: Bachelor of Commerce Dismissal Policy**

Florence Tarrant, Academic Director, Undergraduate Programs, and Carrie Hunter, Program Manager, Bachelor of Commerce (Co-op) presented this proposal. The Faculty of Management would like to bring the Commerce Co-op program into line with other professional programs such as Engineering and Social Work by amending the current dismissal policy to a two-step dismissal. Senator Packer explained that this proposal aims to support students and improve retention.

The two-step dismissal process helps students get connected with advisors in Commerce, even if they have not completed sufficient course work to be assessed academically. Academic advisors will also be able to provide further support or referrals as appropriate.

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

THAT the Senate approve the dismissal policy for the Bachelor of Commerce Co-op Program, as presented.

In the discussion that followed, there was a query respecting the forms of intervention and remediation and whether these can be different for different populations. The presenters noted that this is not the case presently and measures for self-identification would need to be considered before this could happen. There was also brief discussion of whether attendance is tracked. The motion **CARRIED**.

**2018:30**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Academic Modifications: Faculty of Graduate Regulations**

Senator Packer introduced the item and Adam Donaldson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, noted that there is an advance placement term in the Faculty of Graduate Regulation 3.7, whereby a student can request advance placement credits. This is based on graduate courses completed within the student's previous undergraduate honours program, when these courses are deemed equivalent. The revisions to the Faculty Graduate Regulation make advance placement possible for courses completed both in previous undergraduate and graduate programs.

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

That Senate approve the modifications to section 3.7 within the Graduate Academic Calendar, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Additionally, pursuant to Faculty of Graduate Regulation 7.6.5, students enrolled in programs requiring 30 credit hours or less of coursework may not register for more than 6 credit hours of independent study, directed readings, or special topics courses (combined). The proposed changes will clarify that for every 15 credit hours that are added to a degree, an additional independent study or independent reading course is permitted. As such, the maximum is increased to 9 credit hours for programs requiring 31 to 45 credit hours of coursework, and 12 credit hours for programs requiring more than 45 credit hours of course work.

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

THAT Senate approve the modification to the first paragraph of section 7.6.5 within the Graduate Academic Calendar, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2018:31**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: 2016-17 Ombudsperson Annual Report**

T. Packer introduced the item, noting that this comes to Senate through the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee as the Ombudsperson is required to put forward an Annual Report. The Ombudsperson Office is a joint initiative of Dalhousie University and of the Dalhousie Student Union. Lisa Delong, Associate Ombudsperson, on behalf of Diane Hawco, Ombudsperson, then presented key highlights of the 2016-17 Ombudsperson Annual Report. She noted that the report does not propose sweeping changes, but rather recommends enhancements to existing practices, including appeal timelines. Funding for the Ombudsperson Office is only in place until November of 2018. As such, the Ombudsperson Office is in the process of tabling a 5-year proposal.

Following the report, L. Delong responded to brief questions. In response to a question on follow-up on the recommendations, T. Packer noted that she has noted several recommendations that would appear to fall within the jurisdiction of Senate and, in particular, the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, and she will be bringing these back to the Committee for discussion. Senator Florizone also proposed that the University Secretary work with his Chief of Staff initially to look at where accountability for the various recommendations would lie.

**2018:32**

## **Outcome of the Engagement with the Board of Governors on the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Senate on Fossil Fuel Divestment**

Senator Hewitt presented the outcome of the engagement with the Board of Governors on this matter. He reported that:

- The ad hoc working group was commissioned by a March 14, 2016 Senate motion, to “pursue the recommendations in the report of the ad hoc committee of Senate on Fossil Fuel Divestment through engagement with the Board of Governors with the intention of reviewing institutional policy and practice on ethical investment and other strategic initiatives to address climate change and report back to Senate by October 2016.”
- The Senate group consisted of
  - Kevin Hewitt, Chair of Senate
  - Iraj J. Fooladi, Douglas C. Mackay Chair in Finance, Rowe School of Business
  - Meinhard Doelle, Schulich School of Law
  - Mike Smit, School of Information Management
  - Jeremy Banks (student representative), Faculty of Architecture and Planning (until Sep 2017)
  - Alex Ayton (student representative), Faculty of Engineering (from Oct 2017)
- The group began by meeting members of the Board of Governors, President Florizone, and senior administrators. Based on our mandate, we pursued two avenues of inquiry: a) ongoing efforts to address climate change by modifying the institution’s practices, and b) investment decisions in the context of the Senate report recommendations. We met as a working group, and often with the members of the working group and key senior administrators and staff. We also engaged individually and as a group with other campus stakeholders, including Divest Dal representatives.
- The group met with Rochelle Owen (Office of Sustainability), Jeff Lamb (Facilities Management), Steve Mannell (Director, College of Sustainability), and concluded that institutional efforts to address our carbon footprint are going well. Practical and meaningful change has occurred because of these efforts, and we encourage Dalhousie to continue these efforts to reduce and eliminate GHG emissions. Rochelle was invited to present to Senate to share these initiatives. We consider this part of our mandate to be satisfied.
- Engagement on the question of investment decisions started with the current processes, and meetings with Ian Nason (VP Administration) and Colin Spinney (Treasurer). After several meetings and much information gathering, we improved our understanding of the issues to a point where we felt comfortable proposing policy changes. We produced a summary of the recommendations, a summary of our understanding of the requirements and challenges with implementing the recommendations, and an early draft of possible changes to the university’s Investment Policy. The changes were modelled on Dalhousie’s ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investment principles, an area where Dalhousie was (and is) a leader. The goal of the policy changes was to gather information, advocate for better information, and act on that information. The complete document was provided to Senators.
- Next Steps: VP Finance and Administration Ian Nason will recommend to the Investment Committee that this working group be invited to present our proposed policy changes to them.

As the Report was only recently made available to Senators, it was requested that this matter be brought forward at the next Senate meeting for discussion. Senator Hewitt agreed.

**2018:33**

**Question Period**

Senator Packer addressed a written question regarding what is being done to address low attendance in first year classes at Dalhousie University. Senator Packer engaged in both consultation and research to answer this question. She found the following:

- Attendance is predictive of success.
- There is no university wide regulation on attendance and attendance is not tracked in any uniform way. It is therefore difficult to determine the extent of the problem.
- It was unclear if attendance policies and strategies existed at the program and department levels.
- There may be issues around the enforceability and reliability of an attendance policy. On the other hand, this does not mean the issue should be ignored.

Senator Packer spoke to the resources available through the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) website (including a section on attendance) and reported that CLT has agreed to look at the analytics report on visits and usage of these resources. Additionally, CLT will consider a communications strategy to get more information out to faculty at the appropriate times of year.

Senator Florizone noted the interest in the correlation between attendance and retention as a broader issue and spoke briefly to what the data indicates in terms of student success and retention. He noted that early results from pilot projects in FASS, Science and Agriculture are very encouraging, and it would be beneficial for Senate to look at initiatives like "On Track", what the university has learned from these, and how they might be scaled up.

Several senators noted the particular challenges they have faced around student attendance and noted that they would welcome institutional support for getting students in class and information on what strategies are most successful.

There were no further questions.

**2018:34**

**Other Business**

There was no other business; however, Senator Hewitt noted that the Chair's Report would be deferred to the next Senate meeting due to the limitation on time today.

- Senator Hewitt further congratulated Senator Spiteri on receiving a Service Award from the Association for Library & Information Science Education.
- Dr. Howard McCurdy was further recognized for his accomplishments and Senator Hewitt offered condolences to his family on his recent passing. Dr. McCurdy was the founding president of the Canadian Association of University teachers, a federal human rights critic, civil rights leader, and professor of biology.

**2018:35**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.