

**SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, September 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 13, 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Present: L. Spiteri (Interim Chair), T. Adams, G. Adolphe-Nazaire, A. Aiken, G. Alexander, M. Ali-Ulku, D. Anderson, M. Aston, D. Bilodeau, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, K. Brooks, C. Cameron, R. Chang, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, P. Doucet-Bernard, P. Doyle-Bedwell, N. Ezzeddine, M. Farrimond, C. Flood, B. Foster, M. Fournier, G. Gagnon, J. Gantar, D. Grujic, J. Hall, F. Harvey, V. Howard, D. Iduye, D. Jakeman, S. Jeffrey, M. Keinast, S. Keyamo, S. Kuzak, W. Lahey, C. Lake, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, C. Macdonald, M. MacEachern, S. McKibbon, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, M. Nashnoush, B. Nassar, J. Newhook, H. Niu, M. Pacurar, L. Perez, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, K. Rosen, D. Saini, L. Sarson, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, V. Simodoh, S. Stone, F. Taheri, V. Turpin, D. Tyers, T. Walker, D. Westwood, D. White, S. Wildeman, E. Wunker, I. Yakovenko, E. Yiridoe, S. Yurgel

Regrets: M. Stinson

Absent:

Guests: S. Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), C. Hattie (Director, Employee Relations), J. Hope (Legal Counsel), E. Marshall (Minute Taker), J. Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), N. Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator)

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.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of June 14, 2021 Senate Meeting

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.2 Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nominations

THAT the Senate approve the list of nominees under each of the standing committees as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.3 Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nominations

THAT the Senate approve the list of nominees to the Senate Nominating Committee, as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.4 Proposed Revision to SPGC, SAPRC and SLTC Terms of References

THAT Senate approve revisions to the terms of reference for the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from June 14, 2021 Senate Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Senate Orientation and Rules of Procedure

Senator Spiteri presented an overview of the bicameral governance structure of the university, explaining the separate mandates of Senate and the Board of Governors as being academic governance for Senate and administrative and business governance for the Board of Governors. Senator Spiteri outlined the primary roles of Senate and the Board of Governors, the composition of each governance body, and Senate's responsibility for the internal regulation of the university subject to the approval of the Board of Governors. Senator Spiteri touched on Senate's seven standing committees, the Senate schedule, a typical Senate agenda, meeting protocol and Senator responsibilities. Senator Spiteri also presented on rules of procedure, highlighting sections of Robert's Rules applying to Senate's mode of operating. Senator Spiteri encouraged all members of Senate to familiarize themselves with the material on the University's Secretariat website.

Senators were informed that meetings would be held via Microsoft Teams this academic year as suitable in-person on-campus venues were not available. In addition, the annual Senate survey, undertaken by the Secretariat in June, 2021, had indicated that Senators were overwhelmingly in favour of continuing with online meetings.

Following the presentation, it was suggested that as Senate would be meeting online, a social event be held when the COVID-19 pandemic conditions permitted, to enable Senators to get to know one another better.

5. Reports

5.1 Chair of Senate's Report

The meeting was informed that the Chair of Senate's Report had been circulated in advance with the Senate meeting package and that this would be the practice going forward. The report outlined modifications made to Senate meeting processes, including limiting of discussion of any item under consideration to three minutes per person to ensure that all items on a meeting agenda were addressed.

Senator Spiteri expressed her intention to create a FAQ document for new senators and asked that members of Senate submit any questions that they had to start off the document. Senators were also encouraged to suggest topics for the Chair's Report.

Senator Spiteri also informed the meeting that Deans would receive an email from the Secretariat asking if they had any equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) initiatives or plans that they would like to share with Senate at one of the Senate meetings scheduled for the 2021-22 academic year.

5.2 President's Report

Senator Saini introduced the following three new Deans who, as senior academic administrators, had also joined Senate as ex-officio members: Senator Macdonald, Senator Gagnon and Senator Gantar.

Providing a brief update on enrolment, Senator Saini reported that enrolment for the 2021-22 academic year had surpassed 21,000 students, which was a milestone for the university. Domestic students' growth was particularly strong and there had also been notable growth in graduate students' numbers.

Senator Saini also reported on the University's requirements for transitioning back to in-person learning following easing of the COVID-19 pandemic, including masking requirements, lifting by the province of the requirement for designated learning institutions to undertake quarantine oversight for international students and required use of the Campus Check web portal by members of the university community to upload proof of vaccination or submit to twice-weekly COVID testing so as to come onto campus. Senator Saini also informed Senate of the establishment of the President's COVID Science Committee which would advise senior administration on emerging issues and potential solutions.

Senator Saini also noted that a request would be forthcoming for a Senate representative to sit on the soon to be initiated Vice-President Research and Innovation review committee.

5.3 Questions for Reports

Responding to a query regarding whether student Senators would have priority when posing questions at Senate, as had been the practice at one time, Senator Spiteri clarified that this would not be the case and that all categories of Senators would be on an equal plane.

Senator Saini deferred to Senator Harvey regarding a query about the possibility of a mechanism to advise who on campus had and had not been vaccinated. Senator Harvey explained that declarations of vaccination and testing status were being tracked only centrally on the Campus Check portal to accommodate privacy. Chris Hattie elaborated that health information would not be shared. Further, while there was no classroom-by-classroom level of enforcement, the university was working centrally to ensure people complied with the Campus Check system, continued masking and that there was collection of information and tracking of COVID-19 cases.

Responding to a query, Senators Saini and Harvey clarified that the COVID Science Committee was yet to be formed. Once formed, it would engage across campus on key issues and reach out extensively to take advantage of the expertise available in the University community.

6. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

6.1 Election of Vice-Chair, Academic Programs (Term: July 1, 2021—June 30, 2024)

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that a repeat call for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair (Academic Programs), for the July, 2021 to June, 2024 term, was distributed to the University community in July, 2021. The repeat call was occasioned by a vacancy arising in the position before commencement of the term on July 1, 2021. Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the SNC received one expression of interest, from Senator Blustein, for the position of Vice-Chair, Academic Programs.

Senator Seth, Chair of SNC, informed the meeting that SNC reviewed the nomination material, confirmed that the nominee met the requirements for the position and approved the nomination package to Senate. Senator Seth stated that the SNC was pleased to put Senator Blustein's nomination forward.

Senator Spiteri called three times for any additional nominations from the floor. None was put forth.

Senator Blustein left the meeting.

Moved by Senator Seth on behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee:

THAT Senate appoint Jamie Blustein as the Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) for the term September 13, 2021 – June 30, 2024.

The Senators voted by secret ballot.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Blustein re-joined meeting.

Senator Spiteri congratulated Senator Blustein. Senator Blustein expressed their thanks to Senate.

7. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC)

7.1 Ratification of Motion Approved at SPGC June 16, 2021 Meeting – Motion in Response to the Kamloops Indian Residential School Findings

Senator Spiteri reported that following the discovery of the remains of 215 children buried on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, the SPGC wished to reaffirm Dalhousie's commitment to advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) calls to action and in June, 2021 recommended a motion for ratification by Senate. Senator Spiteri also noted that Dalhousie's current Strategic Plan called for the community to prioritize advancing the work of Dalhousie's Diversity and Inclusiveness Strategy, Indigenous Strategy, African Nova Scotian Strategy, and actions that reflected the university's commitment to anti-racism.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

THAT Senate ratify the Senate Planning and Governance Committee's recommendation that Senate and its standing committees prioritize advancing the work of Dalhousie's Indigenous Strategy in the academic year 2021—22.

The motion **CARRIED**.

7.2 Ratification of SPGC e-vote in accordance with Section 5.4(j) of the Senate Constitution – Pass/ILL Grading Option for Summer 2021 Term

Senator Spiteri informed Senate that in July, 2021, a request was received for the Pass/ILL grading option to be made available for select facilities for the Summer 2021 term. As it was summer, Senate quorum was lacking and SPGC was requested to consider the request in accordance with Section 5.4(j) of the Senate Constitution which provided for SPGC to consider urgent matters, notwithstanding that jurisdiction for such matters resided with the Senate and subject to ratification at the next regular Senate meeting.

Senator Spiteri advised that SPGC considered and approved the following motion by electronic vote and that this approval needed to be ratified by Senate:

That the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, in accordance with Section 5.4(j) of the Senate Constitution, approves the following measure as a result of circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic:

That Pass/ILL grading in Summer 2021 be available to students in the Faculties of Management, Architecture and Planning, and Agriculture meeting all of the following criteria:

- 1. The student is enrolled in a minimum of 9 credit hours during the Summer 2021 term, with at least one course being a core course;**
- 2. The student's structured degree progression requires a summer academic term;**
- 3. The student is enrolled in courses that are normally taught in-person but are offered online during Summer 2021; and**
- 4. The student is enrolled in a program where Pass/ILL grading was available in Fall 2020 and Winter 2021.**

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee: **THAT Senate ratify the Senate Planning and Governance Committee's e-vote of July, 2021 undertaken in accordance with Section 5.4(j) of the Senate Constitution approving the Pass/ILL Grading Option for Summer 2021 Term for students in select faculties.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

7.3 Academic Amnesty Request for Global Climate Strike – September 24, 2021

Senator Spiteri informed Senate that a request had been received from Senator Stinson for a motion to go to Senate to allow students to participate in the Global Climate Strike scheduled for September 24, 2021, without academic penalty. Senator Spiteri advised that the SPGC had recommended approval of the motion to Senate.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee: **THAT Senate approve that all individuals involved in synchronous teaching delivery at Dalhousie University on September 24, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., allow students who wish to participate in the Global Climate Strike to do so without academic penalty due to their absence, subject to the following:**

1. Students are to inform their professors at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance (by 11:00 a.m. on September 23, 2021) if they plan on missing an assessment in order to attend the Day of Action.
2. Make-up assessment(s) will be at the discretion of course instructors, subject to appropriate faculty regulations.
3. For the inclusion of students travelling from and to the Agriculture Campus of Yarmouth Campus, no specific time is provided.

The motion **CARRIED**.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.