



SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, April 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, April 11, 2022 via Microsoft Teams

Present: L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Agu, A. Aiken, M. Aston, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Cameron, R. Chang, T. Cyrus, B. Davis, K. Dilcher, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, H. El Naggar, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, M. Fournier, G. Gagnon, J. Gantar, D. Grantham, D. Gray, H. Hall, J. Hall, F. Harvey, D. Iduye, M. Irwin, D. Jakeman, S. Jeffrey, S. Keyamo, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, S. Kirk, W. Lahey, C. Lake, M. Leonard, H. Maambo, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, S. McKibbon, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, F. Naghibi, B. Nassar, J. Newhook, H. Niu, R. Orji, M. Pacurar, N. Patil, L. Perez, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, H. S. Ro, K. Rosen, D. Saini, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, V. Simodoh, M. Stinson, S. Stone, D. Tyers, F. Verth, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Wunker, I. Yakovenko, E. Yiridoe

Regrets: M. Ali Ulku, D. Anderson, D. Bilodeau, D. Bourne-Tyson, L. Propper, V. Turpin, S. Yurgel, D. White,

Absent: T. Adams, G. Alexander, A. Doucette, P. Doucet-Bernard, Y. El Hiani, K. El-Sankary, N. Ezzeddine, C. Flood, D. Grujic, G. Horne, M. Keinast, M. MacEachern, C. Macy, F. M. Nashnoush, L. Sarson, F. Taheri, T. Walker

Guests: Susan Brousseau (University Secretary), John Hope (Legal Counsel), Jeff Larsen (Assistant Vice President Innovation & Entrepreneurship), Claire Mercer (Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Ajay Parasram (Co-Chair EDIA Committee, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences), Nakita 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 **adopted** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1. Approval of Draft Minutes of March 14, 2022 Senate Meeting

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from March 14, 2022 Senate Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Senator Gantar (in his capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS)) and Ajay Parasam (Co-Chair of the FASS Equity Diversity Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee) gave a presentation entitled *Transformative EDIA Praxis in FASS*.

A. Parasam informed Senate that the Faculty's EDIA Committee was formed in 2021 and highlighted key work undertaken to date including the following:

- A survey of units and disciplines had been undertaken to establish work underway and best practices and conduct a needs assessment. The findings of these survey had been presented to FASS in order to engage in discussion;
- Policy scans had been conducted on better practices for gender inclusivity;
- Consultations had been conducted at the unit level in order to facilitate challenging conversation;
- Self-identification in hiring had been introduced and possible alternatives were being sought.

Senate was informed that this key work had complemented structural work undertaken, which included making time at meetings for community care, considering the composition of staff and faculty, prioritizing community members' ideas and undertaking an annual retreat.

5. Reports

5.1. Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Spiteri's written report included an update on the Dean of Libraries' search and the ongoing external governance review.

Senator Spiteri thanked Senators for their active participation in Senate's think tank session held on March 28, 2022 and informed the meeting that the final governance review report was now targeted for May or June, 2022.

Senator Spiteri also thanked Senator Sharaput for taking on the role of Senate Representative to the Assistant Vice-President Human Resources Search Committee.

5.2. President's Report

Senator Saini's written report included an update on the four strategic pillars.

Senator Saini made a few remarks, including thanking the team involved in preparing Dalhousie's letter of intent for the Canada's Research Fund, for funding for a project relating to climate action transformation in a marine context. Senator Saini informed Senate that the letter of intent was prepared in partnership with other Canadian institutions. Senator Saini noted that Dalhousie had also partnered with two other Canadian universities on applications for Canadian Research Funds for projects related to electronic vehicles. The outcomes of these applications should be known by the end of June, 2022.

Senator Saini also highlighted the work of the Office of Government and Global Relations on expanding the international reach of the university. This included a delegation and recruitment mission to Dubai, participation in a Canadian education forum and meeting with prominent recruitment agencies in China.

5.3. Questions for Reports

In response to a query regarding the release of the governance review report, Senator Spiteri advised that an advisory group was working on a communication plan for release of the report. The importance of sharing the report with Senators had been relayed to the group.

Responding to a question about the administration's view of what constituted successful international collaboration, Senator Saini highlighted several areas and activities that constituted university international collaboration at the individual, institutional and national level. Senator Saini noted that the role of the Government and Global Relations office was particularly important at the institutional level, in getting international students to come to the university and in growing collaboration with international bodies. Senator Saini noted that while the activities were connected to the university's strategic priorities, there was always room for improved connections.

FOR APPROVAL

6. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC)

Proposed Recommendations on In-Camera Status of Senate Standing Committee Meetings

Senator Spiteri relinquished the role of Chair to Senator Blustein in order to present this item.

Senator Blustein informed Senate that the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) had deliberated on this item at its March 16, 2022 meeting and invited Senator Spiteri, who chaired the rapid task force (RTF) that explored a possible constitutional amendment to change the default *in-camera* status of Senate standing committee meetings, to present.

Senator Spiteri reminded Senate that at the September 27, 2021 meeting of Senate, it was resolved that an RTF be struck by SPGC to explore a possible constitutional amendment to change the default *in-camera* status of Senate standing committee meetings, making recommendations to Senate regarding which standing committees, if any, should have their default *in-camera* status revoked, setting out the implications of the constitutional amendment and laying out the procedure for the constitutional amendment. Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the RTF presented its report to SPGC at its March 16, 2022 meeting. SPGC considered the RTF's recommendations and approved that the recommendations be brought to Senate for consideration.

Senator Spiteri highlighted the RTF's recommendations, including that for a trial period, for Senate's three core standing committees (SPGC, the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SARPC) and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC)), the default status of their meetings be open to non-committee Senator members, as non-participating observers. The suspension of Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution would allow for a trial period, without amending the Constitution. Should Senate wish to continue with the default open status, a

Constitutional amendment would be required. Senator Spiteri noted that the RTF's recommendation was that the remaining four Senate standing committees continue to operate in a default *in-camera* mode, due to the private and sensitive nature of their mandates.

Senators engaged in a brief discussion on the item.

Responding to a query, Senator Spiteri explained that a summary of the trial period would be brought to Senate in the winter term of 2023, thereby allowing for a decision on a Constitutional amendment.

Responding to a further query, Senator Spiteri noted that it was proposed that the agenda and meeting materials of three core Senate standing committees be uploaded a week in advance, so as to give Senators the ability to request to attend an SPGC, SAPRC or SLTC meeting at least five days in advance.

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

THAT Senate approve that Section 6.5 (a) of the Senate Constitution be suspended for the Fall term 2022 with regard to the default *in-camera* status of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee to test the following recommendations:

- a) **The following Senate standing committees should hold open meetings, by default:**
 - i. **Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC);**
 - ii. **Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC); and**
 - iii. **Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC).**
- b) **The meetings of the standing committees be open to all non-member Senators, who may attend only as non-participating observers.**
- c) **Meeting agendas will be circulated to all Senators in advance.**
- d) **Any non-member Senator wishing to attend a meeting make a request to do so with the Secretariat by no later than five days before the meeting, as space allotments for meeting may be limited.**
- e) **The meeting agenda indicate any sessions that are to be held *in-camera*, but the topic under discussion not be identified. The agenda simply indicate "*in-camera* session," with no further detail.**
- f) **The decision for designating agenda items as *in-camera* rest with the committee chair.**
- g) **Non-member Senators may not attend any *in-camera* deliberations.**
- h) **Minutes of the meetings of the standing committees be stored on the Senate Brightspace site and be available to all Senators.**
- i) **Minutes of *in-camera* sessions of the standing committee meetings be taken but be kept and stored separately from the minutes of the open session.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Blustein returned the Chair to Senator Spiteri.

Senator Spiteri thanked the members of the RTF for their participation.

FOR DISCUSSION

7. Dalhousie Research and Innovation

Senator Spiteri invited Senator Aiken and Jeff Larsen to present updates on Dalhousie's research and innovation initiatives, focusing on the innovation and entrepreneurship portfolio.

Senator Aiken highlighted some of the major research funding that Dalhousie had received in the past few months. This included Tri-Agency grants, which had put Dalhousie past the national average in Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grants. Dalhousie researchers had also received two Killam prizes, Research Nova Scotia grants, two Order of Canada membership and multiple Royal Society of Canada fellowships. Senator Aiken also recognized numerous other research successes at Dalhousie.

J. Larsen continued with the presentation on Dal Innovate's work within the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship regarding skills development and commercialization. J. Larsen detailed the successes of startups in Atlantic Canada that had grown out of Dalhousie's work. As part of Dal Innovates, J. Larsen listed three methods that illustrated Dalhousie's role in the eco-system of innovation. J. Larsen noted that the end goal was to generate a positive impact locally, nationally and globally. As part of this, J. Larsen highlighted the concept of Sandboxes, collaborative collision spaces within faculties that generated and encouraged multidisciplinary teamwork. The five Sandboxes at Dalhousie were Shiftkey, Cultiv8, SURGE, Idea and Pulse. These programs were primarily focused on supporting undergraduate research, though there were newer opportunities for supporting Master's and PhD students. These opportunities included Scientist2Entrepreneur, invention2Innovation, Lab2market and Ready2Launch. These programs were conducted among a variety of Canadian universities. The latter of these programs were led by Dalhousie.

The meeting was informed that a new program would be launched this fall for post-Docs. J. Larsen emphasized that the purpose of these initiatives was to feed the eco-system of innovation, as opposed to simply replicate existing research programs. J. Larsen also spoke to additional new programs, including the Creative Destruction Lab and Ocean Visions.

Senator Saini commended the programs and initiatives that Senator Aiken and J. Larsen had highlighted.

The meeting engaged in a question period.

Responding to a Senator's question, J. Larsen explained that plans for innovation went beyond financial goals by helping students make a social impact, as well as positive impacts for the common good outside of commercialization. This could be working through a non-profit or in government, which could introduce many different opportunities and pathways with the potential to emphasize the common good.

J. Larsen added that the best way to access Dal Innovates was through the website and through student and researcher engagement on the ground.

8. Question Period

Senators returned with questions on the Senate reports.

A concern was expressed that the presentation made to Senate in April, 2022, on Dalhousie's Accessibility Plan, was short on details and that other open processes of sharing the plan had not been communicated. It was noted that Senate had an interest in seeing and being consulted on the Accessibility Plan, particularly as it related to course design. In response to these comments, Senator Saini undertook to revert electronically to Senators with a response on how Senators would be able to comment on the Accessibility Plan. Senator Saini noted that the Accessibility Plan had already acquired broad institutional feedback.

Senator Saini responded to a question on partnerships with Russia and Ukraine, noting that Dalhousie had few partnerships with both countries. Building stronger connections with Ukrainian institutions would also be challenging at this time due to the dire circumstances in Ukraine.

An inquiry was made regarding the costs of international and global investments and the return of upfront costs for Dalhousie. Senator Saini responded by detailing the positive results of these global relationships, both financially and reputationally. Senator Saini also noted that the financial investment in Dal Global was not significant.

A further inquiry was made regarding how Dalhousie justified its monetary investments in countries which could be dangerous for segments of the population, such as the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Senator Saini confirmed that students would never be sent to a non-conducive or dangerous environment. Dalhousie had a duty to care and protect students, regardless of their background. When students were sent outside of Dalhousie, Dalhousie would expect the same duty of care from those institutions.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.