

**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, May 9, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, May 9, 2022 via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, G. Alexander, M. Aston, D. Bourne-Tyson, J. Blustein, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, P. Doyle-Bedwell, Y. El Hiani, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, M. Fournier, G. Gagnon, J. Gantar, D. Grantham, D. Grujic, H. Hall, F. Harvey, D. Iduye, D. Jakeman, S. Jeffrey, S. Keyamo, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, M. Keinast, W. Lahey, C. Lake, M. Leonard, H. Maambo, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, S. McKibbon, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, F. Naghibi, B. Nassar, J. Newhook, H. Niu, R. Orji, M. Pacurar, N. Patil, L. Perez, L. Propper, T. Rajack-Talley, H-S. Ro, D. Saini, L. Sarson, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, M. Stinson, S. Stone, F. Verth, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Wunker, E. Yiridoe

**Regrets:** A. Aiken, D. Anderson, K. Brooks, C. Cameron, O. Dryden, D. Gray, J. Hall, S. Kirk, K. Rosen, S. Seth, V. Simodoh, V. Turpin, S. Yurgel

**Absent:** T. Adams, R. Agu, M. Ali Ulku, D. Bilodeau, R. Chang, B. Davis, A. Doucette, P. Doucet-Bernard, H. El Naggat, K. El-Sankary, N. Ezzeddine, C. Flood, G. Horne, M. Irwin, M. MacEachern, C. Macy, F. M. Nashnouch, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, F. Taheri, D. Tyers, T. Walker, D. White, I. Yakovenko

**Guests:** Susan Brousseau (University Secretary), Dr. Barbara-Ann Hamilton Hinch (Assistant Vice-Provost Equity and Inclusion), John Hope (Legal Counsel), Claire Mercer (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), 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 **approved** as presented.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1. Approval of Draft Minutes of April 11, 2022 Senate Meeting**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

**3. Matters Arising from April 11, 2022 Senate Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality**

Senator Spiteri invited Senator Gagnon, in his capacity as the Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Planning, to present initiatives to make diversity and inclusion a reality within the Faculty.

Senator Gagnon informed Senators of a number of equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) initiatives, which had been embedded into the Faculty's research processes. Senator Gagnon highlighted the Planning for Equity Accessibility and Community Health (PEACH) Research Unit initiative on accessibility in community design led by a professor in the Faculty. Senator Gagnon also noted that a number of new initiatives, led by the Faculty, had been undertaken with respect to gentrification of communities and equity and affordable housing in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada. In addition, a proposal for open learning for equity deserving communities through construction and fabrication processes had been prepared.

Senator Gagnon noted that the Faculty of Architecture and Planning had an active EDIA committee, which was responsible for ensuring that the Robert Winters lecture series maintained an EDIA focus, such as a recently delivered lecture on the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Housing Strategy. Senator Gagnon also informed Senators about the Two-Eyed Seeing guiding principle adopted by the Faculty, which had resulted in structures being built in Eskasoni First Nation and in Pictou Landing First Nation that had captured the lens of architectural design from a Western view, as well as with a Mik'maqi focused lens.

Senator Gagnon spoke to planned future activities, including an internationalization strategy for collaborations with students from equity deserving communities and faculty members at universities abroad.

#### **5. Reports**

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

Senator Spiteri's written report highlighted activities undertaken in her capacity as Chair of Senate with respect to Board of Governors' meetings and meetings of Faculty Council, the Dean of Libraries search and Dalhousie's Digital Strategy.

Senator Spiteri encouraged Senators to put their names forward for membership on the recently formed Student Learning Experience (SLEQ) Questionnaire Task Force by the May 19, 2022 deadline for receipt of expressions of interest sent out by the University Secretariat. Diverse faculty representation was sought. Senator Spiteri informed Senators that the task force was scheduled to report back to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) by June 2023, with recommended revisions to Dalhousie's SLEQ Questionnaire in order to have an improved instrument developed.

##### **5.2. Provost's Report**

Senator Harvey's written report included an update on admissions, student successes, a senior leadership update regarding the appointment of Sonia Beattie as Vice-Provost Planning and Analytics effective June 6, 2022 and thanks to Senators, faculty, staff and students as the 2021-22 academic year came to an end.

Senator Harvey noted an extension to the COVID-19 Dalhousie mask mandate to June 10, 2022. Senator Harvey also reported that in-person Convocation ceremonies would resume after a two-year hiatus resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Spring Convocation running from May 24 to June 3, 2022. In addition, a Summer Convocation would be held in early July, 2022 for the missed in-person 2020 and 2021 Convocation Ceremonies. Senator Harvey noted a number of joint collaborations between Senate and the Provost's office over the 2021-22 academic year, including formation of a joint Senate/Provost Office initiative to undertake a holistic review of cyclical academic quality assurance at Dalhousie University.

### **5.3. Questions for Reports**

There were no questions for reports.

## **FOR APPROVAL**

### **6. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC)**

#### **6.1. Proposed Revision to SAPRC Terms of Reference**

Senator Spiteri presented the proposed revision to the SAPRC terms of reference.

The meeting was informed that the proposed revision arose from the approval made by Senate, on May 11, 2020, on the recommendation of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC), to approve the delegation for approval of Minor programs (approval of new minors; major modifications to existing minors; and suspension and termination of existing minors) from SAPRC to the Undergraduate Academic Programs Sub-Committee (UAPSC). Items approved by UAPSC under this delegation would now come forward to SAPRC for information. Prior to that, proposals for minors were recommended for approval to SAPRC, by UAPSC. The meeting was reminded that the rationale for the delegation included the fact that proposals for minors were of relative low-risk in that they were not submitted to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) for approval.

The meeting was further informed that the revisions to the UAPSC terms of reference to incorporate the delegation, plus updates to include UAPSC's responsibilities under the Dalhousie University Certificate Framework, following approval to revisions to the Framework by Senate on February 25, 2019, were considered by UAPSC and SAPRC and recommended by SAPRC to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) for approval per its mandate under its terms of reference. SPGC had approved the revisions to the UAPSC terms of reference at its April 20, 2022 meeting.

It was noted that the terms of reference for SAPRC need to be correspondingly reviewed, to note the delegation to UAPSC. This proposed revision had been considered by SAPRC and recommended to SPGC for consideration. SPGC had considered the proposed revision at its April 20, 2022 meeting and recommended the proposed revision to Senate, for approval.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve the proposed revision to the terms of reference of the Senate Academic and Research Committee, as presented.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **6.2. Proposed Revision to Senate Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Senator Spiteri presented the proposed revision to the Senate land acknowledgement statement.

The meeting was informed that it was proposed to revise and enhance the Senate land acknowledgment statement, making it more fulsome while also acknowledging the contributions of African Nova Scotians. It was reported that feedback had been sought from the Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC), the Dalhousie Black Faculty and Staff Caucus (BFSC) and Dalhousie's Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES) on the proposed revision. It was further reported that feedback received had been incorporated and that the proposed revised and enhanced land acknowledgment statement had been considered by SPGC and recommended to Senate for approval.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve the following revised and enhanced Senate land acknowledgement statement:**

**“The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that we are in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi’kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi’kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.**

**The Dalhousie University Senate also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.”**

In the ensuing discussion a suggestion was made that in support of the proposed revised land acknowledgment statement, material contributions, if available, be used to provide services such as safe drinking water to Indigenous communities without such access. A concern was also expressed regarding the absence of intended actions within the proposed revised land acknowledgement statement to effect reconciliation and engage in anti-racism education. It was clarified that a land acknowledgment was not the place for the suggested action. However, principles could be incorporated in the Senate Constitution when it came up for review.

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **7. Inclusive Excellence and the Pan-University Equity & Inclusion Committees**

Senator Rajack-Talley and Dr. Barbara-Ann Hamilton-Hinch presented on the upcoming Dalhousie Pan-University Equity and Inclusion Committees.

Senator Rajack-Talley spoke to the connection between Dalhousie's Third Century Promise and inclusive excellence. It was noted that in order to develop ethical and inclusive excellence, inclusion needed to be intentional and ongoing. Further, excellence needed to be redefined through a decolonized perspective and enable diversity to be viewed as a positive quality.

B. Hamilton-Hinch spoke to achieving inclusive excellence through six pan-University equity and inclusion (EI) committees, developed through the recommendations of multiple groups, including the Scarborough Charter and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The aim of the committees was to implement the existing EI recommendations and to ensure their sustainability over time. Each of these committees had a specific focus, namely campus climate; community engagement; curriculum teaching and learning; research and innovation; retention and promotion of faculty and staff; and student access and success. It was intended that the EI committees collaborate on their work and have short, medium and long term goals. This approach would enable a connection between One Dal and the Third Century Promise and avoid duplication of function.

Following their presentation, Senator Rajack-Talley and B. Hamilton-Hinch responded to Senators' questions.

Responding to an inquiry on whether there was a process in place to ensure progress goals were met, it was confirmed that the six committees would check on implementation across the university.

In response to a query regarding resources and funding of projects, it was reported that that funding was currently being sought.

## **8. Question Period**

There were no questions.

## **9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.