

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES OF
SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, October 22, 2012, at 2:00pm, in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Ali, Arron, Barrett, Baur, Beale, Bisset, Boran, Boudreau, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Canning, Castleden, Cochrane, Crago, Cunningham, Denike, Dionne, Garduno, Gibson, Gorsky, Harman, Hewitt, Hoyle, J. Hughes, Keselj, Langille, Leon, MacLennan, Macy, Magill, Manning, Mansour, Marrie, McLarney, Moore, Packer, Pinder, Rahemtulla, Rapaport, Rogers, Ross, Schellinck, Shukla, Stadnyk, Summerby-Murray, Tennessen, Tillotson, Wach, Watters, Yiridoe.

Regrets: Amirault, Becke, Chen, DasGupta, Doman, Grant, Johnston, Shepherd, Traves, Westwood.

Absent: Cook, Cooper, Gardner, E. Hughes, Khan, Leach, MacDonald, Matte, Miller, Mitchell, Noble, Pegg, Persaud, Smirnov, Webster.

2012:070

Adoption of the Agenda

The October 22, 2012 agenda was adopted.

2012:071

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of September 17, 2012 Senate Meeting

The minutes from the September 17, 2012 meeting were not available for approval.

2012:072

Matters Arising from the Meeting of September 17, 2012
Senate Forum on Undergraduate Education

Mr. Fraser invited Mr. Pinder to provide an update on the Senate Forum on Undergraduate Education. Mr. Pinder indicated that the Forum is part of DalVision 2020, the website for the Forum is available, and registration is now open. In order to increase awareness of the event, there is a link to the website through the academic innovation site; other publicity is being handled through e-mails, posters, sticky notes, listings in Dal News, and awareness through the DSU. Communication and Marketing is also assisting with external media awareness.

With regards to the Agricultural Campus, keynote speaker Nick Mount will be travelling to Truro for an evening session of the Forum. In addition, there will be a live feed of the Halifax session available on the Agricultural Campus. Mr. Pinder noted that registration is now open for the Truro event, and he encouraged all Senators to attend the Forum and increase awareness of the Forum to others.

2012:073

Chair of Senate Report

Mr. Fraser paid tribute to members of the university community who have passed away since the last meeting in September. Mr. Fraser noted that the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) had established a

working group on the Alignment of the Faculty of Agriculture Admission and Academic Regulations. For the current year, Faculty of Agriculture students are following the NSAC academic regulations. In 2013-14 Agriculture will be incorporated into the Dalhousie Undergraduate Calendar; thus, prior to its publication, all admissions and academic regulations are to be aligned. The working group has begun meeting and will bring its recommendations forward in due course through the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC).

Mr. Fraser informed Senators that a joint meeting was to be held later in the week, involving SPGC, SLTC and the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC), together with the heads/ directors of the Centre for Learning and Teaching, Facilities Management, Information Technology Services, and the University Libraries. This meeting is intended to discuss items that affect more than one committee, and more than one academic and research support unit.

Mr. Fraser highlighted the number of fall graduates, and he noted that a call for honorary degree nominations has been distributed. The next meeting of Senate will be held on November 26, 2012.

2012:074

DSU President's Report

Mr. Arron highlighted the success of the September Orientation week and the Society Fair, and he noted some key long-term initiatives. He noted that the Municipal elections and the student vote were a significant priority on the DSU's agenda.

The DSU will be considering potential renovations of the Student Union Building, as well as focusing on stronger connections with students through an online platform, Soapbox. Soapbox will allow students to post ideas about improving the campus experience, and other students can comment on these ideas, with an official response to follow. With regards to the Senate Forum, Mr. Arron noted that the DSU will be producing a video, which will include interviews of community members. Mr. Arron's full report is available with the meeting package.

2012:075

Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC)

Proposal for changes to the College of Arts and Science Degree Architecture and Terminology

Carolann McLarney, Chair, SAPRC, reported on the proposed changes to the "degree architecture" for programs offered by the College of Arts and Science. Ms. McLarney noted that the changes were reviewed by SAPRC's sub-committee on undergraduate programs, as well as by the full committee. The proposed changes primarily involve a set of minors. She noted that Dalhousie is one of the last universities in Canada to make this sort of change, and she welcomed Mr. Summerby-Murray and Mr. Moore to further explain the proposal.

It was noted that these changes increase students' options. Currently, FASS and Science students normally were unable to minor in a subject within their own faculty. In the future it is anticipated that disciplinary, program, subspecialty, and interdisciplinary minors will be available to students, which is expected to strengthen enrolment. These changes are also important because they will allow the University to recognize achievements already being made by students. It is anticipated that there will be a whole new set of minor proposals being brought forward with these changes, and they will be reviewed for approval by SAPRC on Senate's behalf.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, Ms. McLarney **MOVED:**

THAT Senate approve the changes to the College of Arts and Science Degree Architecture and Terminology effective July 1, 2013.

The motion **CARRIED.**

2012:076

Senate Review of the Faculty of Medicine

Mr. Fraser invited Tom Marrie, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, to report on the Faculty's response to the Senate Review. Mr. Marrie noted that there were eighteen recommendations in the report, and he highlighted four of these recommendations (recommendations 5, 6, 11, and 13.) The following were among the points noted:

- Documents from the review would be available to faculty members upon request.
- A \$10 million scholarship campaign has been budgeted to target disadvantaged students, as a number of qualified students do not apply to the program due to costs. A quarter of the allotment would be for undergraduate students, and the rest of the allotment would be for graduate students.

2012:077

Dalhousie University Academic Priorities

Mr. Fraser invited Carolyn Watters, Vice-President Academic and Provost, to address academic priorities over the coming year. Ms. Watters noted four areas of focus: fostering academic innovation, strengthening enrolment, enhancing research, and enriching the student experience.

She highlighted academic innovation initiatives as the University's top priority. Ms. Watters noted the Senate Forum, a lecture series starting in December, the Centre for Learning and Teaching annual conference in April, and an Academic Innovation fund, as ways in which the University plans to engage in academic innovation. It is expected that there will be a written report with recommendations for innovation by June 2013.

With regards to academic planning, the Deans have provided strategic plans for the upcoming academic year, and capacity planning has to be determined, to ensure that enrolment and recruitment fulfill this capacity. The university anticipates more international students, and the current retention rate needs to be addressed. It was noted that a review of scholarship and bursary programs is underway to more effectively help those students in need, and it is also a priority to identify students at risk of dismissal at an early stage.

2012:078

Dalhousie University Research Priorities

Mr. Fraser invited Martha Crago, Vice-President Research, to address the university's research priorities. Ms. Crago highlighted the different grants that Dalhousie has either received or increased its amount of applications, and she noted potential alignments with universities in China and Europe.

In terms of upcoming projects, Ms. Crago mentioned DalPower as part of an ongoing communications plan, with an inaugural breakfast taking place on November 14, 2012, showcasing five CREATE projects. She also noted that a strategic plan has been drafted, and it will be submitted to Senate and the Board of Governors for approval in the near future. With regards to the Institutional Support of Research, the administrative framework is underway, and it is expected to go to Senate for information.

It was suggested that there was not enough funding for research in sciences in Nova Scotia and Ms. Crago noted that while there is funding, it is primarily in Health Sciences. She noted that the total amount of funding is related to the number of graduate students within a given area.

2012:079

In Camera: Proposed One-Year Suspension of Sections 3.2 (a) and (b) of the Senate Constitution (Term of Chair)

The Senate session went in-camera for discussion of the proposed One-Year Suspension of Sections 3.2 (a) and (b) of the Senate Constitution (Term of Chair). Following the in-camera discussion, the Senate went back into open session.

2012:080

Question Period

Ms. Gibson noted a Globe and Mail article published earlier in the fall which references a UK study on plagiarism among international students and the apparent rise in allegations of plagiarism, particularly in the first year of study. She inquired whether the University is tracking the incidence of plagiarism and suggested that the University needs an educational initiative that is not targeted to international students specifically, but to all first year students. Several senators spoke to various academic integrity initiatives - including mandatory courses and modules - that are now in place within their respective Faculties.

2012:081

Other Business

There was no other business.

2012:082

Adjournment

The Senate meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.