

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
APPROVED MINUTES  
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, October 28, 2013, at 4:00pm in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Baur, Baylis, Beale, Boudreau, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Burton, Byers, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Cooper, Eldridge, Florizone, Gibson, Goodday, Grant, Habib, Hoyle, Hughes, Johnston, Kesselring, Killham, Kozey, MacDonald, MacLennan, Macy, Manion, Mansour, Matte, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Osberg, Packer, Pegg, Persaud, Pinder, Ross, Shepherd, Shukla, Smirnov, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Taylor, Watters, Webster, Woodman, Yiridoe.

Regrets: Aucoin, Barrett, Boran, Cox, Crago, Cunningham, Denike, Doman, Gray, Gruzd, Harman, Hewitt, Leon, Treiger, Wach.

Absent: Ali, Becke, DasGupta, Dionne, Hartigan, Jha, Khan, Langille, Leach, Marrie, Mazzanti.

**2013:95**

**Adoption of Agenda**

The October 28, 2013 agenda was **adopted**.

**2013:96**

**Consent Agenda**

**2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of September 23, 2013 Senate Meeting**

THAT Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of September 23, 2013.

**Approved by Consent.**

**2.2 Senate Planning and Governance Committee UT&PP Nominations**

**On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Mr. Fraser MOVED:**

**THAT** Leonard Diepeveen, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences; Gorman Doyle, Faculty of Dentistry; Abdel Farrag, Faculty of Computer Science; David Jakeman, Faculty of Health Professions; and Cynthia Neville, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences be appointed to the University Tenure and Promotions Panel for the term November 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

**Approved by Consent.**

### **2.3 Senate Nominating Committee Nominations**

**On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Fraser MOVED:**

**THAT** Reginald Goodday, Faculty of Dentistry, be appointed to the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee for the term November 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

**Approved by Consent.**

**2013:97**

#### **Matters Arising from September 23, 2013 Senate Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the September 23, 2013 Senate minutes.

**2013:98**

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

Mr. Fraser paid tribute to members of the community who had passed away during the time since the last Senate meeting in September. He extended sympathy to family and friends of David Hubel, Brian Garvey, Clair Callaghan and Donald Trivett. He then thanked all Senators who attended the installation of President Florizone on October 4, 2013.

Mr. Fraser informed members of Senate of activities being undertaken by Senate committees, noting that in many cases working groups had been established to research an issue and bring forward recommendations to the committee. He noted that these provide important opportunities for faculty members and students to make significant contributions to the university. Mr. Fraser identified the following issues as ones having working groups that already are active: the development of a university-wide Undergraduate Grade Scale, revision of the Accommodation Policy, revision of the Code of Student Conduct, Senate Constitutional Review, and the Student Ratings of Instruction Advisory Work Group. Mr. Fraser also noted that he anticipated that working groups soon would be formed to address the following: definitions of "student," and the related implications of this for academic regulations and student services; issues related to the definitions of certificates and diplomas, and their appropriate approval and review processes; the development of policy concerning Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR); and various review processes related to learning technology. It was suggested that the work being undertaken to examine the university's definition of student might appropriately include definitions of various student sub-groups that relate to awards and scholarships and other purposes.

**2013:99**

#### **President's Report**

Mr. Florizone updated members of Senate on the progress of the 100 Days of Listening. There have been 600 online submissions, with more than 150 of them from faculty members. A public report will be available by the end of December. Next term this will be an important resource for discussion of the themes that have emerged from the 100 Days process.

With respect to enrolment, Mr. Florizone reported that Dalhousie is up 150 students compared with October 2012. With declining government support, even if inflation in salaries and other expenditures is modest, with our current model, enrolment growth will need to continue in order to balance the books.

Mr. Florizone noted that through its election platform the new provincial government promised to implement graduate student support. Dalhousie will be working with the government on what is anticipated to be a \$3 million program. Mr. Florizone expressed gratitude for the \$10 million gift to be used toward the Fountain School of Performing Arts. He also noted that Dalhousie has earned a spot on the top 100 employers for the third year in a row.

With respect to the Library acquisitions budget, Mr. Florizone addressed concerns that had been expressed, and called upon Ms. Watters, Vice-President Academic and Provost, to provide additional information. For several years the acquisitions budget had been protected from budget cuts; this year the \$5.7 million budget was reduced by 1%. The 1% reduction combined with inflationary pressures had contributed to a freeze on acquisitions, but the full analysis of the current budget shortfall is still underway. The senior administration will provide funds for essential Library acquisitions for the current year, and will ensure that the acquisitions budget is sustainable for the longer term.

### **2013:100**

#### **DSU President's Report**

Mr. Beale, DSU Vice President, Academic and External, briefly spoke on behalf of the DSU President. The DSU has met with the senior administration to better understand the Library acquisitions issue. The DSU has continued discussions with the Nova Scotia government regarding its support for university education.

### **2013:101**

#### **Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Proposed Changes to the Regulation regarding Reassessment of a Final Grade**

Mr. Pinder introduced the proposed revision to the Regulation regarding Reassessment of a Final Grade. The revisions is intended to eliminate the potential for a student who is not satisfied with their final grade to request a reassessment of the grade when it has been adjusted as a result of a discipline matter. The revised regulation would make it clear that students cannot apply for a reassessment of a final grade in such circumstances.

On behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Mr. Pinder **MOVED**:

**THAT** Senate approve the revised Regulation regarding Reassessment of a Final Grade, as presented, effective immediately.

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **2013:102**

#### **Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee: Draft International Strategy**

Ms. Watters explained that the intent of the International Strategy was to establish principles to guide Dalhousie's determination of high priority partnerships and to set guidelines on how to build a larger research and academic presence internationally. Concern was raised that added responsibilities for a particular academic unit may need to be accompanied by additional resources to enable the unit to fulfill its responsibilities. Ms. Watters explained that all agreements are signed in partnership with each unit involved. However it was noted that the document frequently contains no clause to recognize that

academic units should receive necessary resources to deliver their obligations.

There was a discussion on providing support for departments that wish to develop international relationships but cannot afford to draw students in. Although there is currently no policy to do this, this is an ongoing issue and how to pay for graduate students overreaches the scope of this particular document. There was further discussion related to cultural awareness and how to allocate resources appropriately.

It was agreed that further revisions would be made to the International Strategy to reflect the discussion. The revised document would be presented for approval at the next meeting of Senate.

### **2013:103**

#### **Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Briefing on the Common Undergraduate Grade Scale Discussion Paper**

Mr. Pinder introduced the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee's activity related to developing a uniform undergraduate grade scale for the university. Dalhousie currently does not have a uniform undergraduate grade scale. This creates many difficulties, including appropriate evaluation of students for scholarships and awards. A working group is currently consulting with Faculty Councils concerning the proposed scale. The SLTC hopes to provide a recommendation to Senate for a common undergraduate grade scale by December or January.

Ms. Kachan indicated that the lack of a common undergraduate grade scale is a concern expressed by students repeatedly. The purpose is not to remove authority from instructors on grading but to have a common language on what percentages correspond to letter grades. Descriptors for letter grades are to remain unchanged and GPA values will remain unchanged.

It is anticipated that the common undergraduate grade scale would be implemented for the next academic calendar, beginning in September 2014.

### **2013: 104**

#### **Enrolment Management Report**

Ms. Kachan presented the Enrolment Management Report for October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Overall enrolment is 18,531; there was an increase in the number of first year students and a slight decrease in graduate enrolment. International enrolment was up by 225; these students are less likely to select Arts and Social Sciences, where the Faculty has experienced a decline in enrolment..

Across the Atlantic Provinces, undergraduate enrolment is down by 1280; graduate enrolment is up and international student enrolment is up as well.

Dalhousie needs to consider two perspectives: how our region fits in the broader region and how enrolment has been distributed across the country. It was noted that the U.S. was a difficult market to break into as they have a different financial aid model and coming to Dalhousie is not as big a bargain as might appear.

A survey of students who did not accept Dalhousie University offers of admission is being conducted. This information should be synthesized in 4-6 weeks. It appears that tuition is not a highly significant factor affecting students' decisions; instead, the value of the degree relative to the cost appears to be much more important.

There was some discussion of the decrease in graduate students, particularly in the thesis programs. Further information on this will be available in due course.

**2013:105**

**Question Period**

Further concern was expressed with regard to the Library acquisitions budget. Ms. Watters indicated that the University is committed to making the necessary current purchases. More analysis needs to be completed; it is anticipated that this will be done prior to the next Senate meeting and that a further report will be available at that time. Strategic Initiatives funding has been used to cover the recent library acquisitions.

**2013:106**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2013:107**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.