



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
APPROVED MINUTES  
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, November 24, 2014, at 4:00pm in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Alan Pinder in the chair were the following: Barrett, Baur, Baylis, Bodorik, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Bucci, Burton, Byers, Calladine, Cochrane, Cooper, Crago, Cunningham, Cutler, DasGupta, Doman, Erdman, Florizone, Gahagan, Grant, Habib, Harman, Herder, Hewitt, Holmes, Hoyle, Hughes, Kesselring, Kozey, Leach, Leon, Letendre, Ma, Macdonald, MacLennan, MacRae, Mansour, Mazzanti, McLarney, Meynell, Moore, Packer, Pinder, Quinn, Ross, Roy, Shepherd, Shukla, Skiptunis, Smirnov, Smit, Stadnyk, Stanish, Stone, Summerby-Murray, Tennessen, Wach, Watters, Wright.

Regrets: Aziz, Brooks, Goodday, Kirk, Langille, Leonard, Marrie, Mitchell, Mopoho, Noble.

Absent: Ali, Becke, Gray, Khan, Macy, Quraishi, Steeves, Webster.

Guests: Claude Caldwell, James Robar

**2014:122**

**Approval of Agenda**

The November 24, 2014 agenda was **adopted** with the addition of a discussion of the Divest Dal initiative under "other business" and moved to agenda item #9.

**2014:123**

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Draft Minutes of October 27, 2014 Senate meeting**

**THAT** Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of October 27, 2014.

**Approved by Consent.**

**2014:124**

**Matters Arising from October 27, 2014 Senate Minutes**

A committee struck for the purpose of reviewing the funding for Indigenous, Black and Mi'kmaq students in various Dalhousie programs agreed to have a report back earlier regarding the IB&M scholarship funding issue (which had been noted in the earlier Senate Review of the Schulich School of Law). C. Watters confirmed that the report will be available the first week of December.

A. Pinder reported that several senators provided input into the Government of Nova Scotia

consultations on November 3, 2014. Those attending were Alan Pinder, Letitia Meynell, Susan Holmes, and Katherine Harman. Mr. Pinder noted that the government did not indicate specifically how the input given would be directed and his sense is that they are still formulating a plan.

At an earlier meeting, several senators had queried how faculty members could provide input to the Provost Committee. Ms. Watters and Mr. Florizone spoke to the opportunities for faculty to engage, including as senators and members of Senate standing committees (as matters come forward to Senate), in proposals as those are developed within their own Faculties; and as individuals serving on some of the project teams that will be constituted to work on the various strategic priorities. Ms. Watters noted that a review of the membership of the committee would occur in the spring. It was noted that it would be useful for Deans to do outreach to faculty so that members will be aware when there are opportunities to engage in issues under consideration by the Provost Committee.

With respect to the LMS review, Mr. Pinder reported that detailed information regarding how faculty could participate and provide feedback was sent out in an email by Ms. Fiona Black via Notice Digest on November 13, 2014.

#### **2014:125**

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

Mr. Pinder reported on a number of items, including the call for honorary degree nominations for spring 2016 and fall 2016 convocations, and the recent announcement that Dalhousie has once again been named as one of Canada's top 100 employers. He noted that the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) has recommended to Senate that the current Academic Schedule Principles be used for the development of the 2015-16 academic dates and these will come forward to Senate for approval at the December 8<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting. Additionally, the taskforce for the review of the academic schedule will present a summary of consultations to the SLTC in spring 2015 and any revisions to the Academic Scheduling Principles will come forward to Senate following the SLTC meeting.

Mr. Pinder reported on the items approved by the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, on behalf of Senate, included a proposal for suspension of admission to the Master of Social Work two-year stream, a major modified program proposal for the Master of Planning Studies, and approval of program minors from Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (French Literature and Culture, Security Studies, Indigenous Studies, Esoteric and Occult Tradition).

#### **2014:126**

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

Mr. Florizone reported on recent student enrolment numbers which indicate that undergraduate enrolment has increased by 1.8% over last year. He noted that this has two main implications: firstly, that despite recruitment efforts being on track, Dalhousie cannot become complacent about recruitment or retention, and secondly, that enrolment declines at other universities are creating budgetary challenges and increasing dependence on government assistance, which may create further pressure for Dalhousie to compete for limited provincial funds.

He congratulated two Dalhousie professors, Dr. Roberta Barker, Fountain School of Performing Arts, and Dr. Randall Martin, Killam professor in the Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science and Department of Chemistry, who were named as two of the 91 inaugural members of the Royal Society of

Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Mr. Florizone commented on his recent mission to China, the purpose of which was to advance Dalhousie's interests and relationships with a number of institutions where Dalhousie has research collaborations and joint degree programs. He noted that China continues to be an important country for the university in terms of enrolment as well, with over 1000 students currently studying at Dalhousie. In response to a question, he noted that the trip was part of the internationalization strategy and, before committing to go, consideration was given to ensuring that he could engage in activities that would advance Dalhousie's interests and align with existing faculty initiatives.

With respect to research activities, Dr. Florizone reported that Dalhousie is very focused on work on a Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) application in the area of Oceans. He noted that the current thinking is that the program will fund 5-10 awards across the country that are focused on global excellence.

Dr. Florizone also spoke briefly to the consultation process undertaken by the Nova Scotia government on the future of the Nova Scotia University system, and to a number of capital projects that are currently in progress and the need to push for more government support for some of this infrastructure work.

**2014:127**

**Provost's Report: Strategic Directions Update**

C. Watters reported first on the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) and the status of its work to develop the 2015-16 budget plan. She noted that, following last year's practice, the committee has been meeting with Deans, ancillary services, finance, graduate studies, facilities and others. The initial report should come to Senate in January 2015. A website will be available shortly with updates on the committee's progress. Ms. Watters noted that BAC is working towards a much longer look at the budget; while it is difficult to make assumptions four years out, it is still important the University move towards a longer term lens for budget and planning purposes.

Ms. Watters spoke to the work of the Provost Committee (PC), noting that the PC website is now available online at [www.dal.ca/provost](http://www.dal.ca/provost). The intention is for the community to be aware of what issues are moving forward and to anticipate upcoming agenda items. Included posts are timelines, project charters and plans for the strategic priorities and a call for senators to join committees. It was noted that deans should be encouraged to include discussions and updates on strategic priorities as part of faculty council meetings. Additionally, a regular Provost Report has been added to the Senate agenda.

Ms. Watters responded to questions on the process employed this year for selecting student representatives to serve on the BAC, and the modes of advertising the consultation sessions this year. It was noted that conducting the consultations before BAC has completed its consideration of the current assumptions would be helpful.

Further discussion and questions focused on the process for selecting the top 10 strategic priorities and, in particular, why 2.2 – "attracting and retaining outstanding professors" was not included within these 10. Ms. Watters and Mr. Florizone responded that the choice of these 10 represents a fairly pragmatic response to opportunities for Dalhousie and the fact that these 10 were the priorities on which there is already momentum. Mr. Florizone noted that this all 25 priorities are progressing, but focusing on 10

was a way to get started without overwhelming people with 25 to work on immediately.

**2014:128**

**Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee**

**Draft Certificate and Diploma Framework**

Mr. Caldwell, Chair, Certificate and Diploma Framework Work Group, reported that the framework had previously come before Senate for information and today it is being presented for approval. The purpose of the framework was to develop consistency, quality, relevance, opportunity and flexibility around certificates and diplomas. It was agreed that approval of certificates, credit and non-credit, should reside within the Faculty. Included in the review was how Student Services and the Registrar could keep better records and track student progress.

In response to questions, it was noted that full-time students would be eligible for financial supports while part-time students registered at Dalhousie for only a certificate or diploma would not be eligible for financial support.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, Mr. Pinder **MOVED:**

**THAT** Senate approve the certificate and diploma framework, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**New Program Proposal: Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Physics**

Mr. James Robar, Associate Professor, Medical Physics, presented on the new program proposal, outlining the expansion of medical physics beyond research settings. Graduates from medical physics programs typically work in health care facilities or in industry, high technology sectors or government. The proposed curriculum has been designed based on Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs (CAMPEP) standards and is aligned for graduates to receive the certificate from the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine. The program is supported by Capital Health, who fund 7 graduate students above the minimum amount required.

It was discussed that most graduates interested in research and academia will proceed towards a Ph.D. beyond their Masters. There is high demand for these graduates across the U.S. border. It was noted that courses on professionalism and ethics would be taught by medical physicists, but with guest lecturers including faculty experts, legal experts and ethics experts.

In response to a question, Mr. Robar confirmed that after April 1, 2015, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which is being prepared with Capital Health will have to be amended to reflect the name of the new Authority.

On behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, Mr. Pinder **MOVED:**

**THAT** Senate approve the proposed new programs, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Physics, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2014:129**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Report from the Work Group for Student Ratings of Instruction Recommendations**

Mr. Pinder, Chair of the Work Group for Student Ratings of Instruction Recommendations, reported that the SLTC reviewed the eight recommendations from a previous work group regarding the Student Ratings of Instruction. Following direction from Senate, most of the recommendations have been implemented and a few have been tested. Another work group has been created by the SLTC to review the SRI Policy and Procedures and it is estimated that the report will be received by the SLTC in March 2015.

It was discussed whether giving control of opening the SRIs to students be given to the instructors to raise response rates. If there are elements within a class that instructors require feedback at a particular point in time, that component of the evaluation does not necessarily have to be through SRI. It was also noted that for small class sizes, the Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) would be willing to work with individual departments to customize an evaluation method to receive feedback. It is acknowledged that this feedback is critical for tenure and promotion.

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

**THAT** Senate receive the report from the Work Group for Student Ratings of Instruction Recommendations.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2014:130**

**Divest Dal Initiative**

Ms. Baylis introduced the issue of fossil fuel divestment, noting that the Board Investment Committee (IC) has been looking at this for some months. The IC, in its interim report, has recognized that there are academic, as well as financial considerations and so it seems appropriate for Senate to have some discussion about the academic issues.

Significant discussion followed with comments focused on a variety of views and concerns, including issue of morality and research; the political and ethical constraints that all researchers must negotiate; and the values and reputation of the institution. Senators noted the complexities of the issues given that students and faculty are studying and conducting research in these areas and that some of the companies targeted are the ones that are most heavily involved in developing renewable sources. Others noted the need to distinguish who Dalhousie invests in from whom invests in Dalhousie. There was also discussion that while all agree that climate change is a very serious issue, there is disagreement on whether divestment is the right way to approach this problem or whether it will have any measureable impact.

Senate continued the discussion on the divestment issue to the end of the meeting time.

Ms. Baylis **MOVED**, Ms. Meynell seconded:

**THAT** the Divest Dal initiative be further discussed at the Senate meeting on December 8, 2014.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**Strategic Directions 1.1 Increase Retention & Degree Completion**

Deferred due to time constraints.

**2014: 131**

**Presentation on e-learning at Dalhousie University**

Deferred due to time constraints.

**2014:132**

**Budget Advisory Committee: University Process**

Deferred due to time constraints.

**2014:133**

**Question Period**

There were no questions.

**2014:134**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2014:135**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.