

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
APPROVED MINUTES  
OF SENATE MEETING

Senate met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Alan Pinder in the chair were the following: Ali, Banks, Barrett, Baur, Baylis, Bhatia, Byers, Cochrane, Cooper, Crago, Denike, Diepeveen, Florizone, Gahagan, Goodday, Herder, Hewitt, Holmes, Hunt, Hutton, Kesselring, Kirk, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leonard, Ma, C. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, MacRae, Macy, Mansour, Marrie, McLarney, Meynell, Mitchell, Nicholson, Noble, Persaud, Quraishi, Shepherd, Shukla, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Tennessen, Wach, Watters, Wright.

Regrets: Bodorik, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Burton, Cunningham, DasGupta, Dobson, Erdman, Habib, Harman, Hoyle, Hughes, MacLennan, Moore, Mopoho, Roy, Smit, Webster.

Absent: Becke, Cutler, Doman, Grant, Gray, Khan, Leon, Mazzanti, Smirnov, Watt.

**2015:78**

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Pinder began by welcoming the incoming student senators who will be serving terms from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016: Mr. Dan Nicholson, Mr. John Hutton, Ms. Sarah Dobson, Mr. Jeremy Banks, Mr. Liam Hunt, and Mr. Dhruv Bhatia. He also acknowledged Krista Kesselring, who is currently serving as Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Mr. Pinder then called for approval for the agenda. The May 11, 2015 Senate agenda was **adopted**, as circulated.

**2015:79**

**Senate Nominating Committee: Election of the Chair of Senate (Acting) 2015-16: Nominations**

Mr. Pinder began the election process by introducing the Teller's Committee: Ms. Susan Brousseau, University Secretary; Mr. Bob Mann, Manager, Discipline and Appeals; and Ms. Margaret Sterns, Director of Internal Audit.

Mr. Pinder then reviewed the election process as set out in the Senate Constitution. Mr. Pinder reported that the two nominees for Chair of Senate (Acting) are Mr. Peter Bodorik, Faculty of Computer Science, and Mr. Kevin Hewitt, Faculty of Science. As Mr. Bodorik was unable to attend the meeting to address Senate in person, senators viewed a short video presentation prepared by Mr. Bodorik. Mr. Hewitt then had the opportunity to address Senate and respond to question from senators.

Following these presentations, Mr. Pinder referred senators to a memo included in the meeting package at the request of Ms. Baylis. Ms. Baylis then spoke briefly to her memo, encouraging senators to be mindful of diversity and inclusiveness in the election of Senate officers. Following the questions and Ms. Baylis' comments, the Tellers Committee distributed the ballots and the election proceeded.

**2015:80**

**Consent Agenda**

The Draft Senate meeting minutes of April 13, 2015 were removed from the consent agenda.

**2015:81**

**Approval of Draft Minutes of April 13, 2015 Senate Meeting**

A question arose with respect to the edit that was previously made to the Matters Arising section of the April 13, 2015 meeting minutes. Ms. Watters clarified that all decanal searches follow equity provisions at every step and supporting forms are completed at each stage. She also noted that the current job posting does not have this requirement clearly stated. Ms. Watters stated that language more clearly addressing equity considerations will be added to Deans search documents to make this more explicit.

A second question arose in relation to the second last bullet in the text under **2015:73 Budget Advisory Committee Report LII (April 6, 2015)**. The first sentence was amended to read, "The reason for the greater reduction recommended in the budget for each Faculty (2.5%) relative to the 2% reduction for administrative units was clarified."

Ms. Watters stated that academic units, over time, have the opportunity to increase revenue by increasing the number of students enrolled. Conversely, administration cannot do the same. Ms. Watters then explained that the 2.5% reduction recommended in the budget for each Faculty is drastically different across Faculties, since each Faculty is different.

**THAT** Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of April 13, 2015, as **amended**.

**2015:82**

**Matters Arising from the April 13, 2015 Senate Minutes**

**SPGC re Terms for Senate faculty representative on Board of Governors:** The Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC), at its meeting of April 15, 2015, recommended to Senate that the term for the Senate-appointed faculty representative on the Board of Governors be a three year term. SPGC also recommended that a Senate-appointed faculty representative may only serve two terms in their career.

SPGC noted that the motion, with respect to the limit on the number of terms, will take effect for the next call for nominations for a Senate-appointed faculty representative for the Board of Governors; not the current call and nominations that Senate will be voting on today.

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

**THAT** Senate approve the term for a Senate-appointed faculty representative on the Board of Governors be a three-year term. A Senate faculty representative may only serve two terms in their career.

The motion **CARRIED**.

It was noted that there should be greater clarity regarding the role of Senate-appointed faculty representatives in reporting to Senate. Mr. Pinder stated that this aspect of the position will be further discussed by SPGC at their May meeting.

There were no other matters arising from the April 13, 2015 Senate Minutes.

**2015:83**

**Chair of Senate's Report**

Mr. Pinder began his report by announcing that Senate has elected Mr. Kevin Hewitt as the Acting Chair of Senate for the term July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Mr. Pinder congratulated Mr. Hewitt and thanked the Teller's Committee.

Mr. Pinder highlighted the items attached to the Senate meeting package for information, including the Revised Student Ratings of Instruction Policy and Procedures. With respect to this item, he noted that the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee reviewed this material on Wednesday, May 6 and it is anticipated that the final draft will come forward to Senate on June 8 for approval. Questions about the revisions should be directed to David Burton, Chair of the work group. The third item for information was the three year schedule for Faculty Reviews, as of April 2015, which the Senate Planning and Governance Committee approved in April.

Mr. Pinder also thanked senators who were able to attend the Senate Forum on April 27 to discuss the Strategic Direction Report priority 5.2 (Foster a collegial culture grounded in diversity and inclusiveness), and, more specifically, the recommendations to be addressed by Senate. It is now anticipated that a formal ad hoc committee of Senate will be constituted in the coming months to oversee the work on these recommendations by Senate standing committees. Mr. Pinder stated that Senate will not meet again, due to convocation, until June 8. At that meeting there will be a determination as to whether there is sufficient business to hold the June 22 meeting of Senate. On June 29 and 30 the Task Force on Misogyny, Sexism and Homophobia in the Faculty of Dentistry will be on campus to release their report. More details will be made available in the near future regarding this event.

Mr. Pinder reported that on May 4, 2015 the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee, on behalf of Senate, approved the following:

- Minor in Actuarial Science, Faculty of Science
- Minor in Bioinformatics: interdisciplinary minor involving several science departments and the Faculty of Computer Science.
- New Combined Program Proposal for a Juris Doctor, Schulich School of Law, and Master of Journalism, New Ventures (JD/MJ New Ventures, University of King's College).
- New medical residency: geriatric psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine

Lastly, Mr. Pinder reported that the annual feedback survey of Senate and Senate Standing Committees was recently conducted and the Senate Planning and Governance Committee will discuss the results at their May 13 meeting and a summary report will come to Senate at the June 8 meeting.

Senators inquired whether a Senate meeting is required in order to approve the list of names for convocation. Mr. Pinder clarified that there is a process whereby he, as Chair of Senate, signs off on the list of graduate's names, on behalf of Senate, with the University Registrar.

**2015:84**

**President's Report**

Mr. Florizone began by congratulating new student senators who will be serving on Senate this year. He reminded faculty members of the upcoming convocation ceremonies and the importance of having faculty members participate in this joyous occasion for students.

The Task Force on Misogyny, Sexism and Homophobia in the Faculty of Dentistry are on track to release their report by the end of June and are planning to have public sessions. With respect to individual dentistry students, he noted that, in order to graduate, each student must complete all of their clinical requirements and they can do so up until the day before convocation.

With respect to Bill 100, Mr. Florizone acknowledged the concern over this legislation and assured senators that he has no intention to invoke the provisions available under this legislation. He spoke to the five principles that he believes should guide Dalhousie with respect to the Bill. Mr. Florizone spoke to the outcome agreement outlined within the Bill. The university should be in charge of outcomes to ensure autonomy and academic freedom should be ensured. He also noted that the government accepted two key amendments from Dalhousie with respect to the legislation.

Following his report, Mr. Florizone responded to questions related to the Shell agreement and its potential impact on the academic mission. There was concern that agreements such as the one with Shell, will impact the academic programs and mission and should be a concern for Senate. A follow-up discussion regarding donor agreements that involve academic matters was proposed for a future meeting of Senate.

**2015:85**

**Provost's Report**

Ms. Watters reported on Dalhousie's agreement with Access Copyright noting that the Provost Committee met several times in March and April. She noted that since 2011, Dalhousie has formed an office with copyright services staff. Ms. Watters added that the library is now providing new services for students like e-resources, after literature has been approved by the copyright office. The library also provides education sessions to students, faculty and staff concerning intellectual integrity. There is also an intellectual integrity officer at the library who is able to answer questions and obtain copyright clearances. Ms. Watters also reported that a copyright committee has been established in order to ensure best practices at a reasonable cost. Furthermore, a data governance committee has been established to act as data stewards; the committee will work with Deans and faculty members on accessing materials without compromising the personal information of students, faculty and staff.

Ms. Watters reported that the Dean on the Provost Committee is Josh Leon, Faculty of Engineering. She also noted that the search for the new Dean of Health Professions is currently on hold and Mr. Webster will continue as Dean until December 31, 2015. Lastly, she noted that the search for the Dean of Law is in the final stages and there are some excellent candidates.

**2015:86**

**Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee: Program Proposal: new Graduate Diploma, Public Administration (Management) and major program modifications, Master of Public Administration (Management)**

Mr. Pinder introduced Ms. Martine Durier-Copp, Director, Centre for Advanced Management Education,

Faculty of Management and Ms. Vivian Howard, Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Management. Ms. Howard provided an overview of the modifications and the creation of the new graduate diploma in Public Administration (Management). She noted that it is a blended learning master's program for students with significant experience in the field. She then outlined areas of the program that had changed:

- A reduction in the number of courses from 14 to 13.
- Students may take nine core courses and four electives.
- The introduction of a diploma program where students can take six core courses and 1 elective.

Ms. Durier-Copp noted that fees have increased by \$200 for each course to ensure there is no loss due to the decreased number of courses the students take for each respective program.

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

**THAT** Senate approve the proposed New Graduate Diploma, Public Administration (Management), and Major Program Modifications, Master of Public Administration (Management), as presented.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2015:87**

**Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Nominations for Senate faculty representative on Board of Governors, Term 2015 - 2018**

Mr. Pinder reported that Mr. John Baxter's second term as a Senate-appointed faculty representative on the Board of Governors will conclude effective June 30, 2015. Mr. Baxter has indicated that he will be retiring from the University at the end of June 2015 and does not wish to be considered for another term. Ms. Elaine Gibson, Schulich School of Law, is the other Senate-appointed faculty representative on the Board of Governors. The Senate Planning and Governance Committee prepared a call for nominations which closed on March 30, 2015. The two nominations received were for Mr. Kevin Hewitt, Physics & Atmospheric Science, Faculty of Science, and Ms. Gail Tomblin Murphy, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Professions. Nomination materials were attached to the Senate meeting package.

The Senate Planning and Governance Committee recommended, on March 30, 2015, that these two names be recommended to Senate and a vote be held at the Senate meeting by secret ballot. Mr. Pinder reported, however, that since Mr. Hewitt had now been elected as the Acting Chair of Senate, Mr. Hewitt's nomination would be removed and he would move to appoint Mr. Tomblin Murphy as the Senate faculty representative on the Board of Governors.

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

**THAT** Senate approve the appointment of Ms. Gail Tomblin Murphy, Faculty of Health Professions, as the Senate-appointed faculty representative on the Board of Governors for the term of July 1, 2015- June 30, 2018.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2015:88**

**Nova Scotia Bill No. 100**

Mr. Pinder introduced the discussion of Bill 100, the Universities Accountability and Sustainability Act. The Bill recently passed third reading and is now waiting for the Lieutenant General's signature to come into effect. Mr. Pinder clarified that Senate authority is given by provincial statute and Senate's authority is for internal governance of Dalhousie University, thus Senate does not have any standing to challenge the Nova Scotia government on the Bill. He explained that Senate does have an interest in Bill 100 as, under certain circumstances, it appears to allow the province to potentially influence academic programs and research at universities.

Mr. Pinder introduced Mr. Florizone and Mr. David Mensink, President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA), as speakers on this matter. Mr. Pinder noted that a number of senators, the DFA, and many other concerned groups and individuals had also made presentations to the Law Amendments Committee and these presentations were available through the link provided with the Senate meeting agenda.

Mr. Mensink commented on two important aspects of Bill 100 as it relates to universities – the potential diminishment of the constitutional rights of faculty and the potential impact on academic freedom.

In discussion of Bill 100, it was noted:

- Mr. Florizone reiterated that he has no intention of invoking the provisions of Bill 100 and that this legislation is really aimed other universities who have had greater financial challenges than Dalhousie. Senators expressed appreciation for this assurance, but noted that, once approved, legislation can be in place for a very long time and current circumstances may change dramatically in the future.
- There was a query regarding how basic research will be protected. Mr. Florizone stated that university Presidents within Nova Scotia have met to discuss this aspect of the Bill and will continue to work together to ensure that academic freedom is protected. He noted that there is clearly a place for both applied and pure research.
- Concerns around the decreased accountability for Bill 100 were noted.

**2015:89**

**Question Period**

Further questions concerning Bill 100, included various additional comments:

- Section 12.1g speaks to the types of courses and programs that should be taught and it appears that the government is targeting certain fields in terms of funding. Mr. Florizone commented that the province is focusing on issues of social and economic impacts in terms of the current economic and financial challenges for Nova Scotia. He noted that this is really an issue of language; program structures have always been discussed with the government, but the government is not involved in curriculum design or research. Government may set out what they choose to fund, however they do not determine what is taught or researched. Mr. Florizone reassured Senators that Nova Scotia universities will find a way to work with the government without crossing lines that impinge on academic freedom.
- Economic challenges in Nova Scotia have resulted in researchers leaning more towards applied research in order to create more entrepreneurs, businesses and job opportunities for students within Nova Scotia. The goal is to keep students in Nova Scotia in order to develop our economic research, but without reducing basic research.

- In The Revitalization Plan of the Act, the term 'university' is not defined. Mr. Florizone responded that his understanding is that the legal body for the university would be the Board of Governors.

**2015:90**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2015:91**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.