



SENATE
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2015
4:15pm-6:15pm

Carleton Campus, Halifax: Theatre A, Charles Tupper Medical Building,
Agricultural Campus, Bible Hill: Principal's Boardroom, Cumming Hall

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 14, at 4:15pm in Theatre A, Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present with K. Hewitt in the chair were the following: Anderson, Barrett, Baylis, Bhatia, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Burton, Byers, Cameron, Chen, Cochrane, Crago, Cutler, Dobson, Erdman, Finley, Florizone, Gahagan, Gantar, Goodday, Grant, Gray, Habib, Harman, Hewitt, Hill, Holmes, Hunt, Hutton, Kesselring, Khan, Kirk, Leonard, Ma, C. MacDonald, M. Macdonald, MacRae, Macy, Mansour, Mazzanti, Meynell, Mopoho, Nicholson, Noble, Pacurar, Parker, Quaraishi, Rau-Chaplin, Smit, Stadnyk, Stone, Tennesen, Wach, Warwick, Watters, Webster, Wright, Zaiotti.

Regrets: Ali, Bodorik, Brown, Cunningham, DasGupta, Goldberg, Herder, Kozey, Leach, Stanish.

Absent: Banks, Cooper, Denike, Doman, Kyriakidis, Langille, Leon.

Guests: Susan Brousseau (University Secretary), Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Kevin Landry (student minute taker), Mairead Barry, Mike McAllister, Doug Rogers

2015:71

Call to Order

Senator Hewitt called the meeting to order at 4:15pm. A brief welcome was given to new Senators and Senator Hewitt outlined that *“As senators it is our role to vigorously but respectfully engage the issues, acknowledge, and honestly consider the multiple perspectives which emerge, safeguard, and act in the best interests of the University as a whole. We will achieve the best outcome if we all commit to such an approach.”*

2015:72

Adoption of Agenda

The September 14, 2105 draft revised Senate agenda was **approved** with two amendments: June 8 and 22, 2015 draft Senate minutes be removed from the consent agenda.

2015:73

Consent Agenda

Senate Standing Committee Nominations from the Senate Nominating Committee

THAT Senate appoint:

Senate Planning and Governance Committee for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Tom MacRae, Faculty of Science; Marjorie Stone, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences; and Peter Bodorik, Faculty of Computer Science.

Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Sean Barrett, Faculty of Science; Maria Pacurar, Faculty of Management; and renew for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Steven Baur, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Christopher Cutler, Faculty of Agriculture; and renew for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016: Rick Nason, Faculty of Management and the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Margaret Denike, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

Senate Appeals Committee for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Alex Brodsky, Faculty of Computer Science; and Brenda Merritt, Faculty of Health Professions and renew for the term July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015: Raymond Mopoho, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences; and the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Cara Tax, Faculty of Dentistry; and the term January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016 Matthew Schnurr, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

Senate Discipline Committee for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Robin Parker, University Libraries; Ruben Zaiotti, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences; and Matthew Herder, Faculty of Medicine.

Senate Honorary Degrees Committee for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Grant Wach, Faculty of Science; Martine Durier-Copp, Faculty of Graduate Studies; and Josh Leon, Faculty of Engineering and renew for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018: Rob Beiko, Faculty of Computer Science; and Archie Kaiser, Schulich School of Law.

APPROVED by Consent.

2015:74

Approval of Draft Senate Minutes from June 8, 2015

Senate **approved** the draft Senate meeting minutes for June 8 noting that the discussion on the potential to amend reports with any errors of fact be moved to item 11: other business.

2015:75

Approval of Draft Senate Minutes from June 22, 2015

Senate **approved** the draft June 22, 2015 Senate minutes with the following edits:

- Page 2, last paragraph, the sentence “There were no further matters arising from the June 8, 2015 minutes” be removed.
- The full name, Report from the Committee on Aboriginal and Black/African Canadian Student Access and Retention: A Focus on Financial support, be inserted on page 2, Provost’s Report.
- “Fall, 2015” on the bottom of page 3 should read “Fall, 2014.”
- The sentence “It was noted that when the final Policy and Procedures document is reviewed in the Fall, the committee will outline for Senate the various ways in which the SRI data have been used in the past (and might be used in the future) and will link these uses with the stated goals in the policy. This will help clarify for Senate the link between policy and procedures and allow

for inconsistencies to be addressed.”be inserted on the last line of item 2015:65 - Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Revised Student Ratings of Instruction Policy and Procedures.

2015:76

Matters Arising from the June 22, 2015 Senate Minutes

Senator Hewitt reported that a follow up discussion regarding donor agreements will take place at the October 26 Senate meeting. He also reported that clarification of the word “university” was provided in regard to discussion of Bill 100 “Universities Accountability and Sustainability Act”. The update was attached in the Senate materials for the meeting.

2015:77

Chair of Senate’s Report

Senator Hewitt mentioned the information items attached to the Senate package: faculty discipline report for April to June 2015, Senate meeting schedule for 2015-16, call for honorary degree nominations and approval of degrees between convocations. He called for volunteers as the Senate Planning and Governance Committee will be establishing a work group to plan a facilitated Senate event to discuss the recommendations from the various University reports that have been published. He then encouraged Senators to sign up for 30-minute meetings with him.

Senator Hewitt offered condolences on behalf of Senate to the family, friends and university colleagues on the passing of Taylor Sampson, a student in the Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science. Senator Hewitt noted that there were standing committee vacancies for Senators on the Senate Planning and Governance Committee as well as the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee. He concluded his report by mentioning plans to revive Senate-Board of Governors statutory meetings and discussed his recent interactions with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Larry Stordy.

2015:78

President’s Report

Senator Florizone recapped recent events at Dalhousie such as the fire at the Agricultural Campus on August 24, the death of student Taylor Sampson and the suspension of medical student Steven Tynes. He also spoke to efforts on inclusivity and diversity in regards to the two Task Force reports received by Senate: the Belong Report and the Report of the Task Force on Misogyny, Sexism and Homophobia in Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry, which have culminated in the creation of a new position: Executive Director of Inclusivity and Diversity.

Senator Florizone also mentioned broader issues affecting Dalhousie such as the importance of maintaining enrollment where it is slipping in other provinces, the implications the looming federal election could have on the university, and the universities responsibilities in light of the Syrian refugee crisis.

He reported on the status of capital projects, two of which will be completed this fall, and on fundraising efforts as well. Senator Florizone also laid out his personal priorities for the year which included advancing the Strategic Directions and focusing on Retention, Research, Returns to society, and Respect.

2015:79

Provost's Report

Senator Watters updated the Senate on the capital projects, the progress in the numerous Dean searches being conducted, the search for a vice-provost, student affairs, the implementation of a new Learning Management System and the progress of the classroom planning committee. She briefly outlined her priorities for the year as engaging faculty, making progress on Strategic Priorities, managing enrollment, focusing on the Dean searches, and to continue work on innovative pedagogy. Senator Watters also spoke to the Mawio'mi event on campus, and the discussion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. Senator Noble volunteered to work with those at the university on activities related to the Truth and Reconciliation commission report.

Senator Watters responded to questions about the self-identification survey in use with employment equity issues, academic leadership development, and Dean searches.

2015:80

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC): Revised Student Ratings of Instruction Policy

Senator Harman and Senator Burton brought a motion, recommended by the SLTC, before Senate to amend the SRI Policy and Procedure's document into two separate documents.

On behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, Senator Harman **MOVED:**

THAT the revision to the current SRI Policy and Procedures document occur in two steps and become two documents.

An SRI Policy document which establishes the overall university policy for the implementation of SRIs. The revision of this document would require approval by Senate.

A second SRI Procedures document would detail the specific implementation of the SRI policy and would be maintained by the Centre for Learning and Teaching and substantive changes would be reported to Senate Learning and Teaching Committee. Any changes in the SRI Procedures document would be presented to Senate for information."

The motion was **TABLED** after concerns were raised that the Centre for Learning and Teaching would be able to amend the procedures and only be required to report the edits to the SLTC; resulting in Senate no longer having approval of the procedures. The motion will be brought back to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for further consideration.

2015:81

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Draft Academic Scheduling Policy

Ms. Barry and Mr. McAllister gave a presentation on behalf of the academic scheduling policy committee outlining progress on the new class scheduling software and policy. They outlined how this new software would affect scheduling, professor preferences, and different Faculties. This software and policy will make schedules based on legal requirements for accommodation, time patterns that maximize course offerings, room capacity, available rooms, class durations/dates, professor preferences, class characteristics, credit

hours and various other factors. All of these factors are prioritized. The draft Policy will be reviewed by the SLTC and then come to Senate for approval.

2015:82

Motion to Extend the End Time of the Senate Meeting

Senator Hewitt noted that there was insufficient time to discuss the balance of the Senate agenda items before 6:15pm. It was suggested that an extension of the meeting time was needed.

Senator Florizone **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Baylis:

THAT The Senate meeting be extended by ten minutes.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2015:83

Learning Management System Update

Mr. Rogers gave a presentation to the Senate on the Learning Management System (LMS) transition from “BBLearn” to “Bright Space”. The update included the status of planning and implementation phases as well as tangible benefits of “Bright Space” over “BBLearn”. Mr. Roger’s report indicated changes were going smoothly.

2015:84

Senate Standing Committee Priorities

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred.

2015:85

Question Period

There were no questions.

2015:86

Other Business

The discussion on the potential to amend reports with any errors of fact was deferred to the next meeting.

2015:87

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:22pm.