

SENATE
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 28, 2015
4:15pm-6:15pm
Theatre A, Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 28, in Theatre A, Charles Tupper Medical Building. The Meeting was called to order at 4:15pm.

Present with K. Hewitt in the chair were the following Senators: Ali, Anderson, Banks, Baylis, Bhatia, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Brown, Byers, Cameron, Chen, Cochrane, Crago, Cutler, Dobson, Doman, Erdman, Finley, Gahagan, Gantar, Goodday, Goldberg, Harman, Herder, Hill, Holmes, Hunt, Hutton, Kesselring, Kirk, Kozey, Kyriakidis, Langille, Leonard, C. MacDonald, MacRae, Macy, Mansour, Mazzanti, McCallum, Meynell, Mopoho, Nicholson, Noble, Pacurar, Parker, Rau-Chaplin, Roy, Smit, Stadnyk, Wach, Warwick, Watters, Wright.

Regrets: Barrett, Bodorik, Burton, Cunningham, DasGupta, Florizone, Gray, Habib, Leon, M. Macdonald, Stanish, Stone, Tennessen, Webster, Zaiotti.

Absent: Grant, Khan, Leach, Ma, Quraishi.

Guests: Andrea Power (Recording Secretary), Kevin Landry (student minute taker)

2015:88

Approval of Agenda

The Draft Revised Senate Agenda was **APPROVED** with one edit, the Provost Report will be presented before the Chair of Senate's Report.

2015:89

Consent Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes of September 14, 2015 Senate Meeting

The draft minutes of September 14, 2015 were **approved**.

APPROVED by CONSENT.

SNC Nomination to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee

THAT Senate appoint Catrina Brown, Faculty of Health Professions, to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee for the term September 2015 – June 30, 2018

APPROVED by CONSENT.

2015:90

Matters Arising from the September 14, 2015 Senate Minutes

There was no business arising from the September 14, 2015 minutes.

2015:91

**Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Principles and Values Work Group:
Revised Constitution**

Senator Hewitt reported on the progress of the Senate Principles and Values work group which was to take a broad consultative approach to explore and identify principles and values, consistent with past Senate traditions to guide the Senate in carrying out its responsibilities. After meeting over the last year and consulting the Board of Governors, Deans Counsel, Faculties, Administration/Provost, and various other interested parties, the work group has brought three main proposed changes to the Constitution before Senate for discussion:

- Proposed section 2.1 (a)-(e) covering Senate Principles;
- Proposed section 2.2 (a)-(d) covering Senate Values, and;
- Proposed section 2.3-(a)-(g) covering Senator expectations.

Legal Counsel provided guidance on the amendments to the Constitution and a revised Constitution is presented for discussion only at this meeting. A vote on the revised Constitution will take place at the October 26 meeting. Questions were fielded about the effect this would bring to the public nature of senate meetings, as well as the development of media policy and relationship documents.

2015:92

**Task Force on Misogyny, Sexism and Homophobia in the Faculty of Dentistry – Update on Dentistry
Recommendations**

As Chair of the Next Steps Committee, Debora Matthews, Chair, together with Tom Boran, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry; Robert Loney, Chair, Division of Dental Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry; and Ferne Kraglund, Assistant Dean, Student Affairs, Faculty of Dentistry reported to Senate about the work being done in the Faculty since December, 2014. The Next Steps committee was initiated to begin the process of reflecting on concerns arising from the Facebook incident and to anticipate recommendations from the RJ process and the External Task Force. The committee is comprised of representatives from staff, students and faculty of both the school of Dental Hygiene and the Faculty of Dentistry. Since February of this year they have been meeting to draft initiatives and identify the expertise and internal and external resources required to move beyond the recent crisis.

Based on the recommendations of the Restorative Justice report, and those of the External Task Force, they have identified 4 major themes that capture what is required to make transformative changes within the Faculty. These include Diversity and Inclusion, Professionalism and ethics, Curriculum and program structure and Reporting processes and conflict resolution. A priority action plan, with initiatives related to each theme, has been developed and approved by Faculty. Working groups have been convened and milestones determined.

The presenters fielded questions and discussion briefly touched upon how the experience in Dentistry shows the need for a university-wide Ombudsperson. Senate will receive two more updates in 2015, and they will be held on January 25 and April 25, 2016.

2015:93

Senate Planning and Governance Committee

Revised Terms of Reference for the ad hoc Committee of Senate on Fossil Fuel Divestment

Keith Taylor, Co-Chair, ad hoc Committee of Senate on Fossil Fuel Divestment briefed the Senate about proposed changes to the terms of reference for the committee. He said the delivery date needs to be shifted to January 6th in order for accurate work to be brought to Senate. He fielded questions about submission deadlines and about the process for making recommendations. It was clarified that the role of the committee is only to collect information from the units and summarize.

On behalf of Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Senator Hewitt **MOVED:**

THAT Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Fossil Fuel Divestment.

The motion **CARRIED.**

Dalhousie Student Union: Academic Amnesty Resolution for Federal Election

Senator Hutton, DSU Vice President, Academic and External, expressed the necessity of students voting for a functioning democracy. He thought that the motion the DSU have proposed, although important, was largely symbolic as students can vote at many times during the day.

On behalf of senate Planning and Governance Committee Senator Hewitt **MOVED:**

THAT:

Whereas the 42nd Canadian general election is taking place on October 19, 2015; and

Whereas only 42% of Canadian youth voted in the 2011 federal election;

Therefore Be it resolved that the Dalhousie Senate grant academic amnesty to students voting in the 42nd Canadian general election on October 19, 2015;

Be it further resolved that professors show leniency to students on that day regarding readings and in-class tests and assignments;

Be it further resolved that professors be encouraged to re-schedule or post-pone in-class tests and assignments scheduled for October 19, 2015

Amendment 1

Senator Cochrane **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Nicholson:

THAT: The line *“Therefore Be it resolved that the Dalhousie Senate grant academic amnesty to students voting in the 42nd Canadian general election on October 19, 2015”* be amended to say:

*“Therefore Be it resolved that the Dalhousie Senate grant academic amnesty to **encourage students to vote** in the 42nd Canadian general election on October 19, 2015”*

The amendment **CARRIED.**

Amendment 2

Senator Crago **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Kozey:

THAT: The motion be amended as such:

Whereas the 42nd Canadian general election is taking place on October 19, 2015; and

Whereas only 42% of Canadian youth voted in the 2011 federal election; therefore

Be it resolved that the Dalhousie Senate grant academic amnesty to encourage students to vote in the 42nd Canadian general election on October 19, 2015; by professors showing leniency to students on that day regarding readings and in-class tests and assignments; and by professors being encouraged to re-schedule or post-pone in-class tests and assignments scheduled for October 19, 2015.

The amendment **CARRIED**.

The question was then called on the twice amended motion.

Whereas the 42nd Canadian general election is taking place on October 19, 2015; and

Whereas only 42% of Canadian youth voted in the 2011 federal election; therefore

Be it resolved that the Dalhousie Senate grant academic amnesty to encourage students to vote in the 42nd Canadian general election on October 19, 2015; by professors showing leniency to students on that day regarding readings and in-class tests and assignments; and by professors being encouraged to re-schedule or post-pone in-class tests and assignments scheduled for October 19, 2015.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2015:94

Reports: Question Regarding Accuracy of Restorative Justice Report

The Report from the Restorative Justice Process at the Faculty of Dentistry states (on page 27) that “for much of February and March, the restorative justice process worked under constant threat.” Among the threats listed are: “failed effort by some professors to quash the restorative process at the Dalhousie University Senate.” The author is unwilling to make revisions to the report.

Senator Baylis stated that because the author of the report is unwilling to make revisions, it is important that Senate correct inaccurate claims about what senators did or did not attempt to do. To ensure there is an accurate factual record it is necessary to first correct the error of fact, and second, to make the correction publicly available.

Discussion ensued on what type of evidentiary burden the Senate should face in correcting factual records, and if action taken by Senate on this matter would open the door to doing so with reference to other reports. One Senator suggested that a correction would undermine the disclaimer on the report

that states it is unedited. There was debate about whether a correction in the minutes of the current meeting instead of a formal motion was sufficient. The problem of inconsistency between reports was identified as a potentially serious issue, especially when the dentistry incident will likely attract further study in the future. There was also discussion about having an untrue statement associated with the Senate and how that would have a negative impact on its reputation.

Motion #1

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

THAT Senate approve the following statement:

“Contrary to the statement made in the Report from the Restorative Justice Process at the Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry, Senate wishes to assert, as the record indicates, that no attempt was made to ‘quash’ the restorative process at the Dalhousie University Senate. The facts are that Senators sought to invoke s. 1.2q of the Constitution to move oversight of the disciplinary issue from within the Faculty of Dentistry to a process under Senate Authority.”

Amendment

Senator Crago **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Gantar:

THAT: Quotations be added to the motion as such:

“Contrary to the statement made in the Report from the Restorative Justice Process at the Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry, Senate wishes to assert, as the record indicates, that no attempt was made to “quash the restorative process at the Dalhousie University Senate”. The facts are that Senators sought to invoke s. 1.2q of the Constitution to move oversight of the disciplinary issue from within the Faculty of Dentistry to a process under Senate Authority.”

The amendment **CARRIED**.

The amended motion **CARRIED** with 10 abstentions.

Motion #2

Senator Baylis said that this motion functioned to make the prior motion public information in a manner that would be accessible to interested parties examining the situation. It was suggested that inconsistency across the various reports should constitute the public record.

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

THAT Senate request of the publisher of *The Report from the Restorative Justice Process at the Faculty of Dentistry* the addition of a corrigendum next to any link provided to this report on the Dalhousie website. The corrigendum to include the above background information and the previous Senate motion.”

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

2015:95

Provost’s Report

Senator Watters reported that the Acting Dean, Faculty of Management will be in place as of October 1, 2015 and will be at the next Senate meeting. Enrollment at Dalhousie is up .02%, that this week is respect week and pink day is September 29. She also mentioned that October 5-6 is Fall convocation and Wednesday, September 30 is the 6th Mawio'mi. There were no questions about the report.

2015:96

Chair of Senate's Report

Items attached for Information to the Senate meeting package

Senator Hewitt informed Senate that nominations were open for Honorary Degrees and that the revised Senate Faculty Review Schedule was included in the meeting package.

Next Senate Meeting and Events

Senator Hewitt informed the Senate that the next meeting is October 26, 2015 since October 12th falls on the Thanksgiving holiday. He also mentioned that the Senate Planning and Governance Committee will be issuing a call for nominations for a work group to plan a facilitated Senate event to discuss the recommendations from the various University reports that have been published; focusing on the recommendations pertaining to Senate.

Senate Standing Committee Vacancy

Senator Hewitt mentioned that the Senate Nominating Committee is still seeking a nomination for one Senator to serve from the Faculties of Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Computer Science or Architecture and Planning for the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee. Interested parties should contact Senator Hewitt or the Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Chris Hartt.

Items approved by Senate Standing Committees on behalf of Senate

Senator Hewitt advised Senate of the following items approved by Standing Committees:

- The Senate Planning and Governance Committee approved a revised Senate Faculty Review Schedule, which, as earlier mentioned is attached to the meeting folder.
- The Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee has approved on behalf of Senate the following programs: Clinician Scientist Graduate, Advanced Management MBA, Master of Planning Studies, and Suspension of Admission, Master of Engineering in Petroleum Engineering.

2015:97

Question Period

A question was posed to the Dean of Dentistry about personal transitions he has undergone since the events of last year. Senator Boran noted that there has been tremendous change, which he outlined with personal examples and the restatement that the Faculty aims to set a standard for change throughout the university.

2015:98

Other Business

There was no other business.

2015:102
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.