

**SENATE MEETING**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, November 28, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, November 28, 2022 via Microsoft Teams

**Present** L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Affoo, R. Agu, A. Aiken, O. Akinkugbe, D. Anderson, D. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Cameron, R. Chang, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, P. Doucet-Bernard, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. OmiSorre, L. DuBois, H. ElNaggar, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimound, G. Gagon, D. Grantham, C. Graves, D. Gray, J. Hall, F. Harvey, G. Ilie, S. Jeffrey, M. Keinast, S. Keyamo, S. Kirk, W. Lahey, C. Lake, P. Lee Men Chin, M. Leonard, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, C. Macy, V. Maselli, S. McKibbon, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, H. Niu, M. Pacurar, Y. Pan, N. Patil, T. Perrot, L. Philmore, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, K. Rosen, D. Saini, R. Sampangi, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, S. Stone, D. Tyers, M. Vandenburg, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti

Guests: John Hope (General Counsel and University Secretary), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator), Binod Sundararajan (Interim Director, Rowe School of Business, Faculty of Management)

**Regrets** C. Brown, B. Davis, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, L. Propper, L. Sarson

**Absent** T. Agbaje-Ojo, G. Amore, J. Andrews, S. Chitnis, Y. El Hiani, K. El-Sankary, N. Ezzeddine, B. Foster, G. Horne, M. Irwin, D. Jakeman, A. Kermanshahi-pour, I. Keumani, M. Nashnoush, H. Ro, A. Rudick, A. Stapleton, M. Ulku, T. Walker

The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

The Dalhousie University Senate also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was **approved** as circulated.

## **2. Consent Agenda**

### **2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of October 24, 2022 Senate Meeting**

THAT the draft minutes of the October 24, 2022 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by CONSENT.

### **2.2 Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nominations**

THAT the Senate approve the list of nominees under each of the Senate standing committees as presented.

Approved by CONSENT.

## **3. Matters Arising from October 24, 2022 Senate Meeting**

### **3.1 Full Proposal for Proposed Consolidation of Faculty of Management**

Senator Spiteri informed Senate that the full proposal for proposed consolidation of the Faculty of Management was approved by the Board of Governors at its November 22, 2022 meeting.

### **3.2 Full Proposal for Proposed Transfer of School for Resource and Environmental Studies from Faculty of Management to Faculty of Science**

Senator Spiteri informed Senate that the full proposal for proposed transfer of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies from Faculty of Management to Faculty of Science was approved by the Board of Governors at its November 22, 2022 meeting.

## **4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality**

Senator Spiteri invited Binod Sundararajan to present on this item.

B. Sundararajan reported on the first implementation cluster (Support Inclusion and Reconciliation – Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Decolonization (EDIAD)).

The Senate was briefed on the diversity matrices for diagnosis and for tracking progress to support inclusion and reconciliation. Matrices included increasing undergraduate student diversity through design of new equitable admissions policies of all Faculty of Management programs, increasing graduate student diversity by hiring one to two Black Canadian/ African Nova Scotian or Indigenous/Mi'kmaq post-doctoral positions by 2026 and creating an internal inclusion survey by 2024.

In the ensuing discussion period, B. Sundararajan was encouraged to return to Senate at a later date to provide an update on implementation.

## **5. Reports:**

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

Senator Spiteri's written report highlighted an update on the holistic review of cyclical academic quality assurance and the composition of the review committee formed under the project charter.

Senator Spiteri informed Senate that a call would shortly go out for two Senate representatives to the search committee for the position of President and Vice-Chancellor.

## **5.2 Provost's Report**

The Provost's written report highlighted the University's first in-person Open House event since 2019, Fall Convocation, and an update on the implementation of the *Third Century Promise* strategic plan.

The Provost also thanked Senate colleagues, Senate Officers, the Secretariat and senior Administration for their work during the Fall 2022 term disruptions.

## **5.3 VPRI Report**

Senator Aiken, in her capacity as Vice-President Research and Innovation, gave an update to Senate on progress on research and innovation strategic goals, including total research funding for 2021-22, research productivity, number of PhD students, and engagement with United Nations Strategic Development Goals (SDGs).

Senator Aiken reiterated the need to build on success and focus on inclusive research and excellence. Approaches and timelines in this regard were shared with Senate.

## **5.4 Questions for Reports**

Responding to a query regarding the role of Dalhousie University regarding the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting University and Colleges, Senator Aiken encouraged Senators to reach out to her with suggestions on how Dalhousie University could contribute in a meaningful way.

## **6. Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC)**

### **6.1 Student Feedback on Learning Experiences Policy – Proposed Extension of Suspension of Student Ratings of Course Content**

Senator Pacurar briefed Senate on the context of the agenda item, advising that the suspension period of Student Ratings on Course Content (SRCC) had expired.

Senate was informed that it had been anticipated that the suspension period would also provide an opportunity, before the Fall term 2022 Student Learning Experience Questionnaire (SLEQ) rollout, for the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) to revise the SRCC survey questions in order to address procedural issues with the SRCC survey questions that had been observed during the Fall term 2021 SLEQ rollout, as well as pertinent observations made, and feedback received regarding a number of the SRCC survey questions. Senate was advised that given that the revision to the SRCC survey questions had not yet been finalized, nor further consultation undertaken, a proposal was made at the Student Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) November 2, 2022 meeting that the suspension of the SRCC survey questions be extended for the duration of the 2022-23 academic year. SLTC considered the proposal and recommended it to Senate for approval.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve extension of the suspension of a portion of the Student Feedback on Learning Experiences Policy, namely Section E of the Student Learning Experience Questionnaire that contains the set of questions referred to as the Student Rating of Course Content, for the 2022-23 academic year.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **6.2 Proposed Requirement of Medical Notes for Final Exams/Use of Student Declarations of Absence for Final Exams and Final Pieces of Work**

Senator Pacurar reminded Senate that at the November 14, 2022 special Senate meeting, it had been suggested that the recommendation from the SLTC November 2, 2022 meeting, pertaining to proposed changes relating to the 2022-23 winter, spring and summer terms, be brought to Senate for consideration at the November 28, 2022 regular meeting of Senate. Senate was requested to consider changes to the requirement for medical notes and use of Student Declarations of Absence (SDAs) for the 2022-23 winter, spring and summer terms.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:  
**THAT Senate:**

- 1. Waive, for the 2022-23 winter, spring and summer terms, including winter, spring and summer examination period, the requirement for a medical certificate to verify a student's absence due to illness for requesting an alternate final examination time;**
- 2. Waive, for the 2022-23 winter, spring and summer terms, including winter, spring and summer examination period, the exclusion of final coursework, exams, fieldwork, and skill labs from the use of Student Declarations of Absence; and**
- 3. Allow, for the 2022-2023 winter, spring and summer terms, including winter, spring and summer examination period, course instructors the ability to accept either a medical certificate or a Student Declaration of Absence to verify a student's absence due to illness when requesting an alternate final examination time so long as what will be accepted is clearly communicated to students in advance of the final examination time.**

It was suggested that long term measures be considered, including revision of relevant policies.

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **7. Question Period**

Senators commended the initiative undertaken by the Faculty of Management to create diversity matrices for diagnosis and for tracking progress to support inclusion and reconciliation.

## **8. Other Business**

There was no other business

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.