

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
APPROVED MINUTES OF  
SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, January 14, 2013, at 4:00pm, in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Amirault, Arron, Beale, Becke, Bisset, Boran, Boudreau, Bourne-Tyson, Castleden, Chen, Cooper, Cox, Crago, Cunningham, DasGupta, Doman, Garduno, Gibson, Gorsky, Grant, Harman, Helland, Hughes, Johnston, Leach, MacLennan, Macy, Magill, Mansour, Matte, McLarney, Miller, Mitchell, Moore, Oore, Packer, Persaud, Pinder, Rahemtulla, Ross, Schellinck, Shepherd, Shukla, Smirnov, Stadnyk, Summerby-Murray, Tennessen, Tillotson, Traves, Wach, Watters, Webster, Westwood, Yiridoe.

Regrets: Ali, Barrett, Baur, Canning, Cochrane, Cook, Gardner, Hewitt, Hoyle, Langille, MacDonald, Manning, Marrie, Rogers.

Absent: Brooks, Denike, Fillmore, Khan, Leon, Pegg.

**2013:01**

**Adoption of the Agenda**

The January 14, 2013 agenda was **adopted**.

**2013:02**

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Draft Minutes of November 26, 2012.**

**THAT** Senate **approve** the Draft Senate Minutes of November 26, 2012.

**Approved by Consent.**

**Name Change—Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology to the Department of Medical Neuroscience**

**THAT** Senate **approve** the change in name from the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology to the Department of Medical Neuroscience.

**Approved by Consent.**

**2013:03**

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of November 26, 2012.**

Alan Pinder, Vice-Chair (Student Affairs) gave a brief overview of the communication plan for the revised Policy and Procedures on Submission of Student Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software. He stated that the policy would be effective as of September 1, 2013, and a communications strategy has been put in place, so all faculty are aware of the changes and the opt-out options. Individual faculty members would be informed through Dalhousie Notice, the Centre for Learning and Teaching will inform new faculty, and current SafeAssign users will also be notified. The first communication will be sent in May, and a reminder will be sent in August.

**2013:04**

**Chair of Senate's Report**

Mr. Fraser, on behalf of Senate, expressed condolences to family, friends, and former colleagues of George Isaac Smith and William Andrew MacKay who passed away since the last Senate meeting. Mr. Fraser asked for a moment of silence to honor Dalhousie's former President, Dr. MacKay.

Mr. Fraser called upon Mr. Pinder to provide an update on the Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) 2012 Fall Review Work Group. The group will look at a number of questions regarding response rates, response to the question on the overall effectiveness of the instructor, and the environment in which the survey was completed. These answers can be assessed for individual Faculties and departments, but the results for individual instructors will be confidential. The data will be delivered by eXplorance around January 17, 2013, and faculty will be able to view their results at that time. An Opinion poll has been sent to students regarding possible technical difficulties experienced while completing the SRI. Faculty will also be able to provide feedback on their experience with the new format in a survey to be sent out by the end of January 2013. Mr. Pinder also encouraged faculty to e-mail him directly with any issues. CLT will have training with department liaisons, which will address specific communication concerns.

Mr. Fraser then referred Senators to the report on the ratification of the October – December 2012 Faculty Discipline Process Report, as well as SAPRC's approval on behalf of Senate of two new minors in Classics: Ancient Philosophy and Medieval Philosophy. He also noted the November 2012 Approval of Graduation between Convocations. Finally, Mr. Fraser gave an overview of the next meetings of Senate. The January 28, 2013 meeting will focus on a discussion of the Report of the DALVision 2020: Senate Forum on Undergraduate Education and the February 11, 2013 meeting will have several items for approval for inclusion in the 2013-2014 academic calendar, including recommendations that will be made specifically for the Faculty of Agriculture.

**2013:05**

**President's Report**

Mr. Traves reported that Dalhousie's budget process is moving forward and he expects the first report from the Budget Advisory Committee in the coming days. He anticipates the final budget to be delivered early in the spring. He congratulated David Wheeler, who was appointed President of Cape Breton University, and he then gave his own words of condolence regarding the passing of Dr. MacKay.

**2013:06**

**DSU President's Report**

Mr. Arron began his report by inviting members of Senate to the DSU's TedX conference in March. He then mentioned the DSU's free school initiative, which consists of three hour and a half sessions of teaching, sharing, and learning, and this initiative is in keeping with the student union's focus on academics. Mr. Arron finished his report by noting other initiatives in progress, including the new tiger society platform, re-launch of the soapbox platform, re-launch of society membership requirements, motions regarding feedback for transparency of donor agreements and investment procedures, and the DSU's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**2013:07**

**Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Relocation of the Marine Affairs Program**

Chris Moore, Dean, Faculty of Science, noted that the Marine Affairs Program (MAP) is a one-year interdisciplinary Master's program, which studies the management of aspects of the marine world. By relocating to the Faculty of Science, the program is in a better position to be a key player in training, and this move allows for research to address the growing global chasm between the acquisition of scientific knowledge and its application in policy-level decision-making. It was noted that the Faculty needs to ensure MAP is adequately resourced to achieve its mandate and to better link scientific knowledge with policy-making and management. It was then noted that the

Faculty of Science is expanding its oceans programs. Both Science and Management Faculty Councils have approved this relocation. It was noted that the space for the Marine Affairs Program within the Faculty has yet to be determined, but the program could potentially be located in the new Ocean Sciences building.

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED:**

**THAT** Senate approve the relocation of the Marine Affairs Program to the Faculty of Science from the Faculty of Management.

The motion **CARRIED.**

**2013:08**

**Budget Advisory Committee: Discussion Paper on the Operating Budget for 2013-2014**

Carolyn Watters, Vice-President Academic and Provost reported that the first discussion paper still required a few more minor edits prior to release, which is expected on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. The Budget Advisory Committee is advisory only and consists of six elected members and several support individuals, who meet weekly. Ms. Watters noted that there is no option for a deficit, and the budget must align with the strategic focus of the University. Once the first report has been issued, there will be a consultation period, and the BAC is seeking input from the community. By mid-February, a balanced proposal is expected to be brought forward with a second round of consultations. The budget will then be sent to the Board of Governors Operating Committee by April and then to the Board of Governors for approval.

Ms. Watters indicated that the Faculty of Agriculture is not included in the budget for the next few years since a separate agreement with the province had been concluded as part of the merger. The BAC is projecting a flat enrolment for next year. She emphasized the level of severity of budget cuts—potentially affecting hiring, outreach programs, research support, building and maintenance support, staff services, and student services. Ms. Watters highlighted the importance of enrolment stability through the fostering of academic innovation and increasing research and its impact.

It was suggested that there might be duplicate courses between faculties that could be eliminated. Enrollment management is a major initiative for the university as it was noted that high school enrolment numbers are down, and use of the surplus funds from previous years will only defer issues a year. Currently, a cut in funding of 7.5% would be required, but Ms. Watters anticipates it to be substantially lower. It was noted that the problems of rising costs and a flat enrolment are what need to be addressed.

**2013:09**

**Enrolment Management Report**

Åsa Kachan, Assistant Vice-President Enrolment Management and Registrar, provided an enrolment management report. She began the report by highlighting the enrolment data from the past five years noting that there is an increase in transfer student enrolment; however, it is significant to note that these students are not enrolled for four full-years of study. She emphasized the data suggesting that there is a decline in student enrolment in Nova Scotia, and there are some programs that may be particularly affected. More international students will result in different supports required, and greater enrolment change in some Faculties than in others. Ms. Kachan noted the need to advertise academic excellence, the small-school environment, and outstanding campus life experience to attract students. She noted that dependence on international students not only means higher tuition from differential fees but also high recruitment expenses, different retention rates, and additional support services. While academic standing statistics are easy to monitor, non-academic factors that affect retention rates are hard to detect. Ms. Kachan noted that she is willing to discuss enrolment management with individual Faculties.

**2013:10****Building Research at Dalhousie**

Martha Crago, Vice-President Research provided a Research presentation and noted that Dalhousie has exceeded its research-funding goal; however, since other universities were also increasing their research funding, the goal could have been even higher. She compared Dalhousie's level of research funding and research intensity with other U15 universities. She noted that Dalhousie researchers are not as well funded as those in many other universities, but they are relatively efficient and effective per dollar funded. She mentioned that Dal is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Canada in publications per dollar of funding and 1<sup>st</sup> in Canada in citations of publications per dollar of funding. Ms. Crago indicated that the next steps in building Dalhousie's research strength would be to increase research contracts, new agreements filed, and patents registered. She emphasized a focus on the importance of Tri-Council funding especially in a time of limited hiring, and she stressed the importance of using a range of funding programs and holding multiple grants. Ms. Crago also highlighted the importance of faculty and departmental mentoring of developing researchers. Ms. Crago reminded members of Senate that although there are provincial handicaps affecting funding, there are other problems in the system to investigate. She noted that, with regards to Tri-Council funding, that the grant forms are relatively simple to complete and that more grant applications need to be submitted. Due to time constraints, questions on Ms. Crago's presentation were deferred to the next meeting of Senate.

**2013:11****Question Period**

There were no questions.

**2013:12****Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2013:13****Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.