



SENATE

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, November 27, 2017**

3:00pm – 5:00pm

Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, November 27, 2017 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present: with Kevin Hewitt in the chair were the following: A. Abawajy, S. Adamo, A. Aiken, M. Ashton, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, A. Cochrane, R. Croll, T. Cyrus, B. Davis, M. Denike, L. Diepeveen, T. Duck, S. Faridi, G.A. Finley, R. Florizone, B. Foster, J. Gahagan, J. Gantar, N. Gear, L. Goldberg, R. Goodday, J. Graham, D. Grujic, L. Hackett, F. Harvey, S. Holmes, J. Hoyle, E. Johnson, D. Kelley, W. Lahey, M. Leonard, C. MacDonald, L. MacDonald, B. Merritt, R. Mopoho, N. Nadeem, T. Packer, R. Parker, J. Penney, A. Prosper, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, K. Sherren, L. Spiteri, A. Steenbeek, F. Taheri, G. Wang-Pruski, C. Watters, E. Welsh, H. Xu

Regrets: N. Ali, D. Anderson, R. Agu, V. Bhargava, C. Cameron, M. Ghodrat, D. Gray, J. Hall, C. Helland, Masuma Khan, C. Macy, C. Moore, M. Pacurar, D. Patterson, N. Savage, D. White

Absent: C. Brown, S. Charlebois, K. Dakin-Hache, C. Dieleman, Muhammad Khan, S. Kuzak, J. Leon, R. MacDonald, S. Ponomarenko, S. Somogyi, L. Turnbull, J. White

Guests: Arig al Shaibah (Vice-Provost, Student Affairs), Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Sarah Boucaud (Student Minute Taker), Anne Fenety (Director of the School of Physiotherapy and Assistant Dean, Innovation for the Faculty of Health), Lisa Goldberg (Caritas Coach, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health), Tim Maloney (Executive Director, Athletics and Recreation), Andrea Power (Recording Secretary)

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Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by **consent**.

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Consent Agenda

It was requested that item #2.3.1, *gender neutral language*, be removed from the consent agenda. It was further requested that item #2.1, *Approval of Draft Minutes of October 23, 2017 Senate Meeting*, be removed from the consent agenda.

Senate Nominating Committee: SAPRC faculty nomination

THAT Senate appoint Mikko Terrashima as the Faculty Representative for the Faculty of Architecture and Planning on the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee for the term December 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Minor revisions – Academic Regulations:

Housekeeping edits

THAT Senate approve, the Academic Regulations housekeeping edits to the hazing policy and the regulation on protection of property, as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

Senate Learning and Teaching Committee – Admission Modifications:

Master of Environmental Studies/Master of Resource and Environmental Management Programs, Faculty of Management

THAT Senate approve the admission modification to the English language criteria for the Master of Environmental Studies and Master of Resource and Environmental Management programs, effective September, 2019.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

Master of Library and Information Studies Program, Faculty of Management

THAT Senate approve, the adoption of a formalized Prior Learning Assessment Process for admission to the Master of Library and Information Studies program effective September, 2019.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

Minor Revision – Senate Honorary Degrees Terms of Reference

THAT Senate approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee, effective immediately.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

University Tenure and Promotion Appeal Panel Nomination

THAT Senate, approve the appointment of Mr. Stephen Parcell, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, to the University Tenure and Promotions Appeal Panel for the term December 2017 – June 2020.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2017:135

Approval of Draft Minutes of October 23, 2017 Senate Meeting

It was noted that there was an error in the October 23, 2017 draft Senate meeting minutes in item 2017:126 Relationship of Dalhousie University to its Students and Neighbours.

Senator Spiteri **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Abawajy:

THAT the draft minutes of the October 23, 2017 Senate meeting be approved with one edit: the sentence “She stated the case had been withdrawn for several reasons and in particular:” be removed.

The motion **CARRIED**.

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Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Minor Revisions – Academic Regulations: Gender Neutral Language

The use of the appropriate gender neutral language was discussed and it was confirmed that the revisions, as noted, were correct; reflecting the proper use of the term “they” as both singular and plural depending on context.

Senator Spiteri **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Abawajy:

THAT Senate approve, the gender neutral language revisions in the following Academic Regulations: Student Accommodation Policy, Code of Student Conduct, Hazing Policy, Suspension or Dismissal from a Program on the Grounds of Professional Unsuitability, Acceptable Use Policy (Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources), Academic Forgiveness Policy, Communication with Students, Release of Information about Students, Intellectual Honesty, Academic Dishonesty, Senate Discipline Committee, Protection of Property, and Workload, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

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Matters Arising from the October 23, 2017 Senate Meeting Minutes

It was questioned whether Dalhousie University would be issuing a formal apology to Senator Khan. Senator Hewitt advised that this will be discussed during the Chair’s Report and during the President’s Report.

No further matters arising.

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Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Lisa Goldberg, RN, PhD, Caritas Coach, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, presented on *The Self-Reflexive Educator: Creating Classrooms of Belonging*. Self-reflection involves strategies that develop a keen self-awareness of one’s own biases and judgments. An educator needs to further recognize emotional reactions to disease, experiences, and people themselves, particularly within a socio-cultural-political context of self and others. Transparency creates safe spaces. The question becomes how do educators create these types of classrooms? An educator must become comfortable with being uncomfortable. Educators should demonstrate an openness to correcting themselves and question whether they are speaking to a diversity of students in their assignments because not everyone learns in the same way. An educator should ask whose voices are represented and who’s are missing.

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IN CAMERA: Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: University Ceremonial Recommendation

Senator Hewitt announced that the Senate session would go *in camera*, and asked that all non-Senators leave the meeting. When Senate returned to open session, Senator Hewitt announced that the University Ceremonial Recommendation had been approved.

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Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Draft Sexual Violence Policy

Ms. al Shaibah provide an overview of the purpose of the Sexual Violence Strategy and the work completed on the Draft Sexual Violence Policy thus far. A survey has been sent out to the Dalhousie University Community as

another mechanism to receive feedback. An implementation plan was also circulated to Senators prior to the meeting.

Senators discussed the policy, noting the following:

- “Survivor” should be defined within the policy.
- A shorter policy review period should be considered.
- It was recommended that opportunities for an appeal process be considered. Ms. al Shaibah clarified that an appeal would be possible to the Senate Appeals Committee, but noted that this was not mentioned in the policy.
- It was unclear why “survivor-centric”, was qualified with a limitation indicating, “where possible”.
- It was clarified that a feedback session was scheduled to be held at the Agricultural Campus.
- An ambitious timeline was currently in place for policy approval and implementation, but the need for further time for consultation would be assessed. The Sexual Violence Policy is to be reviewed after a year of implementation. This will serve as an opportunity for further feedback following implementation.
- The differences between opportunities for anonymous disclosure and the investigative and non-investigative complaint reporting processes were discussed. Anonymous reporting supports a reporting culture and fosters access to supports. However, only the reporting option will result in access to the investigative and non-investigative streams of the policy.
- The use of the term “swift” in the policy was not reflective of the desired process. A complainant should be able to proceed at their desired pace.
- The complexity of the hearings before the Senate Discipline Committee was acknowledged. The panel has to balance the often minimal information revealed by the complainant with the information received from the respondent. It was discussed that a similar description of these challenges could be incorporated into the training packages of those who will be administering the policy.
- In the investigative stream process, it was thought that five (5) calendar days was insufficient for the respondent to seek the advice of counsel.
- It was noted that no mention in the policy was made to the appropriate process to be followed if a member of the Board of Governors was to be accused under the policy.
- It should be made clear that the complainant is able to inform whether the investigative or non-investigative stream is undertaken under the policy.
- Express mention should be made that a complainant can be accompanied by a support person.
- Currently, assessments were ongoing as to whether an internal or external investigator should be appointed under the policy.
- Concern was expressed around the jurisdiction of unions and the Senate, as described in the policy.
- Further clarification was provided as to the process whereby a complaint under the Sexual Violence Policy could be suspended at the request of the respondent’s counsel or the police, in the event that a criminal investigation was also being undertaken.

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Reports

Senator Abawajy **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Blustein:

THAT the Senate meeting be extended by ten (10) minutes.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Chair of Senate’s Report

Senator Hewitt raised the following in his report:

- Senate acknowledges the lack of clarity in the Code of Student conduct, as outlined by the Vice Provost Student Affairs, and regrets the impact it has had on those who apply and are subject to its application. Senate is undertaking a full review of the code by striking a diverse and inclusive committee

to not only address the more recent issues of freedom of expression in relation to racism and islamophobia, but also to mitigate any inherent biases, improve the processes, transparency as we seek to embed in all of our policies our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Anne Fenety, Director of the School of Physiotherapy and Assistant Dean, Innovation for the Faculty of Health, and Tim Maloney, Executive Director, Athletics and Recreation, were invited as part of the Chair's Report to share the exciting announcement of the opening of the Dalhousie Physiotherapy Clinic to serve students, staff, and the community. This is a fee-for-service clinic, offered with the goal of linking patient care with student learning.

Congratulations were offered to:

- Senator Reg Goodall, Faculty of Dentistry, who received an award by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons at their annual meeting, for being the author of the best article in their journal published in 2016.
- The Schulich School of Law for its outstanding performance in the Times Higher Education rankings.

In the interest of time, the remaining notes from the Chair's Report would be appended to the next Senate agenda.

President's Report

Senator Florizone raised the following in his report:

- Universities must always be places of free expression and inquiry. It is intrinsic to what a university aims to accomplish. Freedom of inquiry is also a guiding value in the Senate Constitution. However, robust debate cannot occur if some voices are excluded. In the months ahead, there will be review of and recommendations made to the Student Code of Conduct to foster a more inclusive environment.
- Senator Florizone acknowledged that Dalhousie University does lag in retention. About 100 students leave Dalhousie University that should not. Currently, opportunities for micro-bursaries and emergency bursaries are being examined.
- Recipients of the University-Wide Teaching Awards were acknowledged as was Dalhousie University's 91st Rhodes Scholar, Nayani Jensen – a Mechanical Engineering student.
- An overview of continued advancements in research within Dalhousie University were highlighted, including several faculty congratulations, federal competitions, the Ocean Supercluster, and the Creative Destruction Lab.

Questions for Reports

- Senator Hewitt and Senator Florizone were thanked for the apologies made to the floor. They were asked whether a public, written apology would be issued to Senator Khan. It was noted that it would be possible to issue a note of regret in writing, acknowledging the harms caused by the lack of clarity existing in the Student Code of Conduct.

2017:142

Question Period

Senate Question 2017-04

Senator Diepeveen **MOVED**, seconded by Senator Prosper:

That the Senate meeting be extended by ten (10) minutes.

The motion **CARRIED**.

A question was raised as to the nature and extent of discipline allegations raised against international students. Senator Packer reported that the number of proven allegations of an academic integrity offence are quite low. Less

than 2% of students are found to have committed an academic integrity offence, and less than .2% of these go to the Senate Discipline Committee. Roughly 56% of SDC cases and 44% of AIO allegations are against international students. In any year, about 116 of 3,500 international students have AIO allegations and only 20 are referred to the SDC. Reasons for this have been proposed, but an actual cause cannot be discerned. The allegations are clustered in programs that have academic written assignments, rather than exams. While there is no single solution, Dalhousie University has initiated a number of efforts, including Start on Track.

The response to the question was discussed and Senators noted the following:

- The Writing Centre has a limit of 10 visits. This is problematic for students who require more support.
- It was recommended that more time be dedicated in the future to discuss this issue.
- It was noted that students are requiring interpreters before the academic integrity hearing panel, demonstrating a severe lack of understanding of the English language.
- It was felt that students were taking classes they simply could not pass. Pathways for student success must be considered.
- It was thought that there could be opportunities to embed English language courses in the first year of academic studies for international students.

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Other Business

No other business arising.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.