



SENATE

Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on

Monday, March 25, 2019 at 3:00pm

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

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 2019 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present: K. Harman (Acting Chair); R. Agu; A. Aiken; A. Almallah; T. Balsler; R. Barker; D. Bourne-Tyson; C. Cameron; R. Chang; A. Cochrane; L. Cutmore; P. Cyrus; T. Cyrus; C. Diallo; C. Dieleman; L. Diepeveen; P. Doyle-Bedwell; T. Duck; J. Fasuyi; N. Gear; L. Goldberg; M. R. Goodday; D. Grujic; A. Habib; J. Hall; S. Holmes; G. Horne; I. Joseph; D. Kelley; K. Kesselring; M. Khan; J.S. Kim; C. Kozey; M. Leonard; L. Macdonald; P. MacKinnon; C. Macy; C. Moore; J. Newhook; T. Packer; M. Pacurar; D. Patterson; J. Penney; J. Phinney; B. Rathgeber; A. Rau-Chaplin; C. Richardson; A. Sarhan; A. Siegel; L. Spiteri; S. Stackhouse; A. Steenbeek; S. Theriault; G. Warner; E. Welsh; D. Westwood; D. White

Regrets: V. Allen; D. Anderson; J. Blustein; R. Croll; B. Davis; H. El Naggar; B. Foster; D. Gray; L. Hackett; K. Hewitt; D. McKeen; V. Nams; W. Phillips; A. Prosper; D. Silvio; S. Wildeman; H. Xu

Absent: G. Adolphe-Nazaire; M. Aston; V. Bhargava; K. Dakin-Hache; A. Doucette; F. Harvey; V. Howard; F. Jones; W. Lahey; N. Nadeem; R. Orji; S. Patles; S. Ponomarenko; G. Scherkoske; S. Stone; F. Taheri; D. Thomas; L. Turnbull; P. Tyedmers; I. Waldron

Guests: Sara Abdessamie (President of Dalhousie Accessibility and Inclusion Society); James Brenan (Chair of Dept of Earth Sciences); Mike McAllister (Faculty of Computer Science); Daniel Rainham (Associate Professor, Dept of Earth Sciences); Nenyo Kwasitsu (Student Minute Taker)

The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that this meeting is taking place in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

1. Approval of Agenda

Senator Harman (Acting Chair of Senate) reported that a late request was received to propose an amendment to the March 11th Senate minutes; therefore, the lone item on the consent agenda will be removed to address the amendment. The agenda was **approved** with this change.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of the Draft Minutes of March 11, 2019 Senate Meeting

Senator Harman reported that under Item # 8 – Question Period- Student Declaration of Absence Data, in paragraph 5, amendments have been proposed that would revise the text to read as follows: “Senator Holmes explained that her rationale for asking this question was that when the SDA was presented in Senate, it was stated that it would provide an opportunity for early intervention and also a marker of student failure is poor first year attendance. Senator Joseph explained that clearer answers would be had at the end of the reporting year.”

Senator Spiteri **moved**, Senator Westwood **seconded**:

THAT the amendments to the Senate minutes of March 11, 2019 be approved as presented.

The motion CARRIED.

Senator Khan **moved**, Senator Kelly **seconded**.

THAT Senate approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 Senate meeting as amended.

The motion CARRIED.

3. Matters Arising from the March 11, 2019 Senate Meeting Minutes

3.1 Question related to Student Declaration of Absence

Senator Packer reported that that, based on discussions on this item at the last Senate meeting, the matter will be referred back to the Senate Learning & Teaching Committee (SLTC) to review the concerns raised at Senate and clarify the intent behind the SDA. This item will therefore come back to Senate at a later date.

3.2 Approval of Draft Minutes of January 28, 2019 Senate Meeting Minutes

Senator Harman reminded Senate that Senator Khan had previously proposed amendments to the January 28, 2019 minutes. She reviewed the chronology of this proposal over the last several meetings.

Senator Khan **moved**, Senator Almallah **seconded**:

THAT Senate approve the minutes of the January 28, 2019 Senate meeting as amended.

Discussion ensued.

It was proposed in the revised text presented that the pronoun “he” should be changed to “Senator MacKinnon” as appropriate to avoid ambiguity.

Senator Diallo **moved**, Senator Khan **seconded**:

THAT the proposed amendment to the amendment to change “he” to “Senator MacKinnon” be approved.

The motion **CARRIED**.

In regard to the amendments requested by Senator Khan in the January 28th minutes that reference “student senators” as a group, it was proposed that minutes should only reflect the actual discussion at the meeting and not any discussion that followed the meeting. It was also proposed that the minutes should not identify individual speakers/senators except for presenters.

Senator Khan **moved**, Senator Spiteri **seconded**:

THAT the proposed amendment be further amended to remove specific names from the proposed amendment and replace these with “student senator” or “student senators” as appropriate.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Spiteri **moved**, Senator Cameron **seconded**:

THAT the sentence “His justification for his statements were harmful to all student senators” be struck.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Khan **moved**, Senator Almallah **seconded** that the minutes of January 28, 2019 be approved as amended.

The motion **CARRIED**.

The final amendments to the minutes under Item 6.2 are as follows:

Student Senators noted their concerns about Senator MacKinnon’s appointment and book. A student senator raised concerns about Senator Mackinnon’s statement in his book in which he regards the 16th TRC call to action as “problematic”. In addition, the student senators raised concerns about statements in his book which disregard the importance of the usage of appropriate gender pronouns and the dismissive statements made in the book about sexual misconduct in relation to the Dalhousie Dentistry incident.

4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

S. Abdessamie presented on the efforts of the Dalhousie Accessibility and Inclusion Society to promote diversity and inclusion, specifically persons with disabilities. The presenter explained that their goals so far were to collect data on the current state of accessibility on campus, to raise awareness, to advocate and ensure that their voices are heard. Once the campus audit is done, hopefully by next year, she clarified that a clearer picture of the way forward should emerge.

A survey was conducted for students to provide feedback on their experience with accessibility services at the University. The audit that is underway will help clarify where the gaps are and hopefully address some of the concerns raised in the survey. Some examples to improve accessibility include making Dalhousie university website more accessible and user friendly; creation of an app that includes a map highlighting accessible venues on campus.

FOR APPROVAL

5. Senate Planning and Governance Committee

5.1 Department Name Change: Earth Science to Earth and Environmental Sciences

J. Brennan and D. Rainham presented on the department name change proposal. The rationale for this request was a review of the environmental science program that showed that the small size of the program, faculty complements, teaching and research space and administrative space meant that the program was not reaching its full potential. Earth Science and Environmental Sciences are reasonably overlapping disciplines, and both would benefit from a merger. These benefits include upgrades to

teaching and research space, increased technical staff support, the stabilization of enrolments, the improvement of access to research, co-op opportunities. The potential risk may be on issues of equity, so they are in the process of developing a document on that.

In a brief discussion of the presentation, senators noted that the presentation and supporting documents were comprehensive and that Senate was approving only the name change and not the merger.

THAT the Senate approve the change in name of the Department of Earth Sciences to the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences as a result of the merger of the Department of Earth Science and the Environmental Science program as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

5.2 Definition of a Student

Senators Packer, Joseph and Cochrane presented on this item.

Dalhousie currently does not appear to have a definition of a student. The operational definition is determined by an individual's presence in Banner and their enrolment in credit-based courses. However, there are individuals taking part in Dalhousie programs who are in neither of these categories. These include ESL learners, pathway learners and professional/continuing education adult learners. The Rapid Task Force, SLTC Working Group, and academic and service unit partners working both separately and collaboratively attempted to answer the question of who should be a student and the parameters for establishing this definition.

The resulting definition is **"A Dalhousie student means a person registered in or enrolled at Dalhousie in any academic work or placement for a program that leads to the recording and/or issue of a mark, grade or statement of performance in a university-recognized student information system."**

In the ensuing discussion, it was clarified that for individuals auditing a course, once they are enrolled in a credit course, they are covered by the definition.

A student senator expressed that the DSU was ready to extend its services to these students.

It was also explained that the definition of a student covers those in programs overseen by the Dalhousie University Senate.

For those enrolled in university preparatory courses, it was noted that most of this population already comprises of Dalhousie students who want to switch programs. M. McAllister added that once the University approves the new definition and it is made operational, this group can be revisited to see how to include this group more seamlessly under the definition.

It was clarified that the new definition would likely not impact the number of students on campus when counting for international rankings, as such rankings have their own definition for defining students.

THAT Senate approve the definition of a student as presented and recommend this definition to the Board of Governors for approval.

The motion **CARRIED**.

5.3 Senate Honorary Degrees Committee

This session was held *in-camera*.

6. Reports

6.1 President's Report

Senator MacKinnon reported on his recent activities and several highlights of the University's achievements to date, including positive student enrolment data and recent successes in research funding. Senator MacKinnon noted the recent Dalhousie community forum and discussion on diversity and inclusion and the participation of the University's senior leadership team in a session focused on developing a deeper understanding of the African Nova Scotian community, including a visit to the Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia in Cherrybrook and a panel and discussion with members of the community.

6.2 Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

7. Question Period- President/Vice-Chancellor Search Committee 'Charter of Expectations'

Senator Westwood presented a question submitted via the electronic question form: "Recognizing the need for confidentiality in some aspects of the Search for the president/Vice-Chancellor, I request a description of the "needs of the organization for the next 7-10 years" that have been agreed to by the Search Committee since these are clearly not subject to a need for confidentiality." The response from Lawrence Stordy, Board Chair, Dalhousie was read to Senate by Senator Harman. Senator Harman noted that the information referenced by Mr. Stordy is accessible on the website established for the presidential search process.

8. Other Business

There was no new business arising.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.