



SENATE

Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 3:00pm Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Carleton Campus, Halifax

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 2019 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

Present: K. Hewitt (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Agu, P. Allen, V. Allen, F. Annan, T. Balsler, R. Barker, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, C. Cameron, A. Cochrane, T. Cyrus, C. Diallo, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, T. Duck, Y. El Hiani, L. Goldberg, D. Gray, D. Grujic, A. Habib, K. Harman, S. Holmes, I. Joseph, D. Kelley, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, S. Kirk, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, J. Macedo, N. Maymandi, B. Merritt, C. Moore, F. Naghibi, V. Nams, B. Nassar, J. Newhook, P. Nnoka, P. Owen, M. Pacurar, J. Phinney, S. Ponomarenko, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, K. Rosen, S. Seth, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, H. Sinan, S. Stackhouse, S. Stone, F. Taheri, L. Turnbull, I. Waldron, E. Welsh, D. Westwood, D. White, S. Wildeman, E. Wunker, A. Yahia, I. Yakovenko, S. Yurgel

Regrets: A. Aiken, D. Anderson, B. Davis, B. Foster, J. Hall, V. Howard, J. S. Kim, D. McKeen, R. Orji, P. Tyedmers, G. Warner

Absent: A. Abawajy, M. Aston, N. Blinn, A. Cooper, H. El Nagggar, A. Haiye, F. Harvey, I. Hill, G. Horne, W. Lahey, B. Rathgeber, R. Rendon, A. Sarhan, G. Scherkoske

Guests: Adam Robertson, Assistant Vice Provost (Student Affairs) and University Registrar, Marilyn MacDonald, Chair of Senate Nominating Committee.

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

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

Senator Duck moved for the removal of item 2.2 from the consent agenda, to discuss an item from the June 10, 2019 meeting.

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of May 13, 2019 Senate Meeting

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.3 Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nominations

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.2 Approval of Draft Minutes of June 10, 2019 Senate Meeting

Senator Duck proposed that the minutes of the June 10, 2019 Senate Meeting be amended to include the following addition to item 5:

“A member objected that the item does not meet the criteria articulated in the Senate Constitution in section 5.4K item 1 for an electronic vote and indicated that the appropriate procedure outlined in the Constitution in section 5.4 J was for SPGC, the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, to approve the item and Senate to ratify it or not at its next regular meeting.”

Senator Duck moved the proposed amendment to the minutes which was seconded by Senator Blustein:

THAT Senate approve the draft minutes of the June 10th, 2019 Senate meeting with the proposed amendment.

During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that there may be a recording available of the Senate meeting in question.

Senator Duck proposed to table the motion until the next meeting of Senate, pending review of the recording.

3. Matters Arising from the June 10, 2019 Senate Meeting Minutes

3.1 Report on electronic vote

Senator Hewitt provided an update on the results of the electronic vote on two items which could not be approved at the June 10th, 2019 meeting due to lack of quorum.

Senator Hewitt confirmed that the revised Sexualized Violence policy and minor amendments to Research Centres and Institutes Policy were approved with a majority vote.

There were no other matters arising.

4. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)

4.1 Appointment of Interim Vice Chair of Senate (Term: September 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Senator Hewitt introduced this item explaining the rise of an unanticipated vacancy in the position of Vice Chair, Student Affairs before the end of the normal term on June 30, 2020. The Secretariat put a call out for nominations for the interim period with the SNC then reviewing the nominations and presenting a recommendation to Senate.

M. MacDonald, Chair of SNC presented the SNC’s nomination of Angela Siegel as Interim Vice Chair of Senate for approval by Senate.

THAT Senate appoint Angela Siegel as the Interim Senate Vice-Chair (Student Affairs) for the term September 24, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

The motion **CARRIED**.

5. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC)

5.1 Continuing Appointment with Annual Academic Career Development (CAACD), Faculty of Medicine

Senator Hewitt introduced this item, noting that a brief discussion on the same took place during the meeting of Senate on June 10th, 2019. He also noted that, after follow-up meetings on this matter to address concerns raised about the delegation of authority to division heads in the process, he found that the delegation is an established practice in governance within the Faculty of Medicine. Senator Hewitt also pointed out that this document is not introducing a new practice, but rather ensuring it accurately reflects previously reviewed changes.

Senator White presented on the CAAACD and noted that the motion was intended simply as approval of the changes presented and not the content of the document. The document itself was presented to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, Senate and the Board last fall and was created in response to broader discussions around the changing career path for PhD scientists from clinical stream to a more common tenure stream that the previous process didn't clearly address.

The three main goals of the revisions are changing the career path for PhD scientists from the clinical stream to the more common promotion and tenure stream; the further articulation of a clear and coherent teaching philosophy; and the addition of options for those who can serve as delegate for the annual performance review for all faculty members holding a Continuing Appointment in a department.

THAT Senate approve the revisions made to Concerning Continuing Appointment with Annual Academic Career Development ('CAAACD') as presented.

Senator Hewitt noted that he will be meeting with the senator who had concerns about the current practice. Discussion continued among senators on potentially addressing said concerns with existing practice in a future meeting.

Senators pointed out an apparent inconsistency between Article 2.2 of the document, which is included in the meeting package, and the "Signature" section on Appendix A of the same document. The proposed change deletes the wording in Article 2.2 which lists the options for who can serve as delegate, while in Appendix A, a similar list remains in place.

Senator White further noted that the proposal does include changes to who can act as delegate, and that the main purpose of the proposed changes is to be inclusive of faculty in New Brunswick, as it is often impractical to have the Department Head in Halifax act as annual reviewer of the faculty in New Brunswick.

An amendment to the document was proposed by Senator White, and seconded by Senator Blustein, that would lead to Article 2.2 of the document reading as follows:

“The Department Head (or as delegated to the Division head, Site Medical Education Director, or Associate Dean, Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick, as applicable) is responsible [...]”

The amendment **CARRIED**.

The original motion was then voted on with the above amendment.

THAT Senate approve the revisions made to the Regulations concerning Continuing Appointment with Annual Academic Career Development (‘CAAACD’) as amended.

The motion **CARRIED**.

6. Reports

6.1 Chair of Senate’s Report

Senator Hewitt presented the Chair of Senate’s Report, congratulating Senator Waldron for the international debut of the documentary “There’s Something in the Water” co-directed by Ellen Page and based on Senator Waldron’s book *There’s Something in the Water: Environmental Racism in Indigenous and Black Communities*. Also, former Senator Dr. Pemberton Cyrus was acknowledged for his receipt of the JD Fraser Service Award. The work of the Scholarly Panel to Examine Lord Dalhousie’s History on Slavery and Race was recognized. The passing of past chair of Senate, the late Mohamed El-Hawary, was acknowledged. Congratulations were also extended to Senator Lisa Goldberg, one of Dalhousie’s inaugural Provost Fellows.

Senator Hewitt also introduced the creation of Senate Think Tank sessions, which would focus on helping the university community understand a complex issue impacting the academic mission, solve a problem faced by our faculties, or make a decision relevant to Senate’s role in stewardship of the university’s academic mission. Topics would be identified through joint discussions with Senators and senior leaders. These sessions would be held starting in January 2020 during pre-set meeting dates of Senate in a location that facilitates participatory opportunities.

6.2 President’s Report

Senator Balser presented the President’s Report. She congratulated Senator Leonard on her appointment for a second term as Dean of Graduate Studies. Also, she thanked former Senator, Dr. Cheryl Kozey for her term as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health, and Senator Howard for extending her term as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Management. She applauded Senator Cochrane for his 19 years of continuous service as Dean of the College of Continuing Education and for extending his term to overlap with the commencement of the new Dean’s role.

Senator Balser touched on the continuing planning efforts for Learning Circles, which is now shifting into phase 3 of the planning process, involving the assembly of self-study teams to address a set of well defined topics that have emerged over the last year of consultation. These teams will write an evidence-based, Dalhousie-specific report with high-level recommendations to provide to our incoming president for his consideration. The eight self-study teams are research future, the future of teaching and learning, student experience and success, culture and climate, campus health and wellness, sustainability and environmental responsibility,

internationalization and global engagement, and social responsibility. Senator Balsler noted the principles for this initiative are grassroots driven across the university, informed by the sharing of lived experiences, being goal-defined, and building on prior work.

6.3 Questions for Reports

Senators commented on the importance of the initiative to encourage an inclusive environment from the new leadership, and the value of human capital as a university's most significant asset.

In response to a question on what student success means and how it can be achieved in the context of the topic of "student experience and success" included in the learning circles, Senator Balsler noted that student success should be seen in the long-term, not just the short term, and that it will be fleshed out further based on the conclusions arrived at by the self-study teams.

7. Question Period – Question Regarding Culture of Respect and Fall 2019 Convocation Date

A. Robertson presented on a question posed to the Senate in the interim since the last meeting, concerning the Fall Convocation date and the challenges to participation for members of the Jewish community. A. Robertson noted that the university normally schedules Fall Convocation in early October, considering multiple factors, including the activities of the academic term and the annual calendar, while endeavouring to be attentive to faith-based holidays. It was overlooked, however, that Yom Kippur starts at sundown the day before, and often requires a great deal of preparation for those observing thus potentially impacting graduates' ability to attend convocation. He offered sincere apologies on behalf of the Registrar's Office for this oversight and provided information on steps being taken to ensure future conflicts are avoided. He explained that a review of the list of faith based holidays in conjunction with other campus leaders including Human Rights and Equity Services and the Dalhousie Multi-faith Centre as well as creating a committee to act as a checkpoint to ensure that this does not happen again was being undertaken.

Senators also noted the difficulty of insuring inclusivity given the wide diversity of different faiths on campus.

A. Robertson also touched on the need for a new location for Fall and Spring 2020 convocations due to construction on the Rebecca Cohn Performing Arts Centre. These convocations will take place at the Halifax Convention Centre.

8. Other Business

8.1 Academic Amnesty for Global Climate Strike

Senator Hewitt presented on this item. He noted that academic amnesty had in the past been granted by Senate on an ad-hoc basis within Senate's broad powers of academic regulation, following approval by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, to students who wished to participate in national and provincial days of action, most often regarding tuition fee increases.

Senator Hewitt provided the context for this call for academic amnesty for the Global Climate Strike, which was received from a student, with the DSU's support. The Global Strike for Climate

Justice is a weeklong initiative ending with a General Strike Day on Friday, September 27, meeting at Victoria Square Park at 11 a.m. for those participating in Halifax. The Senate Planning and Governance Committee reviewed the request at its meeting on September 18, 2019 and recommended the following motion to Senate for approval.

THAT all individuals involved in teaching Dalhousie on September 27, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 pm, allow students who wish to participate in the Global Climate Strike to do so without academic penalty due to their absence, subject to the following:

- **Students are to inform their professors at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance if they plan on missing an assessment in order to attend the Day of Action.**
- **Make-up assessment(s) will be at the discretion of course instructors, subject to appropriate faculty regulations.**
- **For the inclusion of students travelling from and to the Agriculture Campus, no specific time is provided.**

Senators discussed whether the 72-hour notice period gives students enough time, and whether this could be changed to 48 hours to give more notice to students.

Senator Joseph proposed an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Senator Duck: **THAT the first bullet of the motion be amended to provide students with 48 hours' notice to inform their professors if they plan on missing an assessment.**

The amendment **CARRIED**.

The motion as amended reads as follows:

THAT all individuals involved in teaching Dalhousie on September 27, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 pm, allow students who wish to participate in the Global Climate Strike to do so without academic penalty due to their absence, subject to the following:

- **Students are to inform their professors at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance (by Wednesday, September 25 at 10:30 am) if they plan on missing an assessment in order to attend the Day of Action.**
- **Make-up assessment(s) will be at the discretion of course instructors, subject to appropriate faculty regulations.**
- **For the inclusion of students travelling from and to the Agriculture Campus, no specific time is provided.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Discussion ensued on the subject of cancelling classes at the university in support of the climate strikes. Senators asked whether Senate has the authority to cancel classes. Concerns were also raised that cancelling classes for the entire day may be counter-productive, as term schedule has already been impacted due to the closures following Hurricane Dorian.

MOVED by Senator Sinan. **Seconded** by Senator Yahia:

THAT all classes on Friday, September 27, 2019 be cancelled in support of the climate strike.

Discussion took place on the new motion. Senators commented that it is essential to give all students the opportunity to attend the strike, and that special circumstances may prevent some students from attending classes before the start of the “day of action”. Senators also commented that this issue is especially important as federal elections are taking place shortly.

Further review of the regulations revealed that the decision on these matters appears to be at the discretion of the President’s Office and the Vice President Finance and Administration, indicating that Senate may not be consulted on these decisions and may not have authority to rule on them. Therefore, the above motion could not be entertained by Senate.

Senator Hewitt noted that the Senate Planning and Governance Committee has been considering a policy and procedure for considering requests for academic amnesty, as SPGC have been dealing with it on an ad-hoc basis to date.

The suggestion was made that a motion could be made to make a recommendation to the President’s Office and the Vice President Finance and Administration to cancel classes, since Senate is not able to entertain the previously made motion. The latter motion was declared invalid. Senator Hewitt stated that a motion asking the President to consider cancelling classes could be considered by Senate.

MOVED by Senator Sinan. **Seconded** by Senator Yehia:
THAT Senate recommend to the President that they consider the cancellation of classes on September 27th.

Senators discussed the benefits of class cancellation and felt it may be less impactful than the original approved motion, as there may be students who wish to attend class or may not identify with the movement. It was also noted that the time window to action the motion would be very short.

Senator Harman moved, seconded by Senator Westwood, to call the question.

THAT debate on the previous question be closed.

The call **CARRIED**.

THAT Senate recommend to the President that they consider the cancellation of classes on September 27th.

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.