



## SENATE

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Monday, March 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 2020 in Theatre A, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building.

**Present:** K. Hewitt (Chair), A. Abawajy, G. Adolphe-Nazaire, P. Allen, V. Allen, D. Anderson, F. Annan, M. Aston, T. Balsler, D. Bourne-Tyson, C. Cameron, M. Campbell-Yeo, T. Cyrus, C. Diallo, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, T. Duck, H. El Naggar, M. Fournier, L. Goldberg, D. Gray, D. Grujic, J. Hall, K. Harman, F. Harvey, S. Holmes, G. Horne, V. Howard, N. Isaac-Pictou, I. Joseph, D. Kelley, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, J. S. Kim, S. Kirk, M. Leonard, L. Macdonald, J. Macedo, N. Maymandi, B. Merritt, C. Moore, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, P. Nnoka, R. Orji, P. Owen, M. Pacurar, J. Penney, L. Perez, J. Phinney, S. Ponomarenko, T. Rajack-Talley, C. Richardson, H-S. Ro, K. Rosen, D. Saini, G. Scherkoske, S. Seth, A. Siegel, H. Sinan, L. Spiteri, S. Stackhouse, S. Stone, F. Taheri, P. Tyedmers, D. Tyers, G. Warner, E. Welsh, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, A. Yahia, I. Yakovenko, S. Yurgel

**Regrets:** A. Aiken, J. Blustein, B. Foster, B. Nassar, J. Penney, B. Rathgeber

**Absent:** R. Agu, N. Blinn, K. Brooks, B. Davis, A. Doucette, Y. El Hiani, A. Habib, A. Haiye, W. Lahey, V. Nams, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Sandham, D. Silvio, I. Waldron, D. White, E. Wunker

**Guests:** Ian Nason (Vice-President, Finance & Administration); John Hope (General Counsel); Mike Smit (Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Management); Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate); Sundari Pashupathi (Associate Secretary of Senate); Joseph Behl (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 Hewitt proposed an amendment to the agenda, adding a new item under "Other Business" to provide an update on the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak.

The agenda was **approved** with this amendment.

### **2. Consent Agenda**

There were requests to remove both items from the Consent Agenda.

#### **2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of February 10, 2020 Senate Meeting**

Senator Isaac-Pictou requested some changes to items 1 and 2 of the February 10, 2020 draft minutes for the sake of clarity and correctness.

Moved by Senator Isaac-Pictou, seconded by Senator Macdonald:

**THAT Senate approve the minutes of February 10, 2020 with the following amendment: that where the phrase “Wet’suwet’en First Nation” occurs, it be replaced with “Wet’suwet’en Nation,” and that the phrase “Solidarity Day” In items 1 and 2 be changed to “Solidarity Statement” rather than “Solidarity Day.”**

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **2.2 Termination of Master of Architecture (Post Professional Program)**

Senator Harman, as chair of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) explained the rationale for the recommendation being placed on the Consent Agenda, noting that the termination proposal for the M. Arch post professional program is supported by the School of Architecture, recommended by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), and approved by SAPRC. The program has had a total of 17 graduates over 30 years and none since 2006. She reported that FGS recommends termination if a program has not had students in four years and, in this case, it has been much longer than this. Senator Harman reported that discussions have occurred at SAPRC on identifying routine, non-controversial academic program matters for inclusion on the Senate Consent Agenda in the future. Further discussions will take place at SAPRC. Senator Harman noted that she proposed the removal of this item from the Consent Agenda today in order to provide this information to senators.

Moved by Senator Harman on behalf of SAPRC:

**THAT Senate approve the termination of the Master of Architecture (Post Professional program).**

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **3. Matters Arising from the February 10, 2020 Senate Meeting Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Senate Honorary Degrees Committee (SHDC)**

The Senate moved to an *in camera* session to discuss item 4.1

#### **4.1 Honorary Degree Nominations**

At the conclusion of the *in camera* session, the Chair reported that the motion to approve a slate of honorary degree nominations was approved as presented. The names of candidates will remain confidential until announced at a later date.

Senate returned to open session for the remaining items.

## 5. Budget Advisory Committee Report LX: Draft Operating Budget Plan for 2020-2021

Senator Hewitt introduced the item, noting that small group discussions would take place around the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) report after the presentation.

Senator Balsler presented the Budget Advisory Committee Report LX, providing an overview of the role and objectives of the BAC, the process to date, and the key themes emerging from the consultation process. She spoke to the university's sources of revenue and rising costs, the current gap between revenue and expenditures, and the critical needs identified for 2020-21, including student support, physical infrastructure, IT infrastructure and cybersecurity risks, flexibility against enrolment fluctuation, and long-term and strategic investments.

Senator Balsler summarized the competing needs and desires that characterize budget decisions, and the following high-level conclusions:

- That there are many high-priority needs worthy of support
- That priorities are often competing
- That choices must be made
- The goal is to strike a balance: a budget that is financially sustainable, addresses strategic needs and allows for innovation.

Senator Balsler concluded by emphasizing the need for long-term solutions in the following areas:

- A deliberate approach to growth
- Exploring areas for cost savings and efficiencies
- Providing for alternative ways to generate revenue
- Developing a budget allocation model that fosters innovation related to access, affordability and modernized curriculum – and that promotes collaboration and cooperation.

At this point the Chair noted that time for adjournment was approaching.

Moved by Senator Harman, seconded by Senator Pacurar

**THAT the meeting be extended by 30 minutes to 5:30 p.m.**

The motion **CARRIED** with the required 2/3 majority.

Moved by Senator Saini, seconded by Senator El Naggar:

**THAT the meeting be moved to an *in camera* session for the discussion of the Budget Advisory Committee Report LX.**

In support of the motion, Senator Saini spoke to the difference between Senate deliberating as a body and individual members expressing opinions outside of that body, and the ability to have deeper discussions within an *in camera* session. Senators discussed the proposed motion with some senators voicing a preference to have the discussion in open session so that senators are able to report back to their constituencies without concern about breaching confidentiality. It was also noted that having the discussion in open session is consistent with past practice.

After further discussion, and in the interests of time and hearing the views of senators on the budget, the motion was **WITHDRAWN** by the mover and seconder.

Senator Balser responded to a number of questions focused on such areas as the relationship between student mental health and increasing tuition, the process for appointing students to positions on the BAC, and the impact of new regulations under the Pension Benefits Act on servicing costs. A further question referenced Appendix D of the BAC report and queried the cumulative impact of the relative underfunding of Faculties. Senator Balser responded that there would likely be a wide range of impacts, but that this would be something that the Deans would be in a better position to comment on. I. Nason added that efforts have been made in the past to estimate the impact of reductions over a period of time, and that this varies by Faculty and staff levels as retirements and replacements take place, making it difficult to quantify. In response to a question on Dalhousie's roughly 6,000 employees, I. Nason undertook to provide a breakdown of the number by category of employees. A senator noted that Senate voted several years ago to study the impact of faculty non-renewal on academic units. SAPRC has made efforts to collect this info and finally resolved that it is an action that can/should be undertaken by the Provost.

## **6. Recommendations to Senate, to the President's Budget Advisory Committee, and to the President on academic priorities guiding the deployment of resources**

Guest M. Smit facilitated the discussion period among senators. The discussion activity was intended to obtain input and feedback from Senate, and took place in groups. Each group received a link to a web form where feedback could be entered, reviewed by Officers of Senate, and provided to BAC. He then introduced the discussion questions on the following key areas:

- Spending priorities
- The BAC recommendations
- Academic revenue

Senators engaged in initial discussion of the proposed format of the activity, with some senators expressing concern that the small group format was not discussed by Senate in advance of the meeting and did not allow for the opportunity to hear and benefit from the insights of a larger group of senators. Following this discussion and questions of clarification regarding the format of the activity, senators split into small groups and engaged in discussion of the questions. The Chair reported that the feedback collected will be collated and summarized and provided to the BAC.

## **7. Other Business**

### **7.1 COVID-19 Virus Update**

Senator Balser presented an update on the COVID-19 virus and the university's response to it. She noted that the university is treating it formally as an emergency situation. A set of committees and actions have been put in place, borrowing from the Crisis Management Plan and previous similar situations, and dealing with issues and challenges such as the potential academic and financial impact of the outbreak. Following the report, Senator Balser and J. Hope responded to brief questions.

### **7.2 Profile in Courage Award Presentation**

Senator Hewitt noted that the presentation of this award has been postponed until April.

**8. Question Period**

This item was deferred due to time.

**9. Recognition of Sundari Pashupathi**

Senators recognized and congratulated Sundari Pashupathi for her exemplary work in the role of Associate Secretary of Senate and Manager of Secretariat Operations for the past two years. She was given a standing ovation.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.