



## SENATE

### Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, September 27 2021 at 3:00pm Via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 27, 2021 via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** L. Spiteri (Chair), T. Adams, G. Adolphe-Nazaire, A. Aiken, G. Alexander, M. Aston, D. Bilodeau, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, K. Brooks, C. Cameron, R. Chang, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, P. Doucet-Bernard, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, H. El Nagggar, M. Farrimond, C. Flood, B. Foster, M. Fournier, G. Gagnon, J. Gantar, D. Grantham, D. Gray, H. Hall, F. Harvey, V. Howard, D. Iduye, D. Jakeman, S. Jeffrey, M. Keinast, S. Kirk, S. Kuzak, W. Lahey, C. Lake, M. Leonard, H. Maambo, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, C. Macy, S. McKibbon, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, F. Naghibi, M. Nashnoush, B. Nassar, J. Newhook, H. Niu, R. Orji, M. Pacurar, N. Patil, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, H-S. Ro, K. Rosen, D. Saini, L. Sarson, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, V. Simodoh, S. Stone, F. Taheri, V. Tupin, D. Tyers, T. Walker, D. Westwood, D. White, S. Wildeman, I. Yakovenko, E. Yiridoe, S. Yurgel

**Regrets:** B. Davis, M. Stinson

**Absent:** R. Agu, M. Ali Ulku, D. Anderson, Y. El Hiani, K. El-Sankary, N. Ezzeddine, D. Grujic, M. Irwin, M. MacEachern, L. Perez, L. Proper, C. Richardson, E. Wunker

**Guests:** Susan Brousseau (Secretary of Senate), Robert Hanf (Chair of the Board of Governors), John Hope (Legal Counsel), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator), Claire Mercer (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

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

#### 2. Consent Agenda

##### 2.1. Revocation of Hazing Policy

**THAT Senate revoke the existing Hazing Policy with immediate effect and that any references to the Hazing Policy in any other policy be deleted or replaced with a reference to the Code of Student Conduct, as applicable.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

**2.2. Proposed Waiver for Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence to Eliminate the Need for the Production of Sick Notes by Students**

**THAT Senate waive, for the 2021 fall term and the 2021 fall examination period, the requirement for medical certificate to verify a student's absence due to illness.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

**3. Matters Arising from September 13, 2021 Senate Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Reports:**

**4.1. Chair of Senate's Report**

Senator Spiteri's written report highlighted the critical need for the appointment of Senate representatives on search and review committees. Senator Spiteri reminded Senators that calls had gone out for Senate representatives to four search and review committees. However, no expressions of interest had been received for Senate representatives to the Associate Vice-President Academic Search Committee and the Associate Vice-President Global Relations Search Committee. Senator Spiteri encouraged Senators to put their names forward to ensure that Senate's interests were represented in these processes.

Senator Spiteri added that a call for Senate Chairs for Academic Teaching Awards Selection Committees had gone out and urged Senators to put their names forward.

**4.2. Provost's Report**

Senator Harvey reported on the past weekend's homecoming incidents on Larch Street and Jennings Street in Halifax and the University's actions to address the issue before and after the event, carried out in collaboration with Emergency Health and Service, Community Outreach, Halifax Regional Police and others.

Senator Harvey informed Senate that return to campus measures had been negatively impacted by the event and that students who attended the event had been requested to remain at home for a week and get tested for COVID-19. Senator Harvey noted that there had been an increase in use of Dalhousie's Covid-19 testing facilities as a result.

Senator Harvey also reported that an events schedule would shortly be circulated to the University community on activities to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30, 2021.

**4.3. Questions for Reports**

Responding to a query, Senator Harvey confirmed that instructors, in consultation with students, their Department Head or Dean may move their courses online for a while due to the weekend's events.

## **FOR APPROVAL**

### **5. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC)**

#### **5.1. In Camera Status of Senate Standing Committee Meetings**

Senator Spiteri reported that at its June 16, 2021 meeting, SPGC reached a consensus that the implications of choosing to eliminate the *in camera* status of Senate standing committees should be presented to Senate. Senator Spiteri noted that following this, at its meeting September 15, 2021 meeting, SPGC considered a document setting out the current practice and procedures of standing committee meetings and some implications of changing the practice. Resulting from this, SPGC members determined that a recommendation be made to Senate that a rapid task force (RTF) be struck to explore a possible constitutional amendment to change the default *in camera* status of Senate standing committee meetings, making recommendations regarding which standing committees, if any, should have their default *in camera* status revoked, setting out the implications of the constitutional amendment and laying out the procedure for the constitutional amendment. This would enable Senate to make an informed decision.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:  
**THAT Senate task the Senate Planning and Governance Committee with striking a rapid task force to explore the implications and procedure of amendment of the Senate Constitution to change the default *in camera* status of Senate standing committee meetings and make recommendations regarding which standing committees, if any, should have their default *in camera* status revoked.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Spiteri encouraged Senators to join RTF and confirmed that SPGC would create the RTF's terms of reference.

#### **5.2. Academic Amnesty Request for 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mawio'mi at Dalhousie University – October 13, 2021**

Senator Spiteri informed Senate that a request had been received from Senator Doyle-Bedwell, for a motion to go to Senate to allow Indigenous students to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Mawio'mi at Dalhousie University, scheduled for October 13, 2021, without academic penalty. SPGC had recommended the motion to Senate for approval.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve that all individuals involved in synchronous teaching delivery at Dalhousie University on October 13, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. allow Indigenous students who wish to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Mawio'mi at Dalhousie University to do so without academic penalty due to their absence, subject to the following:**

- 1. Students are to inform their professors at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance (by 8:30 a.m. on October 12, 2021) if they plan on missing an assessment in order to attend the Mawio'mi.**

2. **Make-up assessment(s) will be at the discretion of course instructors, subject to appropriate faculty regulations.**
3. **For the inclusion of students travelling from and to the Truro Campus, Yarmouth Campus or Saint John Campus, no specific time is provided.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Doyle-Bedwell extended an invitation to Senators to join the the Mawio'mi events.

## **6. Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC)**

### **6.1. Extension of Support for Indigenous Students – Fall Term**

Senator Pacurar informed Senate that In June, 2021, a request was received from the University administration for a motion to go to Senate, recommending that academic support for Indigenous students be provided in immediate response to the news reports of the found children at residential schools. This was recommended to Senate by SLTC and approved by Senate in June, 2021.

Senator Pacurar advised that a request had been received from the Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) for the academic accommodation be extended for a further period, as Indigenous students continued to struggle as a result of the discoveries. SLTC had recommended the extension to Senate.

Responding to a query, Senator Pacurar confirmed that students would self-identify as Indigenous.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:

**THAT Senate approve that Indigenous students currently enrolled in fall 2021 classes at Dalhousie be granted requests for assignment extensions and rescheduled examinations.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **6.2. Proposed Revisions to Classroom Recording Protocol**

Senator Pacurar informed Senate that at its September 8, 2021 meeting, SLTC considered draft guidelines developed for recording video-conferenced synchronous online classes and the proposed revised Classroom Recording Protocol.

Senator Pacurar noted that SLTC approved the guidelines for recording video-conferenced synchronous online classes and recommended the proposed revised Classroom Recording Protocol to Senate for approval, including a name change to the Protocol.

Responding to a query, Senator Pacurar clarified that no update to the Syllabus Policy would be required.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve the revised Classroom Recording Protocol, including a name change to the Class Recording Protocol, as presented.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

**7. Question Period – Senate’s Role in Academic Continuity During Ongoing COVID-19**

Senator Spiteri explained that a query regarding Senate’s role in academic continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic had been received by the Secretariat and that the query and response of the Senate Officers had been included in the meeting material.

Responding to a comment that it had been believed that Senator Harvey would provide an update on the Return to Campus (RTC) taskforce’s undertakings during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was agreed that Senator Harvey’s detailed report on RTC would be provided to Senate at its next meeting.

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.