



**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, April 12, 2021 at 3:00pm**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, April 12, 2021 via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** K. Hewitt (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Agu, A. Aiken, D. Anderson, F. Annan, M. Aston, R. Barker, N. Bird, J. Blustein, D. Bourne-Tyson, K. Brooks, B. Davis, A. Doucette, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, H. El Naggar, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, M. Fournier, L. Goldberg, D. Gray, D. Grujic, A. Habib J. Hall, B. Hansson, F. Harvey, V. Howard, S. Jeffrey, Z. Jones, J.S. Kim, W. Lahey, M. Leonard, L. MacDonald, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, C. Moore, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, R. Orji, M. Pacurar, L. Perez, J. Phinney, L. Propper, T. Rajack-Talley, B. Rathgeber, A. Rau-Chaplin, C. Richardson, H.S. Ro, K. Rosen, D. Saini, B. Schick, E. Seelemann, S. Seth, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, S. Sparks, L. Spiteri, S. Stackhouse, M. Stinson, S. Stone, F. Taheri, V. Turpin, P. Tyedmers, D. Tyers, M. A. Ulku, G. Warner, E. Welsh, D. Westwood, D. White, E. Wunker

**Regrets:** V. Allen, P. Bennett, T. Cyrus, S. Kirk, M. Sharaput, I. Waldron, S. Yurgel

**Absent:** A. Cooper, S. Coughlan, R. Devlin, T. Duck, Y. El Hiani, K. El Sankary, N. Ezzedine, G. Horne, M. Irwin, A. Kermanshahi-Pour, B. Nassar, A. Sophocleous, I. Yakovenko, S. Zahoor

**Guests:** Susan Brousseau, Leanne French-Munn (Assistant Vice-Provost, Planning and Strategy), Jacqueline Gahagan (Professor, Health Promotion), Robert Hanf (Chair, Board of Governors), Jennifer Murray (Chief of Staff, Provost Office), Judith Ng'ethe, Nakita Strowbridge, 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.

Senator Hewitt spoke briefly to the evolving situation in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, resulting from ongoing volcanic activity at La Soufriere volcano. A GoFundMe page was being set up to support those affected.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Senator Hewitt proposed an amendment to the agenda, to move item 8, "Proposed CCE Name Change", from the *in camera* session of the meeting to the open session.

Senator Meynell proposed a further amendment to the agenda, to move item 7, "Draft 2021-2026 Strategic Plan", from the *in camera* session to the open session and to have discussion of the item postponed to the April 26, 2021 Senate meeting. Senator Meynell noted that the Strategic Plan needed to be discussed in the open session in line with past practice and for the accountability of Senate. Unless there were issues of privacy, there existed a default mode of openness.

The request to move item 7, Draft 2021-2026 Strategic Plan”, from the *in camera* session to the open session, was deemed out of order by Senator Hewitt, noting that the Chair had the right to determine that an issue be discussed *in camera*. Senator Meynell announced her intention to overrule the Chair.

Moved by Senator Meynell, seconded by Senator Goldberg

**THAT the decision of the Senate Chair that the motion is out of order be overruled.**

In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that per the Senate Constitution, at the end of an *in camera* session, Senators could determine that any motions passed during the *in camera* session be made public. It was also reported that extensive consultations had been undertaken to synthesize the present version of the Strategic Plan.

Senator Hewitt announced that he would refrain from voting on the motion. It was noted that the Chair could vote on the motion based on Robert’s Rules.

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

Senator Meynell indicated her intention to move a further motion to delay discussion of item 7, “Draft 2021-2026 Strategic Plan”, to the next Senate Meeting. It was noted that this delay would result in Senate’s views not being considered before the Board of Governor’s meeting of April 20, 2021, where the draft Strategic Plan would be presented for approval.

Moved by Senator Meynell, seconded by Senator Westwood

**THAT the discussion of the strategic plan for 2021-26 (item 7 on the April 12, 2021 agenda) be held at the next Senate meeting (or one shortly after) so that senators can have time to carefully read it, consider it, and formulate questions and concerns that represent the interests of the university and their own expertise, insights, and institutional knowledge.**

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

The agenda was **approved** with the **revision** to have item 8, “Proposed CCE Name Change”, considered in open session.

At this point in the meeting, it was suggested that the meeting be extended by thirty minutes, in order to get through the agenda.

Moved by Senator Spiteri, seconded by Senator Blustein

**THAT the Senate meeting be extended by thirty minutes.**

The motion was **DEFEATED**.

## **2. Consent Agenda**

### **2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of March 8, 2021 Senate Meeting**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

### **2.2 Deans' Waivers for Ratification**

**THAT Senate ratify the Pharmacy (PharmD), Faculty of Health waiver, as presented, resulting from the authority delegated to Deans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

## **3. Matters Arising From March 8, 2021 Senate Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

## **4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality**

Senator Brooks presented the development of the Promise Scholars program in the Faculty of Management, as part of Senate's Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality segment. Senator Brooks noted that the initiative had been student driven and would begin in September 2021. The Promise Scholars program would support Black and Indigenous students, with priority for African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq students in all four of the Faculty of Management's Schools, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The program was designed around financial support, paid work during a student's program (if desired) and wrap-around support designed collaboratively with the student. Scholars for the upcoming school year would be chosen in the next month.

## **5. Passing of David Gass – Message on Behalf of the Faculty, Staff and Students**

Senator Anderson spoke on behalf of the faculty, staff and students at the Faculty of Medicine, noting the passing of David Gass. Dr. Gass would be remembered for his dedication and contribution to Dalhousie, the Canadian Medical Association and numerous other causes.

## **6. Reports**

### **6.1. Chair of Senate's Report**

In the interest of time, Senator Hewitt deferred his report to the next Senate meeting.

### **6.2. Provost's Report**

Senator Harvey acknowledged Fatima Beydoun and Carolin Merner; two recipients of the MacBain Scholarship, chosen from over 700 applicants across Canada and also noted the Canadian Heritage's \$1 million funding contribution to Senator Cooper's program to support Black history education.

Senator Harvey also announced the creation of the Sankofa Scholarships, offering financial support, mentorship and other support to incoming undergraduate students of Black and African descent. The three scholarships would take effect from the 2021/2022 academic year and would include an international student award of \$48,000 (\$12,000 renewable annually) for a Black

international student from the Caribbean and two domestic awards of \$32,000 (\$8,000 renewable annually) each, one awarded to a Black Canadian student with Caribbean heritage and one to an African Nova Scotian student. The three inaugural recipients would be announced later in the year.

Speaking in support of Senator Harvey's announcement, Senator Saini reported that the \$48,000 award to a Black international student from the Caribbean would be named the Joan and Dr. Kevin Hewitt Sankofa Scholarship, in recognition of Senator Hewitt's outstanding leadership in the advancement of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) at Dalhousie. Senator Hewitt expressed his appreciation.

### **6.3. DSU Report to Senate**

Senator Stinson highlighted the Dalhousie Student Union's (DSU) focus over the past year on balance between student and professorial needs. Priorities for the upcoming year would be a safe return to campus and the health and wellbeing of students. Senator Stinson thanked staff, faculty and the Senate Officers for their collaboration with and support of the DSU.

Senator Stinson invited Senators to attend the "Reject the Fees Rally" on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, to contribute to the discussion surrounding rising tuition costs.

### **6.4. Questions for Reports**

There were no questions.

## ***IN CAMERA***

### **7. Draft 2021-2026 Strategic Plan**

Senate moved to an *in camera* session for a discussion of the draft 2021-2026 Strategic Plan. Following the discussion, Senate returned to open session.

## **FOR APPROVAL**

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

#### **8.1. Proposed CCE Name Change**

Senator Hewitt spoke to the proposed name change for the College of Continuing Education (CCE) and reported that this had been strongly supported at the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) meeting of March 17, 2021, where it had been considered and recommended to Senate for approval. If approved, the name change proposal would be considered by the Board of Governors. Senator Hewitt invited Senator Tyers to address Senate on the proposed name change.

Senator Tyers spoke to the eight-month name change exploratory process undertaken and reported that the proposed new name, the Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development, along with each individual word, had been stress tested.

Moved by Senator Hewitt on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

**THAT Senate approve the proposed change of name from the College of Continuing Education to the Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development.**

Responding to a query regarding the implications of the change from “college” to “faculty, Senator Tyers explained that the term faculty aligned better with the architecture of Dalhousie’s academic units.

The motion **CARRIED**.

At this point in the meeting, it was determined that in order to receive the report of the Senate Nominating Committee, additional meeting time would be required.

Moved by Senator Blustein, seconded by Senator Spiteri

**THAT the Senate meeting be extended by ten minutes.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **9. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)**

### **9.1. Election of Vice-Chair, Academic Programs (Term: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024)**

Senator Seth, Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, reported that there were two nominees for the position of Vice-Chair, Academic Programs: Senator Blustein and Jacqueline Gahagan.

The two nominees were invited to address Senate. Senator Blustein and J. Gahagan both spoke to their interest in the position and their qualifications for serving in the role.

Responding to a query regarding their position on prioritizing of EDI, Senator Blustein responded that they believed that movement was being made in the right direction. However, it was necessary to continue to make EDI a priority and strive towards this.

Having heard from both nominees and there being no additional nominations from the floor, Senators moved to a vote by secret ballot. J. Gahagan received the majority of votes cast.

Moved by Senator Seth on behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee:

**THAT Senate appoint Jacqueline Gahagan as the Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) for the term July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

J. Gahagan thanked Senate for the opportunity accorded to them and for entrusting them with the role.

## **10. Question Period – In Camera status of Senate Standing Committee meetings**

This item was deferred due to lack of time.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.