

SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, December 12, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

Present

L. Spiteri (Senate Chair), R. Affoo, A. Aiken, D. Anderson, J. Andrews, D. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Cameron, R. Chang, S. Chitnis, B. Davis, K. Dilcher, P. Doyle-Bedwell, L. DuBois, H. El Naggar, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, D. Grantham, D. Gray, J. Hall, F. Harvey, G. Ilie, M. Irwin, D. Jakeman, S. Jeffrey, M. Keinast, A. Kermanshahi-pour, I. Keumani, S. Keyamo, S. Kirk, C. Lake, P. Lee Men Chin, M. Leonard, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, S. McKibbon, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, F. Naghibi, H. Niu, M. Pacurar, Y. Pan, N. Patil, T. Perrot, L. Phillmore, L. Propper, T. Rajack-Talley, H. Ro, D. Saini, R. Sampangi, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, S. Stone, D. Tyers, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti

Guests: Jerry Aguinaga (Executive Director, Environmental Health and Safety), Laura Godsoe (Director, Executive Recruitment and Employment Equity, Human Resources), John Hope (General Counsel and University Secretary), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Nakita Stowbridge (Senate Coordinator)

Regrets

C. Brown, T. Cyrus, G. Gagnon, W. Lahey, K. Rosen

Absent

G. Adolphe-Nazaire, T. Agbaje-Ojo, R. Agu, G. Amore, O. Akinkugbe, P. Doucet-Bernard, A. Doucette, O. Dryden, Y. El Hiani, K. El-Sankary, N. Ezzeddine, C. Graves, G. Horne, C. Macy, V. Maselli, M. Nashnoush, J. Newhook, R. Orji, A. Rau-Chaplin, A. Rudnick, L. Sarson, D. Silvio, A. Stapleton, M. Ulku, M. Vandenburg, T. Walker, D. Westwood

The Dalhousie University Senate acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

The Dalhousie University Senate also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

1. Approval of Revised Agenda

The revised agenda was **approved** subject to removal of item 2.3 – Senate Representatives to the Presidential Search Committee – from the consent agenda.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of November 14, 2022 Senate Special Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the November 14, 2022 Senate special meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.2 Approval of Draft Minutes of November 28, 2022 Senate Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the November 28, 2022 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.3 Senate Representatives to the Presidential Search Committee

The meeting was informed that the University was embarking on a search process for the position of President and Vice-Chancellor and that on November 28, 2022, a call for nominations went out for two Senate representatives to the search committee, with a reminder going out on December 2, 2022. Nominations were sought from among current and past Academic Unit Senators and Deans (in their capacity as *ex-officio* members of Senate).

The meeting was further informed that nominations had been received from Senator El Naggar and Senator Gagnon, respectively. The nominations were considered by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) by electronic vote and recommended to Senate for approval.

In the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed by a Senator that both nominees came from professional faculties. Senator Spiteri noted that the two nominees were the only Senators to respond to the call for Senate representatives and that SPGC had confirmed their suitability. Senators were encouraged to put their names forward when calls were sent out for Senate representatives to ensure diversity in Senate representation.

Senator El Naggar left the meeting.

Moved by S. Jeffrey, seconded by J. Blustein

THAT Senate appoint Hany El Naggar as a Senate representative on the Presidential Search Committee.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Moved by J. Blustein, seconded by L. Phillmore

THAT Senate appoint Graham Gagnon as a Senate representative on the Presidential Search Committee.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator El Naggar returned to the meeting.

Senator Spiteri thanked Senator El Nagggar and Senator Gagnon for putting their names forward to serve as Senate representatives.

3. Matters Arising from November 28, 2022 Senate Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Environmental Health and Safety Update

Senator Spiteri invited Jerry Aguinaga to present on this item.

Senate was briefed on the functions of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) office, including biological, radiology, fire and laboratory safety, as well as documentation, audits, training and response to workplace accidents.

The meeting was informed that the EHS office has partnered with the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) and the Faculty of Open Learning and Career Development to train the Dalhousie community on environmental health and safety. The goal was to create EHS related courses available to all members of the Dalhousie community, keeping equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) considerations front and centre. These included English as a Second Language (ESL) and accessibility features such as closed captioning and voice overs. Options to deliver courses in alternate languages were also being considered. The EHS office was also considering gamification of the training courses and was sponsoring a capstone project on the concept. The meeting was informed that the courses were available without cost and that microcredentials were offered.

5. Reports:

5.1 Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Spiteri's written report highlighted the recent meeting of the Bicameral Governance Working Group (BGWG) on the consultation and communication plans relating to the external Governance Review report findings.

Senator Spiteri wished Senator Saini well as he moved on from Dalhousie to a new role and thanked Senators for their contributions to Senate during the term, especially Senators who had stepped forward to take on roles on Senate standing committees and as Senate representatives to various university committees, working groups and rapid task forces.

5.2 President's Remarks

Senator Saini noted that it had been an honour and privilege to serve at Dalhousie and expressed gratitude for support and assistance accorded to him during his tenure as President and Vice-Chancellor of the university.

5.3 Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

FOR APPROVAL

6. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC) Election of Vice-Chair, Student Affairs (Term: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026)

Senator Seth presented this item as Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee (SNC).

The meeting was informed that the current three-year term of the Vice Chair (Student Affairs) would end on June 30, 2023. A call for nominations, for a new three-year term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, had been distributed to the University community. The incumbent, Senator Pacurar, had confirmed her willingness to serve for a new three-year term and submitted her expression of interest. The nominee had also submitted her response to several questions and an abbreviated CV.

The meeting was further informed that at its November 17, 2022 meeting, the SNC reviewed the expression of interest received from Senator Pacurar, which was the sole nomination/expression of interest submitted. By e-vote in December, 2022 the SNC confirmed that the nominee met the criteria for the position of Vice-Chair (Student Affairs) for the term July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and that the complete nomination package may be presented to Senate.

Senator Pacurar addressed the Senate, confirmed her willingness to serve for a second mandate and thanked Senators, faculty, the Dean of the Faculty of Management and the Director of the Rowe School of Business for their support.

A number of Senators expressed their support for the nomination.

Senator Spiteri called three times for any additional nominations from the floor. None was put forth.

Senator Pacurar left the meeting.

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

THAT Senate appoint Maria Pacurar as the Senate Vice-Chair (Student Affairs) for the term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Pacurar returned to the meeting.

Senator Spiteri congratulated Senator Pacurar on her further mandate and Senator Pacurar expressed her thanks to Senate.

7. Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) 7.1 Proposed Suspension of Portion of Student Feedback on Learning Experiences Policy for Fall 2022 Term

Senator Pacurar advised Senate that as part of the November, 2022, Return to Work Agreement between the Dalhousie University Board of Governors and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3912 (CUPE), it was agreed that:

Notwithstanding anything in the Student Ratings of Instruction Policy, any data gathered and obtained through Student Ratings of Instruction for courses instructed primarily by CUPE Instructors in the Fall 2022 semesters will be used to provide feedback only to instructors on their teaching for formative purposes.

The meeting was informed that due to oversight, prior Senate approval was not obtained for the suspension of policy agreed to in the Return to Work Agreement reached between the Board of Governors and CUPE. It was proposed that in order to remedy this oversight, Senate approve that any data gathered and obtained from Student Learning Experience Questionnaires (SLEQ) for courses instructed primarily by CUPE instructors in the Fall 2022 term, be used to provide feedback for formative purposes only.

The meeting was also informed that an inquiry had been made to the University Secretariat by a Senator on behalf of a faculty member regarding the possibility of course evaluations being suspended for the Fall 2022 term, noting that with the labour disruption experienced in the Fall 2022 term, courses with teaching support had been affected and evaluations may reflect the impact of the labour disruption as opposed to teaching. Accordingly, recognizing that the CUPE labour strike that occurred from October to November, 2022 may have negatively impacted courses due to disruption of teaching support provided by teaching assistants, markers and demonstrators, it was proposed that a further motion be approved by Senate. The proposed motion was that any data gathered and obtained from SLEQ for courses instructed by non-CUPE instructors in the Fall 2022 term be used to provide feedback for formative purposes only.

It was advised that the proposed motions would ensure that student feedback from SLEQ continued to be gathered and made available to instructors who could use the information for formative purposes. The goal was to do no harm. Also, the proposed motions would not preclude instructors from choosing to include SLEQ data in their application for tenure or promotion.

It was reported that the proposed motions were considered by the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) at its December 7, 2022 meeting and recommended to Senate for approval.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:
THAT Senate approve that notwithstanding anything in the Student Feedback on Learning Experiences Policy, any data gathered and obtained through Student Learning Experience Questionnaires (SLEQ) for courses instructed primarily by Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3912 (CUPE) instructors in the Fall 2022 term will be used to provide feedback to the CUPE instructors for formative purposes.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Moved by Senator Pacurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:
THAT Senate approve that notwithstanding anything in the Student Feedback on Learning Experiences Policy, any data gathered and obtained through Student Learning Experience Questionnaires (SLEQ) for courses offered by non-Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3912 (CUPE) instructors in the Fall 2022 term will be used to provide feedback to the non-CUPE instructors for formative purposes.

The motion **CARRIED**.

FOR DISCUSSION

8. Presidential Search Consultation

Laura Godsoe facilitated the session for Senators' feedback to the Presidential Search Committee.

The meeting was informed that a search committee had been formed and procurement of a search firm was underway. A webpage would provide regular updates on the search. Feedback from the university community would be essential for the process. Senators were asked their feedback on search questions and issues that an incoming President would need to address.

Feedback provided included the need for healthy relationships between the governing bodies of the university and the faculty and the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA). It was noted that performative actions should be replaced with real implementation of measures targeted at change across the board. EDIA and decolonization were noted as important issues the new President should tackle. It was noted that an effective President should be able to work effectively with the Board of Governors and build relationships. Further, Dalhousie required transformational leadership, and the new President should be capable of taking on that challenge. Passion for mission of the university and a deep curiosity would be crucial.

Senators also emphasized that the search team should be demanding while also considering non-conventional and minority candidates.

9. Question Period

There were no questions.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Senator Spiteri wished Senators a happy holiday season.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.