

SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, December 11, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 2023

Present

L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Affoo, A. Aiken, T. Akay, D. Anderson, J. Andrews, O. Bankole, S. Berge, A. Bernard, S. Bishop, D. Black, E. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, I. Coutand, P. Doyle-Bedwell, L. DuBois, H. El Nagggar, R. Ezekiel, N. Ezzeddine, M. Farrimond, M. Fournier, G. Gagnon, M. Goudreault, D. Grantham, S. Harding, F. Harvey, D. Jakeman, N. Kiepek, S. Kirk, M. Knakriah, Y. Kotlyarova, C. Lake, M. Leonard, J. Li, Y. Liu, C. Macdonald, P. Marignani, S. McKibbon, C. McLarney, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, F. Naghibi, E. Oguntonna, M. Pacurar, Y. Pan, N. Patil, L. Phillmore, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, T. Richard, R. Sampangi, D. Silvio, M. Smit, L. Spiteri, S. Stone, D. Tyers, G. Wang-Pruski, S. Wildeman

Regrets

C. Brown, D. Burnay, R. Chang, V. Chappe, B. Davis, K. Dilcher, L. Macdonald, T. Perrot, K. Rosen, L. Sarson, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, M. Vandenburg, D. Westwood

Absent

O. Akinkugbe, S. Chitnis, A. Doucette, O. Dryden, C. D'Souza, Y. El Hiani, S. Forbes, R. Goyal, G. Horne, G. Ilie, M. Keinast, A. Kermanshahi-pour, W. Lahey, V. Maselli, H. Niu, R. Orji, A. Rudnick, V. Simedoh, M. Ulku, P. Wani, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti

Guests

Quenta Adams (Co-chair, Dalhousie University Accessibility Advisory Committee (DUAAC)), Jennifer Bain (Chair, SAPRC Research Sub-Committee (RSC)), Chris Hattie (Co-chair, Dalhousie University Accessibility Advisory Committee (DUAAC)), John Hope (General Counsel & University Secretary), Bob Mann (Manager of Discipline and Appeals), Catherine Martin (Member, Task Force on Settler Misappropriation of Indigenous Identity), Sapna Natarajan (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator), Brent Young (Member, Task Force on Settler Misappropriation of Indigenous Identity)

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.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of November 27, 2023 Senate Meeting

At the request of a Senator, item 2.1 was removed from the consent agenda.

It was proposed that in item 6 of the draft minutes – Senate Consultation on Holistic Review of Cyclical Academic Quality Assurance – bullet point six in the discussion section be corrected to have the sections stating, “two external reviews” and “one Internal review” read “two external reviewers” and “one internal reviewer”, respectively.

Moved by Senator Phillmore, seconded by Senator Blustein:

THAT the draft minutes of the November 27, 2023 Senate meeting be approved as amended.

The motion **CARRIED**.

2.2 Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nomination

THAT the Senate approve the nominees for each of the Senate standing committees as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from November 27, 2023 Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Senator Spiteri invited Quenta Adams and Chris Hattie, in their capacities as co-chairs of the Dalhousie University Accessibility Advisory Committee (DUAAC), to give a progress report on the Dalhousie University Accessibility Plan. The multi-year plan outlined how Dalhousie would achieve the provincial goal of accessible Nova Scotia by 2030.

The presentation highlighted commitments and progress made in the 2022-23 academic year on the six categories of the plan, namely built environment; teaching, learning and research; goods and services; information and communication; transportation; and employment. It was reported that two standards were in the complete/in development category while four standards were in the in-development/not yet started category.

Responding to a question regarding the allocation of funding for accessing deaf interpretation services, Q. Adams noted that discussions on budget allocations were ongoing.

5. Reports

5.1 Chair of Senate’s Report

The Chair of Senate’s report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and included an update on upcoming think tanks for the 2024 winter term.

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the meeting of representatives of the Board of Governors, representatives of Senate and the President that was requested by Senate and referred to as the 4 x

4 meeting, would be held on December 12, 2023. The four questions selected by Senators earlier in the year would be discussed and any recommendations emanating from the meeting would be communicated to the Board of Governors and to Senate.

5.2 President's Report

The President's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and comprised of a summary of recent activities at Dalhousie.

Senator Brooks highlighted the ongoing Truro Exploration Project, which was an exploration of the potential of Dalhousie's Truro campus with the aim of making the campus a thriving component of Dalhousie and a major centre of attention. Senators were encouraged to share their thoughts and feedback as the project progressed.

5.4 Questions for Reports

There were no questions for the reports.

FOR APPROVAL

6. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) Proposed Termination of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Research Resource (NMR³) as a Dalhousie Research Centre

Senator Blustein presented as Chair of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC).

The meeting was informed that the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Research Resource (NMR³) was a Dalhousie research centre within the Faculty of Science and housed in the Chemistry Building that operated as a core research facility and not as a centre. It was reported that the core research facility designation was not an available option for a shared facility at the time of the centre's creation. At a meeting of NMR³'s users held on May 18, 2023, it was unanimously agreed that NMR³ change to a core research facility. The proposal for termination as a research centre was considered at the SAPRC Research Sub-Committee (RSC) meeting held on November 7, 2023 and recommended to SAPRC for consideration. SAPRC considered the proposal at its November 20, 2023 meeting and recommended it to Senate for approval.

In response to a question from a Senator, it was confirmed the Department of Chemistry supported the proposed termination of NMR³ as a Dalhousie research centre and its re-categorization as a core research facility.

Moved by Senator Blustein on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:
THAT Senate approve the termination of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Research Resource (NMR³) as a Dalhousie research centre.

The motion **CARRIED**.

FOR DISCUSSION

7. Presentation on Academic Misconduct

Senator Spiteri invited Bob Mann to give a presentation to Senate on academic misconduct.

The presentation outlined Senate's jurisdiction to establish policies, procedures and guidelines governing academic integrity and non-academic student conduct issues; Faculty Discipline Procedures creating a role for Academic Integrity Officers to decrease the workload of the Senate Discipline Committee; the role of the Senate Discipline Committee in hearing cases; and recent trends and concerns. The meeting was informed that in recent years, the number of resolved Academic Integrity Officer cases had declined while the number of Senate Discipline Committee hearings had increased. The number of expulsions had also increased exponentially. In closing, B. Mann spoke briefly on the newly increased usage of large language models among students.

In response to a question regarding education and support for newer Faculty members when dealing with instances of academic misconduct, B. Mann explained the Academic Integrity Officer was the support person for all Faculty members during this process.

Responding to a question regarding the current forms of academic misconduct, B. Mann noted the trend of students struggling to transition back to in-person testing from online schooling could be the root cause of many current academic misconduct cases.

In response to a query regarding the use of large language models, B. Mann explained that there had yet to be a case where a student was unaware of the prohibition of the use of large language models.

8. Presentation of Understanding our Roots Report of the Taskforce on Settler Misappropriation of Indigenous Identity

Senator Harvey gave a brief overview of the creation of the Taskforce on Settler Misappropriation of Indigenous Identity, following calls from Indigenous communities for a move away from self-identification and a lack of policies for dealing with the issue.

Brent Young presented the recently released Understanding our Roots Report of the Taskforce on Settler Misappropriation of Indigenous Identity.

The meeting was provided a brief overview of the task force activities taking place over 12 weeks noting that several Indigenous governance bodies had been consulted. B. Young also shared the 11 recommendations from the task force with Senate which were:

1. The president, on behalf of Dalhousie University, must apologize to Indigenous Peoples, especially the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati nations, for the harms that have arisen out of the university's overreliance on Indigenous self-identification policies.
2. Dalhousie University is not positioned to determine Indigenous identity, citizenship or membership, and it must not adopt any policy that attempts to do so.
3. Dalhousie University must implement a mandatory university-wide process for verifying claims to Indigenous identity, membership, and citizenship where material gain may arise from such a claim.

4. The provost must strike a standing committee with a mandate, resources, and powers to disrupt false claims to Indigenous identity, membership, and citizenship at Dalhousie University.
5. Dalhousie University must take immediate action in light of any allegation involving false, exaggerated, or misleading claims to Indigenous identity, membership, or citizenship.
6. The Dalhousie University secretariat as well as all academic and administrative units must identify and amend all relevant policies, procedures, guidelines, protocols, and regulations to include reference to the harms and consequences of false claims to Indigenous identity, membership, or citizenship.
7. Dalhousie University must move away from positions that are designated non-specifically to “Indigenous” people. In formulating role descriptions, responsibilities related to the wider and more diverse “Indigenous community” can be listed, but the university must work to understand and provide recognition to the specific Indigenous nations that exist locally, regionally, and nationally.
8. All Indigenous advisory and decision-making bodies at Dalhousie University must confirm that Indigenous members have had their claims to identity, membership, or citizenship verified through the university’s verification process.
9. Dalhousie University must work to ensure that guidelines, policies, and collective agreements do not preclude the university from taking action against those who are found to have made false, exaggerated, or misleading claims to Indigenous identity, membership, or citizenship for material gain.
10. The Board of Governors must pursue a memorandum of understanding with each of the Mi’kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Nations to recognize and affirm their distinct rights-bearing statuses within the unceded territories on which Dalhousie University operates.
11. The president, on behalf of Dalhousie University, must publish a five-year progress report on each of the recommendations made under the Dalhousie University Indigenous Strategy no later than December 2023.

In response to a question from Senator, Senator Harvey explained that discussions and consultation were ongoing on the way forward with respect to the recommendations and noted that there were no institutional policies in existence as yet.

In response to a query regarding the bridging approach that was being used assess students’ eligibility, Senator Harvey clarified that this approach was currently exclusively in use for new applications.

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 4:55 pm.