

**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, April 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, April 10, 2023 via Microsoft Teams

**Present**

L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Affoo, D. Anderson, J. Andrews, D. Black, J. Blustein, S. Chitnis, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, A. Donaldson, P. Doyle-Bedwell, L. DuBois, Y. El Hiani, H. El Nagggar, A. Enns, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimond, G. Gagnon, M. Goudreault, D. Grantham, D. Gray, J. Hall, F. Harvey, D. Jakeman, A. Kermanshahi-pour, I. Keumani, S. Keyamo, C. Lake, P. Lee Men Chin, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, S. McKibbin, R. Meagher, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, F. Naghibi, H. Niu, M. Pacurar, Y. Pan, L. Phillmore, T. Rajack-Talley, K. Rosen, R. Sampangi, S. Seth, D. Silvio, M. Smit, D. Tyers, M. Vandenburg, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe

**Regrets**

A. Aiken, K. Brooks, R. Chang, O. Dryden, K. El-Sankary, M. Keinast, B. Merritt, J. Newhook, T. Perrot, L. Propper, A. Rau-Chaplin, T. Walker

**Absent**

T. Agbaje-Ojo, R. Agu, O. Akinkugbe, G. Amore, C. Brown, C. Cameron, B. Davis, P. Doucet-Bernard, A. Doucette, N. Ezzeddine, B. Foster, C. Graves, G. Horne, G. Ilie, M. Irwin, S. Jeffrey, S. Kirk, W. Lahey, C. Macy, V. Maselli, M. Nashnoush, N. Patil, H. Ro, A. Rudnick, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, A. Stapleton, S. Stone, M. Ulku, R. Zaiotti

**Guests**

Jennifer Bain (Associate Vice President Research), Marion Brown (Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Health), Christine Chambers (Scientific Director, Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP)), John Hope (General Counsel and University Secretary), Sapna Natarajan (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Adam Robertson (University Registrar and Assistant Vice-President, Enrolment Management), Suzanne Sheffield (Executive Director (Acting), Centre for Learning and Teaching), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator)

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 Agenda**

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

## **2. Consent Agenda**

### **2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of March 27, 2023 Senate Meeting**

THAT the draft minutes of the March 27, 2023 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

## **3. Matters Arising from March 27, 2023 Senate Meeting**

### **3.1 Proposal for a New Program – Post Diploma Bachelor of Health Science (Emergency Medical Services Management), Faculty of Health**

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the proposal for a new program, the Post Diploma Bachelor of Health Science (Emergency Medical Services Management), a joint proposal of the School of Health Administration and the School of Health Sciences, approved by Senate at its February 13, 2023 meeting, was further approved by the Board of Governors at its March 28, 2023 meeting.

## **4. Reports:**

### **4.1 Chair of Senate’s Report**

Senator Spiteri’s written report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and included an update on the activities of the Bicameral Governance Working Group (BGWG). Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the BGGWG would, on April 24, 2023, update Senate on the implementation plan of recommendations arising from the external review of Dalhousie University’s Governance.

Senator Spiteri also encouraged Senators wishing to highlight unit, department or faculty initiatives relating to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) and inclusive excellence to reach out to the Secretariat to arrange for presentations at future Senate meetings.

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting of items provided with the Senate meeting package for the information of Senators, including a major modification to the Master of Business Administration, approved by the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) on behalf of Senate.

### **4.2 President’s Report**

The Acting President’s report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and included details on enrolment and retention, student programming and supports, and research ranking, funding and awards.

Senator Harvey thanked outgoing student Senators and noted the success of the recently held Dalhousie Impact Awards hosted by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU). Senator Harvey also noted the recently held Milestone tea ceremony celebrating the contributions of long-serving faculty and staff.

Senator Harvey reported that the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Universities would terminate on March 31, 2024 and dialogue had begun on renewal. Senator Harvey concluded by encouraging Senators to complete the recently circulated Dalhousie’s Service Effectiveness Survey and give feedback on services used by them at the university. The survey was being conducted by an external consultancy on behalf of Dalhousie and

other universities involved in the UniForum program. Results would be compiled for benchmarking in order to ensure greater clarity among service and administration units.

#### **4.3 Questions for Reports**

There were no questions for reports.

### **FOR APPROVAL**

#### **5. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) Proposal for a new Dalhousie Research Centre based in Faculty of Medicine: Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP)**

Senator Blustein informed the meeting of the proposal for creation of a new research centre, Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP), to be housed within the Faculty of Medicine.

The meeting was informed that the vision of the proposed centre was to contribute to healthier Canadians through better pain management for children.

The meeting was further informed that the requirements for approval of the centre, per Section D.3 and Appendix A (Procedures for Centres and Institutes) of the Research Centres and Institutes Policy, had been fulfilled. The support of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, as well as support from the Dalhousie community, had been obtained. SAPRC had considered the proposal at its April 3, 2023 meeting and recommended it to Senate for approval.

Moved by Senator Blustein on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC):  
**THAT Senate approve the creation of Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP) as a Dalhousie research centre, as presented, and recommend it to the Board of Governors for further approval.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **6. Renewed Equity Ethos Statement to Guide Admission Practices at Dalhousie: *What's Next?***

Adam Robertson (University Registrar) gave a presentation titled *Equity-Enriched Ethos Statement for Dalhousie: Next Steps*. The presentation outlined the updated Equity Ethos Statement approved by Senate at its February 13, 2023 meeting and proposed next steps for successful application of the statement, through four steps:

- application re-design;
- working with Faculties to understand and articulate enrolment goals;
- identification of alternate assessment tools to be used alongside academic performance (including statements of intent and letters of support); and
- development of a Framework for scaffolding and support for students across the University.

In response to a question regarding whether there would be support provided by the Registrar's Office to assist programs and Faculties review admission practices and policies to identify biases and barriers and work on self-identification processes, A. Robertson confirmed that guidance and advice for faculty partners would be rolled out. A. Robertson also noted that Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES) was developing a university-wide cohesive approach for self-identification.

Responding to a further question, A. Robertson confirmed the goal was to achieve consensus and equivalency on self-identification across Faculties, with the prior endorsement and input of the Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC).

## **7. Consultation on Proposed Institutional eLearning Framework**

S. Sheffield, M. Brown and Senator Phillmore presented the proposed institutional eLearning Framework for feedback.

The meeting was informed that the eLearning Strategy Working Group (Academic Quality Team/Provost) had, in 2021, been requested by the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) to lead the development of an Institutional eLearning Framework. While Dalhousie had many resources and support dedicated to enhancing eLearning, there was no Senate endorsed overarching framework and no core principles had been developed. In addition, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) had advised institutions that it would be updating its own regional standards to address the increase in online delivery and reflect current best practices. The meeting was further informed that it was proposed that the Framework be piloted for a year. The Framework, once finalized and approved by Senate, would provide guidance for online and blended online delivery of courses and programs.

The meeting was informed of:

- Task force deliverables approved by SLTC;
- Current MPHEC draft Guidelines for Institutional Frameworks;
- Next steps and timeline;
- Proposed Dalhousie Guidelines for Online/ Blended Learning Framework;
- Proposals for ensuring student and faculty communication regarding course delivery mode; and
- Proposed course filters and proposed definitions for delivery modes.

The following feedback was provided by Senators:

- MPHEC expectations versus Dalhousie's deliverables should be highlighted;
- Faculty and programs should be consulted as users;
- Deans' Council be consulted due to resource implications;
- Further consultation was required regarding the use of Hyflex, which was a reality;
- There seemed to be a higher expectation for online courses than in-person courses.

Senators were encouraged to send further feedback by email.

## **8. Question Period**

In response to a query, Senator Spiteri clarified that the final think tank session of the academic year would take place on April 24, 2023. It would be an update to Senators on the implementation plan being put forward by the BGWG on recommendations from the external review of Dalhousie's governance.

## **9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.