

SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, March 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 13, 2023 via Microsoft Teams

Present

L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Agu, A. Aiken, O. Akinkugbe, D. Anderson, D. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Brown, C. Cameron, R. Chang, S. Chitnis, T. Cyrus, B. Davis, A. Donaldson, P. Doyle-Bedwell, L. DuBois, H. El Naggar, A. Enns, R. Ezekiel, N. Ezzeddine, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, G. Gagnon, M. Goudreault, D. Gray, J. Hall, F. Harvey, G. Ilie, D. Jakeman, M. Keinast, A. Kermanshahi-pour, S. Keyamo, C. Lake, P. Lee Men Chin, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, C. Macy, V. Maselli, S. McKibbon, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, L. Meynell, A. Mohan, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, H. Niu, M. Pacurar, Y. Pan, T. Perrot, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, K. Rosen, R. Sampangi, M. Sharaput, A. Siegel, D. Silvio, M. Smit, S. Stone, D. Tyers, M. Vandenburg, T. Walker, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti

Regrets

J. Andrews, K. Dilcher, O. Dryden, D. Grantham, S. Kirk, L. Phillmore, L. Propper, S. Seth

Absent

R. Affoo, T. Agbaje-Ojo, G. Amore, P. Doucet-Bernard, A. Doucette, Y. El Hiani, K. El-Sankary, C. Graves, G. Horne, M. Irwin, S. Jeffrey, I. Keumani, W. Lahey, M. Nashnoush, N. Patil, H. Ro, A. Rudnick, A. Stapleton, M. Ulku

Guests

Nicole Maunsell (Web Strategist, Faculty of Management - Dean's Office), Sapna Natarajan (Student Minute Taker), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), 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 February 13, 2023 Senate Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the February 13, 2023 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.2 Faculty Representative, Board of Governors

THAT Senate nominate Angela Siegel, Faculty of Computer Science, as a faculty representative to the Board of Governors until June 30, 2024, and forward the nomination to the Board of Governors for approval and appointment.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence – Proposal for Creation as a Centre

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the proposal for the creation of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence as a Dalhousie research centre was approved at the Board of Governors meeting held on February 14, 2023.

3.2 Selection of Questions – Meeting of Representatives of Board of Governors, Representatives of Senate and President

Senator Spiteri reminded Senators of the call sent out for Senator nominations and expressions of interest for Senate representatives to a meeting of representatives of the Board of Governors, representatives of the Senate and the President. Senator Spiteri further reminded Senators of the poll subsequently sent out to Senators requesting them to select up to four of the seven questions submitted that they would like to see considered at the meeting.

Senator Spiteri reported that the following four questions were selected:

1. What plans does the Board have for convincing the province to expand public financial support for Dalhousie, in particular, amongst post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia? How can the Senate and Board work together to make this happen, and to ensure that it is done with an appropriate eye on academic principles and priorities?
2. How do you see the role of the Board in supporting the academic mission of the university and what do you say to those members of the faculty who do not think that their pursuit of the academic mission is adequately bring supported?
3. Two areas of chronic concern amongst academic staff are decisions about new buildings (and their designs and functions) and adding new senior administrative positions. What are the short-term and long-term plans for addressing these matters. How can we incorporate greater Senate engagement in these decisions? What criteria and evidence are used by the Board when making decisions about new buildings, and new administrative positions?
4. Who do you understand Dalhousie’s comparator organizations to be, and in what specific respects? What does Dalhousie need to do in order to remain competitive or relevant, and what roles do the Board and Senate play in ensuring the conditions for that success are in place?

4. Steps to Make Diversity and Inclusion a Reality

Nicole Maunsell (Web Strategist, Faculty of Management - Dean’s Office) presented on the Faculty of Management’s Management Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Decolonization (EDIAD) Resource Site.

The meeting was informed that the EDIAD Resource Site on the Dalhousie SharePoint platform aimed to provide a place for faculty and staff members in the Faculty of Management to share how they had

incorporated EDIAD principles in teaching, research and workplaces. The resource site could also be accessed by EDIAD student representatives and partners throughout the university. The goal was to integrate EDIAD into everyday work and life. The meeting was informed that the site was launched in November, 2022 and currently had 65 resources. The meeting was shown what could be found on the resource site and how to navigate it. Items in the resource site included recording archives with various guest speakers which presented on EDIAD-related topics.

In the ensuing discussion period, it was remarked that similar resources should be developed in all faculties and should be expanded to include external resources.

5. Reports:

5.1 Chair of Senate's Report

Senator Spiteri's written report was included in the Senate meeting package. The report included an update on the work of the Academic Quality Assurance review committee. It was also noted in the report that the Bicameral Governance Working Group (BGWG) was working on a Senate think tank session for April, 2023 and further details would be provided as soon as they were available.

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting of items provided with the Senate meeting package for the information of Senators, including the Faculty Discipline Quarterly Reports for October to December, 2022.

5.2 Acting Provost's Report

Senator Brooks' written report was provided in the Senate meeting package and included details of the first Dalhousie Employee Appreciation Week held the previous week and an update on admissions as of February 27, 2023.

Senator Brooks noted the recent passing of Dr. Joan Glode, a champion of First Nations children and families in Canada and a key member of the Dalhousie Community.

5.3 Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

FOR APPROVAL

6. Selection of Senate Representatives - Meeting of Representatives of Board of Governors, Representatives of Senate and President

Senator Spiteri reported that five Senators, Senator Letitia Meynell, Senator David Westwood, Senator Patti Doyle-Bedwell, Senator Sheila Wildeman, and Senator David Jakeman, had submitted expressions of interest in response to the call sent out for four Senate representatives to the proposed meeting of representatives of the Board of Governors, representatives of Senate and the President, preferably to be held in the Winter, 2023 term. The expressions of interest and abbreviated curriculum vitae of each had been circulated to Senators with the meeting package.

Senators proceeded to select four representatives through a confidential vote.

Senator Meynell, Senator Westwood, Senator Doyle-Bedwell, Senator Wildeman, and Senator Jakeman left the meeting. Senator Spiteri announced the results of the vote noting that Senators had selected Senator Westwood, Senator Doyle-Bedwell, Senator Wildeman and Senator Jakeman to be the Senate representatives to the meeting.

Moved by Senator Blustein, seconded by Senator Siegel:

THAT Senate nominate Patti Doyle-Bedwell, Sheila Wildeman, David Westwood and David Jakeman as the four Senate representatives to a meeting of representatives of the Board of Governors, representatives of the Senate, and the President at a date to be determined, preferably in the Winter 2023 term.

There was no discussion.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Meynell, Senator Westwood, Senator Doyle-Bedwell, Senator Wildeman, and Senator Jakeman returned to the meeting and were advised by Senator Spiteri of the results of the vote and the Senate motion. Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that she would inform the Chair of the Board of Governors of the selected Senate representatives and questions for discussion and request for the meeting date to be set.

FOR DISCUSSION

7. Question Period

7.1 Query and Response to Question on Inclusion and Dalhousie Code of Student Conduct

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that a query regarding inclusion and the Dalhousie Code of Conduct was received on February 13, 2023, and that this, together with a response from the Provost Office, was circulated to Senators as part of the Senate meeting package.

Discussion ensued regarding racism and other forms of discrimination at Dalhousie and how these were addressed. It was noted that:

- Increased transparency at the administrative level was needed when addressing problems that arose at Dalhousie and that racism and other discriminatory acts needed to be addressed other than through informal processes.
- While the Student Code of Conduct had been reviewed frequently, it was still limited in its scope. A further review of the Code of Conduct would be undertaken.
- Racism and other forms of discrimination needed to be addressed at different levels, including policy, curriculum and student composition. While Dalhousie had been taking steps to address centuries of racism, there was more work to be done.
- It was important to enforce policies and to do so correctly.
- Malicious accusations of racism were harmful and did occur.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.