

**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, May 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, May 8, 2023 via Microsoft Teams

**Present**

L. Spiteri (Chair), G. Adolphe-Nazaire, R. Affoo, R. Agu, A. Aiken, O. Akinkugbe, D. Anderson, J. Andrews, D. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Cameron, R. Chang, S. Chitnis, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, A. Donaldson, P. Doyle-Bedwell, L. DuBois, H. El Naggat, A. Enns, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimond, B. Foster, M. Goudreault, D. Grantham, D. Gray, J. Hall, F. Harvey, G. Ilie, D. Jakeman, S. Jeffrey, M. Keinast, A. Kermanshahi-pour, S. Kirk, C. Lake, P. Lee Men Chin, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, V. Maselli, S. McKibbin, R. Meagher, L. Meynell, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, Y. Pan, N. Patil, T. Perrot, L. Phillmore, A. Rau-Chaplin, K. Rosen, R. Sampangi, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, D. Silvio, M. Smit, L. Spiteri, D. Tyers, M. Ulku, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe

**Regrets**

B. Davis, O. Dryden, K. El-Sankary, G. Gagnon, C. Macy, B. Merritt, M. Pacurar, T. Rajack-Talley, T. Walker

**Absent**

C. Brown, A. Doucette, Y. El Hiani, N. Ezzeddine, G. Horne, M. Irwin, W. Lahey, H. Niu, L. Propper, H. Ro, A. Rudnick, S. Stone, M. Vandenburg, R. Zaiotti

**Guests**

John Hope (General Counsel and University Secretary), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Isaac Saney (Director, Transition Year Program, Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development), Angela Siegel (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Computer Science), Audrey Steenbeek (Associate Director Graduate Studies, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health), 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 April 10, 2023 Senate Meeting**

**THAT the draft minutes of the April 10, 2023 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

### **3. Matters Arising from April 10, 2023 Senate Meeting**

#### **3.1 Proposal for a new Dalhousie Research Centre based in Faculty of Medicine: Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP)**

Senator Spiteri informed the meeting that the proposal for the creation of Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP), as a new Dalhousie research centre based in Faculty of Medicine, that was approved by Senate at its April 10, 2023 meeting, was further approved by the Board of Governors at its April 18, 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 on the Bicameral Governance Working Group (BGWG) and appreciation for the Senate-appointed representatives who chaired University-wide teaching award committees.

Senator Spiteri urged Senators to respond to the poll sent out by the Secretariat indicating their availability for a special Senate meeting in late July, 2023 to consider a proposed new program, Masters of Physician Assistant, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Faculty of Medicine.

#### **4.2 Acting Provost's Report**

The Acting Provost's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and included details on the upcoming Spring 2023 Convocation ceremonies, changes to mask requirements, and admissions.

Senator Brooks also reported on various issues, including the success of the recently concluded Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) workshop and CLT's work in supporting Faculties incorporate the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) lens to learning and teaching.

#### **4.3 VPRI Report**

Senator Aiken's detailed presentation was included with the Senate package and highlighted updates from Dalhousie Research and Innovation.

Senator Aiken reported on achievements in:

- Research funding
- Publication and citations
- International collaborations
- Sustainable development goals
- Ph.D. student enrolment

Senator Aiken urged Senators to complete a survey to assist with the future strategy by the Dalhousie Research and Innovation that would be circulated in late May, 2023 and noted that a renewed Research and Innovation Strategy would be launched in Fall 2023.

In closing, Senator Aiken reported on the \$38.5 million received by the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) Major Science Initiatives (MSI) Fund First Research Excellence Fund alongside other external funding received by Dalhousie, and on recognition of research excellence at Dalhousie.

#### **4.4 Questions for Reports**

Responding to a query, Senator Aiken clarified that research clusters in health areas would continue under the renewed Research and Innovation Strategy and noted that an opportunity would be provided in the upcoming survey for comments and suggestions.

Responding to a question concerning PhD funding packages that had stagnated over the years rendering Dalhousie and other Canadian universities uncompetitive, Senator Aiken reported that lobbying for increased federal funding continued to be undertaken by the U15 group of Canadian research universities and that the need to increase Dalhousie's own PhD funding had also been raised at other forums.

In response to a comment regarding Senate consultation on Dalhousie's research structure, Senator Aiken confirmed that the draft renewed Research and Innovation Strategy would be brought to Senate for consultation.

In response to a question regarding whether a report on research misconduct was supposed to be given to Senate, Senator Aiken undertook to establish this and revert to Senate.

#### **FOR APPROVAL**

#### **IN CAMERA**

##### **5. Senate Honorary Degrees Committee (SHDC) Honorary Degree Nominations**

The Senate moved to *in camera* to discuss honorary degree nominations and returned to open session thereafter.

##### **6. Senate Academic Planning and Research Committee (SAPRC)**

###### **6.1 Proposal for New Program – Master of Nursing: Advanced Practice - Mental Health & Addictions, Faculty of Health and FGS**

Senator Blustein informed the meeting of the proposal for the creation of a new program, Master of Nursing: Advanced Practice - Mental Health & Addictions, developed by the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, with financial support being provided by the Government of Nova Scotia, which had provided funding to support 10 seats in the new nursing program.

It was reported that the Dalhousie Master of Nursing program currently offered two streams. The proposed new stream, Advanced Practice, Mental Health & Addictions (AP-MH&A), was intended to provide MH&A training to current registered nurses with at least two years' experience in the delivery of care to persons experiencing mental health and additions disorders.

In response to a question concerning whether courses on Indigenous mental health would be provided in the program at a future date, A. Steenbeek noted that Indigenous mental health had been integrated in one of the five courses and included guest speakers and presentations. Conversations were being held regarding future increased Indigenous programming and a distinct course.

Moved by Senator Blustein on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve the proposed new program to be known as Master of Nursing: Advanced Practice - Mental Health & Addictions, Faculty of Health and Faculty of Graduate Studies.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **6.2 Black and African Diaspora Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

**-Proposal for New Undergraduate Program**

**-Proposal for Modification to Minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies**

**-Proposal for Certificate in Black and African Diaspora Studies**

Senator Blustein informed the meeting of the proposals relating to programs in Black and African Diaspora Studies (BAFD), as follows:

1. Proposed new programs:
  - a) Bachelor of Arts, Major/Double Major in Black and African Diaspora Studies;
  - b) Bachelor of Science, Double Major in one BSc major subject and Black and African Diaspora Studies;
  - c) Bachelor of Arts, Honours in Black and African Diaspora Studies;
  - d) Bachelor of Arts, Combined Honours in Black and African Diaspora Studies (and X); and
  - e) Bachelor of Science, Combined Honours in one BSc major/honours subject and Black and African Diaspora Studies;
2. Proposed Major modification to the Black and African Diaspora Studies Minor program; and
3. Proposed certificate in Black and African Diaspora Studies.

The meeting was informed that the curriculum requirements for the proposed programs drew from multiple departments primarily, but not exclusively, in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), bringing together courses that already had Black and African Diaspora Studies as their focus, courses which addressed larger questions about race, ethnicity and migration, and a select number of completely new courses which integrated this material, foregrounding Black and African Diaspora Studies as a field of study. A soft launch of September, 2023 was anticipated.

The meeting was also informed that the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) had already approved the proposed major modification to the Minor program and the proposed certificate, on behalf of Senate.

Responding to a question regarding whether Senate could approach the provincial government to secure additional funding for the proposed programs, Senator Harvey noted that while the current focus of the provincial government was on training in health related fields, the Memorandum of Understanding currently being negotiated with the provincial government would include more inclusive priorities such as anti-racism, under which such programs may qualify for funding.

Moved by Senator Blustein on behalf of the Senate Academic Planning and Research Committee:

**THAT Senate approve the following proposed new programs:**

- a) Bachelor of Arts, Major/Double Major in Black and African Diaspora Studies;**
- b) Bachelor of Science, Double Major in one BSc major subject and Black and African Diaspora Studies;**
- c) Bachelor of Arts, Honours in Black and African Diaspora Studies;**
- d) Bachelor of Arts, Combined Honours in Black and African Diaspora Studies (and X); and**

**e) Bachelor of Science, Combined Honours in one BSc major/honours subject and Black and African Diaspora Studies.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

It was also recommended that the senior administration approach the provincial government for funding for these important programs and an update be provided to Senate.

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**7. Question Period**

There were no questions.

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.