

SENATE**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, May 13, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.****Windsor Foundation Room (Room 170) CHEB & Remote Link via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, May 13, 2024.

Present

L. Spiteri (Chair), A. Aiken, T. Akay, O. Akinkugbe, D. Anderson, A. Bernard, D. Black, E. Black, C. Blouin, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Brown, R. Chang, V. Chappe, S. Chitnis, B. Davis, K. Dilcher, P. Doyle-Bedwell, O. Dryden, L. DuBois, H. El Nagggar, R. Ezekiel, M. Farrimond, M. Fournier, F. Harvey, D. Jakeman, A. Kermanshahi-pour, N. Kiepek, S. Kirk, M. Knakriah, Y. Kotlyarova, C. Lake, M. Leonard, C. Macdonald, P. Marignani, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, F. Naghibi, M. Pacurar, L. Phillmore, T. Rajack-Talley, T. Richard, K. Rosen, R. SampangiL. Sarson, S. Seth, D. Silvio, M. Smit, M. Vandenburg, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe

Regrets

R. Affoo, M. Goudreault, S. Harding, L. Macdonald, S. McKibbon, C. McLarney, H. Niu, N. Patil, T. Perrot, G. Wang-Pruski

Absent

J. Andrews, S. Berge, D. Burnay, A. Doucette, Y. El Hiani, N. Ezzeddine, G. Gagnon, D. Grantham, J. Hann, G. Horne, G. Ilie, M. Keinast, W. Lahey, V. Maselli, J. Newhook, R. Orji, Y. Pan, A. Rudnick, M. Sharaput, V. Simedoh, S. Stone, M. Ulku, R. Zaiotti,

Guests

John Hope (General Counsel & University Secretary), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Angela Siegel (Assistant Dean (Academic Outreach) Faculty of Computer Science), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator), Courtney Sutton (Academic Quality Assurance Manager)

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 April 8, 2024 Senate Meeting**

THAT the draft minutes of the April 8, 2024 Senate meeting be approved as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.2 Proposed Reappointment as Faculty Representative to Board of Governors – Angela Siegel

THAT Senate nominate Angela Siegel, Faculty of Computer Science, as a Faculty representative to the Board of Governors, from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027, and forward the nomination to the Board of Governors for approval and appointment.

Approved by CONSENT.

2.3 Proposed Re-appointment to University Investment Committee – Greg Hebb

THAT Senate appoint Greg Hebb, Faculty of Management, as the Senate representative to the University Investment Committee and as a trustee of the Pension Trust Fund and the Retirees Trust Fund for the term July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

Approved by CONSENT.

3. Matters Arising from April 8, 2024 Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports

4.1 Chair of Senate's Report

The Chair of Senate's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and included an update on the planning for the scheduled November 26, 2024 meeting of Board representatives, Senate representatives and the President.

Senator Spiteri invited Senators to attend the Senate social event that would follow the Senate meeting and also urged Senators to attend the upcoming Spring convocation ceremonies.

4.2 Provost's Report

The Provost's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and provided details on Spring convocation, as well as domestic and international admissions updates.

Noting that this was his last report to Senate, Senator Harvey thanked Senators for their time and commitment. Senator Harvey also recognized the work of the Senate committees and sub-committees and the University Secretariat. In closing, Senator Harvey wished Senate well in its future endeavours.

4.3 VPRI's Bi-Annual Report

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

Senator Aiken noted that the six research clusters, as updated in the 2023-24 academic year, were as follows:

- Sustainable Ocean
- Healthy People, Communities & Populations
- Climate Tech & Clean Energy

- Culture & Society
- Sustainable Food Systems
- AI & Digital Innovation

Senator Aiken highlighted various key performance indicators for Dalhousie’s research in the following areas, with each area including a comparison against the U15 average:

- Scholarly Output & Productivity
- International Collaboration
- PhD Students enrolled per academic staff
- Policy Impact – number of policy documents citing Dalhousie publications
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Commercialization: Patents and Licenses
- Research Funds Administered – Sponsor Source
- Research Funding – CAUBO (Canadian Association of University Business Officers)
- Prestigious Prizes and Awards

4.4 Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

FOR APPROVAL

5. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) Holistic Review of Cyclical Academic Quality Assurance at Dalhousie University – Report and Recommendations

Senator Spiteri relinquished the chair to Senator Blustein.

Senator Spiteri presented on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC), providing a summary on the review process and advising that the report of the review committee had been completed, following consultation with various stakeholders, including Senate.

Senate was advised that the report outlined the institutional overview and current state of academic quality assurance at Dalhousie, the holistic review approach, and made findings and recommendations in the following areas:

1. Approach to cyclical AQA at Dalhousie;
2. Administration of AQA activities;
3. Program Review Policy (Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs);
4. Faculty Review Policy (Senate Reviews of Faculties: Policy and Procedures); and
5. Academic Support Units.

Senator Phillmore was invited to speak further to the recommendations in the report and proposed next steps. Senate was advised that once approved, next steps would comprise:

1. Implementation:
 - Town Hall to share recommendations and plans for implementation broadly; and
 - Planning and Analytics would help develop a plan, including prioritizing policy revisions.
2. Undergoing quality assurance monitoring by Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC):

- Recommendations and implementation plan to inform institutional self-study.

The meeting was informed that the report of the review committee was considered by SPGC at its meeting held on April 17, 2024, and it was recommended that Senate approve areas falling under the academic mandate of Senate.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

THAT Senate approve that the Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs be revised to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Clarify the expectation that units have program-level outcomes for each program, that these should be included in the self-study, and the policy should use terminology that matches that used by Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and other pedagogical resources (such as “student learning outcomes” rather than “program goals”);**
- b. Remove redundancy and ambiguity among the self-study criteria and associated questions under D.4 of the policy;**
- c. Incorporate best practices in policy design and implementation, including a decoupling of all procedural elements from the policy and overarching Objectives;**
- d. Provide that a standard template and mechanism be developed to assist units to produce a high-level summary of each review; and**
- e. Provide that the results of program reviews (final report, recommendations, response) be brought to a body of Senate that includes student representation for discussion and decision. If delegated to a standing committee, Senate should have access to the documents. Newly developed reporting and governance procedures will need to meet or exceed minimum MPHEC expectations and should consider comparator approaches and efficiency.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

THAT:

- a. Senate determine the information required to assess quality of, and promote continuous improvement of, academic activities of Faculties and ascertain whether this information is already, or could be, fully assessed within the Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs;**
- b. If Senate determines that additional assessment is required to review academic activities at the Faculty level on a cyclical basis, approve that the Senate Reviews of Faculties: Policy and Procedures be revised to:**
 - i. Leverage information gathered from annual Integrated Planning exercises (and possibly Decanal Reviews and strategic planning);**
 - ii. Focus on academic activities and other matters within the jurisdiction of Senate; and**
 - iii. Specify how and to what body of Senate the report should be shared, and how Senate will provide feedback to Faculties on the submitted report;**
and
- c. Senate approve that non-traditional Faculties and units that are now assessed under the Senate Reviews of Faculties: Policy and Procedures and that do not fall under the detailed review required by the Senate Policy for Faculty Reviews of Academic Programs, MPHEC approval, or accreditation activities (such as Faculty of Graduate Studies, University Libraries, and Faculty of Open Learning and Career Development) be assessed to determine whether they have academic elements that should be reviewed by Senate in a yet to be determined mechanism or are appropriately reviewed using the process for academic support units.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

6. Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC)

Proposed Review of Delegation to University Secretary of Approval of Minor, Non-Substantial Changes to University Policies

Senator Spiteri presented this item on behalf of SPGC.

The meeting was informed that the University Secretary was empowered to make minor, non-substantial changes to University policies requiring Senate and/or Board approval.

The meeting was reminded that In 2019, the Board of Governors and Senate respectively delegated, to the University Secretary, authority to make the following minor, non-substantial changes to University policies normally requiring Board and/or Senate approval, with changes effected by the University Secretary under the delegation being reported to the Board and Senate annually:

- a. Amendments to reflect approved changes in position titles (where the duties and responsibilities under the new title are unchanged);
- b. Amendments to reflect approved new or amended Faculty, Department or unit names;
- c. Amendments to reflect approved new or amended Policy titles;
- d. Amendments to incorporate gender neutral language; and
- e. Amendments to update references to website links included within Policies.

It was noted that the rationale for the delegation was to ensure that minor amendments were made promptly, between regular reviews of policies which were usually required every five years. The delegation also ensured that policies were not brought to the Board and/or Senate for approval of changes before they were due for review.

The meeting was informed that it was proposed that the delegation to the University Secretary be enhanced to include typographical errors. These would otherwise have to remain in a policy uncorrected until a scheduled review or would require having to bring a policy brought to Senate and/or the Board out of time.

It was reported that the proposal to enhance the delegation to the University Secretary was considered by SPGC at its meeting held on April 17, 2024 and recommended to Senate for approval.

Moved by Senator Spiteri on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee:

THAT Senate approve that the delegation to the University Secretary to make minor, non-substantial changes to University policies normally requiring Board and/or Senate approval be enhanced to include the following new sixth category of changes:

- **Amendments to rectify misspelled words, misnumbering and misplaced punctuation marks, and to include omitted words or numbers where the omission is clearly a typographical mistake.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Spiteri resumed the chair.

7. Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) **Code of Student Conduct 2-Year Review**

Senator Parcurar presented the proposed revised Code of Student Conduct and accompanying proposed implementation plan, on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC).

The meeting was reminded that the Code of Student Conduct was extensively revised in 2021 and that as the revised Code of Student Conduct called for a 2-year review to be undertaken, a task force was formed by SLTC in 2023 to conduct a 2-year review of the Code.

It was reported that the review process included:

- Task force working groups;
- Expert engagement and research;
- External review;
- Engagement and consultation;
- Updates to SLTC; and
- Review by SLTC of the proposed revised Code of Student Conduct (on April 3, 2024).

It was further reported that the proposed revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and the proposed implementation plan were considered by SLTC at its meetings of April 3, 2024 and May 1, 2024, respectively and recommended to Senate for approval.

Senator Ezekiel was invited to speak further to the review process, recommended revisions and administration of the Code through the proposed updated streams under the revised Code.

Moved by Senator Parcurar on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee:

THAT Senate approve the revised Code of Student Conduct and the implementation plan, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

FOR DISCUSSION

8. Presentation of Lloyd Fraser Award for Outstanding Senate Leadership

Senator Spiteri invited Dr. Lloyd Fraser, retired former Chair of Senate, to present the 2024 Lloyd Fraser Award to Senator David Westwood and Prof. Susan Holmes. Senator Spiteri highlighted Senator Westwood's preparation and engaging questions at Senate meetings and the unwavering commitment of Prof. Holmes to the Senate Disciplinary Committee (SDC) which she chaired. While presenting the award, Dr. Lloyd Fraser spoke to the distinguished work conducted by Senate and advised that he had been privileged to work with both Dr. Westwood and Prof. Holmes while at Dalhousie. Dr. Westwood and Prof. Homes thanked Senate for the award.

9. Question Period

In response to a question on the ongoing student protest encampment on campus, Senator Harvey advised that Dalhousie's priority was to maintain open lines of communication, ensure the safety of the students and support students' freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Responding to a query regarding whether the low number of PhD students and academic staff at Dalhousie in comparison to other U15 institutions was related to Dalhousie having only a one year funding guarantee for PhD students, Senator Leonard noted that while funding levels varied amongst Faculties and that there was no minimum stipend, which meant that funding could be an issue, a correlation could not be determined without further research.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.