



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
APPROVED MINUTES
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on **Monday, September 15, 2014**, at 4:00pm in University Hall, Macdonald Building.

Present with Mr. Alan Pinder in the chair were the following: Ali, Aziz, Barrett, Bodorik, Brooks, Burton, Byers, Calladine, Cochrane, Cooper, Cunningham, Cutler, DasGupta, Doman, Erdman, Florizone, Gahagan, Goodday, Gray, Harman, Herder, Hewitt, Holmes, Hoyle, Hughes, Kesselring, Kirk, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leonard, Ma, M. Macdonald, Macy, Mansour, Marrie, Maxxanti, McLarney, Meynell, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Noble, Packer, Quinn, Quraishi, Ross, Roy, Shepherd, Shukla, Skiptunis, Smirnov, Smit, Stadnyk, Steeves, Stone, Summerby-Murray, Tennessen, Watters, Wright.

Regrets: Baur, Baylis, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Bucci, Crago, Habib, MacLennan, MacRae, Stanish, Wach.

Absent: Becke, Grant, Khan, Leon, Letendre, Webster.

2014:96

Adoption of Agenda

The September 15, 2014 agenda was **adopted**.

2014:97

Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of June 23, 2014 Senate meeting

THAT Senate approve the draft Senate minutes of June 23, 2014.

Approved by Consent.

2.2 Senate Nominating Committee: Senate Standing Committee Nominations

THAT Ahsan Habib, Faculty of Architecture & Planning; John Steeves, Faculty of Medicine; and Elizabeth Hughes, Schulich School of Law, be elected to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 and Ed Leach, Faculty of Management, be re-elected for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

THAT Swapan DasGupta, Faculty of Science, and Tarjei Tennessen, Faculty of Agriculture, be elected to the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 and Dieter Pelzer, Faculty of Graduate Studies be re-elected for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

THAT David Byers, Faculty of Science, and Rick Nason, Faculty of Management, be elected to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 and Marjorie Stone, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences be elected for the term July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 and Lesley Barnes, Faculty of Health Professions be re-elected for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

THAT Andrew Stadnyk, Faculty of Medicine, be elected to the Senate Appeals Committee for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 and Raymond Mopoho, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 and Brenda Merritt, Faculty of Health Professions for the term July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 and Darrel Doman, Faculty of Engineering and Stephane Mechoulan, Faculty of Management be re-elected for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

THAT Roman Smirnov, Faculty of Science be elected to the Senate Discipline Committee for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

THAT Carolan McLarney, Faculty of Management; Krista Kesselring, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences; and Cheryl Hubley-Kozey, Faculty of Health Professions, be elected to the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

Approved by Consent.

2.3 Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Nominating Committee Nominations

THAT Peter Bodorik, Faculty of Computer Science, and Marilyn Macdonald, Faculty of Health Professions, be elected to the Senate Nominating Committee for the term September 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 and David Black, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and Richard Devlin, Schulich School of Law, be re-elected for the term July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

Approved by Consent.

2.4 Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Budget Advisory Committee Nomination

THAT Diana Ginn, Schulich School of Law, be elected to the Budget Advisory Committee for the term September 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

Approved by Consent.

2014:98

Matters Arising from June 23, 2014 Senate Minutes

There was an outstanding request from the April 28, 2014 meeting for clarity regarding the timing of graduate student funding awards and the issues associated with recruiting highly qualified graduate students with limited graduate student funding. The question was directed to the Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies who will report back to Senate in the coming months.

A noted in the June 23, 2014 Senate meeting minutes, the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee will be re-examining the criteria and procedures for nomination of honorary degree candidates to determine if there are additional ways to strengthen references to diversity. The Committee is scheduled to meet in

October and will report back to Senate following this consideration.

The Senate Learning and Teaching Committee will review the comments from Senate regarding the Terms of Reference for the Teaching Awards and bring forward any amendments to the October Senate meeting.

2014:99

Chair of Senate's Report

Mr. Pinder welcomed new and returning Senators and noted several items provided for information in the Senate meeting package, including the schedule of Senate meetings for the 2014-2015 academic year; the approval of two graduands between convocations; and the current call for honorary degree nominations. A second call for honorary degree nominations will open in October and close early in December 2014. Lastly, the meeting package includes the Faculty Discipline Process Quarterly Report (April – June 2014). Mr. Pinder noted that there will be four convocation ceremonies on October 6th and 7th.

Following this report, there was a question raised regarding the timing of the October convocations and the difficulties this may present for faculty members who are teaching during these time periods. Mr. Pinder responded that this issue will be raised with the Registrar's Office and a response will be brought to a subsequent Senate meeting.

2014:100

President's Report

Mr. Florizone welcomed Senators back to the new academic year. He noted that he will continue to use his report to update senators on a variety of continuing and emerging issues, but that he and the Provost, Carolyn Watters, have also proposed that a regular report from the Provost become part of the Senate agenda; with the introduction of the Provost model, it is important that Senate hears regularly from the University's chief academic officer.

President Florizone highlighting ongoing work on Dalhousie's Strategic Direction which was approved by Senate and the Board last spring following the *100 Days of Listening* process. He spoke to the anticipated work that will unfold this fall, particularly around 10 of the 25 identified priority areas which will be addressed first, and briefly outlined the work that took place over the summer to develop project charters for the 25 strategic initiatives. As noted, 10 of these priorities will be the focus of work over the next several months. Dr. Florizone noted that the provincial government has incorporated some of the language and priorities from Strategic Directions into a recent bilateral agreement with Dalhousie. Lastly, Dr. Florizone noted that an upcoming Senior Administrative Retreat will provide a further opportunity to reflect on the strategic directions and he will likely want to come back with some additional thoughts after this session.

In response to questions on how the process will move forward, Mr. Florizone responded that he sees it as a combination of "top down" and "bottom up"; if it is only one or the other, his view is that it is not likely to be successful. He noted that there will be opportunities for faculty, staff and students to be involved on the planning committees. Ms. Watters added that she sees Senate's involvement as happening in three ways: 1) through Senate's governing role and its monitoring of how the University is doing overall on making progress on the priorities; 2) through its academic governance role (approving

specific programs, initiatives, etc.); and 3) through the involvement of individual senators who may serve on planning teams, etc.

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Florizone also spoke to the rationale for a more robust Provost model. He considers the role of the Provost to be threefold: ensuring the alignment of the university budget and planning with the academic mission of the university; ensuring goals are integrated across academic and administrative units; and providing a structure that enables clear and efficient decision making. The significant change with the introduction of the Provost model is the establishment of the Provost Committee. This committee will be chaired by the Provost and will play a primary role in reviewing institutional proposals and significant funding requests and ensuring that resource allocation is aligned with academic goals.

2014:101

Provost's Report

Ms. Watters spoke further to the role of the Provost and, in particular, the Provost Committee. She noted that the main objective of the Provost model is to bring planning and budgeting together under the academic roof. The Provost Committee will essentially work to align the administrative and multi-year budget planning with the institution's academic mission and strategic priorities. The current structure of the committee includes the Provost as Chair, and the Vice President, Finance and Administration, as Vice Chair. Other members include the other Vice-Presidents, a Dean and General Counsel as ex-officio members. Student Services will also be represented at the Provost Committee although the formal title of the position has not yet been confirmed. In terms of Strategic Directions, the Provost Committee will be responsible for reviewing project charters and implementation plans of all initiatives to ensure these are focused on moving forward on the strategic priorities, that there are appropriate resources to support the projects, and to regularly monitor progress on project timelines, etc. Ms. Watters noted that regular updates will come to Senate so that members will have a sense of what is happening currently and what is coming along, and an opportunity to provide feedback.

Following this report, Ms. Watters addressed several questions of clarification on the Provost Committee and how it fits with Senate committees who may be involved in some of this work, as well as how to ensure the liveliness and nimbleness of academic planning at the University. It was noted that academic planning is at the core of everyday academic life and it is important to ensure that this is not completely driven by objectives. Ms. Watters responded that much of this liveliness and nimbleness comes from people knowing what is happening and from the focus being more oriented around whether something proposed is good for the academic mission of the institution. She noted that she believes that the Provost model provides a much more transparent way of doing things. Mr. Florizone added that academic freedom and collegial self-governance are two critical principles for universities and values that make them distinct; we need to design these into our processes but, in his view, we can still take shared action together.

2014:102

In Camera: Rescinding a Degree

Senate moved to an *in camera* session. Following this session, Mr. Pinder reported that the Master of Nursing degree awarded in error on May 26, 2014 was rescinded.

2014:103**Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Review of the Faculty of Management**

Ms. Brooks, Chair of the Senate Review Committee for the Faculty of Management, provided a brief overview of the review process and recommendations. Following her report, Ms. Cunningham, Dean, Faculty of Management, spoke to the value of the review process, the challenges and opportunities for the Faculty, and some of the initiatives and work that have begun, or will follow, out of the process. Following these comments, Ms. Cunningham responded to several questions on elements of the report and current initiatives within the Faculty. It was noted that a follow up report will be provided to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee a year from now.

2014:104**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC):
Update on the Task Force on the Review of Academic Dates**

Ms. Asa Kachan (Assistant Vice-President Enrolment Management & Registrar), reported on behalf of the SLTC that the committee is reviewing the academic dates for both semesters. The SLTC has struck a task force that includes representation from Faculties, the Registrar's office and the DSU. Two large, well-attended forums were held over the summer to generate ideas and discussion on the current academic dates, the number of teaching days, the potential addition of a Fall reading week, and other issues. She noted that one idea proposed through these sessions suggests considering the number of "contact hours" between a professor and students, rather than the total number of teaching days. Ms. Kachan reported that the task force is currently developing several models and will finalize this work shortly before taking one or more models out to Faculty councils and others for discussion and feedback. It is anticipated that a recommendation will come forward to Senate in the late fall.

2014:105**Question Period**

A question was posed as a follow-up to President Florizone's earlier comment on academic freedom and collegial self-governance. The Senator noted that perhaps Senate might want to talk about academic freedom and the principles of self-governance in the Senate. Mr. Florizone responded that this is really a "values" discussion and Senate may decide that it wants to go there. He noted that last year the decision was to focus on mission and vision.

2014:106**Other Business**

There was no other business.

2014:107**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.