

SENATE
Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
Hybrid
Room 1016 Rowe Building & Remote Link via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2024.

Present

M. Pacurar (Chairing), R. Affoo, A. Aiken, D. Anderson, O. Bankole, S. Berge, D. Black, E. Black, K. Brooks, B. Davis, K. Dilcher, P. Doyle-Bedwell, L. DuBois, R. Ezekiel, N. Ezzeddine, M. Farrimond, M. Fournier, G. Gagnon, M. Goudreault, D. Grantham, J. Hann, S. Harding, F. Harvey, D. Jakeman, M. Keinast, N. Kiepek, M. Knakriah, Y. Kotlyarova, C. Lake, M. Leonard, C. Macdonald, L. Macdonald, P. Marignani, S. McKibbon, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, F. Naghibi, N. Patil, L. Phillmore, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, T. Richard, K. Rosen, R. Sampangi, L. Sarson, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, D. Silvio, S. Stone, M. Vandenburg, G. Wang-Pruski, D. Westwood, S. Wildeman, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti

Regrets

A. Bernard, J. Blustein, V. Chappe, L. Spiteri (Chair)

Absent

T. Akay, O. Akinkugbe, J. Andrews, C. Brown, D. Burnay, R. Chang, S. Chitnis, A. Doucette, O. Dryden, C. D'Souza, Y. El Hiani, H. El Naggat, S. Forbes, R. Goyal, G. Horne, G. Ilie, A. Kermanshahi-pour, W. Lahey, J. Li, V. Maselli, C. McLarney, J. Newhook, H. Niu, E. Oguntonna, R. Orji, Y. Pan, T. Perrot, A. Rudnick, V. Simeh, M. Smit, M. Ulku, P. Wani

Guests

Abdullah Al Mukaddim (AI Analyst, Faculty of Computer Science), Jennifer Bain (Associate Vice President Research), Christian Blouin (Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Computer Science), Catherine Connors (Director, Research Ethics, Office of Research Services), John Hope (General Counsel & University Secretary), 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.

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.

Senator Pacurar welcomed Senators to the meeting and advised that she would chair the Senate meeting in the absence of Senator Spiteri, Chair of Senate, and the unavailability of Senator Blustein, Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs), who would otherwise have chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair of Senate.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved** as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes of March 25, 2024 Senate Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the March 25, 2024 Senate meeting be approved as presented.

Approved by CONSENT.

3. Matters Arising from March 25, 2024 Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports

Senator Pacurar noted that with the last Senate meeting having been held just two weeks prior and with nothing additional to report, there was no Chair's Report for this Senate meeting. However, on behalf of the University Secretariat, Senator Pacurar requested that those Faculties that had not yet done so forward their Academic Unit Senator appointments for the three-year term starting July 1, 2024. Senator Pacurar noted that the deadline for submitting these names had passed and being late in sending the names forward would delay the process of having Senators and Faculty representatives put their names forward to serve on Senate standing committees.

4.1 President's Report

The President's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and comprised of a summary of recent activities and initiatives at Dalhousie, including the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) Inaugural Stethoscope Ceremony, the upcoming town hall on the Your Voice Workplace survey results, and the Truro Exploration Project.

Senator Brooks congratulated the Faculty of Management for renewing the accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). In closing, Senator Brooks reminded Senators to take vacation time.

4.2 Questions for Reports

There were no questions for reports.

FOR APPROVAL

5. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) Proposed Revision to the Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

Senator Seth, as a member of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) and in the absence of Senator Blustein, Chair of SAPRC, presented the proposed revised Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans and the proposed implementation plan.

The meeting was informed that the Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans had not been reviewed since 2012. A working group had been established in 2022 to conduct a formal review of the policy which established goals, undertook consultations, and extensively revised and updated the policy.

The meeting was further informed that the proposed revised policy had been considered by the SAPRC Research Sub-committee (RSC) at its May 9, 2023, meeting and by SAPRC at its June 5, 2023 meeting. Additionally, Legal Counsel review had been undertaken, and it had been confirmed that the proposed revised Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans could proceed to Senate for consideration. It had also been recommended by Legal Counsel that the implementation plan accompany the proposed revised Policy submitted to Senate.

In response to a question regarding whether the proposed revised policy was aligned with those of other U15 universities, Senator Aiken advised that the policies of other U15 universities were very similar as all the policies had to align with the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2.

Moved by Senator Seth on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:
THAT Senate approve the revised Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans and the implementation plan, as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

FOR DISCUSSION

6. Update on One-Year Provincial Agreement with Universities (2024-25)

Senator Pacurar reminded Senators that on February 12, 2024, Senator Brooks, as part of the President's report, informed Senators about the then recently released One-Year Provincial Agreement with Universities for the 2024-25 academic year and spoke to key components of the government's position and next steps to be taken by the University. Senator Pacurar invited Senator Brooks and Mr. M. Hebb to provide Senators with an update on the One-Year Provincial Agreement.

It was noted that the various requirements for the Provincial Funding Agreement 24/25 were:

- Inclusive & Equitable Learning Environment
- Provincial Alignment Proposal
- International Student Sustainability Plan
- Performance-based Funding
 - 97% Health Seats
 - Housing
- 5% Administrative Savings
- Provincial Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Committees

The meeting was advised that:

- The University was required to submit a Provincial Alignment Plan by June 30, 2024, and must include information on historical information and data, financial sustainability, future strategic alignment actions and Plan for key performance indicators (KPIs) and measures. A Dalhousie working group had been formed to begin collecting data and implementing the plan.
- An International Student Sustainability Plan was to be submitted alongside the Provincial Alignment Plan and should include strategic objectives, information on recruitment and admissions, orientation and integration and supports for international students, amongst other items.
- There was a requirement for Health Programs to be 97% full as soon as possible. Currently, province wide, some Health programs which received provincial funding were undersubscribed. The Faculty of

Health and the Registrar's Office would investigate internal and external factors which affected enrolment numbers in Health programs.

- Housing requirements had been introduced. The university was required to provide at least 200 more beds for students by the Fall 2025 term and to maintain a bed provisioning rate of 15% for full-time students. Dalhousie was able to successfully add 194 beds.
- A 5% administrative savings requirement had been introduced, which detailed that Dalhousie would need to plan for inter-university initiatives to reduce the administrative expenses at the university by 5%, with the plan being due by December 15, 2024. A strategy was being developed to address this requirement.
- An inclusive and equitable learning environment plan should be submitted by February, 2025 and should identify systemic barriers, programs to remove barriers and consult with first voice students and stakeholders.
- Provincial PSE Committees included Partnership (comprised of University Presidents), Academic Programming (Provosts), Financial Sustainability, and Research and Innovation.

It was noted that the Dalhousie responses would be as follows:

- Strategic Alignment Proposal;
- International Student Sustainability Plan;
- Memo to Minister on Housing;
- Report on administrative savings;
- Institutional data and financial reporting through templates; and
- Report on eliminating barriers to inclusive, equitable learning environment.

The meeting was provided an overview of the information that would be included with the written responses submitted to the Province, as well as the various sources for the information and a detailed timeline from the present time to June, 2028.

In the question-and-answer session following the presentation, the following was noted:

- With respect to the funding agreement, the infrastructure emphasized by the Province was buildings.
- Regarding healthcare access concerns and how these would be addressed even as enrolment was increased, the Province had an action plan in place for health with seven priority areas, where Dalhousie could be of some influence, such as with multi-clinic environments.
- Dalhousie's response was to cooperate with the government rather than oppose the new funding requirements.
- Both politicians and governmental officials would examine Dalhousie's written responses.

7. Presentation: A Principled Approach to Generative AI at Dalhousie

Senator Pacurar noted that a Senate think tank on artificial intelligence (AI) was planned for the 2025 Winter term. In the interim period, C. Blouin had agreed to give a presentation to Senate on AI. Senator Pacurar invited C. Blouin to give his presentation entitled *Making University Education Resilient to Technological Disruptions*.

Senators were informed about generative AI and language generation. It was noted that as present and future students entered a workforce reliant on generative AI technology, Dalhousie must adeptly incorporate its use and teach students how to assess and make informed decisions regarding disruptive technologies. It may also be necessary to adjust assessment strategies to match evolving competencies. The meeting was informed of the various barriers to AI technology, such as bias and accessibility, as well as societal and environmental

impacts. It was noted that problems to solve included how to empower Faculty to assess emerging technologies within their academic disciplines and provide an environment in which to experiment and innovate, which was informed by core values of rigour, equity, and accessibility. The meeting was informed of various ways to safely innovate, including listening to the community, acquiring an AI sandbox and initiating a range of pilot projects, and establishing a sustainable model for innovation.

The recent hiring of an AI Analyst by Dalhousie was highlighted, and Abdullah Al Mukaddim was introduced to Senators. The recent introduction of Guidelines on Use and Procurement of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools to aid Faculty members and students in their AI use was also highlighted.

After the presentation, Senators engaged in discussions regarding the beneficial applications of AI tools in educational settings.

8. Question Period

In response to a question, Senator Brooks noted that generative AI usage within the university setting was included in the Provincial Agreement report.

Responding to questions regarding learning opportunities for generative AI, Senator Phillmore advised that members of the AI Analytical team were available to conduct interactive sessions for Faculties and units.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.