



**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
APPROVED MINUTES  
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 4:00pm in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Baur, Baylis, Boran, Boudreau, Bourne-Tyson, Byers, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Cooper, Crago, Denike, Florizone, Gibson, Goodday, Grant, Gruzd, Habib, Harman, Hoyle, Hughes, Johnston, Kesselring, Kozey, Langille, Leach, Leon, MacDonald, MacLennan, Macy, Manion, Mansour, Moore, Osberg, Packer, Pegg, Persaud, Pinder, Ross, Shukla, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Treiger, Wach, Woodman.

Regrets: Ali, Barrett, Beale, Becke, Brooks, Cox, Dionne, Doman, Eldridge, Gray, Hewitt, Killham, Marrie, Mitchell, Shepherd, Watters, Yiridoe.

Absent: Burton, Hartigan, Jha, Khan, Matte, Mazzanti, Mopoho, Smirnov, Taylor, Webster.

**2013:122**

**Adoption of Agenda**

The December 9, 2013 agenda was **adopted** with two amendments:

1. The Senate minutes of November 25, 2013 would be removed from the Consent agenda and be discussed as a new number 3 on the agenda.
2. The Faculties Management Presentation was deferred to another meeting of Senate.

**2013:123**

**Consent Agenda**

**2.1 SNC: Standing Committee nominations**

**On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, I MOVE:**

**THAT** Eric Rapaport, Faculty of Architecture & Planning be appointed to the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee for the term December 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

**THAT** Emmanuel Jannasch, Faculty of Architecture & Planning be appointed to the Senate Appeals Committee for the term December 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

**Approved by consent.**

**2.2 SPGC: University Tenure and Promotion Panel nominations**

On behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, I **MOVE:**

**THAT** Constance MacIntosh, Schulich School of Law; Tessema Astatkie, Faculty of Agriculture; and Vilis O. Nams, Faculty of Agriculture be appointed to the University Tenure and Promotions Panel for the term December 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016.

**Approved by consent.**

### **3. Approval of Draft Minutes of November 25, 2013 Senate Meeting**

The draft Senate minutes of November 25, 2013 were **approved** with one amendment:

- On page 4 under Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Review of the Schulich School of Law, the wording around funding for the IB&M program be changed to “There was some discussion of the university’s failure to fully fund 18 places within the IB&M program. This discussion reiterated concerns raised earlier during the discussion of the draft International Strategy document. The concern there was around the budget implications of the International Strategy and whether the University should be taking on additional obligations for international students under the strategy when it is not meeting its current commitments to local students through the full funding of the 18 scholarships.”

**2013:124**

#### **Matters Arising from November 25, 2013 Senate Minutes**

The Chair reported that Ms. Watters is awaiting the report of a group whose mandate includes reviewing of the funding for 18 Indigenous, Black and Mi’kmaq students within the IB&M program in the Schulich School of Law. Once she receives that report, she will provide an update to Senate on this issue.

**2013:125**

#### **Chair of Senate’s Report**

Mr. Fraser noted that several items were included with the meeting package for the information of members of Senate. These included the “Expectations of Senators and Senate Standing Committee Members”, approved by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee; the International Strategy with edits as proposed at the last meeting of Senate; information on a new Minor in Environment, Sustainability and Society, College of Sustainability, recently approved by SAPBC; the extended presentation on the Reputation Research Project; and several 2012-2013 Annual Reports from research Centres and Institutes.

Mr. Fraser noted that the next two Senate meetings are scheduled for January 13 and January 27.

**2013:126**

#### **President’s Report**

Mr. Florizone provided an update on the 100 Days of Listening Report which is to be completed by the end of the term. Mr. Florizone reported briefly on various meetings he had been attending with alumni, Board committees, and others. The search for the Dean of Medicine continues but is drawing to a close.

**2013:127****Senate Learning and Teaching Committee: Implementation of Course Scheduling Software**

Ms. Kachan, Assistant Vice-President, Enrolment Management and Registrar, presented the new software, Infosilem, purchased for Dalhousie University. The software is to improve business processes such as academic timetabling/course scheduling, exam scheduling and room scheduling. Through the involvement of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Registrar's Office and additional faculty representatives, a policy is being developed along with a simulated academic timetable for 2015/2016.

There was discussion around what software other universities were using and whether it would be possible to share the interface. It was noted that the University of King's College would be integrated with Dalhousie's software. Infosilem is the product of choice amongst Canadian universities. It was also discussed that the product can be used beyond the academic timetable, such as scheduling protected time for departmental and other meetings.

In discussion of the implementation of Course Scheduling Software, the following points were noted:

- A question was raised as to whether, when the new schedule from the product emerged at other universities, it was radically different from previous years' timetables. It was noted that the schedule would be dependent on the optimization and course patterning objectives specified. This would require a broader discussion in the future. The new timetable may look similar to the current one, but the software is meant to provide more creative possibilities and much more efficient use of space and other resources.
- In Faculties such as the Dentistry and Law, which currently have the ability to develop their own class schedule, the software will be used to help faculty and staff create options and improve their scheduling processes.
- With respect to tracking instructors' accommodations, it was noted that in other institutions the software has allowed more courses to be fit into a single day and has enabled more preference requests to be met. The software builds into the schedule the estimated transfer times between buildings.

The committee is in discussion with individual faculty members, Chairs and Deans of Faculties. Ms. Kachan invited feedback from Senators to be sent directly to her.

**2013:128****University Libraries Annual Update**

Ms. Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian, provided an annual update on the Universities Libraries. There was an operational review by a consultant this past year, which occurs roughly once every decade. The Libraries have a high retention and low turnover rate. The Strategic Plan, Vision 2015 was refreshed. The key initiatives for the Library include Digital Scholarship, Research Data Management, Learning and Curriculum Support, Access Services, Resources, Discovery, Libraries IT and Communications. Some issues are the gap between inflation costs and the more limited increases in the funding envelope and the competing demands for space (collaborative space versus quiet space, book space). There are renovations being implemented at the Libraries to make more space available.

It was noted that the Learning Commons is the most heavily used student space. The technology within the space needs to be replaced, which impacts the Library's budget.

**2013:129**

**Centre for Learning and Teaching Annual Update**

Mr. Wuetherick, Executive Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT), reported that the CLT is in the midst of a transition: creation of an Executive Director position, restructuring of e-learning and audiovisual responsibilities, and increasing faculty engagement in the Centre. The CLT is committed to developing a learning and teaching strategy collaboratively with the community, as well as to providing appropriate supports to early career faculty and graduate students. In terms of administering the SRI process, CLT is seeking to increase efficiency, increase student response rates and increase faculty opt-in response rates. To go beyond the Student Ratings of Instruction, there could be peer-review of teaching materials and classroom observations, reflective practice, assessing learning outcomes and mentoring supports. The CLT is also committed to raising the profile of learning and teaching, and increasing recognition of teaching excellence—re-invigorating institutional awards for teaching and learning. It was noted that Dalhousie University is underperforming in the 3M program.

There was discussion around how the CLT could be utilized collaboratively. The CLT helps to find ways to contextualize academic development, develop priorities within different departments and then help to implement them. The CLT also provides resource support, coaching curriculum leaders; and it assist academic units in new program development.

**2013:130**

**Question Period**

There were no questions.

**2013:131**

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**2013:132**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.