

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
APPROVED MINUTES  
OF SENATE MEETING**

Senate met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 2013, at 4:00pm in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present with Lloyd Fraser in the chair were the following: Ali, Baur, Beale, Boran, Bourne-Tyson, Brooks, Burton, Byers, Chowdhury, Cochrane, Crago, Cunningham, Dionne, Gibson, Gray, Gruzd, Habib, Harman, Hoyle, Hughes, Johnston, Kesselring, Killham, Kozey, Langille, MacDonald, MacLennan, Macy, Mansour, Marrie, Matte, Mazzanti, Mitchell, Moore, Mopoho, Osberg, Pinder, Ross, Shukla, Siddiq, Stadnyk, Stanish, Steeves, Summerby-Murray, Taylor, Treiger, Wach, Watters, Woodman.

Regrets: Baylis, Boudreau, Cox, Doman, Eldridge, Florizone, Goodday, Leon, Packer, Pegg, Yiridoe.

Absent: Barrett, Becke, Cooper, Denike, Grant, Hartigan, Hewitt, Jha, Khan, Leach, Persaud, Shepherd, Smirnov, Webster.

**2013:83**

**Adoption of Agenda**

The September 23, 2013 agenda was **adopted**.

**2013:84**

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Draft Minutes of June 10, 2013 Senate Meeting**

**THAT** Senate **approve** the draft Senate minutes of June 10, 2013.

**Approved by Consent.**

**Senate Nominating Committee Nominations**

On behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee, Mr. Fraser **MOVED**:

**THAT** Steven Baur, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, be appointed to the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee for the term September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015 and Yung-Hua Li, Faculty of Dentistry, and Gianfranco Mazzanti, Faculty of Engineering, be appointed to the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee for the term September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

**THAT** Margaret Denike, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, be appointed to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for the term September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015 and Anatoliy Gruzd, Faculty of Management, be appointed to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for the term September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

**THAT** David Byers, Faculty of Science, and Vilis Nams, Faculty of Agriculture, be appointed to the Senate Appeals Committee for the term September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

**THAT** William Stanish, Faculty of Medicine, be appointed to the Senate Honorary Degrees for the term September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

THAT Reginald Goodday, Faculty of Dentistry, be appointed to the Senate Planning and Governance Committee for the term September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

**Approved by Consent.**

**2013:85**

**Matters Arising from June 10, 2013 Senate Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the June 10, 2013 Senate minutes.

**2013:86**

**Chair of Senate's Report**

Mr. Fraser began his report by congratulating Peggy Cunningham, Dean, Faculty of Management, on her appointment to the jury for the Private Business Growth Award hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Grant Thornton. Mr. Fraser paid tribute to members of the community whom have passed away during the time since the last Senate meeting in June. He extended sympathy to family and friends of Mary Colleen Kibert, Robert George Ackman, Burnley Allan "Rocky" Jones, James Ronald Lawler, David Thomas Janigan, David Braybrooke, Leslie Gordon Jaeger and Owen Hertzman.

Mr. Fraser drew members' attention to the installation of the President, Dr. Richard Florizone, on Friday October 4, 2013 at 2:30PM at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. This ceremony also will include the awarding of honorary doctorates to eight university Presidents and leaders from around the world. The honorary degree recipients will also take part in a panel discussion on the future of the university in the morning before the installation.

Mr. Fraser encouraged members of Senate to attend one or more of the upcoming convocations on October 7-9. He noted that in response to feedback received from Senators, the configuration of meeting packages has been modified. The documentation will now be provided in 3 ways: full meeting package, individual files, and executive meeting package.

Mr. Fraser completed his report by reminding members of Senate of the information items provided as part of the the meeting package: Senate meeting schedule, call for Honorary Degree nominations, approval of Graduands between Convocations, and the Faculty Discipline Process Quarterly Report (April – June 2013).

**2013:87**

**President's Report**

Carolyn Watters, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, spoke on behalf of the President and updated members of Senate on the 100 Days of Listening. There are currently 435 responses from students and faculty; those who have not yet responded were encouraged to do so. External stakeholders also have been encouraged to contribute to the process. There is an ongoing process of analyzing the data which is being received. Mr. Fraser noted that Senate expects to receive the 100 Days of Listening Report at the November Senate meeting.

**2013:88**

**Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Faculty of Medicine Governance Structure**

Mr. Fraser called upon Tom Marrie, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, to speak to the governance changes. Mr. Marrie stated that a sub-committee of Faculty Council was created to review the Faculty's governance; elected members of faculty and senior administrators served. The role of this sub-committee was to review and propose revisions to the Faculty Governance document with a view to improving efficiencies in decision-making, reflecting contemporary governance structures and accreditation requirements.

Mr. Fraser, on behalf of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee, **MOVED:**

**THAT** the Senate approve the Faculty of Medicine governance changes outlined in the *Faculty of Medicine Summary of Governance Renewal Process*, dated September 16, 2013, and reflected in the *Faculty Governance* document approved by the Faculty of Medicine on November 22, 2011 and May 14, 2013.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2013:89**

**Senate Learning and Teaching Committee**

**Final Report of the Student Ratings of Instruction Work Group – Motion to establish Ad Hoc Group**

Alan Pinder, Chair, Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC), presented the final report of the Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI) Work Group and discussed the potential for the SLTC to establish an Advisory Committee to review the recommendations contained in the Report. Mr. Pinder stated that the SLTC had approved the final report of the SRI Work Group on June 5, 2013. He indicated that response rates were lower, and that scores on question 8 (the overall quality of instruction) changed slightly with two thirds of instructors receiving a change of 0.5 on a 5-point scale, either up or down, from one year to the next. Suggestions had been made to extend the time the survey is available, to have instructors provide class time for completion of the SRI, that instructors be encouraged to submit open-ended questions, and that the scale be changed.

Concerns were raised that since the SRI could not be used in all courses (e.g. an Opinion questionnaire had to be used in courses with multiple instructors), in some units the survey results were too limited to be valuable for tenure and promotion purposes. Recommendation #2 was discussed and it was noted that the Vice-President, Academic and Provost, should inform deans, chairs, promotions and tenure committees, and those preparing their own teaching dossiers that changes in SRI scores after the rollout of the electronic SRI in fall of 2012 may be due to procedural changes in the SRI rather than a change in the teaching quality of the instructor. One member suggested that a mandatory SRI would provide considerably more data but it was noted that the risk would be that the quality of responses would decrease. It was also noted that resource limitations somewhat constrain the extent of the statistical analysis performed on the SRI results.

Mr. Fraser suggested that any issues not yet fully addressed at Senate be identified to the SLTC as this is an ongoing process in attempting to identify issues and strengthen the SRI procedures.

Mr. Fraser, on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, **MOVED:**

**THAT** Senate receive the draft Report of the Student Ratings of Instruction Work Group; and,

**THAT** the Senate ask the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee to establish an advisory committee to collaborate with the Centre for Learning and Teaching to assess and implement the recommendations contained within the Report of the 2012 Student Ratings of Instruction Review Work Group.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**Draft Social Media & Networking Guidelines**

John Bullock, Chair, Social Media and Networking Work Group, outlined the reasons for the development of social media and networking guidelines. The increasing use of social media raises branding questions, concerns of content ownership, copyright risks, risks to Dalhousie University's reputation, and risks of harassment and impersonation. The guidelines are to guide behavior so that social media can benefit the University.

Mr. Fraser, on behalf of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, **MOVED:**

**THAT** Senate approve the draft Social Media Guidelines for Learning and Teaching and Researchers, dated May 14, 2013.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**2013:90**

**Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee**

**Draft International Strategy**

Alain Boutet, Executive Director, International Relations, presented the updated draft International Strategy. Mr. Boutet stated that the focal areas of Dalhousie's International Strategy are international recruitment, international mobility, internalization of academic programs, support for international student retention and success, international research and international development, and international alumni engagement. In terms of strategic choices in partnerships, the priority is to enhance Dalhousie's reputation and profile and to build on academic synergies. Mr. Boutet stated there should be better coordination between academic and administrative resources for the International Strategy.

The issue of International differential fees was raised with respect to its impact on graduate student recruitment and on faculty members' research grants.

Mr. Fraser noted that the draft International Strategy will come back to Senate at the next meeting for approval.

**2013:91**

**Senate Officer and Senate Standing Committee Priorities for 2013-2014**

Mr. Fraser noted that Senate priorities for the coming year included: academic innovation and academic program planning, policy development and renewal, quality assurance, and process efficiency. Mr. Fraser also noted priorities of the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC), the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC), and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC). SPGC's priorities include: Review of the Senate Constitution and Committee Terms of Reference, Policy and Procedures for Faculty, Program and Unit Reviews, and clarifying "Student" definitions. SAPRC's work will include the development of an Academic Program Proposal Database, development of policy and procedures for the offering of certificates and diplomas, and revised processes for the review of research Centres and Institutes. SLTC is working on a university wide undergraduate grade scale, SRI followup, proposed revisions to the Code of Student Conduct, and a revised Accommodation Policy.

**2013:92**

**Question Period**

It was noted that the timing of the Microsoft Outlook migration, at the beginning of the academic year, and the transition issues encountered, have been quite disruptive for some faculty.

**2013:93**

**Other Business**

There was no additional business.

**2013:94**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.