

**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, February 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on February 10, 2025

- Present** L. Spiteri (Chair), R. Affoo, T. Akay, O. Akinkugbe, J. Andrews, E. Aror, S. Asah, J. Bain, A. Bernard, D. Black, E. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Brown, V. Chappe, W. Costen, N. Cromwell-Tesfazoin, N. d'Entremont, B. Davis, P. Doyle-Bedwell, L. DuBois, D. Dutton, R. Ezekiel, N. Ezzeddine, M. Fournier, G. Gagnon, C. Goldberg, M. Goudreault, D. Grantham, D. Groulx, S. Harding, J. Haslam, B. Heung, G. Ilie, A. Iulianella, D. Jakeman, N. Kiepek, M. Knakriah, Y. Kotlyarova, S. Kou-Giesbrecht, W. Lahey, M. Leonard, C. Macdonald, A. Maleki, P. Marignani, L. McHugh-Russell, C. McLarney, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, P.L. Michaud, T. Michelot, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, O. Olatunde, M. Pacurar, Y.J. Pan, T. Perrot, L. Phillmore, T. Rajack-Talley, A. Rau-Chaplin, T. Richard, K. Rosen, A. Saif, R. Sampangi, S. Seth, D. Silvio, M. Smit, M. Sutherland-Allan, M. Vandenburg, H. Weigand, D. Westwood, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti
- Regrets** D. Anderson, M. Bailey, H. Bruce
- Absent** S. Berge, D. Burnay, M. Cada, S. Chitnis, Y. El Hiani, J. Goyal, J. Hann, A. Kermanshahi-pour, M. Kienast, A. Parasram, M. Sharaput, M.A. Ulku
- Guests** Jenny Baechler (Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Management), Alison Crepinsek (Program Manager, Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine), John Hope (General Counsel and University Secretary), Shelly McKibbin (Chair, Senate Nominating Committee), Lisette Muaror (Project Manager, Certificates and Course Integration Development, Faculty of Management), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Angela Siegel (Assistant Dean, Academic Outreach, Faculty of Computer Science), Leanne Stevens (Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Science), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator), Sarah Wells (Assistant Dean, Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine)

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 circulated.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1. Approval of Draft Minutes of December 9, 2024 Senate Meeting**

**THAT the draft minutes of the December 9, 2024 Senate meeting be approved as presented.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

## **2.2. Approval of Draft Minutes of January 13, 2025 Senate Meeting**

**That the draft minutes of the January 13, 2025 Senate meeting be approved as presented.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

## **3. Matters Arising from January 13, 2025 Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

### **FOR APPROVAL**

## **4. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SPARC)**

### **4.1. Proposal for New Program – Master of Management, Faculty of Management and FGS**

Senator Seth presented this item as Chair of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC).

The meeting was informed that the proposal for a Master of Management program had been developed by the Faculty of Management and all levels of approval had been obtained. The proposed program was aimed at domestic students who had recently completed an undergraduate degree in a non-business or management discipline, as well as to international students attracted by the opportunity to be eligible for a post-graduate work permit, the lower tuition cost compared to the Dalhousie Master of Business Administration offerings and the short completion time.

Moved by Senator Seth on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve the proposed new program to be known as Master of Management, Faculty of Management and Faculty of Graduate Studies.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **4.2. Proposal for New Program – Bachelor of Science, Medical Sciences (General), Faculty of Science**

Senator Seth presented this item as Chair of SAPRC.

The meeting was informed that the aim was to provide an exit credential for Bachelor of Science, Medical Sciences students who left their 120-credit hour program early, due to acceptance into professional programs such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing, allowing these students to graduate with a 90-credit hour degree in Medical Sciences. It would add value to the existing 120-credit hour program by providing exceptional students, who were admitted early into professional programs, credentials that reflected the work they had put in over the previous three years of their academic career. All levels of approval had been obtained.

S. Wells and L. Stevens responded to questions for clarification.

Moved by Senator Seth on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve the proposed Bachelor of Science, Medical Sciences (General) program, Faculty of Science, as presented.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

#### **4.3. Proposal for Suspension Leading to Termination – Canadian Studies Program, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Senator Seth presented this item as Chair of SAPRC.

The meeting was informed that the proposal for the suspension leading to termination had been brought forward by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and all levels of approval had been obtained.

Senator Andrews and Senator DuBois responded to questions. It was clarified that the rationale for the proposed suspension leading to termination included that:

- Defunding of the Canadian Studies Program Abroad by the government undermined the sustainability of Canadian Studies within Canada;
- The Faculty had struggled to recruit Faculty members willing to contribute to the program;
- The core of the program had seen no meaningful delivery by continuing Faculty members, which undermined the integrity of the program's structure and coherence; and
- Enrolments had been in steady decline.

It was also noted that as Faculty members continued to teach about Canada across FASS and as a few Canadian Studies courses at the first and second-year level remained popular, the Canadian Studies program would be replaced in due course with a Certificate in Canadian Studies focused on post-colonial Canada, allowing students to indicate their specialization as a Canadianist across disciplines. In the interim, some Canadian Studies courses were cross-listed and would remain available to students.

Moved by Senator Seth on behalf of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee:  
**THAT Senate approve the proposed suspension leading to the termination of the Canadian Studies program, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, as presented.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

#### **5. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)** **Election of Chair of Senate (Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028)**

Senator Spiteri introduced the item and handed over to S. McKibbin, Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee (SNC).

The meeting was informed that the current three-year term for the position of Chair of Senate would end on June 30, 2025. A call for nominations and expressions of interest, for a new three-year term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028, had been distributed to the University community and closed on November 26, 2024. Four nominations or expressions of interest had been received from:

- Dr. Jamie Blustein, Faculty of Computer Science;
- Dr. Raghav Sampangi, Faculty of Computer Science;
- Dr. Sachin Seth, Faculty of Dentistry; and
- Dr. Angela Siegel, Faculty of Computer Science.

The meeting was also informed that the SNC had considered the nomination packages of the four individuals, and confirmed that all four nominees met the criteria for the position of Chair of Senate and that their complete nomination packages could be presented to Senate for decision. It was reported that the SNC also considered the list of all those eligible to serve to determine whether to approach additional eligible individuals to invite them to put their names forward. Additional individuals had been approached but had declined to put their names forward for consideration.

Senator Blustein, Senator Sampangi, Senator Seth and Dr. Siegel individually briefly addressed the Senate and highlighted their strengths and what they could bring to the role of Chair of Senate.

Senator Spiteri called three times for any additional nominations from the floor. There were none.

Senator Blustein, Senator Sampangi, Senator Seth and Dr. Siegel left the meeting and Senators voted. Following the election, Senator Spiteri announced to Senators that Senator Seth received the highest number of votes.

Senator Blustein, Senator Sampangi, Senator Seth and Dr. Siegel returned to the meeting and were informed of the result of the vote.

Moved by P-L. Michaud, seconded by C. McLarney

**THAT Senate appoint Sachin Seth as the Chair of Senate for the term July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.**

The motion **CARRIED**.

Senator Seth accepted the position and expressed his appreciation to Senators. Senator Spiteri thanked the four nominees for putting their names forward for consideration.

## **FOR DISCUSSION**

### **6. Reports**

#### **6.1. Chair of Senate's Report**

The Chair of Senate's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and included updates on recent work undertaken by SAPRC and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC).

The meeting was reminded that a Senate think tank session would be held on February 24, 2025 on the Student Learning Experience Questionnaire (SLEQ) instrument.

Senator Spiteri expressed her appreciation to Senators for their support over her term as Chair of Senate, which would come to an end on June 30, 2025.

In closing, Senator Spiteri noted that information regarding changes to the admissions criteria for the Master of Health Administration program had been circulated with the Senate package, for information.

#### **6.2. President's Report**

The President's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package. It included updates on the Integrated Planning Framework and the work of the Budget Advisory Committee.

Senator Brooks thanked Senator Spiteri for her ongoing service as Chair of Senate, and thanked the nominees for putting their names forward for the position of Chair of Senate for the term starting on July 1, 2025.

### **6.3. Questions for Reports**

In response to a query regarding the search process for a new Vice-President Research and Innovation, Senator Brooks noted that the search was likely to take some time given the position and the ongoing hiring freeze, and therefore the need for the position to be filled on an interim basis.

### **7. Question Period**

In response to a query about how the recent US National Institutes of Health (NIH) termination of research grants would impact Dalhousie, Senator Brooks and Senator Bain advised that an assessment was underway but that early indications were that there would be some impact.

### **8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.