



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**Draft Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session) held on**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**  
Videoconference

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cheryl Fraser (Chair), Eshan Arora, Paul Beesley, Kim Brooks, Ryan Dee, Randolph de Gooyer, Jo Galarneau, Ahsan Habib, Kristan Hines, Shona Kinley, Mariam Knakriah, Jay MacIsaac, Merle MacIsaac, Catherine MacPherson, Angela Siegel, Rustum Southwell, Louise Spiteri, Caroline Zayid, Joyce Hoeven, and Alana Riley

**MEMBERS REGRETS:**

N/A

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Graham Gagnon (Acting Vice-President Research & Innovation), Matt Hebb (Vice-President Government and Global Relations), John Hope (General Counsel & University Secretary), Grace Jefferies-Aldridge (Vice President People & Culture), Gitta Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance and Administration), Wanda Costen (Provost and Vice-President Academic), Michael Fleury (Senior Manager, Strategic Communications & Media Relations), Dominic Silvio (Observer), Nancy Beth Foran (Investments & Treasury), Erin Stewart-Reid (Senior Advisor & Presidents office & Communications), Cheryl Earle (Chief Financial Officer & AVP Financial Services), Laurel Munroe (Director Communications and Public Relations), Janet Bryson (Director, Media Relations and Issues Management), Becky Merritt (Acting Associate Secretary, Board of Governors)

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by L. Spiteri seconded by R. Dee

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1 Minutes of November 24, 2024 & February 11, 2025**

**The approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2025, meeting was deferred to the next Board of Governors meeting on April 15, 2025.**

**THAT the minutes of the meetings of November 24, 2024 be approved.**

Moved by L. Spiteri seconded by P. Beesley

## **2.2 Matters from Senate**

L. Spiteri noted that the next major item coming to Board would a suspension leading to termination from FASS. Additionally, the team is reviewing the learning questionnaire policy, aiming to move things forward promptly.

### **2.2.1 Proposed Major Modification – Master of Arts in Health Promotion, Faculty of Health and FGS**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the proposed major modification to the Master of Arts in Health Promotion program, Faculty of Health and Faculty of Graduate Studies, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

### **2.2.2 Proposal for Renaming of the Department of Applied Oral Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the renaming of the Department of Applied Oral Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry to the Department of Biomaterials & Applied Oral Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

### **2.2.3 Proposal for New Program – Diploma in Dental Assisting, Faculty of Dentistry**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the new program to be known as Diploma of Dental Assisting, Faculty of Dentistry, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

### **2.2.4 Proposal for a new Dalhousie Research Centre – Centre for Global Mental Health**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the creation of the Centre for Global Mental Health as a Dalhousie research centre, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

### **2.2.5 Proposal for a new Dalhousie Research Centre – Centre for Contemporary Writing**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the creation of the Centre for Contemporary Writing as a Dalhousie research centre, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

### **2.2.6 Proposal for a New Program – Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and FGS**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the proposed new program to be known as Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Graduate Studies, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

**2.2.7 Proposal for New Program – Master of Management, Faculty of Management and FGS**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the proposed new program to be known as Master of Management, Faculty of Management and Faculty of Graduate Studies, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

**2.2.8 Proposal for New Program – Bachelor of Science, Medical Science (General), Faculty of Science**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the proposed Bachelor of Science, Medical Science (General) program, Faculty of Science, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

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

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the proposed suspension leading to the termination of the Canadian Studies program, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, as presented.**

**Approved by CONSENT.**

**2.3 Representative on the VPFA search committee**

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, approves the appointments of Cheryl Fraser and Paul Beesley to the search committee for the Vice-President Finance and Administration.**

**Moved by L. Spiteri seconded by P. Beesley**

**3. Items for Discussion**

**3.1 Report on Endowment Investing and Monitoring**

J. MacIsaac stated that a report was submitted in writing with the Board of Governors Meeting Package.

J. MacIsaac thanked the Board of Governors for their patience as FAIR collected the necessary information and recommendations from the Investment Committee (IC) to consider and discuss this important issue before a report could be created. He thanked the DSU president, Treasury management, Dalhousie legal, and the members of FAIR for the work that they had done so that a decision could be made on the complex matter. He stated that the presentation given by the DSU president and consultations that took place in 2024, resulted in the addition of a new section to the annual review questionnaire that dealt directly with geo-political risk and weapons.

In response to a query regarding the length of the process that led to the decision that Divestment was not the preferred approach, J. MacIsaac stated that during the process, they wanted to ensure that the IC management had the opportunity to meet with more of the Dalhousie fund managers to

ensure that the decisions being made answered the questions made by the DSU president. He stated that more information was provided to FAIR but that the report submitted to the Board of Governors was a summary.

In response to a query as to why a detailed report was not provided to the Board of Governors, J. MacIsaac stated that the summary contains all relevant information, but that FAIR must be careful when disclosing information about investment guidelines. He noted that although it is not reflected in the report, lengthy discussions were had regarding the issues brought forward by the DSU president. He stated that although it was not deemed necessary for the summary, the University's investment policy can be provided if needed.

C. Fraser added that independent legal advice was obtained to ensure that the University was in compliance with how many by-laws and polices are written for the Board and that this was being considered in an appropriate manner, and assurance was provided.

Some Board Members expressed concern over the conclusion of the Endowment Investing and Monitoring report.

C. Fraser described that within the Dalhousie Investment Policy, there are clear guidelines surrounding social responsibilities and how the University invests. She stated that geopolitical consideration was added and the investment managers did their part to ensure the policy was followed. She identified the frustration that was felt by the DSU and stated that the Board of Governors cannot provide direction on investment, that is the responsibility of FAIR and the IC.

C. Fraser stated that J. Hope, in his role as General Counsel and University Secretary, would decide whether the report generated by FAIR regarding the Endowment Investing and Monitoring report is shared.

#### **4. Items for Decision – Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee**

##### **4.1 2025-2026 – University Fees**

J. MacIsaac stated that a report was submitted in writing with the Board of Governors Meeting Package.

##### **4.1.1 Tuition and Facilities Fees**

###### **Motion 1:**

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee, approve of the 2025-2026 tuition fees as presented in the attached tuition fee schedule including:**

- a) In 2025-26, a 2% general tuition fee increase to be applied to domestic tuition across all programs effective April 2025**
- b) In 2025-26, a 6% tuition fee increase applied to international students entering under the cohort model. For those international students not included in the cohort model, a 2% increase on regular tuition, plus a 10% increase on international tuition differential will be applied across all programs (undergraduate and masters (non-thesis)) effective April 2025.**

Moved by J. MacIsaac and seconded by A. Riley.

**CARRIED.**  
(E. Arora, R. Dee, M. Knakriah opposed)

**Motion 2:**

G. Kulczycki stated that there is a list of projects that these fees go to and address the facility updates, and backlog.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee, approve of a 2% increase in the auxiliary fee for facilities renewal to \$107.80 per term for full time students effective April 2025.**

Moved by J. MacIsaac and seconded by A. Riley.

**CARRIED.**  
(M. Knakriah abstaining)

**4.2.1 Other Fees**

**4.2.1.1 Auxiliary Fees**

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee approve the following Auxiliary fee changes for 2025-26, effective April 1, 2025.**

Moved by J. MacIsaac and seconded by A. Habib.

**CARRIED.**

**4.2.1.2 Residence and Food Services Fees**

In response to a query regarding the 3.5% increase to align with the Truro fees, G. Kulczycki stated that the increase was to provide more food service options for students.

In response to a query regarding the figures in the report comparing residence fees to Halifax market rent, G. Kulczycki clarified that that the residence fees pays for residence alone, and the figures comparing market rent was made to present to FAIR to determine if residence is a good choice to students. She stated that there are programs within the Dalhousie Residence fees that are not offered to students renting from the Halifax Market, such as ResidenceLife.

In response to a query regarding, G. Kulczycki stated that almost 200 beds were added to satisfy a Government requirement to provide more student housing. She stated that with the addition of these beds, residence was not full this year, with most of the empty rooms being doubles.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee, approve of the 2025-26 Residence and Meal Plan Fees as presented, effective for the Fall term 2025.**

Moved by J. MacIsaac and seconded by A. Habib.  
CARRIED.  
(R. Dee, M. Knakriah abstaining)

#### 4.2.1.3 Halifax Transit U-Pass Fee

In response to a query regarding making the Halifax Transit U-Pass Fee optional, G. Kulczycki stated that Halifax Transit does not allow this option to provide the pricing to students.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee, approve of the 2025-26 U-Pass fee of \$175.33 for the full-time (fall/winter) students (pro-rated to \$87.67 for the winter and summer terms), effective for the Fal term 2025.**

Moved by J. MacIsaac and seconded by J. Galarneau.  
CARRIED.

#### 4.2.1.4 Student Services Fee

In response to a query regarding as to why the summer fee had increased the most, R. Ezekiel stated that when proportioning, they looked at the services that students would require depending on their student status. R. Ezekiel stated that the distance student category involves students whose studies are not primarily on the Dalhousie campus.

In response to a query regarding the doubling of the distance fees, R. Ezekiel stated that there were fees offered from a distance that had increases, which justified the student service increase.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee approval of the 2025-26 Student Services fees changes, effective April 1, 2025.**

Moved by J. MacIsaac and seconded by J. Hoeven.  
CARRIED.

#### 4.2.1.5 Orientation Fee

In response to a query R. Ezekiel stated that this orientation program is provided to students entering Dalhousie directly from high school. He stated that the marketing of the orientation should be directed to that group.

In response to a query regarding the “opt out” piece, R. Ezekiel stated that students who choose not to participate in orientation activities can opt out and won’t be charged. For those who want to participate but can’t afford the fee, a financial need- based waiver will be available through the University’s usual assessment process.

In response to a query regarding students who opt out but still show up to the event, R. Ezekiel said that that is a part of operational logistics that the Transition and Engagement Committee would participate in, but would include some sort of proof of purchase, such as a tap in or a wristband.

**THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee, approve the new Student Orientation Fee of \$130 per new-to-Dalhousie undergraduate student for 2025-26, effective April 1, 2025.**

**Moved by J. MacIsaac and seconded by J. Hoeven.  
CARRIED.**

## **5. Items for Information**

### **5.1 Update on the 2024-25 SAP and the 2025-2026 Bilateral Agreement**

K. Brooks stated that the 2024-2025 Bilateral Agreement had been completed and was accomplished with the efforts of many units across the University. She stated that there are not any updates from the Province, but that it will be provided soon.

## **6. In-Camera Session**

The Board moved to a brief in-camera session.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.