

**SENATE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
**Monday, March 24, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**via Microsoft Teams**

The Senate met in regular session on March 24, 2025

- Present** L. Spiteri (Chair), T. Akay, D. Anderson, J. Andrews, S. Asah, M. Bailey, J. Bain, S. Berge, A. Bernard, D. Black, E. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, H. Bruce, V. Chappe, W. Costen, 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. Groulx, J. Hann, S. Harding, J. Haslam, B. Heung A. Iulianella, D. Jakeman, M. Kienast, M. Knakriah, Y. Kotlyarova, S. Kou-Giesbrecht, M. Leonard, C. Macdonald, A. Maleki, L. McHugh-Russell, C. McLarney, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, P.L. Michaud, T. Michelot, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, M. Pacurar, Y.J. Pan, A. Parasram, T. Perrot, L. Phillmore, A. Rau-Chaplin, T. Richard, K. Rosen, A. Saif, R. Sampnagi, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, D. Silvio, M. Smit, M.A. Ulku, M. Vandenburg, D. Westwood, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti
- Regrets** D. Grantham, P. Marignani, H. Weigand
- Absent** R. Affoo, O. Akinkugbe, E. Arora, C. Brown, M. Cada, S. Chitnis, N. Cromwell-Tesfazoin, Y. El Hiani, J. Goyal, G. Ilie, A. Kermanshahi-pour, N. Kiepek, W. Lahey, O. Olantunde, M. Sutherland-Allan
- Guests** Christian Blouin (Former Chair, Student Learning Experience Questionnaire (SLEQ) Task Force ), John Hope (General Counsel and University Secretary), Laura Hynes Jenkins (Associate Vice President, Government Relations), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator), Ben Tait (Chair, Student Learning Experience Questionnaire (SLEQ) Task Force )

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.

It was noted that, in response to questions that had been raised in regards to the procedural voting process that was used to elect a new Chair of Senate, the matter was forwarded to SPGC to review and a report will be provided to Senate and the path forward.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1. Approval of Draft Minutes of February 10, 2025 Senate Meeting**

**THAT the draft minutes of the February 10, 2025 Senate meeting be approved as presented.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

## **2.2. SPGC – Approval of Senate Representative to Vice-President Finance and Administration Search Committee**

**THAT Senate approve the appointment of Maria Pacurar as the Senate representative on the Vice-President Finance and Administration Search Committee.**

Approved by **CONSENT**.

### **3. Matters Arising from February 10, 2025 Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

### **FOR DISCUSSION**

### **4. Update on Strategic Alignment Proposal**

L. Hynes Jenkins provided Senators with an update on Dalhousie’s Strategic Alignment Proposal (SAP).

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The 2024-25 Bilateral Agreement required Dalhousie to submit a SAP that outlined initiatives for the next three years, with the goal of advancing provincial priorities;
- The SAP was submitted to the provincial government in June 2024, and formal feedback was received in January 2025;
- The final proposal included four sectors through which Dalhousie could be of benefit to Nova Scotia (NS); increase income potential, elevate NS labour force, uplift NS communities, and transform key sectors, which were ways Dalhousie could benefit Nova Scotia;
- The feedback from the Province was being used to create the 2025-26 Bilateral Agreement, with active engagement with the Province, Deans, Faculties, and Senate on a range of SAP initiatives in which the Province is interested in seeing progress on, or collaborating with; and
- A conference would be held on May 2, 2025 entitled “Dal Engagement Day” that would focus on how Dalhousie engaged internally and with the community, and would include a range of sessions on teaching, research, engagement, community, and strategic planning.

### **5. Proposed Revised Student Feedback on Learning Experiences Policy – Revised Student Learning Experience Questionnaire and Associated Changes**

B. Tait presented the recommendations of the Student Learning Experiences Questionnaire (SLEQ) Task Force, the proposed revised SLEQ Questionnaire, and related revisions to Student Feedback on Learning Experiences Policy.

It was reported that the recommendations consisted of the following:

- An addition to the policy to clarify procedures for using SLEQ data in research and/or scholarly activity;
- Substantive changes to the SLEQ, including revision of Section A and replacement of Section E;
- Amendments to policy wording to facilitate the replacement of Section E;
- Amendments to policy wording to allow for the introduction of data dissemination through interactive dashboards; and
- Amendments to policy wording to improve accountability in seeking and referring threats of violence or self-harm.

It was also reported that it was recommended that an additional task force or equivalent group(s) to review:

- The procedure and criteria through which an instructor may request removal of a comment from their SLEQ data;
- Whether there should be a process for removing comments identified as containing threats of violence or self-harm;
- The calculation through which a response rate is judged to be sufficiently reliable for inclusion in decision-making processes such as tenure and promotion.
- Revisions to policy wording and/or procedure concerning the dissemination of SLEQ results to students;
- The timing of the evaluation window, with a particular focus on the inclusion of final examinations; and
- A standard process to follow when an instructor of record was replaced at short notice, part way through delivery of a course.

B. Tait responded to questions of clarification. In response to a query regarding forms of feedback, it was noted that SLEQ would be only one of a number of modes of evaluating teaching.

The meeting was advised that the final version of the SLEQ and associated changes to the Student Feedback on Learning Experiences Policy would be brought to Senate for approval.

## **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 the recent work undertaken by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC) and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC).

It was noted that Spring 2025 convocation dates had been changed after the Senate meeting dates for the year were finalized, and that there was an overlap of the Senate June, 2025 meeting and a convocation date. Senators were encouraged to fill out the poll regarding possible Senate June meeting dates.

### **6.2. Provost's Report**

The Provost's report was submitted in writing with the Senate package.

It included updates on Black History Month, Dalhousie Employee Appreciation Week, the Winter term enrolment review and a report on Senate feedback incorporated into the 2025-26 Budget Report.

Senator Costen also provided a short overview of her first three months as Provost.

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

There were no questions for reports.

**7. Question Period**

In response to a query surrounding the Province's Bill No. 12 (An Act Respecting Advanced Education and Research), Senator Brooks advised that the possible impacts to Dalhousie were being reviewed.

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m..