

SENATE

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday, January 13, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.**

Hybrid

Room 1020, Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building & Remote Link via Microsoft Teams

The Senate met in regular session on January 13, 2025

- Present** L. Spiteri (Chair), R. Affoo, T. Akay, O. Akinkugbe, D. Anderson, E. Arora, S. Asah, M. Bailey, S. Berge, D. Black, E. Black, J. Blustein, K. Brooks, C. Brown, H. Bruce, M. Cada, V. Chappe, W. Costen, N. Cromwell-Tesfazion, 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, J. Hann, S. Harding, J. Haslam, B. Heung, G. Ilie, A. Iulianella, D. Jakeman, M. Kienast, N. Kiepek, M. Knakriah Y. Kotlyarova, S. Kou-Giesbrecht, M. Leonard, C. Macdonald, A. Maleki, C. McLarney, R. Meagher, B. Merritt, P.L. Michaud, T. Michelot, F. Naghibi, J. Newhook, M. Pacurar, T. Perrot, L. Phillmore, T. Rajack-Talley, T. Richard, K. Rosen, A. Saif, R. Sampangi, S. Seth, M. Sharaput, D. Silvio, M. Smit, M. Sutherland-Allan, H. Weigand, D. Westwood, E. Yiridoe, R. Zaiotti
- Regrets** A. Bernard, W. Lahey, M. Vandenburg
- Absent** J. Andrews, J. Bain, D. Burnay, S. Chitnis, A. Donaldson, Y. El Hiani, J. Goyal, A. Kermanshahi-pour, P. Marignai, L. McHugh-Russell, O. Olatunde, Y. Pan, A. Parasram, A. Rau-Chaplin, M.A. Ulku,
- Guests** Vincent Agyapong (Department Head, Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine), Ejemai Eboime (Coordinator – proposed Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine), Kim Good (Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine), John Hope (General Counsel and University Secretary), Judith Ng’ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate), Nakita Strowbridge (Senate Coordinator), Ben Tait (Executive Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching)

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 November 25, 2024 Senate Meeting

THAT the draft minutes of the November 25, 2024 Senate meeting be approved as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

2.2. Senate Planning and Governance Committee: Senate Nominating Committee Nomination

THAT Senate approve the appointment of Steven Coughlan (Faculty representative from the Schulich School of Law) to the Senate Nominating Committee as a voting member for a term from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Matters Arising from September 23, 2024 Meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Introduction to Incoming Provost and Vice-President, Academic – Dr. Wanda Costen

Senator Spiteri introduced Senator Wanda Costen, in her capacity as the Incoming Provost and Vice-President Academic, to introduce herself to Senators, and to speak about her background and preliminary thoughts about her priorities, as related to the academic mandate of Senate.

Senator Costen gave an overview of her background and noted that her values as an academic leader were transparency, fairness and equity, and that post-secondary education and equitable accountability were important to her. Senator Costen informed the meeting that her model for decision making was consensus building, as although it took more time, decisions tended to be more long-standing and sustainable.

Senator Costen noted that she looked forward to engaging with, and learning about Dalhousie and its core values, and ensuring that the University was at the forefront of the academic mission due to its importance.

5. Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) Proposal for a New Program – Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and FGS

Senator Seth presented this item on behalf of SAPRC.

The meeting was advised that proposed program would be a two- year part time, online (with both synchronous and asynchronous components), course-based Masters degree program. The program would target generalist health care providers (medical doctors and nurses) who wished to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of clinical psychiatry. The proposed program would seek to address the pressing global shortage of healthcare professionals with skills in clinical psychiatry by providing comprehensive education to enhance the quality of mental healthcare worldwide.

The meeting was also informed that the proposed program would not be a licencing qualification. However, the credential would demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills that would complement practitioners' existing scope of practice, particularly in settings where mental health expertise was limited.

In response to a question regarding pharmacy students being able to pursue this degree, it was noted that this question came up in previous approval levels, and that the feedback had been incorporated into the proposal to clarify that an undergraduate degree in nursing or medicine was the minimum admissions requirement. Due to the program admission criteria, the program would not be open to any other professions.

In response to a question, it was clarified that the word “Global” in the context of the degree title was used to address all cultures, and gaps in equitable mental health services and that the proposed program did not target any specific culture or country.

In response to a further question, it was confirmed that analysis had been undertaken comparing the proposed program to similar programs across Canada, and that the key difference was that the proposed program would prepare students to be prescribers.

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 Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The motion **CARRIED**.

6. Senate Consultation on Student Accommodation Policy

Senator Spiteri noted that the Student Accommodation Policy was a Provost Sponsored and Senate and Board approved policy that was created in 2014, revised in 2019, and that the policy was due for a review.

Senator Ezekiel (in his capacity as Vice-Provost, Student Affairs) gave an overview of the review process and introduced H. Kelly and Dr.D. Hardy Cox, the external expert reviewers who would be undertaking the consultation.

The external experts consulted with Senators, with the meeting being extended by 15 minutes to allocate more time to the agenda item.

Feedback to the external reviewers included the following:

- Under the current policy, Faculty had to do too much in order to accommodate the students who needed accommodations.
- There were problems with the implementation and practice of accommodation plans.
- Implementation of the policy was affected by a lack of resources.
- Challenges occurred with timelines of accommodation requests.
- Intergration of accommodations into the syllabus and course design and layout could aid students.

7. Reports

7.1. Chair of Senate’s Report

The Chair of Senate’s report was submitted in writing with the Senate package and included updates from the Senate Planning and Governance Committee (SPGC), SAPRC, and the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC).

The Chair noted that a call for honorary degree nominations went out on November 21, 2024. Nominations should be sent to the Secretariat. The meeting was also advised that Senate recruitment for Academic Unit Senators would be in early February 2025.

7.2. Questions for Report

There were no questions for the report.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m..