

SENATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE (SAPRC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee (SAPRC) is to oversee academic program approvals (including modifications and termination), oversee quality assurance of academic programs, oversee quality assurance of academic and research Centres and Institutes, and develop and recommend policies concerning the ethical conduct of research and scholarly activity.

Supporting Senate's principles and values, SAPRC's decisions must: (i) enhance the quality of the programs and research conducted at the university; (ii) support diversity as is required both by considerations of justice and to sustain rich and rigorous debate; (iii) advance the idea that human diversity provides essential elements of strength, resilience and innovation; (iv) promote the idea that inclusiveness must inform decisions at all levels; and (v) reflect and respect the diversity of human experiences and backgrounds. As such, SAPRC will rigorously adhere to these principles and values by applying equity (the **practice** of identifying and removing barriers) in all its deliberations and activities, to ensure an inclusive outcome.

Equity diversity and inclusion (EDI) measures strive to reduce systemic barriers and biases experienced by historically and currently underrepresented and equity-deserving groups¹. Differing views, ideas and approaches, and equitable and inclusive practices help promote academic program and research excellence. Engagement with that multiplicity of perspectives creates critical thinkers.

Definitions

1. Diversity is the **condition** of having a broad range of differences, represented in its people, perspectives, policies, programs and practice.
2. Inclusion is **an outcome** where community members experience equal access to opportunities for education, employment, promotion and success in the Faculty and a sense of belonging and engagement in the life and work of the institution.
3. Equity is **a process** that takes diversity and differences into account through fair and non-discriminatory approaches and practices, removing barriers² to ensure inclusion.

¹ Equity-deserving Groups: female-identified individuals, individuals of Indigenous ancestry (and particularly Mi'kmaq individuals), racialized individuals (and particularly African Nova Scotian), person with (dis)abilities, and individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.

² (Dis)ability is a central element of any discussions about oppression linked to race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion etc.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Ex Officio Voting Members

- a) Senate Vice-Chair (Academic Programs) (Chair)
- b) Chair of Senate
- c) Provost and Vice-President, Academic (or designate, Associate Vice-President Academic)
- d) Vice-President, Research and Innovation (or designate, Associate Vice-President, Research)
- e) Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Graduate Studies

2. Elected Voting Members

One member from each Faculty excluding the Faculty of Graduate Studies who is represented by an ex officio member), no fewer than 6 of whom shall be Elected Academic Unit Senators.

3. Student Voting Members

2 Student Senators appointed by the Dalhousie Student Union.

4. Non-Voting Members

- a) Dean of Libraries
- b) Associate Dean, Academic as recommended by the Associate Deans Academic Committee
- c) Associate Dean, Research as recommended by Dalhousie Research Advisory Committee
- d) Vice-Provost Equity and Inclusion (or designate, Assistant Vice-Provost, Equity and Inclusion)
- e) Secretary of Senate; and
- f) Such additional members as determined by the Senate Planning and Governance Committee from time to time, with particular attention to representation from equity-deserving groups not currently represented.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senate Academic Programs and Research Committee is responsible for the following:

1. Academic Program Approval, Modification and Termination

- a) Reviewing requests for the approval of the creation, modification, suspension and termination of all programs of study leading to a degree or diploma, and making recommendations to Senate concerning same where Senate has not otherwise delegated authority;
- b) Approving requests of the nature described in section 1(a) where delegated by Senate to do so;
- c) Monitoring approvals of the nature described in section 1(a) where such approvals have been delegated by Senate to Faculties;
- d) Recommending to Senate the adoption of policies and procedures regarding the granting of certificates; and
- e) Ensuring inclusive excellence principles have been incorporated in all levels of academic program planning.

2. Quality assurance of academic programs

- a) Recommending to Senate the adoption of a framework for Faculty reviews of academic programs;
- b) Reviewing Faculty program reviews and making recommendations to Senate concerning same;
- c) Ensuring inclusive excellence principles have been incorporated in all Faculty program review processes;
- d) Monitoring the review of academic programs by external accrediting bodies, and reporting to Senate as appropriate;
- e) Seeking and reviewing annual reports from administrative units supporting academic programs; and
- f) Reporting annually to Senate on the status of internal and external program reviews.

3. Oversight of academic and research Centres and Institutes

- a) Receiving and reviewing requests to establish or terminate an academic or research Centre or Institute, and making recommendations to Senate concerning their approval;

- b) Reviewing and approving on behalf of Senate significant changes in the governance of academic and research Centres and Institutes;
- c) Overseeing the reviews of academic and research Centres and Institutes;
- d) Ensuring inclusive excellence principles have been incorporated in all reviews of research Centres and Institutes;
- e) Receiving the reviews referred to in section 3(c) and recommending appropriate action, and monitoring progress on such recommendations; and
- f) Reporting annually to Senate on the status of reviews of academic and research Centres and Institutes.

4. Research and Scholarly Activity Policies

- a) Recommending to Senate the adoption of policies regarding the ethical conduct of research and other scholarly activities;
- b) Ensuring that such policies have incorporated inclusive excellence principles; and
- c) Monitoring the outcomes of the policies regarding the ethical conduct of research and other scholarly activities to ensure the policies' effectiveness.

5. Other tasks

- a) Taking whatever action is required to fulfill the mandate of this Committee; and
- b) Executing other tasks as directed by Senate.

Approved by Senate March 9, 2011
Amended by Senate June 9, 2014
Amended by Senate February 8, 2021
Amended by Senate September 13, 2021